

# Volunteer Festival Assistant (Amigo) National Festival of Youth Theatre 2024



## Commitment:

Before the festival:

### 3 Training Workshops

Sunday 19 May 11am - 1.30pm (online)

Sunday 26 May 11am - 4.30pm

(in person at a central Scotland location tbc)

Wednesday 19 June 6.30pm - 9pm (online)

During the festival:

### 5 days (Thu 4 – Mon 8 July)

In residence at the National Festival of Youth Theatre in Ayr

Application deadline:

**Monday 15 April 2024 (midnight)**

Interviews:

**Monday 29 & Tuesday 30 April 2024**

(online via Zoom)

## Introduction

Thank you for your interest in volunteering as a Festival Assistant – which we call an 'Amigo' – at this year's **National Festival of Youth Theatre**, otherwise known as NFYT. We're looking for a team of Amigos to work together and help us deliver **#NFYT2024**

## This opportunity will offer you...

- Valuable work experience at a live arts event.
- The opportunity to assist in artistic workshops led by professional theatre practitioners.
- The chance to attend all festival performances.
- Basic training in facilitation and safeguarding.
- The chance to meet and talk to arts professionals from the youth theatre sector.
- A work-based reference.
- Membership of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme.

# About the National Festival of Youth Theatre

Scotland's National Festival of Youth Theatre (NFYT) is an explosion of young creative talent! It's the largest gathering of youth theatres in the UK and offers an exciting and unique opportunity for young people to come together to participate in performances, workshops, camping, banter and socialising. NFYT can be both exhilarating and exhausting, which is why **we need your experience and enthusiasm** to support this year's festival participants!

In 2024 the festival will take place in Ayr and will include:

- Around 200 participants aged 14+ representing youth theatres from across Scotland and beyond.
- Seven youth theatre shows performed on [Ayr Gaiety Theatre's](#) main stage.
- A skills development programme of artistic workshops and scratch performance events delivered by leading professional theatre practitioners.
- Social events such as the NFYT Theatre Sports, Open Mic night and a festival wrap party in our very own campsite marquee.
- Camping at [Rozelle Park, Ayr](#)

## Celebrating PRIDE...

For the first time in 2024, NFYT will shine a spotlight on LGBTQIA+ artists to celebrate the diversity of our youth theatre family. The Amigo team will help us to ensure LGBTQIA+ inclusion is at the core of NFYT activity and will lead on developing plans for PRIDE celebrations at the festival.

With this in mind, **we are particularly interested in receiving applications from LGBTQIA+ people and allies.**

You can find more information about NFYT 2024 at <https://ytas.org.uk/festival/national-festival-of-youth-theatre-2024/>

## About us

We are Youth Theatre Arts Scotland (YTAS), the national development agency and umbrella body for Scotland's youth theatre sector. Our vision is for universal access to quality youth theatre activity across Scotland and universal recognition of its impact. And every two years, we produce the National Festival of Youth Theatre.

**We deliver our work through a combination of:**

- **sector support,**
- **sector training and development,**
- **youth theatre events and projects,** and
- **research and advocacy.**

**As an organisation we value:**

- **Helping Others**  
We support, enable and champion.
- **Community**  
We are welcoming. We respect difference, provide inspiration and build collective confidence.
- **Collaboration**  
We work with and connect a rich network of people and places.
- **Excellence**  
We encourage ambition, experimentation, and progression. We always strive for quality.
- **Joy**  
We have an upbeat and positive approach.

We are a registered Scottish charity and a recognised leader in Scotland's youth arts scene. You can find more information about our work at [www.ytas.org.uk](http://www.ytas.org.uk)

## Volunteer Role Description

As an NFYT Amigo you will be led and supported by our **NFYT Volunteer Coordinator, Chloë Shimmin** and you will work as a festival assistant alongside Youth Theatre Arts Scotland's whole staff team. Training will be provided in advance of the event and this voluntary role will require a [PVG Scheme Record](#), which Youth Theatre Arts Scotland will apply and pay for on your behalf.

