

U.Dance NW 2027

Regional Guidelines



LOWRY

U.DANCE 2027
National Festival



OneDanceUK

U.DANCE
Regional

DANCE
C&I
THE LOWRY

#UDanceNW

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ABOUT U.DANCE

U.Dance is a national framework run by One Dance UK which helps to improve and inspire dance performance opportunities for children and young people across the United Kingdom.

There are 3 tiers to the framework:

Local: You can register your own performance events to be a part of the U.Dance Local Framework via One Dance UK website

Regional: Regional Events are delivered in partnership with Regional Host venues i.e. U.Dance NW is hosted at The Lowry

National: Dance National Event, held in a City within England

NW Regional

U.Dance NW is the annual Regional Young Peoples Dance Festival for the North West, delivered by Lowry Theatre, in Salford Quays.

We're excited to be holding the 2027 festival at The Lowry on **Saturday March 6th & Sunday March 7th.**



U.DANCE NW 2027

U.Dance NW Offers groups from across the region, opportunities to develop and share their Choreographic work at a Regional Festival and take part in an exciting schedule of workshops with professional dance artists and companies from across the UK.

U.Dance NW 2027 Strands:

- **Under 11s Performance Strand** — (page 5) Pre—show performance opportunity for groups aged 6–11.
- **U.Dance on Screen Strand** — (page 8) Dance on Film sharing opportunity for aged 11–19 (up to 25 for dancers with disabilities). We accept films made with young people or by young people. These should be dance made for film and not recordings of performance work.
- **U.Dance on Stage Strand** — (pages 9 & 10) Dance made for Stage sharing opportunity for solos, duets, trios or groups (up to 30 dancers) for aged 11–19 (up to 25 for dancers with disabilities).



U.DANCE U11'S PERFORMANCE STRAND

Opportunity:

We will be offering groups with dancers under the age of 11 who are not eligible for the National U.Dance Festival, the opportunity to apply to have their choreographic/performance work shared across Lowry as of a pre—show event before Main Stage Event.

Groups are invited to submit filmed dance work whether made for the camera or for the Stage, but should be no more than 5 minutes in length.

Criteria:

- Demonstrate excellence in performance
- Present excellent and engaging choreography
- Show dancers taking clear ownership of the choreography, which is appropriate for their age and experience
- Demonstrate respect and consideration to all (demonstrated through both the group's conduct and the appropriateness of performance content)

Dancers must be aged between 6—11 and can include groups with up to 30 dancers.

Pieces will be considered by the Regional Panel in line with the selection criteria, feedback will be provided for all groups who apply.



U.DANCE U11'S PERFORMANCE STRAND



HOW TO APPLY

Step 1:

Complete and return the U.Dance NW Expression of Interest Form to North West Dance by 1 December 2026. The form is available via Lowry's Instagram page @thelowrycat or by emailing udance@thelowry.com.

Step 2:

Develop, rehearse and film your dance piece (if not already completed). Submitted work must be the final completed piece.

Step 3:

Complete the U.Dance NW Under 11s Group Application Form and submit it, along with your dance footage, by 17 January 2027.

Step 4:

Applications will be reviewed by a regional panel of dance professionals and young people. Successful groups will be notified during the week commencing 25 January 2027, and all applicants will receive feedback.

For further information, contact udance@thelowry.com.



U.DANCE NW 'ON SCREEN' STRAND

U.Dance NW: Dance on Screen

U.Dance is seeking dance films under 7 minutes created by, with, or featuring young people aged 11+. Submissions should be made specifically for the screen, with the camera playing a creative role in the choreography and concept, rather than being a recording of a stage performance.

Submission Guidelines

- Films must be under 7 minutes and created within the last two years.
- All dancers featured must be aged 11+.
- Entrants must hold all relevant rights and have appropriate GDPR-compliant consent for footage use.
- All applicants will receive feedback from the selection panel.
- Selected films will be screened at U.Dance NW 2027.
- See the National U.Dance Guidelines for further advice on creating dance for screen.

If you have an existing dance film or are developing a new screen-based work, please follow the application process outlined on the next page.



U.DANCE NW 'ON STAGE' STRAND

The Main Stage Performance Strand is open to groups, duets, trios and solos aged 11–19 (or up to 25 for dancers with disabilities). We welcome dance works created by or with young people across all styles, including street dance, classical, contemporary, folk dance and dance forms of the African diaspora!

Choose this option if your group would like to submit a dance piece created for live performance.

For the application process, your work should be submitted as a filmed performance, either in a studio or theatre setting.

Groups selected for U.Dance NW 2027 may also be considered for the U.Dance National Festival 2027, where they may be invited to perform live or submit a filmed version of their work.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed by a regional panel of dance professionals, including an inclusive dance specialist and a youth representative. The panel will look for work that:

- Demonstrates strong performance skills and stage presence.
- Features engaging and well-crafted choreography.
- Shows young people taking ownership of the creative process.
- Is appropriate to the dancers' age and experience.
- Reflects the diversity of dance styles practised across the UK.
- Contributes to a varied and high-quality performance programme.
- Showcases authentic work from both schools and youth dance settings.

All applicants will receive feedback to support the ongoing development of their work.



U.DANCE NW 'ON STAGE' STRAND

HOW TO APPLY

Step 1: Submit a U.Dance NW 2027 Expression of Interest Form by **Tuesday 1st December 2026**.

Step 2: Develop, rehearse and film your dance work. The submission must be the final completed piece.

Step 3: Complete the U.Dance NW 2027 Dance for Stage Application Form and submit it with your performance footage by **Sunday 17th January 2027**.

