

Storytellers
Start Here

Audition Guide 2026

national[®]
youth
theatre

Audition Guide 2026


Every year, we run courses around the UK for young people who want to become members of the National Youth Theatre.

After your course you'll become a **NYT member**, giving you access to exclusive opportunities including castings for NYT and professional shows, access to professional R&Ds, free creative leadership and facilitation training, complimentary tickets, and much more.

This guide provides all the information you need to audition for NYT this year. We'll tell you exactly how to apply, and answer any questions you might have about the process.



This guide includes:

- [About the Courses](#)
- [Important Dates](#)
- [Audition Routes](#)
- [Open Auditions](#)
- [Video Auditions](#)
- [Results](#)
- [Bursaries](#) 

If you have any questions about anything in this guide, please email auditionsandcourses@nyt.org.uk.

01

About the Courses



We offer different courses depending on your age, where you're based, and whether you want to take part in the summer, during weekends, or online.

Led by industry professionals, our courses focus on developing key theatre-making and performance skills including voice, movement, characterisation, improvisation, text work, and devising. Each course culminates in a sharing of devised work to family and friends.

Eligibility

In order to audition, you must be between the ages of 14-25 (or up to age 30 if you have experience barriers to accessing the arts*) on 31st July 2026. If you are successful, ID to verify your age may be required before the course start date.

*If you are over 25 and auditioning this year, please complete this form.

01 About the Courses



14-17 Courses

Full-time Courses

- 📍 London
- 📍 Manchester
- 📍 Birmingham
- 📍 Bristol
- 📍 Glasgow
- 📍 Newcastle
- 📍 Liverpool

- 📅 2-week intensive course in summer
- 👥 30 participants per course
- 💰 £635

Best suited if you are...

- Looking for an intensive summer course

Part-time Courses

- 📍 Online (Zoom)
- 📅 Ten mornings on Saturdays from Sept-Dec
- 👥 20 participants per course
- 💰 £295

Best suited if you are...

- Unable to travel to a regional course
- Balancing with work or study commitments

01 About the Courses



18+ Courses

Full-time residential course

- 📍 Leeds (for ages 18- 21 years old)
- 🏠 Accommodation available (additional fee)
- 📅 2.5-week intensive course in summer
- 👤 30 participants per course
- 💰 £750

Best suited if you are...

- Looking for an intensive summer course

Full-time Courses

- 📍 The Boardwalk, Glasgow (18+)
- 📅 2 week intensive course
- 👤 30 participants per course
- 💰 £635

Best suited if you are...

- Looking for an intensive summer course

- 📍 University of East London- Epic Stages (for ages 22+)

- 📅 3 week intensive course
- 👤 30 participants per course
- 💰 £825

Best suited if you are...

- Looking for an intensive summer course
- Wanting to work with both a director and writer.

01 About the Courses



18+ Courses

Part-time Courses

📍 London

📅 Ten full-day sessions on consecutive Saturday or Sundays throughout summer or autumn

👥 30 participants per course

💰 £635

Best suited if you are...

- Balancing with work or study commitments

📍 Online (Zoom)

📅 Ten mornings on Saturdays from Sept-Dec

👥 20 participants per course

💰 £295

Best suited if you are...

- Unable to travel to a regional course
- Balancing with work or study commitments

02

Important Dates



- **Wednesday 5th November 2026**
2026 Auditions open
- **January - March 2026**
Open Auditions run across the UK
- **Thursday 26th February 2026**
Self-tape Submission Deadline
- **Thursday 5th March 2026**
Self-tape Results
- **Thursday 26th March -
Thursday 2nd April 2026**
Second-round Digital Recalls
- **Monday 13th - Wednesday 15th April 2026**
Under 18 Results
- **Monday 27th - Wednesday 29th April
2026**
Over 18 Results

03

Audition Routes


There are **three different routes** you can take to audition for the National Youth Theatre:

Open Auditions

To audition in-person, you can attend one of our free Open Audition Days. You'll take part in a **group workshop**, then perform your **monologue** in a one-to-one audition.


