

National Theatre

Peter Shaffer 2025 Commissions

Frequently Asked Questions

Application criteria

The Peter Shaffer commissions are supported by the Sir Peter Shaffer Charitable Foundation and are for new plays with 3 or more characters in them. The commissions are for original new works, and not adaptations. We are unable to support musical commissioning.

How many commissions are going to be awarded?

Up to 5 commissions will be awarded to theatres and companies outside of the National Theatre.

How much money will be awarded?

£6,000 is awarded per commission. This is the average of a few different models and covers the first signature payment and delivery fees to writer. The producing company will later need to pay an acquisition payment if the play is staged. All of the money granted through the Peter Shaffer Commission should be spent on the writer, their commission and any further time developing the piece. A standard recognised industry commissioning agreement should be utilised.

When does the application process close?

On Monday 30 June 2025 at 10am.

When will we find out if we're successful?

Summer 2025.

Who can apply for a commissions?

The commissions are open to companies and venues who already commission writers. We are looking to award to places which already have a support network established which brings writers' work to stages. Commissions can be touring or building based.

National Theatre

Peter Shaffer 2025 Commissions

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I apply as a writer?

No, you need to be put forward by a company who intend to produce the play in the future.

Can I apply if I live outside the UK?

No, this opportunity is only available to UK residents.

Can we co-commission with the National Theatre?

You're welcome to co-commission with other organisations, but this isn't for approaching the National Theatre.

How will the National Theatre interact with the commission once it's awarded?

Once the grant has been awarded it's up to you to pay the writer their signature and delivery fees. The National Theatre's role is to act as a mechanism to award the commissions.

Can I submit more than one application?

Each company can apply once each year.

Can we apply with a one-person show?

The Shaffer commissions are to support plays with three or more characters in them. Peter Shaffer was passionate about creating big new works and we feel it's important to honour his wishes.

What credit will the Peter Shaffer Foundation need?

The Shaffer Foundation request an acknowledgment of their commissioning support on all materials relating to the production.

National Theatre

Peter Shaffer 2025 Commissions

Frequently Asked Questions

Will the play be staged at the National Theatre?

No – it will not. We hope the commission will be staged by the company who applied for the grant.

Will these commissions be available to apply for next year?

Yes. The National Theatre has committed to delivering the Shaffer commissions next year.

I have submitted my application, but would like to make an amendment, is this possible?

Once an application has been submitted, it may not be possible to make changes. Please take the time to ensure everything is correct before you submit your application. If you have outstanding queries, please email newwork@nationaltheatre.org.uk.

Can we apply to create an adaptation or musical?

No. In line with the aims of the Shaffer Foundation, we are only looking to award for original new works.

Are there any artistic stipulations or things the National Theatre is looking for?

No. What you choose to submit is entirely up to you.