



Fabric Film Commissions – Short film

Our Curatorial Values: an artistic brief

Opportunity Summary

- £5,000 commission for a film between 60 seconds and 2 minutes in length, created for sharing across social media platforms.
- Deadline for expressions of interest is Monday 17 November 2025, 10am
- Open to a Midland-based established artist, or early to mid-career artist/creative/filmmaker collaboration.

Fabric is delighted to offer a film commission inspired by our newly launched curatorial values – curiosity, disruption and joy.

Introduction to FABRIC

Imagine a future where the Midlands is a globally recognised location for dance – dance that is remarkable, engaging, authentic, representative, captivating, involving, rooted, and ready to play a role in public life.

Fabric is a strategic dance development organisation based in the Midlands.

We harness skills, knowledge and expertise to create expansive programmes that benefit from the scale, scope and success of our original, individual organisations (Dance4 and DanceXchange), and our collective expertise; building on a combined legacy of 60 years.

Our mission is to create the conditions for dance to thrive through curiosity, disruption and joy. Guided by our approach informed by care, openness, and rigour, our work is shaped by our four cornerstones: Research, Engagement, Sector Development, Showcasing and Performance.

Through this, we seek a future for dance that will cement and influence the artform for decades to come. We have developed a 10-year strategy intended to make clear our role in achieving the necessary conditions for dance to flourish. To learn more about our values, mission and the cornerstones through which we hope to achieve our ambition, [click here to read the strategy](#).

Cornerstones and Curatorial Values:

Our mission, to create the conditions for dance to flourish by growing the dance economy for the health, wellbeing, development and connection of communities, cultures and individuals, is bound by the guiding philosophy that we must play an active role in the development of an ecology that allows for constant, deep and reflexive enquiry – even when this sometimes proves difficult, uncomfortable, or challenging – secure in the knowledge that this leads to an expansive future.

To do this, our work falls within one of the following four cornerstones:

Research – holding a space of curiosity driven by the desire to understand more about what dance is, what it can be, and what impact it can have physically, emotionally, socially, culturally and curatorially.

Engagement – creating an accessible and sustainable environment for organisations, artists and practitioners to connect with people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds, for the joy of dance in all its forms.

Sector Development – creating, identifying and supporting conditions for growth through strategic conversations that connect artists, participants, and the work, politically, culturally, and socially.

Presentation and Showcasing – producing, co-producing and championing art and performance with dance and movement at its core, to ensure the artform is recognised for the essential role it plays in the UK's cultural and creative offering.

Our approach is informed by care, openness, and rigour through the curatorial values of:

Curiosity – an openness to taking risks, being uncertain, and asking difficult questions.

Disruption – embracing risk-taking, action and investment, that might disrupt old or accepted ways of working.

Joy – the lens through which everything should be seen and or/approached.
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£5000 Short film – Commission Overview

As part of sharing our [10-year strategy](#), we are looking for a Midlands-based, established artist or early to mid-career artist/creative/filmmaker to respond to these values.

- What do the words mean to you, as an artist, as a human?

- What do they make you think about?
- How might others interpret them?
- How might you interpret or represent them through movement, music, or something else we perhaps haven't thought of?

From dance or sound motifs, through to a 60-second narrative – there's no right or wrong.

The film should be inspired by one or all the values, creatively interpreted.

Your piece might be dance, but it might also be music, movement, performance, or sound, or any combination, thereof.

The film short will be a collaboration. That might be instigated by a dancer, choreographer, filmmaker or creative – you tell us the detail of who you'd like to work with and why.

We want a short that is thought provoking and impactful - something that gets people talking.

One concept will be selected, and the finished film will be premiered as part of Applause Youth Dance Festival in April 2026, before going on to regularly be showcased on our website, on our socials, and at our events, and more.

In Summary

We are looking for an established artist, or early to mid-career artist/creative/filmmaker collaboration based in the Midlands, to respond to these values.

We actively encourage applications from artists of diverse backgrounds with different skills, perspectives and stories. We are particularly keen to receive proposals that reflect a broad range of experiences across age, class, disability, gender, ethnicity and sexual orientation.

The film commission must be between 60 seconds and 2 minutes in length and inspired by one or all of the values interpreted.

The film short will be a collaboration that might be instigated by a dancer, choreographer, filmmaker or creative.

The film will be premiered at the Applause Youth Dance Festival in April 2026 and after the premiere, we will continue to use the films in a variety of online and in person showing opportunities.

The film copyright will belong to you, and you can also use them for your own purposes, crediting the commission appropriately.

You'll need to ensure that the film you create does not infringe any copyright or other rights, e.g. for music use.

We will not accept material likely to incite religious or racial hatred, or be defamatory, obscene, or otherwise illegal.

The technology

Whilst quality of the final piece is important, how you shoot your film is entirely up to you. We don't want to restrict access to this opportunity and believe that all you'll need is a laptop, camera phone or tablet, but if you have access to more sophisticated film making kit you are welcome to use it.

Ultimately, make your film in whatever way is accessible for you, but you should consider the following technical requirements:

- 4:5 ratio for use on sites such as Instagram
- 9:16 for use on sites such as Facebook.

How to apply

Tell us in 500 words or less, or a 3-minute video, which word (or words) you're inspired by, and how you envisage capturing them in a 60-second film. We'd love to know what the end product might look, feel and sound like so we also invite you to create a story or mood board.

Plus:

- Film title – this can be a working title.
- Who is the lead creative in this project?
- How might this commission support the development of your career?
- Who else is involved in the collaboration?
- Whereabouts in the Midlands you are based.
- A bit about your career to date, and where you aspire to be.
- Links to any other films or work you've made.
- Confirmation that you can meet the deadlines.
- Any additional support or access needs you may have.

Email that to us at: marketing@fabric.dance with the email heading: 60-second submission

The Selection process

The Fabric producing team will read all applications and select the artists to receive the final 3 commissions. Films will be scored based on curiosity in the vision and the uniqueness of the idea. It is intended that the final selection will include a balance of

perspectives, spread of curatorial values and diversity of form. Due to the light touch nature of the application process, no feedback can be offered to unsuccessful applicants.

Successful applicants will be contacted to offer a place, to talk through the timeline, contract and any access needs you may have before accepting. Payment terms will be:

50% on signing of the agreement, 30% on supply of a story board and contract confirmation of all parties' involvement, prior to filming. The final 20% on receipt of the approved film.

Commission timeline

Expression of interest open	Friday 24 October 2025
Expression of interest deadline	Monday 17 November 2025. 10am
Successful artists appointed	Monday 1 December 2025
Film making period	December 2025 – Early March 2026
Films submitted by	Friday 6 March 2026
Films launched	Saturday 11 April 2026

Contact details If you have any questions, please contact Shekinah at shekinah@fabric.dance