

YOUNG
CREATIVES
2026/2027
Application Guidance



YOUNG CREATIVES

WELCOME TO YOUNG CREATIVES!

Young Creatives is a fully funded national programme delivered by One Dance UK. It aims to support and nurture young people to develop choreographic skills and provide an exciting opportunity to showcase new dance work to the public.

Young Creatives is delivered in association with Sadler's Wells' Making Moves programme and London Contemporary Dance School, giving participants the opportunity to learn from leading dance professionals.



Image credits throughout: One Dance UK, Dani Bower



WHO CAN APPLY AND WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Applications are open to young people from across the UK (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales) who are interested in creating new dance work in any dance style. The programme is aimed at young people aged 16-20 who want to develop their skills and experience as choreographers. We understand, however, that everyone's journey looks different, so if you are over this age bracket but still feel that this is an opportunity you would benefit from, we would love to receive an application from you.

Young Creatives is free-of-charge and open to anyone who is interested in choreography and keen to collaborate with other young dancers. If you are passionate about creating dance, it does not matter how much or how little experience you may have, and you do not need to be part of a formal dance group or class; enthusiasm and commitment are the most

important attributes! We are looking for applications from young people working in a wide variety of dance styles. Successful applicants will demonstrate a willingness to commit fully to the programme and an openness to exploring different approaches to being creative.

We welcome applications from all young people, regardless of stage in life and circumstances. Whether you are in school, home education, college, university, working, or have caring responsibilities, we would love to receive your application.

We are committed to supporting a diverse workforce in dance, and we particularly welcome applications from underrepresented groups: those who are from a Global Majority* background and those who are disabled and/or have a long term health condition.

**At One Dance UK, we also use the phrase Global Majority which includes, but is not limited to people of African, North African, South Asian, South-East Asian, East Asian, Caribbean, Latinx, Middle Eastern, Native American, Native Australian, Pacific Islanders, Roma and Traveller heritage or diaspora.*



THE YOUNG CREATIVES PROGRAMME WILL INCLUDE:

- A choreographic toolkit full of ideas and inspiration to help you develop your skills as a choreographer.
- Engaging workshops to help you develop your creative ideas, composition skills, and learn how to get the best out of your rehearsals.
- The opportunity to create your own choreographic work.
- Support from the Programme Lead, the Making Moves team, professional choreographers and the One Dance UK team.
- The opportunity to present your final work at a professional performance venue with a live audience!

NEXT STEPS AND GETTING STARTED

There are a limited number of spaces on the Young Creatives programme 2026-27.

To be considered for the programme you will need to complete and submit the application form by 5pm on Wednesday 5 August.

You will be asked a few questions about your creative skills, ideas and commitment. You do not need heaps of experience, and enjoying creating movement in a space at home is just as valuable as having created dances for performance settings. We are looking for passion, commitment, and an openness to explore your ideas further.

As part of your application, you will be asked to upload a video of your creative ideas and work, so that we can see your creative potential. There is no expectation that the work is finished or performance-ready. It can simply be a video of you demonstrating a choreographic idea through a short improvisation. Short video excerpts taken on your phone in any type of setting are welcome.

[Click here to find out where previous Young Creatives found inspiration for their work.](#)



If you are selected for the Young Creatives programme, you will be invited to attend an inspiring two-day introductory launch event at Sadler's Wells, London, taking place on Friday 18 and Saturday 19 September 2026. The launch event will introduce you to the programme through a series of workshops with [a professional choreographer](#) to support the development of your choreographic ideas.

Accommodation in London will be provided (unless you live within a reasonable commuting distance).

Following on from the launch, you will be supported to develop your own original choreography, creating a short piece to be presented to the public at a high-profile national venue in July 2027.

We know everyone's circumstances are different, so you can either;

- Choreograph a solo that you perform yourself
- Choreograph a duo/trio/group piece for 2 to 4 dancers, whom you recruit yourself (this might be peers that you know from a place of study or an out of school dance activity). We ask that you do not dance in your group piece.

The application form will ask you to confirm what your intended option will be from the above.

