

LOWRY'S SCRATCH NIGHTS X LIVE COMEDY THURSDAY 19 MARCH 2026

CALL-OUT FOR ARTISTS TO SHARE NEW WORK! DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: THURSDAY 04 DECEMBER 2025, 5PM

We are pleased to announce our next call-out for **comedians and comedy performance makers** to share new work as part of our next **Scratch Nights X Live Comedy** night on **Thursday 19 March 2026 at Lowry**.

This edition of Scratch Nights will be curated in collaboration with artists **Aarian Mehrabani** (Developed With 2024-26) and **Edy Hurst** (Developed With 2022-24)

SCRATCH NIGHTS X LIVE COMEDY CALL-OUT

Our Scratch Nights offer an evening dedicated to the development of brand-new work. A chance for artists to put early ideas in front of a live, supportive audience to see what sticks; it's about now rather than never, it's about the spit without the polish. Testing early ideas that may one day turn into fully formed pieces.

These informal nights bring new work to audiences and create a supportive platform for artists to experiment, take risks, test ideas on stage, and share new work with peers and wider public.

We're now inviting stand-ups, sketch performers, character and physical comedians, clowns, musical comedy acts, and theatre-makers working with comedy — as well as collectives or companies developing new ideas — to submit proposals to share

work-in-progress pieces in our Aldridge Studio Theatre on
Thursday 19 March 2026.

This is an open callout **for artists based anywhere in the UK**, and we strongly encourage artists based in Greater Manchester and the North to apply.

To celebrate the diversity of styles, genres, and approaches within live comedy, we're offering **three different opportunities** to apply for. We have a pot of funds that will be distributed across **four to eight selected proposals**, supporting artists and collectives to test new ideas and take creative risks.

OPPORTUNITY ONE: 5–10 MINS

For performers who want to test new material or experiment with existing work. This slot is ideal for artists who are trying comedy for the first time, or those with a set they haven't yet shared widely or professionally recorded. It's a chance to perform in front of an audience, get feedback, and explore your material in a supportive setting.

Note: Material should be new and not previously recorded or broadcast.

OPPORTUNITY TWO: 5–15 MINS

For performers with a brand-new concept or idea that has never been performed. This is a chance to develop a fresh idea into a live performance, with the support of a theatrical studio space and technical setup. Bring sketches, characters, songs, or any bold comedic experiment you haven't explored in a live comedy context before.

Note: Material must be new and unperformed. This slot is for artists eager to experiment and test new ideas on stage.

OPPORTUNITY THREE: 15-20 MIN

For comedians and comedy performance makers with a more

established practice who want to test new ideas in front of a studio theatre audience. While the work could later form part of a larger show, for this event it should be completely new. Drawing on your existing experience to take risks, experiment, and explore ideas that could develop into future performances.

Note: Your proposal should present a new idea or work-in-progress piece that has not been previously performed for a public audience.

SELECTED ARTISTS WILL RECEIVE:

- A fee of £250 (Opportunity One), £500 (Opportunity Two) or £1000 (Opportunity Three) to develop and present your idea
- Rehearsal space at Lowry where possible
- Producer support from Lowry Staff
- An online mentoring session in advance of the event with **Aarian Mehrabani** and **Edy Hurst**
- A set of production images and video archive footage taken by a professional photographer and videographer
- Anonymous feedback from audiences in response to the questions you want answered about your work
- If required, extra financial support will be made available as a contribution towards access costs. We will discuss what you need if you are selected.

SCRATCH NIGHTS GUIDELINES:

- Please see the three opportunities for details on the different guidelines. We're also only able to accommodate basic technical requirements.
- Please only submit one application as the Main Performer/Writer/Lead Artist. You can be named as a collaborator on other applications.
- The work must be suitable for the Aldridge Studio Theatre space. Please visit [our website](#) for more details on the technical specifications of the Studio.

- This opportunity is for artists at any stage of their career.

KEY DATES

- Deadline for applications: **Thursday 04 December 2025, 5pm**
- All artists will be notified by: **Thursday 18 December 2025**
- Scratch Nights date: **Thursday 19 March 2026, Lowry Aldridge Studio**

Lowry is committed to encouraging diversity and intersectionality in the arts and we actively encourage proposals from artists from under-represented communities, including people who experience racism, identify as working class, have disabilities, are from the LGBTQ+ community, are care experienced or are discriminated against.

We encourage you to apply for this opportunity no matter what your age, caring responsibilities, disability, gender, gender identity, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

If you have any queries, please get in touch with Grace Ng at artistdevelopment@thelowry.com. We can answer queries about the application process and Scratch Nights programme but cannot read draft applications in advance.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply and submit your **Proposal online** click [here](#).

Below please find the **Proposal Form and Equal Opportunities Monitoring in Large Print**. This can be used to draft answers to the questions before applying online, or for audio or video applications.

LOWRY'S SCRATCH NIGHTS X COMEDY PROPOSAL FORM

This form consists of three sections:

Section A: Personal Details

These questions must be answered via the online form.

Section B: Expression of Interest

There are seven questions in this section.

You can answer these questions via the online form or answer the questions as a video or audio file (maximum 5 - 8 minutes long). Please upload the file(s) to Dropbox, Google Drive or another file sharing platform and then link to the file(s) in the relevant answer boxes below by copying the link to your uploaded video/voice note into the text box. Do not forget to include a password if there is one.

Section C: Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form

These questions must be answered via the online form.

Access Support

Please email Grace Ng on artistdevelopment@thelowry.com with any queries on access support for your application.

SECTION A: PERSONAL DETAILS

Main Applicant - Performer/Writer/Lead Artist

1. Please confirm which opportunity level you are applying for?

Do note that you can only apply for one opportunity as Lead Artist. You can be named on another proposal as a collaborator.

