

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 presents: LIVE at Barnsley Civic

Barrel Organ presents the second event of LIVE Yorkshire 2022/23, Barrel Organ Presents: LIVE at Barnsley Civic. LIVE is a programme of support for emerging, underrepresented artists, and Barrel Organ Presents: LIVE at Barnsley Civic is a night of works in progress of daring new work, giving artists based in Barnsley and South Yorkshire as well as nationally a chance to test new material before a live audience. By underrepresented we mean people who identify as: Black and/or Global Majority, d/Deaf and/or disabled, LGBTQI+, migrant, and/or coming from a low-income background.

We are looking for five artists/companies to be supported to develop and test up to 20 minutes of material in front of a live audience in Barnsley, supported by The Civic.

LIVE will be delivered in a hybrid digital-live format, presenting both in-person and digitally streamed performances. Work will be performed in-person, and will also be live-streamed online to audiences across the country.

This means we are looking for work which is designed to be presented in-person or streamed. We are looking for at least 3 in-person performances from artists/groups living or based within Barnsley and South Yorkshire, and 2 digital performances from anywhere across the country.

Featured artists will receive financial support of £500, a mentor, support from Barrel Organ and The Civic, tickets to other LIVE events, the offer of space at The Civic, and feedback from the audience.



programme

Barrel Organ Presents: LIVE at Barnsley Civic will take place on 23 March 2023 and also streamed digitally. Your work can be delivered online or in-person. In-person slots are available to artists based in South Yorkshire, and digital slots are open to artists making work anywhere in the UK. Other opportunities will be available later in the year for artists in North and East Yorkshire.

What we are looking for

The programme provides a space for artists currently under-represented in live performance, who are working with innovative forms to be able to test new material in front of an audience. We are actively seeking artists who identify as: Black and/or Global Majority, d/Deaf and/or disabled, LGBTQI+, migrant, and/or coming from a low-income background. The aim is to offer a platform and chance for constructive and beneficial criticism. We're looking for daring, experimental and inclusive work that tackles a wide range of issues, agendas and ideas. LIVE artists may present theatre work, dance, live art, spoken word, puppetry, or lots of other forms we haven't thought about. So long as the work is actively engaging in the live event, we want to hear from you.

Feedback is Important

The point of LIVE is to give you, the artists, a chance for feedback. We're hoping to facilitate structured but relaxed, and hopefully fun, feedback in a variety of ways to aid those sharing work, and give the chance for face-to-face chats, discussion and written feedback to take place; all with the aim of benefiting you, the artists.

Financial support and Mentors

We will be offering artists financial support of £500 each to deliver this work plus round table discussions and in-kind mentoring support from Barrel Organ and another mentor, to be confirmed in discussion with each artist. The £500 is to be spent as you see fit - in whatever way it can help you develop your work - and will be paid in two instalments.



how to apply

Submissions are now open and will close on Thursday 27th October at 5pm.

We are specifically looking for new 'work-in-progress' pieces and work that is in development.

If you have any particular requirements which will support your application, please email us on info@barrelorgantheatre.co.uk or call Ali on 07894240982.

To apply, please fill in our application form, which [you can find here](#).

In the form, you will be able to respond 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.

We may have an interview stage, meeting with a shortlist of artists, assisted by our [recruitment panel](#) - members of the team at Barrel Organ & The Civic. Artists we meet with would be paid for their time.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by [Monday 7th November](#). This gives roughly four months development time for successful applicants.