REHEARSAL SPACE

One Dance UK will provide studio space for all the in-person days as outlined on page 8, however we encourage you to think about having access to rehearsal space at home or through a connection with a place of study/work for your regular rehearsals. Having access to rehearsal space is not required in order to apply or be selected for the programme.

COSTS

We are delighted that Young Creatives is fully funded and there is no charge for young people to apply for or take part in the programme. All essential travel, food and accommodation costs will be covered. Please read the guidance notes in full and make sure you can commit to the full programme from September 2026 to completion in July 2027 before applying. If you are offered a place and accept it, we expect you to commit to the full programme. Young Creatives is fully funded and places are limited. If a participant withdraws from the programme, or misses activities without prior agreement, a charge may be applied to help recover costs.





TIMELINE FOR YOUNG CREATIVES 2026/2027

The Application Stage




Wednesday 5 August
Applications Close at 5pm

Applicants will be notified of the outcome no later than **Monday 24 August**

The Young Creatives programme

Please note: in order to be considered for the programme you must make every effort to commit to all activities and key dates. If you foresee any clashes or issues with the dates identified below, please let us know as soon as possible. This could be included in your application. We want you to succeed, so letting us know about a clash will not automatically mean that you can't take part in Young Creatives. We will work with you to try and find a solution that works for everyone!



Friday 18 and Saturday 19 September 2026

Launch event as part of Making Moves at Sadler's Wells, London

Sunday 18 October 2026

Online toolkit session from 10am to 11.30am

Sunday 22 November 2026

In person day from 11am to 5pm

Sunday 24 January 2027 In-person day

In person day in Birmingham from 11am – 5pm (attendance by dancers will be required)

Saturday 10 and/or Sunday 11 April 2027

1 or 2 day in-person: location and times TBC (attendance by dancers will be required)

Sunday 9 May 2027

10am – 11.30am online sharing (attendance for Young Creatives only)

Sunday 13 June 2027

In person day from 11am – 5pm: sharing and feedback (attendance by dancers will be required)

Final Performance

Please keep July 2027 available while the final performance date is confirmed.

THE ROLE OF SUPPORTING ADULTS

We ask all participants to identify a trusted adult who can support them throughout the programme. This is usually someone who knows you through school, college or a youth group or is a family member and can help you with form filling, organisation and generally being the 'go-to' person with whom you can discuss the project and how you're getting on. They don't need to be a dance specialist.

This person also needs to be a point of contact for One Dance UK in case we're unable to reach you or if you need any additional support. Usually, all matters are resolved quickly and easily, but it's helpful to have an adult we can sometimes speak to when necessary. Please ensure that you ask for their consent before giving their email address on the application form. **For Young Creatives under the age of 18 we also need consent from a parent or guardian for you to participate.**

If you have any questions about completing the application form or need help to write your application please get in touch - call One Dance UK on 020 7713 0730 or email youngcreatives@onedanceuk.org. We can support people with access needs to write their application.

Young Creatives is a vibrant, exciting, and rewarding project that supports you in your professional choreographic development. We are excited to open applications for Young Creatives 2026-27 and cannot wait to hear from you!



FAQS

Do I need to have choreographed before?

No - this project is open to anyone who is keen to learn more and try out ideas!

I have a disability or other additional need. Can I apply?

Yes – we'd welcome your application and if selected we'll be in touch to find out what access needs you may have.

Do I need parent or guardian consent to apply?

If you are under 18 you will need consent from a parent/guardian.

Is there a cost to taking part in Young Creatives?

No - we want everyone to be able to take part so the programme is fully funded and all travel and accommodation costs are covered by One Dance UK. (Please note that if a participant withdraws from the programme, or an activity within it, a charge may be applied to help recover costs.)

Can I choreograph a solo?

Yes, there is the option to choreograph a solo on yourself.

