

Bursary Awards

STAGE ONE

Information Pack

Last Updated: December 2023



If you are an emerging producer, Stage One can provide financial and practical assistance to help get your productions up and running and support your overall development. We understand that mounting your first productions can be an intimidating experience and aim to make the process accessible to dedicated producers, who otherwise may not have the resources to do so.

We believe that everyone has the right to see themselves and their stories being represented in theatre. The role of a theatre producer is integral to seeing a range of truthful and authentic stories being told. We actively welcome applications from those who feel they're underrepresented in the industry, and we will prioritise these applicants.

About the Bursary

The award comprises of 3 parts:

1.) Financial Award –

Producers may apply for up to £20,000 to support themselves, or new projects.

For example; we can support you financially by covering expenses such as rent, bills, accountants or legal fees. If you need financial support to commission artists to create work, we can also support this. See more information on this and an example application below.

Please note that the panel may decide to fund aspects of your application, and awards of the full £20,000 in one application are rare.

2.) Training & Mentoring –

You will work with the Stage One Team to find an experienced professional to mentor you during the time you are receiving support from Stage One.

The mentor will be available for consultation and advice, they will also sign off on your monthly report and invoices to Stage One.

Further training through Stage One is also provided free of charge on specific topics relevant to your practice. We can support travel and access costs for these training sessions, separate to your bursary award.

3.) Office Space –

A shared office space in London is available for one year for bursary recipients. The office is in Bloomsbury Square, London.

What is the primary purpose of the bursary fund?

This bursary is intended to provide producers with funds to cover costs up front to create work and to get your project/s off the ground. These may be personal costs, professional costs, or both.

It is not intended to cover the full cost of a workshop, try out or production. It is intended to supplement the producers' salary to allow individuals time to work on a project.

Who are we looking to support?

The fund is intended to support those developing their careers as independent producers with an ambition to produce commercial work.

Applicants need to demonstrate how the financial support would develop their career and at what stage their production/s are in development.

The fund **cannot** support projects at their earliest stages, there must be a rights agreement, or evidence of the intent to produce with the rights holders.

We are not able to support costs associated with London-based office space, as access to our shared office spaces is included in the bursary award offer.

Qualifying Criteria

- Applicants must be over the age of 18. There is no upper age limit to apply to any of Stage One's programmes.
- Applicants must be UK-based and intend for the work to be produced in the UK.
- Applicants must have the right to work in the UK.
- Applicants must have the ambition to work independently/ freelance in their producing practice.
- At least 60% of the funds applied for should be dedicated to covering personal costs. This can include things such as; access costs, rent, childcare & travel.
- A maximum of 40% of the funds can go towards project costs. This should be intended to create live performance, but applications are considered for a variety of related activities (e.g workshops, try-outs, development, research). This can include project costs such as; rights advances, commissioning fees, writers options and company costs.

You are **not** eligible to apply if:

- You are an established producer with significant experience or contacts within the industry.

If you have any further questions about your eligibility or how the process works, please do not hesitate to get in touch with our Administrator, Katie, at enquiries@stageone.uk.com or by calling 0207 5576737.

Is this programme right for me?

You may be a suitable candidate for the bursary if:

- You intend to develop your career as an independent commercial producer.
- You have projects in the pipeline, and you just need the means to get them off the ground.
- You have experience producing small to mid-scale shows in the UK and are looking to scale up.
- You have an interest in theatre producing and are looking to build a long-term relationship with Stage One.
- You feel you have faced barriers in your career so far which have had an impact on your progress in the theatre industry.

This might not be the right programme for you if:

- You primarily want to work in theatre as an actor, writer, or director.
- You are at the very start of your producing career and do not have projects or productions planned – please get in touch with us to discuss other training opportunities available.

What evidence do I need to support my application?

You must provide:

- An application form, including a budget detailing how you would spend the bursary (please see example application below)
- An up to date CV

Optional:

- An equal opportunities monitoring form

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to interview with our bursary panel.

How long will the bursary support me for?

We open bursary applications twice a year, and each application is roughly intended to cover 6 months of the producers' time. This is however flexible and intended as a guide. Please note the third aspect of the bursary support (office space) lasts for one year.

Am I at the right stage in my career, or is my project developed enough?

The bursary scheme is to support emerging producers. For us, an emerging producer is at the early stages of their career, has some experience producing shows and is looking to build more experience and contacts within the industry.

The bursary scheme is open to any age group and does not discriminate based on age. The programme is also designed to diversify the current field of theatre producers and therefore strongly encourages individuals from underrepresented backgrounds to apply.

What happens once I'm awarded the bursary?

Successful candidates will have an initial meeting with Stage One to discuss the logistics of the bursary and answer any questions. We will also start the process of matching you with a mentor.

Producers will invoice for funds on a schedule which suits them – note we advise that you do not invoice for your funds in one lump sum.

With each invoice, you will be required to submit a report form to detail your progress and how the money is being used. This is to be discussed and signed off in conjunction with your mentor, who will need to also approve the payment of each invoice.

How is the bursary scheme funded?

The Bursary Scheme is generously supported Theatre Development Trust, The Walt Disney Company, AKA, See Tickets, Ray Cooney Plays, Nyman Libson Paul, The Mackintosh Foundation, Moore Kingston Smith, The Underwood Trust, Shaftesbury Theatre, Tysers Retail Limited, Andrew Treagus Associates Limited and Eilene Davidson Productions, The Estate of Sir Peter and Lady Saunders.

Example Application Form

**This is an example application form – it may be your application is longer than this.*

You may fill in any sections you feel applicable to your application – please also feel free to add notes and extra lines in the budget to make it as relevant to your application as possible.

Name: Producer

Email Address: enquiries@stageone.uk.com

Telephone Number: 0207 5576737

Total amount applying for: £7,700

Application for personal financial support:

Amount Applying For	Support for:	Dates support designated for:	Notes:
£5,000	Rent, Council Tax & Bills	£1,000 per month Mar - July	To enable me to reduce my hours in my current position.
£200	Travel		To support travel costs to theatres ahead of booking a regional tour for show X after its July run.
£750	Childcare	£150 per month March-July	To support part time childcare for 5 months

Application for project financial support:

Amount Applying For:	Support for:	Dates (e.g. of performance or duration of commission or workshop):	Notes
£750	Payment for rights on show X	Payment to author of existing title for 4 weeks performances confirmed at a Theatre July 2024	
£1,000	Project title TBC	Feb – Mar 2024 1 st draft from writer to be submitted	Writer A to receive commission of £1000

Please tell us about your career to date and how you feel this scheme would support you (500 words max).

I am currently working full time as an administrator at a recruitment company to support my freelance producing. I have for 2 years, produced at small/mid-scale theatres on top of my full-time position and am looking to make this career more sustainable. The grant would allow me to reduce my hours in my current role and allow me to commission a writer to create a brand-new play.

Have you applied for any Stage One schemes in the past? This is purely for our records & does not impact your application.

I.e. Bridge the Gap, Workshop, Bursary, Placement, Small Scale Commercial Investment Scheme

If so please tell us which one, when you applied and whether your application was successful.

How did you hear about Stage One?

Get In Touch
enquiries@stageone.uk.com
020 7557 6737

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