YOUR FAQs

As your questions come in we're adding them here.

What counts as a double act?

The piece should involve two performers on stage. Performers can be artists from different performance disciplines.

Do both artists need to have worked together before?

You don't need to have a long history of working together, but it would be helpful to have started exploring the idea as a pair before applying. Your pitch should show that you've begun to develop the collaboration and explain what each artist brings to it.

Can I adapt an idea for a solo show?

Yes. You could reimagine a solo idea as a two-person piece. Make that intention clear in your pitch, including how the work will change and what the second artist brings to the collaboration. We won't accept an idea adapted from another piece that has been previously performed unless it is unrecognisably different.

Do I need to submit a finished script?

No. Please see the application form for what you need to tell us about the project.

How developed should the idea be?

The idea should be developed enough to give the team a clear sense of its potential, but it doesn't need to be fully worked out. The project is intended for work at a stage where meaningful collaboration can shape it. A strong central idea and an exciting pitch are more important than having every detail decided.

What kind of work is a good fit?

The call is open to different forms and ideas. The team is interested in work that feels alive, surprising, and aligned with Hackney Showroom's creative approach. Text and narrative are welcome and we are looking for story but not in the form of a conventional play.

What support will artists receive?

Artists will work with Hackney Showroom's directors and receive dramaturgical support. The process will be tailored to each project, with the aim of realising the artists' vision through collaborative, rigorous development.

What will the development process look like?

The current plan is to hold five weekly development sessions from January, followed by an intensive two-week rehearsal period. During rehearsals, the team expects to be in the room for around two-thirds of the time, with space for artists to work independently and return to share their progress.

Does the show need to be finished by the performances?

It should be ready to perform for a paying audience—not a script-in-hand reading or an unfinished workshop. The aim is a solid, well-shaped new work, developed within the time and production resources available.

Can the shows include video, projection, or other design elements?

You can include in your pitch all the elements your idea needs. The team will work with designers across all four shows to find a practical framework that can support the different productions. Technical details will be developed as the ideas take shape.

Do applicants need to identify and approach their creative partner themselves before applying, or would Hackney Showroom consider matching individual solo artists who have applied independently?

You need to identify your own creative partner to apply with.

Is there an expected or approximate running time for each production within the double bill?

We expect the shows to be no more than 1 hour in length.

Do artists need to be based in the UK?

Yes, both artists must be based in the UK.