



Where everything
is possible

Tall Stories: Directors Award Information pack



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Tall Stories Background Information

Tall Stories – where everything is possible

Tall Stories is a registered charity that tours the UK and internationally with award-winning shows for family audiences. We bring great stories to life and are internationally recognised for our exciting blend of storytelling theatre, original music, innovative puppetry and lots of laughter.

We are based at the Tall Stories Studio, a step-free 80 seat space situated in Islington Central Library, London. As well as being our administrative home, the space also plays host to preview performances. To increase our impact in the sector, we run artist development programmes and deliver wider community activities to complement our programme of on-stage work.

We create opportunities for everyone to get involved with theatre and offer accessible performances (including but not limited to integrated BSL, audio descriptions and in relaxed environments). We also provide free shows and experiences as part of our commitment to removing barriers that might otherwise prevent children and families from experiencing live theatre.



Our Promises

- We keep it simple, do try this at home
- We put a pause on life to transport you into another world
- Everything we do has a touch of magic
- We invite children and their grown-ups to feel and talk
- We encourage play and silliness
- We open up the wonder of Tall Stories for all children
- We value and care for one another





Directors Award 2026 Call Out

Are you a director with a burning idea for a family theatre project? If so, Tall Stories is encouraging you to apply for the Tall Stories Directors Award!

Three theatre directors will receive up to £4500 towards a budget to cover a week's development of their children/family storytelling theatre project; including time in the Tall Stories Studio, as well as mentoring from the leadership team at Tall Stories.

A woman with dark hair is looking at a model of a city. The model includes a Ferris wheel, several buildings, and a small figure. The scene is lit with a blue light.

The criteria for the proposals are as follows:

- The proposed project must involve narration e.g.

“Alice followed the White Rabbit down the rabbit-hole, then found herself falling down a very deep well...”

- The proposed project must be an original piece.

Retellings/adaptations of existing stories are suitable; pieces that use a script that has previously been performed would not be suitable.

- The proposed project must be for children and families.

Applications must meet all the criteria to be considered.

If your project involves adapting a book or story that is in copyright, please make sure that the adaptation rights are theoretically available.

We are committed to identifying and reducing barriers which may ordinarily exclude people from continued professional development. We particularly encourage applications from people whose backgrounds or lived experience are underrepresented in previous applications to our artist development opportunities. This includes people from the global majority, carers and people from low socio-economic backgrounds.

Please feel free to mention this in your application (though this is not a compulsory requirement).

We are especially interested to hear from directors who live in Islington (and neighbouring boroughs).



If your proposal is successful you will receive:

- Up to £4500 as a contribution to any costs for the week.
- One week of free rehearsal space at the Tall Stories Studio in Islington, week commencing 31 August, 7 September or 14 September 2026 - exclusive use 10am-6pm, Monday-Friday.

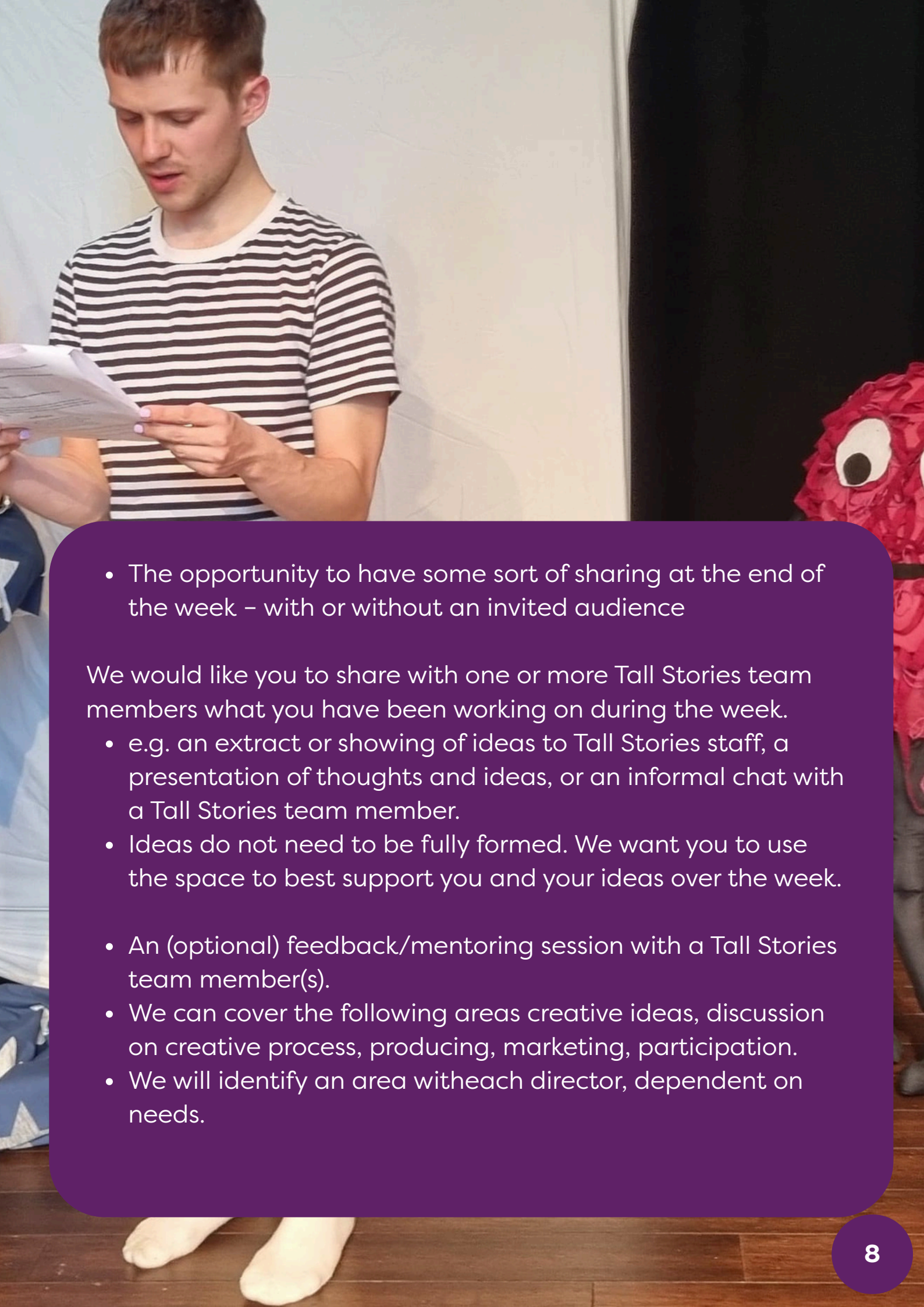
The space comes with use of:

