

**adc theatre**

applications guide

## Aims

The ADC aims to programme seasons of student drama that are diverse, entertaining and exciting. We welcome applications from any student or student group, regardless of experience. All that is required to apply is a creative idea and the passion to see it through.

The ADC seeks to appeal to the widest range of audiences and our programme is central to this. As such, we encourage applications from the general canon of established playwrights, from forgotten or neglected classics through to works from modern playwrights and works of new writing.

The ADC values the continued passion and support of its students and audiences. We are constantly amazed by the quality of theatre our students present and want to continue offering a wide range of theatrical opportunities. From the ancient Greeks to groundbreaking modern dramas, seasoned classics to new writing, we want to see it all! The joy of theatre in Cambridge is its breadth and this is what the panel need to see each show selection.

## Categories

Alongside the usual open applications, the selection panel will be looking to programme a few plays per term drawn from applications in pre-determined categories. These categories serve to broaden our season. You can find out what these are for the current applications session by visiting [www.adctheatre.com/applications](http://www.adctheatre.com/applications) or by emailing [applications@adctheatre.com](mailto:applications@adctheatre.com)

We emphasise that you can apply with any plays and that the pre-determined categories only serve to act as a guide. If we do not receive any applications for a category, or if all applications in a category are not of sufficient quality the panel will revert to selecting from the open applications field to fill the slots. In all cases the quality of submissions will continue to be the guiding principle in show selection.

## Selection panel

The selection panel is made up of five people:

- the President of the [Cambridge University Amateur Dramatic Club](#) and one other member of the student Committee;
- the President of the Fletcher Players;
- the Theatre Manager of the ADC Theatre and one other member of the [Management Team](#).

## Process

Applying to put on a show is a three-stage process.

### Stage One – Online Application

The first stage of the process is for you to **fill out the online application form** which is submitted to the selection panel who will then automatically book you a slot in the second stage.

### Stage Two - Pitching

The second stage gives you the opportunity to **tell us why we should programme your show**.

Your pitch will last **five minutes** and we will ask you to focus on three areas:

1. *Why are you passionate and enthusiastic about this show? What makes you want to see it staged?*
2. *What are your plans for bringing it to the stage? For example, do you have any unique ideas about casting, set, rehearsal technique, costume, sound, lighting etc?*
3. *What do you want the audience to take away from your production?*

If applicable, you will be asked to bring a copy of the script at this stage to leave with the selection panel for the duration of the application round. Please note that for new writing we would expect a completed draft of the whole script. However if you are applying as a director and intending to devise or part-devise the show, a completed script is not necessary but we will need you to explain why you have chosen to create the show in this way.

The pitching stage is intended to be about your core ideas, so don't bring along budgets, technical drawings or poster designs: we want to hear about why you want to do the show.

### Stage Three – Interview

The third stage varies depending on the applications we receive.

You may be asked to come along to a **longer interview** the following weekend and we will give you a small number of questions to prepare in advance. This is your opportunity to flesh out your idea in more detail, as well as answer any specific questions we may have about your application.

We do not interview all the applicants who end up getting programmed, so don't worry if you are not invited to a longer interview.

## Venues and Slots

We programme shows at the ADC Theatre, ADC Bar, ADC Larkum Studio and Corpus Playroom. Please be aware that the venues and slots available are very different and shows which work artistically in one venue or slot may be less suited to another, so bear this in mind when choosing which venue and slot to apply for.

### Venue

The **ADC Theatre** is a large proscenium arch theatre, with a 6.5m wide x 10m deep stage. It seats 228 people.

The **Playroom** is a much smaller space, with audience on two sides of the 4m x 4m stage in an L-shape. It seats 80 people. It has a limited backstage area and more technically limited than the ADC, but can still accommodate a fairly complex set.

The **Larkum Studio** is a small but flexible studio space in the ADC Theatre. We tend not to programme more than one or two shows in here per term.

The **ADC Bar** seats 40 people and has a small cabaret style stage.

### Slot

**ADC Theatre Mainshow:** Tue - Sat, 7.45pm, max running time 2hr 30

This is the 'biggest' slot in terms of ambition, cast and crew size, budget and audience numbers. Our mainshow audiences are 50% students, 50% non-students, so we generally programme shows in this slot which will appeal to the wider Cambridge community.

