

NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF YOUTH THEATRE

**Event Information
for group leaders 2026**



Youth
Theatre
Arts
Scotland

Contents

<u>Introduction</u>	3
<u>About the National Festival of Youth Theatre</u>	4
<u>A note from our hosts at Eden Court</u>	4
<u>Event Overview</u>	5
<u>Performance Programme</u>	6
<u>Workshop Programme</u>	7
<u>One-Day Programme</u>	7
<u>Social Programme</u>	8
<u>Young Leaders' Programme</u>	9
<u>Group Leaders' Programme and Regional Training Hub</u>	10
<u>NFYT Ticket Prices</u>	11
<u>Fundraising Advice</u>	11
<u>Booking and Payment</u>	12
<u>Help to Attend the Festival</u>	13
<u>Camping at NFYT</u>	15-16
<u>Arrival Information</u>	14
<u>Event Catering</u>	17
<u>Child Protection and Safety</u>	18
<u>Box Office</u>	19
<u>Environmental Impact</u>	19
<u>About Youth Theatre Arts Scotland</u>	20
<u>Acknowledgements</u>	20
<u>Appendix: Performance Proposals Information</u>	21-23

Introduction

Every two years, Scotland's **National Festival of Youth Theatre (NFYT)** creates an explosion of young creative talent. This information pack aims to provide all the information you need to know about the National Festival of Youth Theatre 2026.

NFYT enables young people to discover and celebrate a shared passion, offering them the opportunity to develop as artists, leaders, audience members and creative thinkers.

With an emphasis on inclusion, education and collaboration, NFYT aims to remove barriers, teach valuable life skills and provide extraordinary new experiences.

We look forward to welcoming you and your youth theatre group to the festival! If you have any questions, please contact Youth Theatre Arts Scotland on **0131 538 0591**.

***“NFYT is truly a one-of-a-kind experience –
you can only understand it when you're in it.”***

Youth theatre group leader



Dates: Friday 3 – Monday 6 July 2026

Venue: Eden Court, Inverness

Campsite: Northern Meeting Park, Inverness

Tickets: Group bookings only

Price:	£265 per person	Camping ticket
	£180 per person	Non-camping ticket
	£60 per person	One-day ticket (bookings open Mar 2026)

Discounts: Two FREE group leader places per group
Access Bursaries available

About the National Festival of Youth Theatre (NFYT)

In 2026, NFYT looks forward to welcoming youth theatre groups from across Scotland to Inverness!

Our 2026 festival aims to celebrate the diversity of young people in Scotland through artistic inspiration with access and inclusion at the heart of the event.

The event will include programmed shows as well as artistic workshops, social events, a final-night wrap party, and of course, festival camping! Your youth theatre group doesn't have to perform in order to take part: NFYT always welcomes non-performing groups and audiences who choose to enjoy what the festival has to offer without the pressure of staging a show. (If your group would like to perform, see [page 26](#) for more details.)

NFYT offers young people aged 14-22 the opportunity to...

- see programmed youth theatre performances over three days
- take part in a curated programme of artistic workshops
- perform on the festival stage
- make friends and socialise with their peers from across Scotland and further afield

NFYT offers youth theatre group leaders...

- the opportunity to take part in training sessions and a tailored leader induction
- the opportunity to network with sector colleagues
- full support in preparing to attend the festival, e.g. help with the booking process and access to condensed Event Information Packs to distribute to both young people and to their parents and carers. These can be downloaded from our website, [linked here](#).

“NFYT is not only an incredible social event but also a massive learning experience and has been one of the best times of my life.”

NFYT participant

A note from our hosts at Eden Court

We are absolutely delighted to be hosting the National Festival of Youth Theatre at Eden Court in 2026. Next year marks our 50th Birthday and what better way to mark the occasion than to provide a platform for young people to share their talents with the Highlands.

Not only are the Engagement team excited to meet you but the whole theatre will be there to support you. This is such an exciting opportunity for your young people to show all their hard work and talent. It is going to be incredible to share that experience with you all. We also get to share our beautiful city with you, with the River Ness and Ness Islands at your doorstep.

We can't wait to offer you a warm Highland welcome and we look forward to seeing you there.

