

Storytellers
Start Here

Backstage Interview Guide

national[®]
youth
theatre

Interview 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 Backstage member**, giving you access to exclusive opportunities including working on NYT and professional shows, free creative leadership and facilitation training, complimentary tickets, and much more.

This guide provides all the information you need to interview 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:

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

01





About the Courses

Eligibility



In order to interview, you must be between **the ages of 16-25** (or up to age 30 if you have experience barriers to accessing the arts*) **on 24th August 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**.

The Course

-  National Youth Theatre, N7 6LW
-  Monday 24th August - Friday 28th August 2026
-  20 participants per group
-  £275

When you sign up for an interview you will be asked which of the following disciplines you would like to join the course for:

-  **Stage Management**
-  **Lighting Design**
-  **Costume Design**
-  **Sound Design**

We encourage you to choose the course you most want to learn about - **it doesn't have to be the one you have most experience in!**



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Important Dates



- **April - May 2026**
Taster Workshops - online and at NYT.
- **13th, 20th & 21st June 2026**
Interviews - online and at NYT.
- **Monday 6th July 2026**
Interview Results
- **Wednesday 22nd July 2026**
Bursary Application Deadline
- **Wednesday 29th July**
Bursary Results
- **Wednesday 5th August 2026**
Course Payment Deadline
- **Monday 24th August 2026**
The Course!

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Interview Routes

You can choose to interview either in-person or online.

Online

If you interview via this route, you will only take part in a **1-to-1 Interview**.

When you sign up, you will select a 20-minute interview slot of your choice. At the beginning of your time slot, you will enter into the main zoom room, where our NYT Ambassadors will welcome you and answer any last minute Qs before sending you into a breakout room for your interview.

In-person

An in-person interview day is made up of two parts, a **Group Workshop** and a **1-to-1 Interview**.

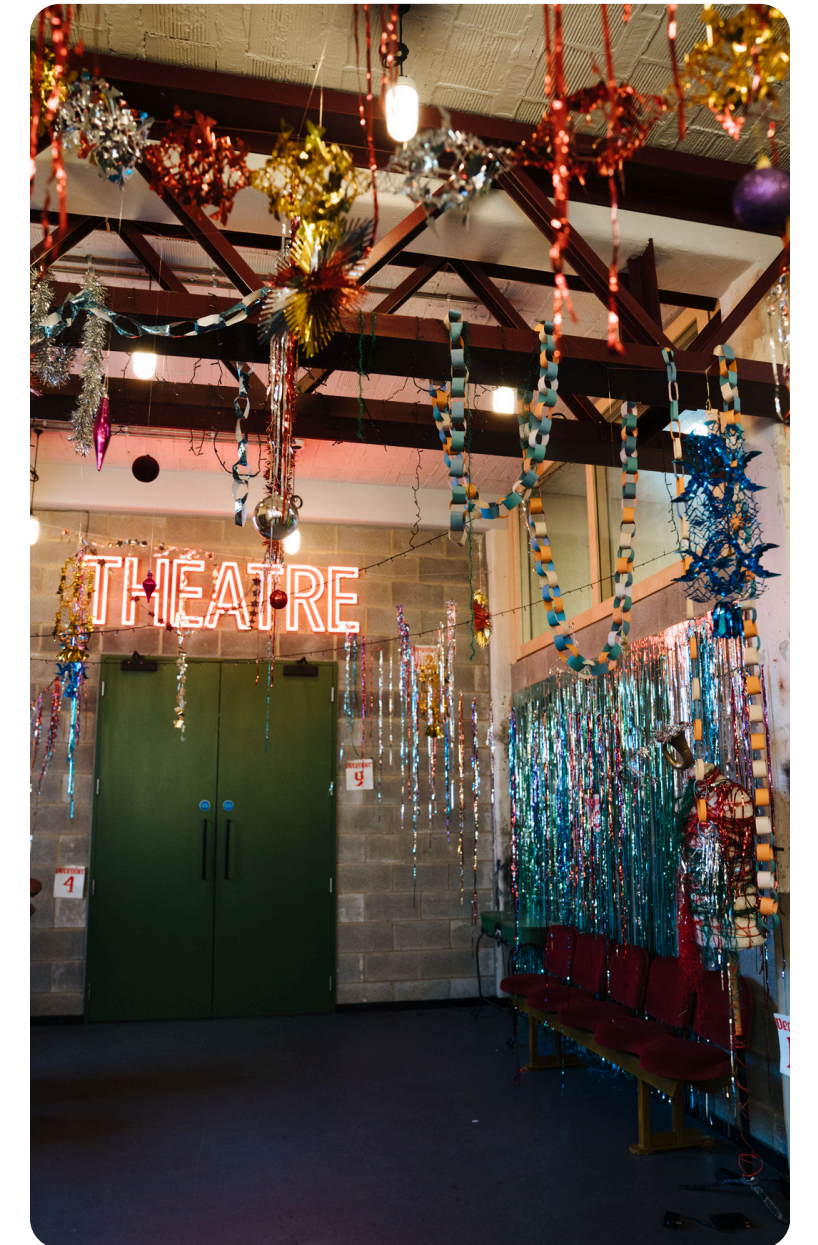
Group Workshop - 10:00am - 1:00pm

You'll be introduced to National Youth Theatre and what our Backstage membership entails. This is a great chance to meet other potential members, take part in creative tasks & games and do some interview prep with the help of NYT Associates.

