

VOLUNTEER

Dance Umbrella Festival 2026



About Dance Umbrella

Dance Umbrella is London's annual international dance festival – 48 years in the making and always moving with the times. Every year, the festival ignites the city with bold, boundary-pushing work from artists who reflect the diversity of our global city and bring world-class work to London for the first time. Reaching audiences across the four corners of London, the Dance Umbrella festival is committed to making world-class dance accessible to the whole city.

Dance Umbrella is a commissioner of new work, co-producing with partners in the UK and abroad to invest in the next wave of international choreographic talent. Alongside the annual festival, the organisation offers audiences the chance to experience work online through a curated programme of dance films and artist encounters.

Dance Umbrella Festival 2026 returns 7-27 October, across London and online.

Volunteering with Dance Umbrella

We are a registered charity; our work would not be possible without the enthusiasm, commitment and financial backing of our funders, partners and supporters, and the delivery of the festival each year would not be possible without the support and engagement of volunteers.

Volunteering with Dance Umbrella provides an opportunity to see live performances and hear panels of artists and industry experts discuss how dance shapes us and society – it is a fantastic opportunity to meet new people, expand your network of venues and artists, and to help us to develop our programme by asking our audiences what they think and feel about our work.

Your role

- Dance Umbrella Volunteers will work alongside our Festival Team in supporting Front of House roles, directing audiences to performance spaces and welcoming them to our venues
- Before each event, you will be given a Dance Umbrella t-shirt and tote bag with festival brochures to distribute, and will receive a briefing from our Volunteer & Front of House Manager or from our Festival Assistant
- After each performance or event, you will be asking our audience members some evaluative questions about the work they have seen and noting their feedback within a survey template
- Your shift will include a ticket to watch the event

Essential role requirements

- Passionate about contemporary dance
- Enjoy working with a wide range of people
- Confident in communicating with staff, other volunteers and the public
- Recognise the importance of creating environments that are accessible and inclusive
- Able to work independently as well as part of a team
- Are aged 18+
- Have a UK bank account
- Based within easy travelling distance of our venues
- Please note; volunteer roles are unpaid, you can claim travel expenses of up to £15 per shift

Additional details

- We would love to receive applications from volunteers who are training within contemporary dance, and from volunteers who have their own artistic practice
- We always welcome applications from volunteers who are currently working in dance venues or arts organisations
- We are familiar with discussing and implementing adjustments to our ways of working where possible, there is an opportunity on the application form to let us know if you would need any additional support to fulfil this role

The perks

- Free ticket for the festival show(s)/event(s) you are working
- Travel costs reimbursed (up to £15 a day)
- Free Digital Pass to experience the 2026 digital programme
- DU26 t-shirt and tote bag

Next steps

- Please complete an online application form by **Monday 7 September**
- We will respond to all applicants by **Friday 11 September** and you will receive an offer of shifts if your application has been successful
- We ask that you reply and confirm your shifts within a fixed period of time (this will be clearly stated in the email from our FOH & Volunteer Co-ordinator)
- You will be invited to join an online briefing with the festival team and our Artistic Director
- You will also be invited to join a WhatsApp group with other festival volunteers
- Before each shift, you will receive an email with essential information

Application form

Volunteer with Dance Umbrella [here](#)

Further questions

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Amy Johnson, our FOH & Volunteer Co-ordinator, by emailing production@danceumbrella.co.uk