

barrel organ



The show is never finished

Barrel Organ is a touring theatre company. Using a co-creative process, we make work that invokes meaningful change by challenging existing preconceptions of what theatre is and can be.

about us

Barrel Organ is a theatre company led by collaboration. We make daring and generous work with under-represented groups and individuals from across the UK. By building meaningful relationships, we support our collaborators to shape a process that empowers everyone involved to take an imaginative leap and give voice to the stories they want to tell.

Our work happens all over the UK, invoking meaningful change in the world and challenging what theatre is and can be. Liveness is at the heart of everything we do and allows us to be open and responsive to what is happening around us in the world. We believe that everybody should be afforded the opportunity to nourish their creativity and have a voice, whether they consider themselves to be an artist or not. We support this by creating a safe, generous and artistically challenging space to champion and platform our collaborators' stories.

We believe that creativity should be part of everyday life so we provide opportunities for people who face barriers to accessing the arts. We consider our audiences as active collaborators and want them to represent the individuals and groups we work with. Our aim is to build new artistic communities that are reflective of the country we live in.

Our projects take many different forms. We have made theatre shows and films and deliver projects online and in-person. We have performed shows in theatres, car parks, beaches, and tents.



barrel organ & company

Through Barrel Organ and Company, now in its fourth year, Barrel Organ supports a new theatre company through the development of their first project and provides a meaningful introduction to the theatre industry. Over the past three years, we have offered extensive artistic support and organisational knowledge to emerging companies Thunk It, Votive, and lowercase to create their very first work-in-progress performances. This support gave these companies practical and artistic skills to begin forging a path for their theatre company and careers.

Now, Barrel Organ is looking for the next company to develop throughout 2024!

Barrel Organ will select one new company to support for one year in the development of their first piece of work as well as providing mentoring and organisational development support throughout.

- £500 contribution to develop the work, plus support to access further funding
- A platform at next year's NSDF
- One-to-one mentoring with Barrel Organ throughout the year which focuses on work development and company development
- Travel expenses where appropriate



programme timeline

Winter 2023 - Spring 2024: Research and development

We will work closely with you to develop the work and support you in shaping the research and development process for the piece, including fundraising.

Spring/Summer 2024: Work-in-progress

The company will be given a slot at NSDF to present a work-in-progress. We will then work with you to find further opportunities to develop and present the show.

Autumn 2024: Masterclasses

Barrel Organ will work with you to create a menu of masterclasses that focuses on your company development and future life of the work, with the aim of having tangible next steps for when the programme is completed later in the year.

Upon completion of the programme you will continue to have a relationship with Barrel Organ and can receive support from one of the team as you continue your artistic journey.



how to apply

To apply, please provide the following information:

Submissions are now open and will close on **Monday October 30th at midday**. Meetings with a shortlist of companies will take place w/c **6th November**. Successful applications will be selected by **Monday 20th November 2023**. All applicants will be notified about the result of their application.

We are particularly interested to receive applications from Black and Global Majority candidates, candidates who identify as living with a disability, and candidates from backgrounds which are currently underrepresented in the independent theatre sector. If you have any particular requirements which will support your application, please email jameela@barrelorgantheatre.co.uk.

- Your company name (if you have one)
- A brief biography of each the team members and where they're based (approx 100 words each, or 45 seconds)
- A little about why you want to work together, and what inspires you about one another (approx 200 words, or 90 seconds)
- How you think this opportunity will help your growth as artists (approx 250 words, or 120 seconds)
- Tell us about a live experience you've had together (or, if not, separately), which wasn't at a theatre (approx 100 words, or 45 seconds)

You can send us this information in whatever form you wish - you can write it down, put it in a video, a voice message, paint a picture, make a flow-chart. Whatever works for you; it's about quality not quantity.

Please note: We define a **new company** as being multiple artists who have NOT made work together previously, but who have an interest in and commitment to working together, *as a company*.

Please send the application form with the subject title "BO AND CO APPLICATION" to info@barrelorgantheatre.co.uk along with our Equality Monitoring form [here](#).