1-to-1 Interviews - 2:00pm - 5:00pm

Your individual audition will take place in the afternoon and last for 15 minutes. When you arrive for your audition day, you will be asked to sign up to your time slot. Once you have completed your interview you are free to go home.

All applicants will be considered equally, regardless of their application method. Neither option is more likely to gain you a place on an NYT course. It is a choice of which method suits you best!



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How to prepare

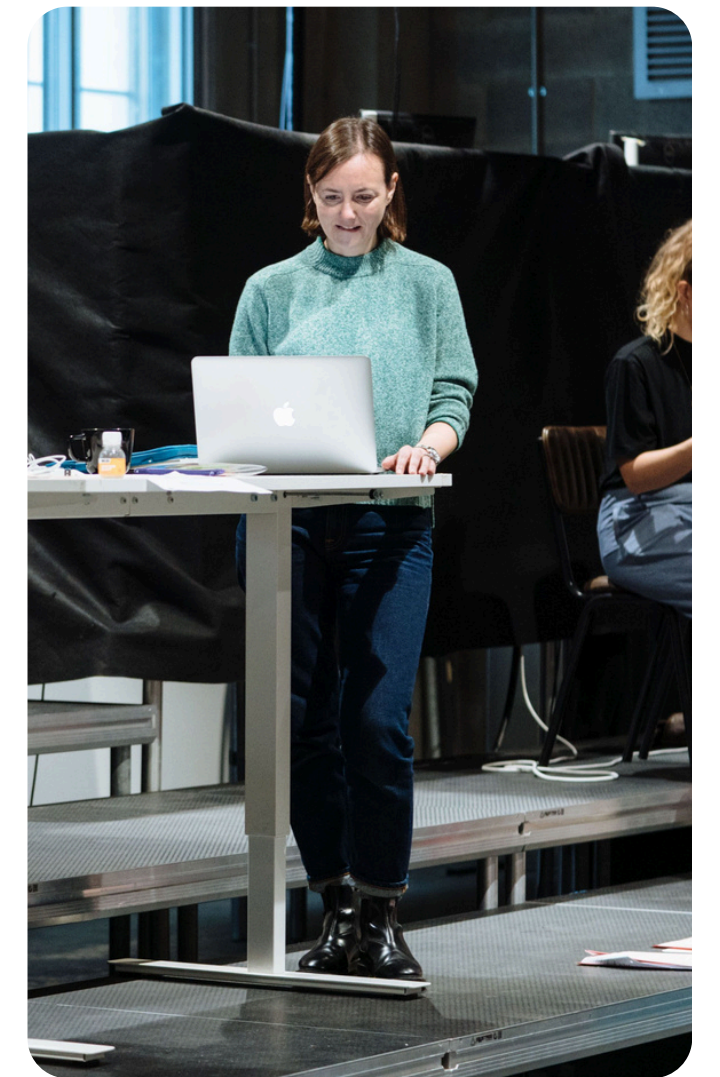
What will they ask about in my interview?

The interview is more of an **informal chat** to get to know you. Your interviewer will ask **why you want to join NYT** and what you are up to in life right now! Have a think about what you might like to **learn on the course**, and **any experience you have** that you think is relevant (*it's okay if you don't have any experience though!*). The interviewer is keen to get to know you as a person, so during the chat you can tell them about your hobbies and interests outside of theatre as well!

You will also need to prepare your response to the **interview task**. This task is outline on the next page.

If you're interviewing **Online**:

In preparation for your online interview, please check your **Zoom account works** well in advance. Think about if you've got **reliable internet connection**, and if there's anywhere quiet you can take the call to help you focus. Don't worry if there isn't, all we need is to be **able to see and hear you!**



If you're interviewing **in-person**:

You should make sure you know **where the workshop** is taking place and how you **plan to get there**. Please leave plenty of time for traffic/transport delays so you arrive in good time. It's also recommended to bring a **notebook and pen**, as well as a **water bottle** to keep hydrated!

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Interview Task

Overview

We would like you to choose one of the two films provided (on the next page of this document) and present to us how you would **adapt this into a stage play**.

You should focus on your preferred discipline when responding to this brief, but feel free to bring in other technical areas you are excited about too!

There are a number of ways you can show us your ideas, we have made some suggestions for each of the disciplines. Feel free to go in whichever direction excites you most.

Costume Design and Making:

You could share your ideas through a mood board, drawing, design, research findings or colour palettes.

Sound Design and Composition:

You could share with us; a composition, a playlist, list of instruments, a soundscape, references and research.

Lighting, Video and Projection:

You may choose to present your ideas with a design, a kit list, a mood board, graphics you might use or a video or documenting your research.

Stage Management:

You could create props, plot a potential scene change, prepare a meeting agenda or provide research of props with relevant materials/costings.

These are only suggestions - you're welcome to do something completely different. We encourage you to present your ideas however makes you feel most confident. You can even just talk them through with the interviewer!

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Interview Task

Please choose one of the two options provided.

We'd like you to specifically think about moments of transition in these movies, e.g. Barbie World to the Real World or the transition between multiverses.

You do not need to have watched the full film (although they are both great watches!), we have provided a link to the trailer and a specific scene to focus on.

Option 1: The Barbie Movie



TRAILER



SCENE



Option 2: Spider-Man Into The Spider Verse



TRAILER



SCENE



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Results



Results Day is on the Monday 6th July.

If you do not receive your results by the end of Monday 6th July, please email the team at [**nytresults@nyt.org.uk**](mailto:nytresults@nyt.org.uk) on Tuesday 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

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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
- Being disabled/having long-term health condition

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.



**We can't wait to
meet you all!**

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