Best wishes,

Andrew, Drew, Euan, Louise, Morag, Murray and Vicky
The Engagement Team at Eden Court

Event Overview

NFYT was established by Youth Theatre Arts Scotland in 2004 as the UK's largest gathering of youth theatres. In 2026, the festival will be delivered with our partners at Eden Court, and the private festival campsite will be situated in the grounds of the nearby Northern Meeting Park.

NFYT usually welcomes around **200 participants** representing around **15 different youth theatres** from across Scotland and often from further afield. Each morning, after spending the night at our festival campsite, participants will be able to take a short walk across the road to the home of NFYT, Eden Court. This is where you and your young people will watch other groups' shows and maybe perform your own! It is also where all meals will be served, and the starting off point from which we'll disperse for workshops and social activities.

Here's a [draft event schedule](#). All timings are approximate and subject to change.

Day	Approx. time	Activity
Fri 3 Jul	From 10am	Groups arrive at Northern Meeting Park campsite to register and set up camp (please allow two hours for this and have everyone bring a packed lunch)
	approx. 2.30pm	Walk to Eden Court
	3pm – 9pm	A warm welcome to NFYT followed by an afternoon and evening of performances , and a warm-up workshop (dinner included)
	9.30pm	An NFYT Social Event, such as a treasure hunt
	11pm	Back to the campsite
Sat 4 Jul	From 7am	Power on at campsite (for showers, tea, and coffee!)
	approx. 9am	Walk to Eden Court
	approx. 9.30am – 9pm	Another day of performances , artistic workshops , and social events (breakfast, lunch, and dinner included)
	9.30pm – 11.15pm	NFYT Social Event e.g. Open Mic Night
Sun 5 July	From 7am	Power on at campsite (for showers, tea and coffee!)
	approx. 9am	Walk to Eden Court
	approx. 9.15am – 8.45pm	A final day of performances and artistic workshops (breakfast, lunch, and dinner included)
	9pm - midnight	NFYT Wrap Party
Mon 6 July	From 7am	Power on at campsite (for showers, tea, and coffee!)
	8.30am	Final Breakfast at Eden Court
	From 9am	Pack up camp and head home!

The schedule is packed, and we recognise it is a busy weekend! We encourage groups to manage their own energy levels and make use of our [wellbeing spaces](#) and [quiet spaces](#) (which are open throughout the festival) whenever needed.

Performance Programme

As part of the festival, we'll all gather to watch work presented by participating youth theatres from across Scotland, and often from further afield. The ethos of NFYT is to offer any youth theatre group, regardless of experience or critical acclaim, the opportunity to showcase their recent work to a hugely supportive audience. Our aim is to demonstrate and celebrate the diversity of youth theatre with a broad representation of work, as well as offer participants the chance to see and be inspired by their peers' performances.

There are usually around [six performance slots](#) available at NFYT, showcasing a diverse range of work including live shows, screenings of filmed performances, and outdoor work. In recent years, many youth theatres have developed a multi-arts and mixed media approach to their performance, and we want to celebrate as wide a variety as possible of the brilliant work you are making.

One of the most inspiring aspects of NFYT is watching your peers perform, seeing what other groups across Scotland are creating, discovering different styles and approaches, and being motivated by the incredible talent and creativity on display.

If you would like to present work as part of the festival, please submit your performance proposal by [Monday 16 February](#). YTAS will contact groups on [Monday 16 March 2026](#) to let you know if your performance has been selected or not.

For more details, please read our Performance Proposals Information at the bottom of this info pack.



"I have become more confident performing in front of large groups"

"Such a welcoming and supportive event"

"It really helped my confidence"

NFYT participants

Workshop Programme

NFYT offers a lively artistic workshop programme which aims to develop your young people's capacity as artists, creative thinkers, and audience members.

There are two different workshop routes to choose from:

- **Artistic Workshops:** Our team of professional facilitators will offer a diverse range of artistic workshops that your young people will take part in over the weekend. These workshops will teach new skills, challenge perceptions of various theatre styles, and even create micro performances. This year, the engagement team at Eden Court will add to the programme, showcasing some of their unique repertoire and giving participants the chance to explore dance, movement, film, and the inspirational history and environment that surrounds the theatre.
- **Scratch Route:** For members of groups who aren't performing at the festival but are still itching to get on stage, the Scratch Route will give them the opportunity to develop a brand-new piece of work throughout the festival. Working with professional theatre-makers this route provides the opportunity for participants to present their newly formed piece to the festival audience on the final day of the festival. Details of the lead artist and the overall Scratch plans will be shared in spring with plenty of time for participants to sign up in advance of the festival.



