

ORIGIN8 Programme 2026/2027

Application Information

 **ORIGIN8 2026 APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN** 

Have an exciting idea, a new project, or a show you'd love to develop? Looking for time, space, and support to help bring your work to life?

Applications are now open for Shakespeare North Playhouse's **ORIGIN8 Artist Development Programme**.

ORIGIN8 supports artists and companies at different stages of their creative journey, providing tailored guidance, development opportunities and practical support to help transform ideas into the next stage of their life.

Whether you're nurturing the seed of a new idea, developing an existing project, preparing for funding applications, or looking for support to take your work further, we'd love to hear from you.

 **What does ORIGIN8 offer?**

 **GENER8 – Developing Ideas**

Begin your journey with mentoring conversations alongside our producing team. We'll explore your creative ideas, ambitions and next steps, while offering guidance around production planning, audiences, timelines and developing your project.

 **INCUB8 – Space to Create**

Receive in-kind Research & Development space at Shakespeare North Playhouse, giving you dedicated time to explore, experiment and develop your work in a supportive environment. We understand artists have different commitments, so we offer flexible scheduling where possible.

 **CELEBR8 – Share Your Work**

Share your R&D process with an invited audience and receive valuable feedback to help

shape the future development of your project. You'll also have the opportunity to reflect on your journey, discuss next steps and celebrate your achievements.

Following completion of the programme, artists and companies become part of the ORIGIN8 alumni community, with opportunities to stay connected and continue engaging with our creative network.

ORIGIN8 is designed to support artists and companies based in Liverpool, Prescott, Knowsley and the wider Liverpool City Region. We particularly welcome applications from artists who are underrepresented within the theatre and wider cultural sector, including Global Majority artists, disabled and neurodivergent artists, working-class artists, and artists from the local area. These perspectives are an important part of our ambition for ORIGIN8 and will be considered as part of the selection process.



Applications open: 30th September 2026



Apply here: [ORIGIN8 2026-2027 Application Form – Fill out form](#)

Fill out our Equal Opportunities Form here:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/Pages/DesignPageV2.aspx?origin=NeoPortalPage&subpage=design&id=pOwPEHq1YEuijokq3QGv8ESFk8Mu4htHrh0CnOEykSFUOUIGMTU0QTNTQkRNWTBaUFZLQTIBS1lFQyQlQCN0PWcu>

Have questions about ORIGIN8 or whether it's right for you? Get in touch via Artists@shakespearenorthplayhouse.co.uk We'd love to hear from you.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Applying for ORIGIN8 is designed to help us get to know you, your creative practice and the project you'd like to develop.

1. Complete the Application Form

Tell us about yourself, your creative practice, your project idea and what you're hoping to explore through ORIGIN8.

2. Submit a Creative Video (Up to 2 Minutes)

Rather than asking for a traditional written pitch, we'd love to get to know you and your work through a short creative video that reflects your artistic voice, style and way of thinking.

This is your opportunity to show us who you are as an artist and give us a glimpse into the world you want to create.

We're not looking for a polished production or a formal presentation, we're interested in your ideas, your imagination and what makes your creative practice unique.

Your video could include:

- ✦ An introduction to yourself and your creative practice
- ✦ The idea or project you'd like to develop
- ✦ Images, sketches, writing, sound, movement or creative experiments
- ✦ A glimpse into your process or the world you're building
- ✦ What inspires you about this project

There are no rules around format or style. You might choose to speak to camera, create something visual, perform, experiment with sound, or share your ideas in a way that feels authentic to you.

We want to see your individuality and get a sense of the artist behind the idea.

Most importantly, make it feel like you.

(Please note: your video does not need to be professionally filmed or edited. A phone recording is absolutely fine. Alternatively, a pitch pack may be submitted in place of a video to artists@shakespearenorthplayhouse.co.uk)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

Written format

SECTION 1 – ABOUT YOU

1. Full Name
2. Email Address
3. Phone Number
4. Company/Collective Name (If Applicable)
Website/ Social Media
5. Where are you based?

SECTION 2 – About your project

1. Project Title
2. Tell us about your project (Maximum 250 words)
3. Give us an overview of your idea/work, what stage it is at and what you're hoping to create.
4. What stage is your project currently at?
(Please choose the following applicable)
 - Initial Idea
 - Research
 - Writing
 - Devising
 - Early R&D
 - Funded R&D
 - Preparing for Production
 - Touring/Remounting
 - Other
5. What are your ambitions for this project over the next 12 months (Maximum 250 words)

6. SECTION 3 – Development

1. What support are you hoping to receive through ORIGIN8
(maximum 250 words)
2. What would success look like for you at the end of this programme
(Maximum 150 Words)
3. Why would you like to develop this project with Shakespeare North Playhouse?
(Maximum 250 words)

SECTION 4 – FUNDING

1. Has this project received funding?
Please choose those that apply

Yes/No /Funding application Pending /Not yet but we would like to apply

2. If your project is already funded, what are you hoping to gain from ORIGIN8
(Maximum 200 words)

SECTION 5 – Practical Information

1. Approximately how many people are involved in your project?
2. Do you have any key dates or deadlines we should know about?
(E.g. funding deadlines, rehearsals, performances or festival dates)
3. Do you have any access requirements?
4. Is there anything else you would like us to know?

SECTION 6 – VIDEO SUBMISSION (MAX 2 mins)

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You may want to talk about the following:

1. Who are you as an artist? What kind of Art do you make? You may want to talk about previous projects or what art you're interested in making in the future.
2. Tell us about your project
3. What's the idea and what inspired it?
4. Why are you making this piece now?
5. Why does it feel like the right time for this work?
6. Where is the project currently in it's journey?

7. What have you already explored and what needs developing?
8. What are you hoping to discover through ORIGIN8?
9. How do you think this opportunity could help your project grow?
10. What excites you the most about the future of this work?
11. Where do you hope it might go next?

Please upload your video/pitch pack or provide a link below

Shortlisting & Interview

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to Shakespeare North Playhouse to meet with our team for a creative pitch and conversation.

This will be an opportunity to:

1. Tell us more about your project
2. Discuss your creative ambitions
3. Share what you're hoping to explore
4. Talk through the support that would be most valuable to you
5. Explore how ORIGIN8 could help you take your work to the next stage

We want the application process to feel like a conversation, not a test.

We're excited to hear about your ideas, your creative journey and the work you want to bring into the world.

APPLY NOW

Applications for ORIGIN8 2026 are open from 30th September

Deadline: 31st October

Apply here: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/1qSbfh345z>

If you have any questions about the programme, the application process or whether ORIGIN8 is right for you, please get in touch.

Artists@shakespearenorthplayhouse.co.uk

