



Ladder of Development

At BAC, we like to see artists' work live and develop a relationship with them over a period of time. We rarely programme work on the strength of a proposal alone, even if it comes with a video (the exception to this is Freshly Scratched – see below). We do not read unsolicited scripts. Typically we might see a show by a company outside of BAC and then start conversations with them about developing their next piece using our **Ladder of Development**.

What is the Ladder of Development?

BAC is committed to supporting artists to develop new work. BAC believes that we can only help artists invent the future of theatre if we let them experiment, take risks, make mistakes and learn from trying things out. We have a unique system that allows us to do this, centred on the process of **Scratching** work. **Scratch** is when you show an audience work at various stages of its development in order to get feedback, to see what works and what doesn't and to help with the continuing development of the piece.

We call this system our **Ladder of Development**. There are five rungs on the ladder:

1. At **Scratch Events**, artists present no more than 10 minutes of material at a very early stage of development. This can happen in the context of a **Scratch Festival** or as a **Scratch Curtain Raiser** to another show. Tickets for these events are usually Pay What You Can. The audience is invited to give feedback after the performance.

We also have a programme of **Freshly Scratched Events** usually happening in a Scratch Festival once or twice a year. The format is similar to Scratch Events but these are an opportunity for artists who have never had their work programmed at BAC before to try out the Scratch process. For Freshly Scratched Events there is an application form that you need to complete. To register an interest in Freshly Scratched and to go on our database to receive application information in the future email scratch@bac.org.uk

2. Two or three night runs of **Scratch Performances**. An artist presents a rough draft of a show (usually 40 minutes to 1 hour). Ticket prices are low. Again the audience is invited to give feedback.

3. Two or three night runs of **Showcase Performances**. This is an opportunity for a project to premiere as a 'finished' piece. Premieres such as this will be a key part of festivals at BAC.

4. Longer runs of **Showcase Performances**. These runs can happen at any time of the year. Reviews from the national press are actively sought and BAC staff work closely with artists to reach existing and new audiences. Shows usually run for between 1 week and 6 weeks.

5. **The work moves on.** Artists explore national and international touring potential for the work.

Artists can get on the BAC Ladder of Development at different stages. Work progresses at different rates and can skip or repeat rungs if appropriate. In other words, the ladder is flexible to suit the development needs of artists and their work. Sometimes the work can have several outings at one of the two Scratch levels.

Contact

If you would like to be programmed at BAC, do what you can to inform us about your work and invite us to see performances if opportunities arise. Your key contact point for these enquiries is our Assistant to the Artistic Directors, Thea Jones theaj@bac.org.uk