One-Day Programme

A one-day ticket is also available to groups. We hope that this will make the event more accessible for those who are not able to commit to the full weekend event, or who may not have attended before and just want a taster of what the event is like.

How it works

One-day attendees will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the festival for a packed programme of activities on **Saturday 4 July 2026**. Participants will join the full-weekend groups to participate in artistic workshops, watch performances by other young people on the stage and mix with other youth theatre groups over a meal.

The one-day NFYT ticket for young people includes:

- Tickets to one or two festival productions (depending on the show programme and travel times);
- Two artistic workshops; and
- Lunch and/or Dinner

The full performance programme will be announced in spring 2026. If you are interested in bringing your group to the one-day programme and would like to discuss this further, please email zoe@ytas.org.uk.

Social Programme

NFYT thrives on providing the opportunity for your young people to meet and form new friendships with others who share their passion for youth theatre. The festival offers the following social events over the weekend, all planned and delivered by a group of **Young Hosts** who will nurture this bonding experience.

- On the **Friday night**, Eden Court's studios will be transformed into our very own stage for the opening NFYT Social event. Previously, the programme has included the NFYT **Lip Sync Battle** and **Open Mic Night**, where your young people can showcase their improv skills, dance moves, musical talents, and more. We expect to see everything from the sublime to the ridiculous!
- On the **Saturday night** we will keep it chill (to stave off exhaustion!) and plan a quieter activity such as a **movie night**, a **quiz** or a **board game battle**, where your young people can chill over snacks with their new friends.
- The legendary **NFYT Wrap Party** will close the festival on the **Sunday night** where participants and leaders are encouraged to leave it all on the dance floor. Themes will be shared in spring, giving you and your group plenty of time to plan your outfits. Don't worry, there will be a glitter station.



Young Leaders' Programme

The artists formerly known as the **AMIGOS** have had a makeover! As we strive to keep young people's thoughts, opinions, and opportunities at the core of our programme, NFYT 2026 will feature three different strands for young leaders. These are...

1. **Young Producers:** young people interested in developing skills in arts management and production. These young people will work with YTAS on the performance programme, support the performance groups before and during the festival and act as our festival comperes.
2. **Young Facilitators:** young people who are interested in developing skills in facilitation. These young people will work with NFYT facilitators to plan and deliver daily warmups and the NFYT workshop programme.
3. **Young Hosts:** young people local to Eden Court who want to develop leadership skills and represent their home youth theatre. These young people will plan and lead on the festival's social programme.

All young leaders at the 2026 festival will be recruited from YTAS' existing **Next Generation** project, which currently consists of 30 young leaders from across Scotland, or from Eden Court's own youth theatre. If, however, you have a young person in your youth theatre who would be interested in leadership opportunities at the 2026 festival or in the future, please get in touch with emma@ytas.org.uk.

For future Young Leaders: there will be a taster workshop on Saturday afternoon at the festival for anyone attending the festival who is interested in joining YTAS' Next Generation programme and helping to shape the festival in future years.



Group Leaders' Programme and Regional Training Hub

We recognise and value the skills and experience youth theatre group leaders have as artists and theatre practitioners. We want to develop these talents and offer you the opportunity to learn from each other and from specialists in our [NFYT Group Leaders' Skill Sessions](#). This year the programme for Group Leaders will be more exciting than ever as we invite practitioners from across the region to join the event for a Regional Hub.



What is a Regional Hub?

Our Regional Hubs are multi-day events designed to upskill artists, share practice, support emerging practitioners, spark ideas for future partnerships, and create stronger working relationships across the youth theatre sector within specific regions.

As group leaders at NFYT, you will automatically be granted a space in the Regional Hub and have the opportunity to participate in a minimum of two workshops. The workshops are 15 minutes shorter than those of your participants, so you don't have to worry about rushing back or missing out. Workshops will still be optional (because you might just need a break) but we will ask you to sign up to the ones that interest you upon arrival at the campsite in Inverness.

