

Belgrade Ensemble 25/26: Frequently Asked Questions

About the Programme

Q: Who is the training programme for, and what does it cover?

A: The Belgrade Ensemble is for early-career performers aged 18-25 from Coventry and the surrounding areas. We are looking for young people who are interested in building their craft in acting, voice, movement, devising and ensemble-making.

Q: How long is the training programme for, and what's the commitment like?

A: The Belgrade Ensemble will run from Tuesday 21st October 2025 until Saturday 1st August 2026. Regular rehearsals will be on Tuesday evenings (6.30-9.30pm) at the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry.

In addition to regular rehearsals, there will be one confirmed and one potential intensive period of rehearsals and performances. These are:

Monday 6 July – Saturday 11 July 2026

Monday 27 July – Saturday 1 August 2026 (Potential Residential, TBC)

For these periods, we will require full participation and attendance.

Q: How many participants are you looking for?

A: We are looking for around 12 participants to join the Belgrade Ensemble. This is so we can keep the group size manageable.

Q: Can I work whilst taking part in the Belgrade Ensemble?

A: Yes, however we do ask you to commit to the regular rehearsals (6.30-9.30pm on Tuesday evenings) and the intensive rehearsal and performance dates.

In the lead up to the intensive production period(s), we may look to put in additional rehearsals on another evening, if needed. However, any dates will be agreed as a group in advance with reasonable notice.

Q: What does the Ensemble cost?

The core elements of the programme will be completely free at the point of access for participants – this covers all training and travel for any mandatory off-site trips.

Q: What financial support is available to help me cover costs?

Weekly travel to regular rehearsals on Tuesday evenings at the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry will not be covered by the Belgrade Theatre.

If finance may be a barrier to your participation in the programme, please make a note of this in your application or contact us directly on 024 7625 6431 as we may be able to support you in accessing the programme.

Q: There are a few dates listed in the schedule that I cannot attend. Can I still apply?

A: We ask participants to commit to all elements of the core programme to ensure you can get the best experience possible. Attendance during the intensive rehearsal/performance dates will be mandatory.

For the regular rehearsals on Tuesday evenings, we can be flexible with enough notice and reason. Please let us know in your application with an indication of any date(s) you anticipate you can't make.

Eligibility

Q: What is the age criteria?

A: Applicants must be aged between 18-25 years old at the programme start date (21st October 2025). For example, if you are currently 17 but turn 18 by the start of the course, you are welcome to apply.

Q: I turn 26 during the course. Can I still apply?

A: Provided you are aged 25 at the start of the course (21st October 2025), you are welcome to apply to this year's Belgrade Ensemble.

Q: Do I need to be based in Coventry or the surrounding areas to take part?

A: Yes, the Belgrade Ensemble is an opportunity specifically for people living in Coventry or the surrounding areas. We ask that you live within easy commuting distance of the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry (maximum 30 miles away).

Q: Do I need to have acting or performance experience to take part?

A: You do not necessarily need experience - we're looking to see your performance ability and potential and will judge this from what we see from your application, and your group audition, if you are invited to the next stage. However, it is helpful for us to hear what performance experience you've had, if any, in your application.

Q: What do you mean by formal drama school training?

A: By *formal drama school training*, we mean a conservatoire-style acting course delivered by a recognised UK drama school. These are full or part-time, vocational courses focused almost entirely on practical actor training—often leading to a **Diploma or BA in Acting**.

Q: Why does this distinction matter for the Belgrade Ensemble?

A: We want to offer opportunities to those who haven't yet had access to formal, vocational actor training. If you've taken part in youth theatres, community work, or have trained on-the-job or in non-traditional routes, you're very welcome to apply.

Q: I have applied to the Belgrade Ensemble before. Am I eligible to apply?

A: Yes, if you have applied to the Belgrade Ensemble before but been unsuccessful, you are eligible to apply again this time.

Q: I completed the Belgrade Ensemble last year. Am I eligible to apply?

A: Unfortunately, you are not eligible to apply but contact us and we can look to support you in other ways.

Application Process

Q: How do I apply?

A: You can find a link to the online application form on the application page on our website. The form is hosted via Google, and you will be asked to sign in when you visit the link. This allows us to accept both written responses and video/audio responses.

If you have any difficulty filling out the form online, or would like to apply in another way, please contact the Producing team by email communityadmin@belgrade.co.uk or call 024 7625 6431.

If you'd like to preview the application questions before viewing the form, please download them from the Belgrade Ensemble website page.

Q: Can I view the application questions before applying online?

A: Yes, you can download the application questions to view before applying from the bottom of the application webpage.

Q: When is the deadline for applications?

A: Applications close on **Friday 12 September 2025 at 10am**. Unfortunately, we're unable to accept any applications after this deadline.

Q: If I am shortlisted for audition, when are the audition dates, and what can I expect?

A: If you are shortlisted, you will be invited to a group workshop audition at the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry. We are holding auditions during the day on three dates: **Saturday 20 September, Saturday 27 September**, and **Saturday 4 October**.

The format will be a group workshop with members of our team and will involve some movement and ensemble-style exercises. The auditions will last no longer than 3 hours and a short break will be provided in the middle.

Q: If I can't make any of the audition dates, can I audition at another time?

A: Due to team capacity, we are unable to offer another audition date.

Q: If I am unsuccessful, can I have feedback on my application?

A: As we are a small team, managing a large volume of applications, we are unable to offer personalised feedback.