Competition is more intense for ADC Theatre mainshows than for other slots so you should scale your application accordingly. This is the only slot where having some experience of directing in Cambridge before (ideally at the ADC Theatre or Corpus Playroom) could significantly strengthen your application.

**ADC Theatre Lateshow:** Wed - Sat, 11pm, max running time 1hr 30

This slot is aimed more at our student audience, who come to late night theatre. We often programme comedy or musical shows in this slot.

**ADC Theatre One-Night Stand:** Tue, 11pm, max running time 1hr 30

This slot is similar to the ADC lateshow slot, but only one night.

**Playroom Mainshow:** Tue - Sat, 7pm, max running time 2hr

Like the ADC Mainshow, the Playroom Mainshow appeals to our local town audience as well as our student audience. It can have a short interval.

**Playroom Lateshow:** Tue - Sat, 9.30pm, max running time 1hr 15

The Playroom Lateshow is the ideal slot for new student writing and also for comedy and musical shows which are on a smaller scale than the ADC Theatre or have a more niche appeal.

**Playroom One-Night Stand:** Mon, 9.30pm, max running time 1hr 15

This slot is similar to the Playroom lateshow slot, but only one night.

**Larkum / Bar Shows:** flexible days and times depending on the application

These two intimate spaces are best for small shows aimed at a small number of audience members.

**Papercuts:** flexible days and times depending on the application

Papercuts is our rehearsed reading programme. We believe that the best way to help writers and their work develop is to get the script on its feet and spoken.

Have a look at the [what's on](#) pages to have a look at the shows we have programmed this season and get in touch with [applications@adctheatre.com](mailto:applications@adctheatre.com) if you have any questions about which slots would suit your show.

## Funding

It is possible to apply for funding from one of the student companies based in the ADC Theatre and Corpus Playroom.

Performance slots and funding are separate things: your production may be offered a slot at one of our venues, but not funding from one of the resident companies. In that case there are numerous other Cambridge student drama societies who will fund your show. We strongly discourage self-funded shows.

### Cambridge University Amateur Dramatic Club (CUADC)

The [Cambridge University Amateur Dramatic Club](#) is the oldest and largest student drama society in Cambridge. As well as being the main production company at the Theatre, the CUADC are at the centre of student dramatic activity in Cambridge, running workshops and encouraging participation in theatre.

They present a varied programme of mainshows and lateshows at the ADC Theatre each season. They offer their productions assistance and support and are committed to holding open applications and auditions.

## Fletcher Players

The [Fletcher Players](#) are the resident company at the Corpus Playroom, and the drama society of Corpus Christi College. Their productions showcase new writing, traditional classics, comedy, cutting-edge political drama and occasionally dance.

## Cambridge University Musical Theatre Society (CUMTS)

Founded in 1998, [Cambridge University Musical Theatre Society](#) has been behind the very best musical theatre taking place in Cambridge, presenting a wide variety of shows a year and providing opportunities for all musical enthusiasts - from actors to technicians - to work on high-quality and enjoyable musical theatre productions.

## Rights

The rights-holders of most plays and musicals require you to purchase performing rights before a production can be staged.

If you are unsure who holds the performing rights to the play you want to put on then a good place to start is [Samuel French](#), who hold rights to lots of shows and also know who holds the rights to others.

We strongly advise you to check whether the rights are available before applying as we are not able to programme shows where rights are not available. We do understand that it may not be possible to confirm this with the rights holders, but if you can get as much of a sense as possible, that would be appreciated.

**At the pitching stage you will be asked to confirm whether you have looked into the rights for your production.**

## Other Information

You can apply with more than one production, or for more than one venue or slot. You should be aware, however, that spreading yourself too thinly can weaken all your applications: we are interested in a passion for a specific production rather than a general desire to stage something.

Our resident companies are committed to open auditions/applications for cast and crew positions. If you are applying with a show that has been pre-cast, please be aware that they may not be able to offer you funding.

We are only accepting electronic applications.

If you have difficulty with the form or any other questions, please [contact us](#).