Some example topics:

- **A Games Exchange:** Exactly what it sounds like! A lot of fun and a YTAS classic.
- **Supporting Neurodiversity in your Youth Theatre:** what techniques do you use to support neurodivergent young people?
- **Let's get moving!** How to incorporate physicality and movement into your work with young people.

Local artists and practitioners from Inverness and the Highlands are invited to join the festival madness even if they have not brought young people to the festival. Individual artists and practitioners will be able to book single tickets to attend the Regional Hub and watch an NFYT performance from the end of May.

If you have any questions about the Hub or specific workshop requests, get in touch with emma@ytas.org.uk.

NFYT Ticket Prices

Camping weekend ticket price:

Non-camping weekend ticket price:

Automatic discount:

£265 per person

£180 per person

Two FREE group leader places per group

**The Camping ticket price
for young people includes:**

- Tickets to all festival performances
- All artistic workshops
- All festival social events
- All meals (Fri dinner – Mon breakfast)
- Three nights' access to a safe campsite
- Group t-shirt and welcome bag

**The Non-Camping ticket price
for young people includes:**

- Tickets to all festival performances
- All artistic workshops
- All festival social events
- Lunch and dinner
- Group t-shirt and welcome bag

Your NFYT ticket price does not include:

- Your travel to the event.
- Coach transfer between Inverness Railway Station and the NFYT campsite (if arriving by train)*

* See [page 17](#) for hints on rail travel

Fundraising Advice

We believe that NFYT is great value for money and to make sure that your youth theatre can afford to attend, we offer the two-stage payment scheme outlined below. We are also happy to discuss paying in instalments so please get in touch if you would like more information about this.

Another way of easing the financial pressure is to fundraise. This could be by working with your young people to raise the necessary funds, or by accessing grants available to youth groups in Scotland.

For more information, advice and tips visit:

- Our [Money Matters](#) toolkit: [Linked here](#).
- The [Creative Lives Cash for Culture](#) guide, [linked here](#), and [Crowdfunding](#) guide, [linked here](#), which features loads of contemporary and practical fundraising examples.
- The [Funding Scotland web portal](#), which is free to sign-up to and can be searched / filtered for activity type and region. [Linked here](#).
- YTAS members have access to fundraising advice within the [Membership Support Portal](#) on the YTAS website, [linked here](#). Please use your website login to access this. If you need help with logging in, please contact hollie@ytas.org.uk.

We are always on hand to offer advice on how to use these portals or submit grant applications. If you'd like our help, please contact carla@ytas.org.uk.

Booking and payment

Places at NFYT 2026 are limited and will be allocated to groups on a **first come, first served basis**. We strongly recommend that you complete and return your booking form as early as possible to avoid disappointment. Booking will close once all tickets have sold out, so please book early to ensure your place.

Bookings will open on Wednesday 3 December 2025. To book your group's place at NFYT 2026 please complete an [NFYT Group Booking and Performance Proposal Form](#) online.

Group performance proposals must be submitted (along with booking forms) by **Monday 16 February**.

Bookings will close in April 2026 or **when the event is sold out**, whichever occurs first.

Conditions of booking

Deposit: A non-refundable deposit of **25%** of your total booking fee is required to secure your group's place at NFYT 2026. This deposit is payable within 21 days from the date your invoice is issued by Youth Theatre Arts Scotland.

Balance: The balance of **75%** of your total booking fee must be paid by May 2026.

Cancellation: Any booking which has been paid in full and is cancelled before **Monday 1 June** will be refunded **75%** of the total booking fee. We may not be able to accommodate any booking adjustments after **Monday 1 June**.

Payments: Invoices will be issued for each stage of payment. Payment should be made by **bank transfer**. We are happy to discuss alternative payment plans if required, such as **paying in instalments**.

If you need to do this, please contact our Projects Producer on zoe@ytas.org.uk.

Booking process and payment schedule

When	What
After booking / performance selection	Receive invoice for 25% non-refundable deposit from YTAS.
Within 21 days of invoice	Pay 25% non-refundable deposit
By Monday 18 May	Submit final attendee numbers and details
By Friday 29 May	Pay invoice for balance of total booking fee
3 – 6 July 2026	Attend NFYT

Help to Attend the Festival

NFYT has always aimed to be an inclusive event, bringing together a wide range of youth theatre groups, participants and leaders to celebrate their shared passion. In recent years, we've received growing interest from youth groups who support young people that may experience barriers to attending the festival.