A Bluetooth and wired PA system.

- A simple lighting controller with pre-set states, usable by anyone.
- Loading bay access (loading only, no parking).
- Blackout blinds.
- 12 chairs and two large folding tables, plus various small folding tables.
- A shared kitchen to prepare and store food and drink.
- Our private toilets consisting of one toilet with a sink and one accessible toilet with a sink and shower.

NB The space does not include an onsite technician.

For more information and to see photos of the space please click [here](#).



- The opportunity to have some sort of sharing at the end of the week – with or without an invited audience

We would like you to share with one or more Tall Stories team members what you have been working on during the week.

- e.g. an extract or showing of ideas to Tall Stories staff, a presentation of thoughts and ideas, or an informal chat with a Tall Stories team member.
- Ideas do not need to be fully formed. We want you to use the space to best support you and your ideas over the week.
- An (optional) feedback/mentoring session with a Tall Stories team member(s).
- We can cover the following areas creative ideas, discussion on creative process, producing, marketing, participation.
- We will identify an area with each director, dependent on needs.



Zoom Information Session

We are holding an optional 1 hour Zoom session to give more information about the award and what we are looking for in applicants on Monday 8 June 2026 6.30pm – 7.30pm.

Please send an email to artistdevelopment@tallstories.org.uk with the subject line 'Directors Award Zoom information session' to register your interest and we will send a Zoom link closer to the time. In the email please let us know if you have any access requirements you would like us to consider.



How to Apply

Please click [here](#) to go to the Tall Stories website, where you will find the application form.

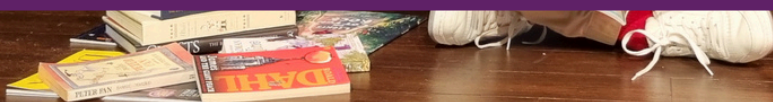
Please download and complete the application form and send it to artistdevelopment@tallstories.org.uk

The questions may be answered in writing or by submitting a video or audio file. If you are submitting a video please upload it as an unlisted video on YouTube or Vimeo. All formats will be equally considered. Please title your video with your first and last name then 'Directors Award 2026'.

Please make sure your application form is a word or PDF file.

The deadline for applications is 9am, Monday 15 June 2026.

We will be in touch with everyone who applies no later than Monday 22 June 2026





If you are shortlisted, you will be invited to an interview. From these interviews we will decide which three directors will receive the Tall Stories Directors Award.

Interviews are likely to be on Thursday 25 and Friday 26 June 2026. The main questions for the interview can be made available in advance of the interview on request and depending on personal preference. This will not form part of the decision making process.

If you have any questions, or if you would like this call out information in another format feel free to contact Fiona Bines at artistdevelopment@tallstories.org.uk or 020 8348 0080.



Equal Opportunities

Tall Stories is committed to equality of opportunity and access for all.

We strive to create an inclusive environment that reflects our communities and values, and respects diversity.

We ensure that no person is discriminated against in our recruitment and selection policies and procedures. We actively welcome applications from those currently underrepresented in our workforce and industry.

Your application and any associated personal information will be stored and processed in accordance with our Privacy Policy and destroyed after six months.

We look forward to receiving your application – thank you for your interest!