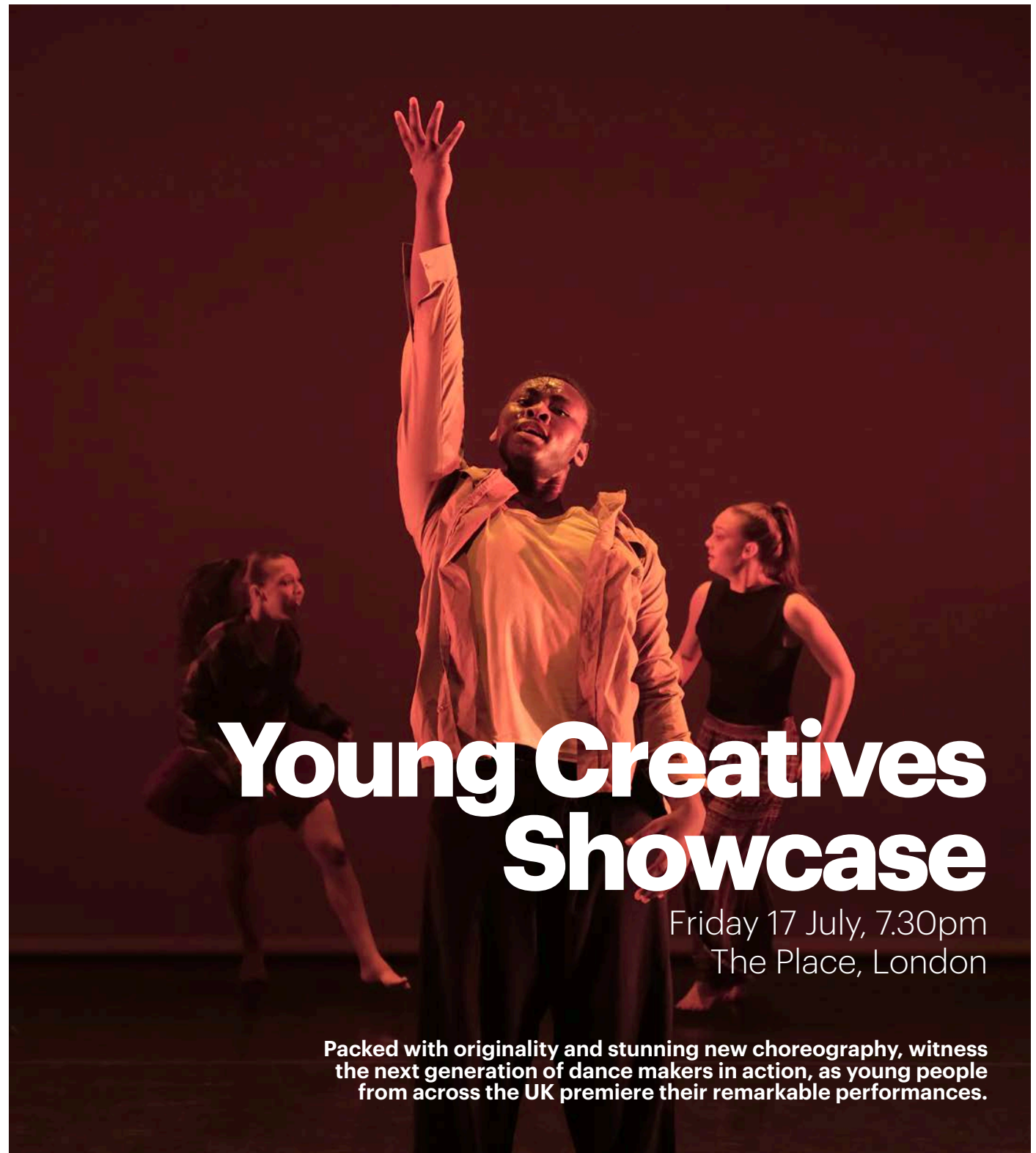
Do I perform in my own piece?

This is only an option if you choreograph a solo.

CURRENT YOUNG CREATIVES SHOWCASE JULY 2026

Thinking of applying? Come and see the Young Creatives showcase performance at The Place, in London on Friday 17 July at 7.30pm. Find out more and book tickets [here](#).

[Click here to find out why the Young Creatives think you should come and watch.](#)



Young Creatives Showcase

Friday 17 July, 7.30pm
The Place, London

Packed with originality and stunning new choreography, witness the next generation of dance makers in action, as young people from across the UK premiere their remarkable performances.



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