Open Auditions will be held in cities around the UK between **February-March 2026**. You can book a spot on [this page of our website.](#) 

Video Auditions

If you can't make it to an in-person audition day, you can audition online instead via self-tape. You'll submit a video of yourself performing a short monologue to the NYT website, then if you're successful, you'll be invited to a second-round digital recall. More info about Video Auditions can be found later in this guide or on [this page of our website.](#) 



School Auditions

If your school has a drama department, you can ask your teacher if it would be possible to hold a School Audition Day where a NYT facilitator visits your school to run a group workshop and one-to-one auditions. For more information our schools auditions, please visit [this page of our website.](#) 

04

Open Auditions

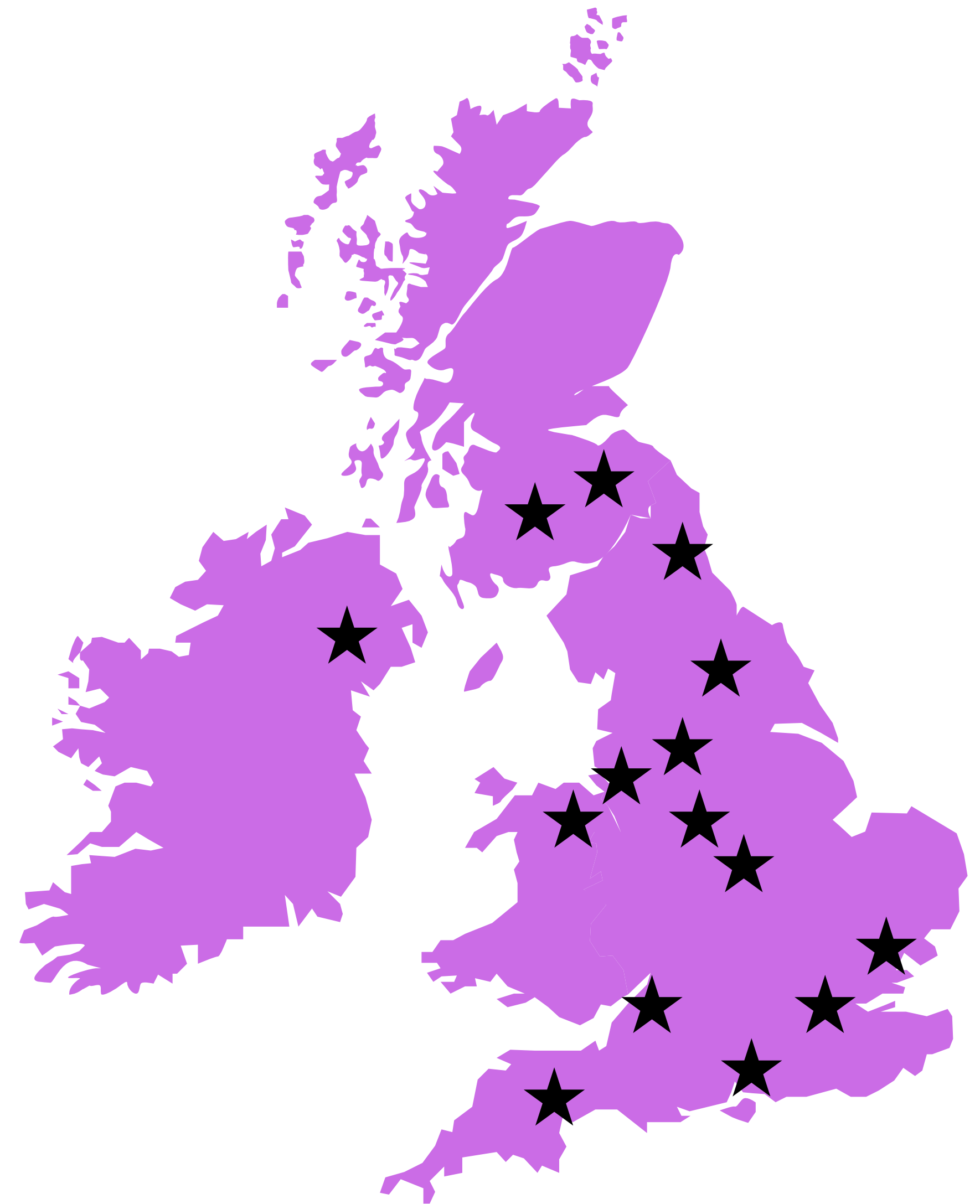
An open audition day is made up of two parts; a Group Workshop and a One-to-One Audition.

Group Workshop - 3 hours

You will get an introduction to the NYT ethos of ensemble and collective theatre-making - this is designed to be fun, interactive and a chance to get to know other young people interested in performing.