In past years we have also been able to make adaptations to the festival to meet different access requirements, including BSL interpreters (ensuring that all our workshops and performances are D/deaf accessible) and accessible facilities at our campsite. This year, YTAS are working with [Solar Bear](#) to ensure that the entire festival is D/deaf accessible. Our aim is to include BSL interpreters at every performance, workshop, and social event, dependent on funding. If you have a participant who would benefit from BSL interpretation, please let us know so that we can ensure your participant's needs are met.

We recognise that needs and barriers are diverse, sometimes conflicting, and that no event can be "fully accessible" to everyone. We are always learning and strive to make improvements with each event. As a small organisation, our capacity and resources are limited, but we'll be transparent about what we can offer now, what we're working on next, and we'll collaborate with you to find workable options. With that in mind, we are on hand to help all groups as they plan and fundraise to attend NFYT.

NFYT Access Bursary

[This year we want to continue to put access and inclusion at the heart of our festival.](#) Thanks to support from our funders, we will enable more disabled and disadvantaged youth theatre participants to experience the benefits of attending NFYT.

In addition to the support we offer with planning, fundraising, or festival adaptations, in 2026 we will continue to offer an [NFYT Access Bursary](#) to help support disability or financial access. Groups can apply for an [NFYT Access Bursary](#) to reduce participant fees by up to one third, or to help fund any access costs unique to your group:

- **Financial Access:** we are keen to support groups which might face additional financial barriers to attend the festival. Support requested might include reducing participant fees by up to one third, paying for camping equipment or helping to subsidise travel costs to attend the festival. Bursaries are available to groups working with young people from the 20% most deprived areas listed by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)*. You can find out more about the SIMD and look up individual postcodes [here](#).
- **Disability Access:** we will work with groups to ensure any access needs can be met during the festival and they can apply for support towards costs such as an additional access support worker or additional access transport costs incurred.

If you would like to discuss your group's access requirements further, please email zoe@ytas.org.uk

To apply for the [NFYT Access Bursary](#) please complete the online application form, [linked here](#).

Please note the bursary has limited funds and will remain available until requests exceed the available budget. We therefore encourage all bursary applicants to get in touch, prior to submission, to discuss your needs.

**If your group or a participant faces additional financial barriers but don't qualify through their postcode's SIMD status, please get in touch with YTAS to discuss bursary eligibility.*

Arrival Information

All residential groups should arrive at the NFYT Campsite, [Northern Meeting Park](#), 14 Ardross Street, Inverness, IV3 5NS between **10am - 1pm** on **Friday 3 July 2026**. The what3words location is [///lively.fund.seated](#)

There are good access and restricted parking around the campsite for cars, minibuses, and coaches to drop off and pick up participants.

Please arrange for all members of your group to arrive at the NFYT campsite at the same time and ensure that your group leader is there and ready to meet them.

As soon as you arrive, your group leader should make their way to the YTAS information desk in the marquee to register your group for NFYT. Your group will then be introduced to a member of NFYT staff who will direct you to your designated camping area for tent pitching.

Travel Options

We encourage groups to consider sustainable travel options where possible, including train travel and coordinating transport with other groups coming from your area. Contact us at nfyt@ytas.org.uk if you'd like us to connect you with other groups in your region to allow you to set up a shared minibus or coach to reduce costs and carbon emissions.

By [road](#), the approximate journey times to Inverness (depending on traffic conditions) are as follows:

Glasgow	3½-4 hours	Aberdeen	2-2½ hours
Edinburgh	3½-4 hours	Fort William	1½-2 hours
Perth	2-2½ hours	Stirling	3-3½ hours

We encourage [train](#) travel where possible, and luckily, Inverness is well-connected to major Scottish cities with regular direct services. The campsite is approximately 12 minutes from Inverness Railway Station by foot.

Check ScotRail (www.scotrail.co.uk) or Trainline (www.thetrainline.com) for timetables and bookings, but as a rough guide, direct train services to Inverness take approximately...

