

No Strings Attached

Thanks for your interest in No Strings Attached!

No Strings Attached is a programme of support to help young people make their first piece of theatre and to explore a potential career within the arts.

The programme is delivered by Farnham Maltings.

Key Dates

- Deadline for submitting the jotform with your expressions of interest: midnight on Mon 19 February.
- Longlisted applicants will be invited to a phone call with a member of the Farnham Maltings team to talk through your idea: Between Wed 21 and Thu 29 February.
- Panel day, where shortlisted applicants will be invited to pitch their project: Wed 06 March.

Farnham Maltings welcomes applications from all young people, especially those from backgrounds which are currently underrepresented within the arts. If you would like to discuss any specific needs or barriers you face in making an application, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Who is the programme for?

In order to apply for No Strings Attached, you must:

- Be aged between 18 and 25 years old
- Have not previously received public funding for the arts (for example, from Arts Council England). Funding as part of a higher education is exempt.
- Live in the South-East region of England. This region includes the following counties: Essex, Kent, East Sussex, West Sussex, Surrey, Isle of Wight, Oxfordshire, Bedfordshire, Hampshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire.
- Want to make a piece of theatre/performance. You may see yourself as a theatre-maker, producer, community facilitator, director, designer, actor, writer, poet or beat-boxer. Or you may creatively identify in a completely new way! The list is endless. We hope to hear from people who are interested in making theatre and performance, whatever angle you are coming at it.

What does the award consist of?

The award consists of:

- Grants of up to £1000
- 2 x training sessions with Farnham Maltings that provide a starter tool kit in key areas of self-producing, budgets and thinking about audiences
- 2 x sessions of up to 4 hours with a paired industry mentor
- A check in session with Farnham Maltings at the end of the project

What can the grant money be used for?

The No Strings Attached programme is to help support young theatre-makers and artists, so you will need to demonstrate that the grant will go towards funding the creation of a new piece of theatre or performance.

Your idea should be theatre and performance focused, but could include other art forms such as dance, puppetry, film, or music. You may also choose to focus your project around community engagement.

We're excited to hear about and support different ideas. Ideas come in many different shapes and sizes and can be seen in varying formats. We are looking for creativity and passion for what you want to explore. We highly recommend considering who the audience is for the work that you want to make.

The scheme is designed to be flexible, and the funding is there to help you make the kind of theatre you would like to make. The programme will support you to pursue a creative idea, help you put on a performance of your work and/or attend professional training. If you are unsure of the suitability of your project, please contact us.

Examples of what the grant could be used for:

- Sourcing professional help or training to support the development of your ideas or put on your work
- Paying for rehearsal space and materials
- Making marketing tools and content (e.g., the cost of photography or filming, the cost of editing, training)
- Covering the cost of your time when writing, researching, rehearsing
- Buying materials for costumes or props

Additional funding may be available to cover access costs. Please contact Gina on gina.thorley@farnhammaltings.com if you would like to discuss this further.

Is there anything the grant cannot be used for?

The grant cannot be used to:

- Fund any projects that form part of a higher education course.
- Fund part of a project that already exists and has other funding in place.
- Purchase any assets or technical equipment such as computers or cameras.
- Fund an existing project, idea or training which has already started or will have started by the start date of No Strings Attached on **Fri 01 March 2024**.

When does my project idea need to happen?

Projects need to take place between March 2024 to March 2025.

The project must not have started before this date.

How do I apply?

Firstly, you should discuss your ideas with the people around you. The wider the range of opinions you can source on your project, the more detailed your thinking will be. Once you have a clear idea of what you would like to do and what you might use a grant for then fill in the short online form on the application page. This is to confirm your eligibility and to get your contact details, and should take less than 10 minutes to complete.

Longlisted applications will be contacted by Gina at Farnham Maltings for an initial phone call about you and your idea. This will take 10-15 minutes and we will ask about any experience you have, what your ambitions are for working in the arts, and what timeline you're thinking about for your project.

If your idea fits the aims of the grant scheme you will be offered an appointment at the panel meeting on **Wed 06 March** where you present your idea to a panel of arts practitioners.

Your presentation should last no more than 10 minutes and should include a breakdown of how much you are requesting and how it will be spent. You can supply supporting paperwork but we really want to hear or see you talk about your ideas. Your presentation may have an element of performance and could include video or photographs.

Will I get any help with preparing my presentation?

When you register your interest you will be offered advice about how best to present your idea to the panel. You will also be offered help with planning your budget.

It would also be a good idea to talk to other people about your project, such as your tutors, youth worker or work colleagues.

It would be helpful to practise your presentation with your friends and family.

What if I have access requirements?

Please contact Gina on gina.thorley@farnhammaltings.com to discuss this further. We will make all reasonable adjustments to meet your access requirements.

Will my travel expenses be paid?

You can claim travel expenses for up to two people in your group to attend the panel meeting. This will be based on a standard rail fare booked in advance. This will be paid on receipt of invoice and original receipts.

What will happen if I am made an offer?

If you are successful you will be notified within two days of the panel meeting and receive payment for the full amount of your grant within 14 days on receipt of invoice.

You will receive support throughout the creative process and will also be paired with a professional mentor who will offer you advice and guidance on the development of your work and future opportunities.

What will be required of me?

You will need to deliver your project! This doesn't need to include a performance or sharing.

We ask that you attend the key dates for training and meet with your mentor, and that you keep Farnham Maltings informed of the progress and development of your project.

You will also be required to attend a reflection meeting with a member of the Farnham Maltings team at the end of the year.

What opportunities will this create?

This is an opportunity to:

- Try and test out your ideas and explore the kind of theatre and performance that you like to make
- Develop your skills and knowledge in theatre-making
- Listen to and get support from arts professionals making and producing work
- Develop your contacts and networks
- Develop your understanding of the theatre sector and the realities of making work professionally.
- Launch your career in the theatre industry and help you take the first steps towards making a piece of theatre or forming a new theatre company. It is important that this programme is self-directed with the support from Farnham Maltings.

How can I find out more?

If you need any further information, please contact Gina Thorley at Farnham Maltings:

gina.thorley@farnhammaltings.com

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