### Your role will be to...

- meet and greet festival participants, workshop facilitators and public audiences;
- help groups set up and break-down their campsites;
- buddy and support festival participants, particularly those new to the event or with additional support requirements;
- introduce and compere festival performances;
- assist in facilitation of warm-ups and artistic workshops; and
- organise and compere social events (which may include acting as DJs at the NFYT Wrap Party).

### Your main support team will be...

#### **Chloë Shimmin, NFYT Volunteer Coordinator**

<https://chloeshimmin.co.uk/about>

Chloë is a Glasgow based queer artist, writer and facilitator working across live theatre, community engagement and participatory projects. She will be working with YTAGS between February and July 2024 to deliver the Amigos volunteer programme for NFYT. **She believes creativity is fundamental to the human experience and that everyone of us is innately creative.**

#### **Emma Barr, Sector Development Manager**

<https://ytas.org.uk/about-ytag/our-people/>

Emma has a background in applied theatre and over 10 years' experience working in the UK and Canada as a director and educator, specialising in making theatre for and with young people. **She is particularly interested in how youth theatre can contribute to a young person's sense of identity and creates a cultural community.**

## Who we are looking for

### Being an NFYT Amigo will suit you if you...

- are passionate about theatre and keen to gain experience working in a festival environment;
- are confident at communicating;
- have a positive and enthusiastic attitude towards working with young people;
- are responsible and reliable;
- can use your initiative; and
- enjoy working as part of a team.

## Benefits

### In return for your time and commitment we will offer you...

- travel expenses (from within Scotland) to and from the festival location in Ayr;
- travel expenses (from within Scotland) to the in-person Amigos training day in a central Scotland location (venue tbc);
- camping accommodation in the 'staff camp' at Rozelle Park (equipment not included, however we can support you to borrow/rent where required);
- all meals (Lunch at training day, Thursday lunch – Monday breakfast inclusive at festival);
- pocket money of £80 (to cover any additional expenses); and
- an exclusive festival Amigo t-shirt!

## How to apply

To apply to become an NFYT Amigo please complete an **online application form** using this link <https://forms.office.com/e/YQ1FV9yDiN>

You are welcome to answer some of the questions in alternative formats to writing, for example by using **video, audio or slideshow**. If you choose to record your answers, please provide a web address where we can access your file, or email it to [amigos@ytas.org.uk](mailto:amigos@ytas.org.uk)

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to take part in a short, informal interview online (via Zoom). We'll let you know no later than **Friday 19 April** if you have been selected for interview.

## Important Dates

**Application deadline:** **Monday 15 April 2024 (midnight)**  
**Interview Selection:** before Friday 19 April (we will contact all applicants)  
**Interviews:** Monday 29 & Tuesday 30 April (online via Zoom)

## Interview Accessibility

If you are selected for interview, you can expect a friendly, informal conversation with our **NFYT Volunteer Coordinator, Chloë Shimmin**, and our **Sector Development Manager, Emma Barr**.

To help you prepare for this, we'll send you the questions in advance. If we invite you to an interview, we'll ask you to let us know if there are any supports or accommodations you may need to feel as comfortable as possible and make the most of your interview experience. For example, using fidget toys, taking breaks or having the questions posted in the chat. This is to make sure that everyone has the same equity of access.

## Equal Opportunities

Please consider completing our voluntary and anonymous Equal Opportunities Monitoring Questionnaire at <https://forms.office.com/e/E4CjiRiL8D>

We will use the information to:

- make sure that no applicant receives less favourable treatment because of age, disability, race/ethnicity, religion/belief, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, sex/gender, gender reassignment or sexual orientation; and
- understand who we are reaching and appealing to as an employer. This will help us improve our recruitment practices so that a wider variety of people know about opportunities with YTAS, and that they feel more comfortable applying to work or volunteer with us.

## Any questions?

If you have any questions about the Amigo volunteer opportunity, please contact our **NFYT Volunteer Coordinator, Chloë Shimmin** at [amigos@ytas.org.uk](mailto:amigos@ytas.org.uk)

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