Edinburgh	3½ hours	Typically leaves every two hours
Glasgow	3½ hours	Typically leaves every two hours
Aberdeen	2½ hours	Typically hourly
Perth	1¾ hours	Multiple daily services available

Camping at NFYT

NFYT camping accommodation is provided at [Northern Meeting Park, Inverness](#), located directly across the road from Eden Court Theatre.

Facilities

- Portable shower facilities
- Toilet facilities
- Clean and sheltered communal areas
- YTAS staff team on-site to ensure welfare, safety, and smooth running of the campsite

Access times

Arrival: From 10am on Friday 3 July 2026

During the day: The campsite will be secured and locked during festival hours for safety. You won't have access to tents or belongings while at Eden Court. Please bring a small day bag with essentials for the day. Emergency access to the campsite can be arranged through YTAS staff if needed.

Evening: The campsite may open earlier in the evening (once social events begin) for participants who wish to return to rest. This is subject to staff availability and will be confirmed closer to the festival.

Departure: By 10am on Monday 6 July 2026

Camping Equipment

There are no restrictions on what your group can bring to make your stay at NFYT as comfortable as possible. But remember - this is the Scottish Highlands in July! Be prepared for changeable weather and pack accordingly. We strongly recommend the following equipment as an absolute minimum:

- Enough robust, weather-proof tents to ensure your group is comfortable*
- Ground sheets (very effective in retaining warmth)
- Sleeping mats or airbeds
- Sleeping bags
- Torches
- Several layers of warm clothing (including a waterproof jacket)
- A pair of wellies

*Pop-up tents are **NOT** suitable for NFYT as they do not provide enough protection against the Highland weather, which can be cold and wet even in July.

After you have made your booking, you will receive an [NFYT Kit List](#) to distribute to each of your young people. This will help your group prepare for the weekend.

Campsite Regulations

We want your young people to enjoy everything NFYT has to offer, and we expect a level of maturity from all the young people who attend which will avoid the need to enforce strict rules or police behaviour.

We trust that all participants will be respectful of their NFYT peers and the venues which are kindly hosting the festival. We would appreciate your support in ensuring the safety and welfare of all NFYT campers by asking that your group observes the following campsite regulations:

- Northern Meeting Park campsite and the NFYT event are **strictly alcohol and drug-free zones**.
- Smoking/vaping is only permitted by those over the age of 18 and in a **designated smoking area**.
- The use of **live flame of any description is prohibited**. This includes camping stoves, BBQs, gas lanterns, candles, cigarette lighters, and matches.
- All **noise must be kept to a minimum** from midnight until 7am.
- Available showers are limited, so please **be mindful of shower times** to ensure that as many people as possible can use them.
- Groups are responsible for removing all their own equipment, clearing litter, and ensuring that camping areas are **left clean and undamaged**. A charge of £100 will be issued should any follow-up cleaning or repair be required.

Event Catering

Your NFYT ticket price includes the following catering provision:

Camping				Non-Camping			
	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner		Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
Fri 3 Jul*			✓	Fri 3 Jul			✓
Sat 4 Jul	✓	✓	✓	Sat 4 Jul		✓	✓
Sun 5 Jul	✓	✓	✓	Sun 5 Jul		✓	✓
Mon 6 Jul**	✓			Mon 6 Jul			

* Please bring a **packed lunch** with you to eat at the NFYT campsite on Friday 3 July.

** You will leave NFYT after breakfast on Monday 6 July.

Sample menu

Breakfast

Cereal

Tea and Coffee

Yoghurt

Juice

Toast

Fruit

Lunch

Soup

Sandwiches

Fresh fruit and cakes

Dinner

Hot dishes

Salads and side dishes

Pudding

All meals will be served inside Eden Court Theatre. In the mornings and evenings you will have access to facilities at the campsite where you and your young people can make hot drinks.

Please note: We ask that all special dietary needs are highlighted in your Group Details Form, which you will be asked to complete after you have made your booking. Regretfully we cannot provide meals to cater for special dietary needs if they are requested on the day of the event.

Child Protection and Safety

As your group's safety is of paramount importance to us while you are at NFYT 2026, there will be a Youth Theatre Arts Scotland Child Protection Officer on site. However, please be aware that **the welfare of your young people is ultimately the responsibility of your nominated group leader(s)** throughout the duration of the event.

