

Live Theatre, Writer in Residence

£4000 of investment, 6-month period (August 2026 – February 2027)

Closing date: Monday 8 June at 9am

Interview dates: Longlisted applicants on Friday 26 June (online) and shortlisted applicants on Wednesday 8 July (in-person)

New Writing North are offering this position as part of New Writing North's Creative Associates programme. Creative Associates bring fresh perspectives to the organisation, while being supported to develop their own creative projects and artistic practice.

Who is this opportunity for?

We are seeking one writer to take part in a six-month residency to create a new piece of artistic work for the stage. Please note, this project is funded by the North East Combined Authority and therefore only open to writers residing within a postcode located in the North East CA region.

New Writing North and Live Theatre strive to be a diverse and inclusive organisations. We aim to empower and enable artists who have been historically excluded to be the artists they want to be without any pressure of representation. We particularly encourage writers of colour, disabled writers, LGBTQI writers and writers from a socio-economic disadvantaged background.

What will you be expected to do?

The chosen writer will receive a £4,000 bursary to support a six-month writing residency at Live Theatre. They will also be supported by a professional theatre writer, carefully matched to their voice, style and needs, who will provide tailored mentoring, dramaturgy and feedback through agreed sessions across the residency.

The writer will have designated desk space at Live Theatre and access to the writers' rooms in the building, as well as access to Live Theatre's wider team for additional guidance around creative practice, producing, marketing and funding to support them in becoming a more agile working artist in the sector. They will be invited into the life of the building, with access to script development processes and rehearsals for Live Theatre's in-house productions and artist development projects, as well as the opportunity to contribute to a reading and selection panel for Live's artist development work. The residency also includes free tickets to Live's produced shows, discounts on visiting theatre, and the opportunity for their own work to be staged at Live Theatre in 2027/28, either as a standalone production or as part of Live's annual New Writing Festival.

Applications

We are excited by plays that are fearless, distinctive and theatrically alive. Scripts with a singular voice, a fresh perspective, and a real sense of urgency. We love work that surprises us, moves us, challenges us, and feels made for the stage. Bold new writing that opens up new possibilities in form, feeling and thought.

Apply here: <https://airtable.com/appxqhqBnO3IHu4m2/shrSRAXDRqLYQAKA4>

If you would like to apply for this position, you will be asked to submit the following:

- * A headline pitch that addresses the creative project you would like to develop and includes links to relevant examples from your previous work. Please provide passwords where required (no more than 500 words).

- * Details of two referees who can vouch for the quality of your work
- * An up-to-date CV

For guidance, we suggest you briefly cover some of the following when writing your headline pitch:

- What is the idea and why is it important to you?
- Why does it need to be created now?
- Is it collaborative, or will you be creating it alone?
- What will the outcome be at the end of 6-months?

Successful longlisted applicants will be invited to a 15-minute chat to discuss the opportunity and ask any questions they may have. From these discussions, a shortlist of candidates will be invited to a formal interview where they will be asked to pitch their idea and provide a sample of their previous work.

If you have any questions about the opportunity, or the application process, please contact us at Skills@newwritingnorth.com

New Writing North

New Writing North is the writing development agency for the North of England. We have produced nationally significant work from our base in Newcastle upon Tyne since 1996. We are a committed team of 20, are a registered charity with a board of trustees and a National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England, for a full picture of our work please visit www.newwritingnorth.com

Live Theatre

Live Theatre is one of England's only venues outside of London dedicated exclusively to new work. Having launched and supported many of the country's leading playwrights, Live now has a global reputation for its original, bold and deeply authentic productions rooted in the soil of the North East. From developing the creative voices of schoolchildren through to showcasing top world talent on our stage, Live Theatre's mission is: to unearth the rich and unexpected narratives of our region, to nurture creativity and bring passionate ideas to life and to be a space that unites people and ignites imaginations.