One-to-One Audition - 15 minutes

You will be asked to perform a 2-minute (or less!) monologue for your auditioner. This can be from a play, TV, film or even a poem/song lyrics that speaks to you! After this you will have time to chat to your auditioner and let them know why you want to join NYT.



You can see the cities we will be running auditions and sign up on [this page of our website.](#) 

05

Video Auditions

Step One: Submit a Self-Tape

What should I include in my self-tape?

1. **Introduction:** tell us your name, pronouns, age and where you are from!
2. **Monologue:** film yourself performing a maximum 2-minute speech from a play, film, or TV show.
3. **Questions:** at either the beginning or end of your self-tape, please answer the three questions below:
 - Why do you want to join NYT?
 - Apart from acting, what are you passionate about?
 - Tell us a fun fact about yourself!

How do I submit my self-tape?

Once you've created your self-tape, upload it to **YouTube** as an **unlisted video**. This means it is only able to be watched by people that you share the link with, and not general users on the platform. Please title your self-tape with your first and last name as it is listed on your Hub Subscription, e.g. Joe Bloggs - NYT Audition. You can then submit your self-tape here.

Remember: you can only submit one self-tape for 2026. We recommend doing multiple takes and submitting the version you are happy with.



You can read our [self-tape top tips here](#).

All self-tapes are reviewed by the NYT audition panel, who then select who is invited to a recall.

05 Video Auditions

Step Two: Attend a Digital Recall

You will find out whether or not you have been recalled on **5th March 2026**. If you are successful, you will be invited to book a digital recall slot in March/April.

What should I prepare for my recall?

A monologue (2-mins max). This can be from a play, TV, film or even a poem that resonates with you! Your auditioner will be looking for the following things, so have a think about them when you are rehearsing:

- Use of vocal range
- Physical approach and quality
- Emotional connection to the text

You'll also be **asked about yourself and your interests**, so it's good to have a think about what you might like to say. This doesn't have to be related to performance, so if you're just starting out and have little experience but big dreams, say so!

What happens at the recall?

At the time of your recall, you will log onto Zoom and meet with other young people auditioning at the same time as you, as well as a current NYT member who can answer any questions you have before your audition.

From here, you will be placed into a breakout room with the auditioner running your recall. The recall will last about **20 minutes**, during which you will perform your prepared monologue. You will also have time to talk to your auditioner. They might ask you to perform your monologue a different way, or they might just ask you questions about your life and journey up to this point.

Where should I do my recall?

All recalls take place on **Zoom**. We advise that you undertake your recall in a private place where you feel comfortable to perform your monologue.

Please note: NYT may record digital recalls for safeguarding purposes. Any recordings made will be stored in accordance with our GDPR Policy.

06 Results



Results days are divided into Under 18s and Over 18s and are emailed out on a rolling basis across three days.

Results days are as follows:

Under 18s: Monday 13th - Wednesday 15th April

Over 18s: Monday 27th - Wednesday 28th April

If you do not receive your results within Mon-Wed of your results week, please email the team at [**nytresults@nyt.org.uk**](mailto:nytresults@nyt.org.uk) on the Thursday/Friday to ensure you receive your results in a timely manner.

Ahead of Results, please ensure the following:

- Check that your email address is correct on your NYT profile
- Add [**nytresults@nyt.org.uk**](mailto:nytresults@nyt.org.uk) to your approved contact list
- Check your junk folders in case our emails land there by mistake

07

Bursaries

We offer bursaries to help those facing financial hardship take part in our courses.

Bursaries may include partial or full coverage of course fees, travel, accommodation where relevant, and subsistence. There are many circumstances that might mean someone is eligible for bursary support. These may include but are not limited to:

- Being in Care/a Care Leaver
- Being a Refugee
- Being a Full or Part-Time Carer
- Being a Single Parent
- Being in Receipt of Benefits
- Being Homeless
- Having a Low Household Income
- Being in Receipt of Free School Meals

If you are successful in gaining a place on one of our courses, you will receive more information about how to apply for a bursary in your acceptance email.

Please be aware that NYT receives a very large number of applications, and demand for our bursary always outstrips the supply we have. Our Development Team work very hard each year to increase the available funds for bursaries, but we are not able to support everyone who applies to the bursary fund and give priority those most in need.



Storytellers
Start Here

**Best of luck with
your audition!**

**national[®]
youth
theatre**