You must therefore:

- ensure that the conduct of your young people and adult staff is governed by an up-to-date and strict **Child Protection Policy** relevant to your youth theatre group (you will be requested to provide a copy of this after booking)
- provide an adequate number of group leaders to be responsible for your group during the event. We would usually suggest bringing **at least one group leader for every five young people** attending and recommend having at least two leaders on site so that there is always someone available in case of emergency
- keep an **accurate attendance record** in case of evacuation
- ensure that the NFYT policy of **no alcohol or illegal drugs** is enforced, regardless of age

In an emergency

In the unlikely event of an emergency, you and your group will be directed by Youth Theatre Arts Scotland and Eden Court Theatre staff.

Youth Theatre Arts Scotland operates a robust Child Protection Policy. If you would like more details about this policy, please contact us on **0131 538 0591**.

How YTAS will help

YTAS will keep everyone safe and supported by...

- Creating designated **wellbeing spaces** in each venue for when someone needs to take a break.
- Providing **visual schedules** at the campsite and workshop venues.
- Sharing **NFYT Code of Conduct which** we ask all attendees to adhere to.
- Ensuring we have **First Aiders at each venue**.
- **Providing masks** and encouraging option to wearing of face-coverings for indoor performances, workshops, and social activities for those that may need this.
- Ensuring the availability of **hand sanitising stations in all venues**.
- Provide facilities in which to **store medical supplies** if required.
- Providing **gender neutral facilities** at the campsite and working with venue partners to provide appropriate alternatives.
- Identifying **step-free access** to all venues.
- Providing **period products in toilet facilities** across all venues.

If you have any specific concerns about access or safety, please get in touch. The more we know, the more we can help!

Box Office and Marketing

Tickets for festival performances will be on sale to the public in Spring 2026 and will be available through the Eden Court [Box Office](#). Please encourage friends and family to come and see the shows!

You can also let everyone know that you are participating by including details on your website and social media using [#NFYT2026](#). Please get in touch with hollie@ytas.org.uk if you need any images/text or marketing tips.

Environmental Impact

YTAS is a climate aware and climate active organisation. We are proud to be a member of the [Green Arts Initiative](#), an interactive community of arts organisations working to reduce their environmental impact and contribute to a more sustainable Scotland. We are committed to paying close attention to our own environmental impact, and to inspiring, encouraging and supporting our sector to act sustainably as we transition towards a climate resilient and low-carbon economy.

One way we are doing this is through the Travel Survey you'll complete when you arrive. By telling us how you travelled to NFYT, you're helping us monitor and reduce the travel emissions that we cause and helping Scotland on its journey to becoming a net-zero society. Thank you in advance for playing a part in that.

At NFYT, we'll also be...

- Encouraging you to consider making the most sustainable transport choice to travel to and from Inverness.
- Reducing paper resources. We're using web downloads for our information packs, and where printing is required, we'll choose recycled paper where possible. We'd encourage group leaders to send information to participants, parents, and carers electronically if possible.
- Providing vegetarian-based catering, with vegan and other dietary requirement options available.
- Encouraging you to bring your own keep cup to use throughout the day.
- Using a hydrogen generator for the campsite

About Youth Theatre Arts Scotland

We support inspiring experiences for young people by connecting and training the people who work with them.

As a Scotland's national development body for youth theatre, we celebrate and encourage ambition, innovation and progression, supporting a membership of around 120 youth theatre organisations and practitioners all across Scotland, who engage around 22,000 young people in youth theatre activity.

We deliver our work through:

- Sector Support
- Sector Development
- Youth Theatre Events and Projects
- Sector Research and Advocacy



To find out more please visit ytas.org.uk

Acknowledgements

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Appendix: Performance Proposals Information

If your group is interested in performing at the National Festival of Youth Theatre 2026, this section will help you prepare your performance proposal. It contains all the questions you will be asked when you fill in the 'Performance Proposal' section of the booking form.

When you've read all the information below and are ready to make your proposal, please fully complete the Group Booking Form by **5pm on Monday 16 February**.

Introduction

There are **six performance slots** available at NFYT 2026. The information you provide in your proposal will be used to consider your show for inclusion in the NFYT 2026 performance programme.