Step 4: Applications will be reviewed by a panel of dance professionals and young people.

Successful groups will be notified following the selection process, and all applicants will receive feedback.

Eligibility

To apply, groups must:

- Include 1-30 dancers.
- Submit a piece between 2 and 7 minutes long.
- Include dancers aged 11-19 (or up to 25 for disabled dancers).
- Have permission to perform and share the work.
- Be based in the North West and involve North West dancers.
- Be available to take part in the U.Dance NW 2027 weekend if selected.

Selected groups will be invited to perform on the U.Dance NW 2027 Main Stage and participate in workshops and other event activities.

Groups wishing to be considered for the U.Dance National Festival 2027 must apply for and be selected to perform at U.Dance NW 2027, and indicate this on their Expression of Interest form.

Applications are also welcomed from groups interested only in performing at the regional U.Dance NW platform.

FOOTAGE / FILM SUBMISSIONS

U.Dance NW Video Submissions

All applicants to U.Dance NW 2027 must submit video footage of their work as part of their application.

Footage can be shared via WeTransfer, an unlisted YouTube link, or a Google Drive download link (including any required passwords). The video submitted for selection should be the same work that will be presented at U.Dance NW 2027 if selected. Please ensure all films are fully edited and complete before submission.

Group leaders are responsible for ensuring appropriate safeguarding, consent and GDPR procedures are in place when sharing films online. Please ensure you have the necessary permissions to distribute and present your work.

Applicants are also encouraged to review the U.Dance National: Streaming Youth Dance Online – Music Rights and Licensing Best Practice Guide (published by One Dance UK) to ensure their film can be shared and screened as part of the festival programme.



Expectations for the footage are as followed:

- The footage MUST be of this piece and not an example of past work.
- The piece should be as complete and finalised as possible when filmed to help us programme the show and fairly consider all applications. We will not be able to consider work in progress for submission to the selection panel.
- The footage should reflect your piece as it is intended to be viewed from the perspective of an audience member whether filmed for 'On Screen' or 'On Stage'
- Please ensure that you have carefully considered the environment, lighting, visual effects, music etc before submitting your work.
- Choreography should be executed by the dancers to a high standard and with a strong performance quality. Groups are free to choose their own stimulus/style for the choreography.
- Please ensure you have the necessary music license where appropriate, to share any copyrighted material

INCLUSIVITY & ACCESSIBILITY

Inclusion & Accessibility at U.Dance 2027

U.Dance 2027 is committed to being a fully inclusive and accessible programme, celebrating dance for and by young people. All dance styles are welcomed, and opportunities are open to young people aged 11-19, and disabled young people up to age 25.

One Dance UK actively encourages applications from a wide range of settings, including schools, colleges, youth dance companies, private dance schools and individual dancers, ensuring U.Dance reflects the diversity of young people and dance practice across the UK.

Participants can also share any access requirements during the application process, helping organisers create a welcoming and accessible experience for everyone involved.

U.Dance is for everyone. Whatever your dance style, background, experience or access needs, we want you to take part.



WHAT HAPPENS IF MY GROUP IS NOT SELECTED FOR U.DANCE NW?

We are always delighted to receive a high number of applications for U.Dance NW and every year we receive applications from new groups to the platform.

Unfortunately, due to the popularity of the event, each year there will be groups that are not selected to take part in the platform, however we always ensure that we offer all groups constructive feedback from the selection panel to assist in the development of their work and encourage them to re-apply the following year.

Why not deliver your own platform?

If you're organising a dance performance for children or young people aged 11 — 19 you can register your event with One Dance UK [click to become part Of the National U.Dance framework](#).

Registering your event gives you access to U.Dance certificates, awards, and exclusive ticket offers for professional performances. You'll also become a U.Dance Champion, with organisers of three or more events receiving a U.Dance Champion hoodie in recognition of their contribution to the programme!

To find out more about U.Dance Registration please visit the [One Dance UK website](#).



U.DANCE FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES

Alongside working with our technical team, staging and performing your work on the Lowry Quays Stage, we promise a day full of fun, dance and celebration as part of the North West Dance Community! Festival Activities in past years have included:

- U.Dance Anywhere Group and Photo Challenges with prizes!
- Dance Workshops with a range of professional Artists from across the UK (everyone will participate in at least 2 Dance Workshops across their day).
- Social Hub Area to chill out and jam with other U.Dance Participants!
- Lunch Time Shows and Performances, bespoke for U.Dance Participants

Check out what groups from previous U.Dance NW Festivals enjoyed most about the #UDanceAnywhere Challenges on our YouTube page and visit @thelowrycat on Instagram for previous festival antics!



FEEDBACK FROM PREVIOUS U.DANCE NW FESTIVALS

"Congratulations on a really inspiring event. It was so good to see so many groups performing at a high level from across the region and enjoying the whole experience that you created for them."

Linda Jasper — Previous Director of Youth Dance England

"Just want to say a big thank you for all your hard work over the weekend, our group had a thoroughly enjoyable time and benefited from the experience greatly. I know they will be talking about it non-stop for the next session."

Group Leader — Lancashire



CONTACT US

U.Dance North West 2027

Please do not hesitate to contact the team at North West Dance if you have any further questions regarding the application process for U.Dance North West 2027.

Telephone: 0161 876 2104

E-mail: udance@thelowry.com

Festival Coordinator: Alex Ledger

Address: The Lowry, Pier B, Salford Quays, M50 3AZ

We look forward to receiving your applications!