Level One: 5-10min – yes/no

Level Two: 5-15min – yes/no

Level Three: 15-20 min – yes/no

2. Please confirm that you are 18 years old or over?

Please note that this opportunity is only for artists aged 18 years or over – yes or no

3. Email –

4. Full Name of Main Applicant –

5. Pronouns of Main Applicant –

6. Full Names & Pronouns of Group Members –

If applying as a group, collective or company, please provide full names of all artists involved. If applying as an individual, please write “N/A” –

7. Contact telephone number of Main Applicant –

8. Address including postcode of Main Applicant –

9. Are you based in Greater Manchester? – Yes/No

10. What borough of Greater Manchester are you based in?

Bolton –
Bury –
Oldham –
Rochdale –
Stockport –
Tameside –
Trafford –
Wigan –
Manchester –
Salford –
N/A –

11. If within North West of England, please say where –

Please write N/A if not applicable.

12. If outside of the North West of England, please say where –

Please write N/A if not applicable.

13. Please let us know if you/your company members have any access requirements and what support you/your company members might need to take part? –

14. If your application is selected, please confirm that you are available to take part in Scratch Nights on Thursday 19 March 2026 at Lowry in Salford. Technical Rehearsals on Wednesday 18 and Thursday 19 March 2026. – yes or no

SECTION B: PROPOSAL

15. How would you like to submit your application?

I would like to submit this section by filling in this form – yes/no

I would like to send a video or voice application (Please note: If you are sending in a video or voice application, please copy the link to your Dropbox, Google Drive or other file sharing folder (where you have uploaded the video/voice note), into the text box of each of the following questions. Do not forget to include a password if there is one.) – yes/no

16. Please tell us about you and your work (up to 250 words)

17. Please include a link to your website, social media page or/and photos or short video links of your previous work (up to 3 links maximum)

18. Please provide an outline of the *idea you would like to develop for Scratch Nights (up to 250 words)

*please see notes for each respective opportunity on the testing remit of your idea

19. What would you specifically like to gain from this opportunity?

e.g. test certain material, find the answer to a creative question, work out next steps for your project, to work on material with proper tech support, to get a professionally recorded video of your work.

20. How many artists will be involved in the development and presentation of this work?

21. Please outline any technical requirements you might need (as much as you know/think at this point).

We do not facilitate LX Pre-Rigging due to the demands of the programme. The Studio has a fixed rig in situ. This is a 6.5M x 10M Tomcat truss suspended on 6 x 500kg Lodestar hoists over the performance area. We will only be using the fixed lighting rig, speakers & masking, with no allowance for additional suspended items. There is no counterweight, hemp, winch or powered flying for use during shows.

No smoking is allowed on stage. No Pyrotechnics are permitted in the studio.

22. How did you find out about this opportunity?

Artist Network Newsletter –

Lowry's Facebook Page –

Lowry's Instagram Account –

GM Artist Hub Facebook Page –

Word of Mouth –

Other: please state

SECTION C: EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FORM

Please also complete an equal opportunities form, which we will keep separate from your application

This form is anonymous and none of the information collected on this form will be used in any decision-making process for The Lowry's Artist Network Opportunities. All data collected will be treated in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018), The General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 and the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2003.

The questions in this section are required because The Lowry takes its responsibility to widening its reach and offering artist development opportunities towards inclusion, diversity and representation seriously; its Artist Development programme also receives money from a number of public funding bodies (for example, the Arts Council), and we are asked to report back information on the demographics within the network. Please choose the "prefer not to say" option for each question if you do not consent to sharing the information.

1. How would you describe your gender? Please indicate – yes where it applies.

Male –

Female –

Non-binary –

Prefer not to say –

2. What is your sexual orientation? Please indicate – yes where it applies.

Bisexual –
Gay Man –
Gay Woman/Lesbian –
Heterosexual/Straight –
Prefer not to say –
Other (please specify) –

3. What is your ethnicity? Please indicate – yes where it applies.

Asian British -
Asian Bangladeshi -
Asian Indian -
Asian Pakistani -
Any other Asian background (please specify) -
Black British -
Black African -
Black Caribbean -
Any other black background (please specify) -
East Asian British -
East Asian Chinese -
East Asian Japanese -
East Asian Korean -
South East Asian -
Any other East Asian or South East Asian background (please specify) -
Mixed Heritage (please specify) -
White & Asian -
White & East Asian -
White & Black British -
White & Black African -
White & Black Caribbean -
White British
White English -

White Scottish -
White Welsh -
Northern Irish -
Irish -
Prefer not to say -
Other (please specify) -

4. What is your age? Please indicate – yes where it applies.

Under 21 –
21-24 –
25-34 –
35-44 –
45-54 –
55-64 –
65+ –
Prefer not to say –

5. Do you identify as D/deaf or disabled person, neurodivergent or/and mental health experience, or have a long-term health condition? Please indicate – yes where it applies.

There is no detriment to your registration if you have a health condition. The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 states that a ‘person has a disability for the purpose of this Act if he/she has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day to day activities’.

Yes, limited a lot –
Yes, limited a little –
Yes, limited but can vary significantly day-to-day -
No –
Prefer not to say –

5. Have you experienced barriers as a result of being working class?

Yes –

No –

Prefer not to say –

Not known –

6. If you feel you have experienced other barriers not covered by the above, on which you feel we might be able to ask for data, please tell us here. This will help us refine this process and improve both reporting and our actions.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for taking the time to complete the registration and equal opportunities monitoring form.

Please note: this application form will close on **Thursday 4 December 2025, 5pm**. All artists will be notified by **Thursday 18 December 2025**.