The performance programme will be compiled by Youth Theatre Arts Scotland alongside a team of Young Producers and will aim to showcase work by youth theatre groups:

- of varying sizes
- representing a variety of geographic regions across Scotland
- presenting a variety of artistic focus and styles
- who have not previously performed at NFYT (priority given to first-time performers)

While we understand that not all groups will be able to offer comprehensive performance details at this stage, please include as much information as possible about the show you would like to bring to NFYT, even if it is still just an idea. All proposals will be carefully considered.

Full weekend attendance is required. If your group is selected to perform, it is on the understanding that the group, accompanied by group leaders, will attend the full weekend event (Friday 3 - Monday 6 July 2026). Unfortunately, we are unable to accept performance proposals from groups who cannot meet this condition.

Multi-media and alternative formats

This year, there will also be opportunities for screenings of filmed performances or outdoor work to be showcased alongside live and on-stage performances. We know that many youth theatres have developed multi-arts and mixed media approaches to their work, and we want to showcase as wide a variety as possible of the brilliant work you are making. If you have made a film, outdoor performance, or explored other media that you would like to present and want to discuss your options further, please email zoe@ytas.org.uk.

Performance Venue

Performances will take place at **OneTouch Theatre at Eden Court**, Scotland's largest combined arts venue. The theatre has a capacity of approximately 270 seats, providing an exciting opportunity for your young people to perform on a professional stage to a large audience.

Important note: NFYT is a national performance platform. It is important that your production is of a high standard and that your young actors have the necessary skills to perform confidently and clearly in a larger theatre space.

Technical Requirements

To accommodate all performances on the main stage, we can only offer each group a limited amount of on-stage preparation time. **Each performance will be allocated a tech slot of 90 minutes.**

It is important that you use this time for **technical rehearsal only**. If your group is selected to perform, please make sure that you have completed your final dress rehearsals before arriving at NFYT.

In order to successfully deliver a tight event schedule, we ask that all performances selected for NFYT 2026 meet the following technical criteria:

Your production must...

- Have a maximum running time of **60 minutes**
- Be able to **tech within the 90-minute slot** provided (including get-in/get-out)
- Use a set that can be **rigged and de-rigged in 20 minutes**
- Incorporate **simple lighting for use with a pre-set rig** and with a limited number of 'specials'
- Be accompanied by **group leaders or technical staff who can operate** lighting, sound and audio-visual equipment

More detailed technical specifications for Eden Court Theatre will be provided to groups selected to perform. If you have specific technical questions at the proposal stage, please contact zoe@ytas.org.uk.

Appropriateness of Material

We are keen to encourage risk-taking in youth theatre and invite groups to use NFYT as a platform to showcase challenging and innovative work.

However, as performances will be staged in front of NFYT participants as well as being open to members of the public, Youth Theatre Arts Scotland has a responsibility to ensure that material is appropriate, and that any **challenging material content warnings are flagged so they can be announced in advance**.

Challenging material should have a strong and clear artistic context. It should be carefully considered and must not put your performers or their audience at any risk. Challenging material is content which could be considered disturbing, upsetting, and/or offensive. This includes...

- Strong language
- Violence or extreme violence
- Sexual content
- Reference to drug or alcohol misuse
- Content of a discriminatory nature
- Traumatic events which may cause emotional distress (eg. death, serious illness, suicide, self-harm, bullying)

This applies to comical as well as serious performance work.

Content warning system

While we will not restrict access to any performances, we will implement a content warning system for performances. This will allow group leaders to make informed choices about what they and their young people see.

This warning system will use the following colour codes:

Warning Level	Meaning
No warning	Performance does not contain any challenging material
Amber warning	Performance contains mild and/or infrequent challenging material
Red warning	Performance contains strong and/or frequent challenging material

Please note: An indication that your performance should carry a warning will **not** influence our selection decision. We welcome diverse and challenging work.

How to Apply

To submit your performance proposal:

1. Complete the [Group Booking and Performance Proposal Form](#)
2. Submit by 5pm on **Monday 16 February 2026**

If you have any questions, please contact us on info@ytas.org.uk or by phone on 0131 538 0591.

Youth Theatre Arts Scotland will contact you no later than **Monday 16 March 2026** to let you know if your performance has been selected. Even if your performance is not selected, we hope that you will still choose to bring your group to NFYT 2026 and enjoy everything the festival has to offer, including professional workshops, networking opportunities, and the social programme.