

## **The Stephen Joseph Award: further Information for Nominees**

This Award recognises **innovative and inclusive theatre excellence** and celebrates the variety of ways contemporary theatre and practitioners continue to break new ground in engaging audiences.

Nominations can be for, a twenty-first century theatre company, a living individual practitioner or a non-traditional performance environment.

In each case, the work produced or performance space submitted will have demonstrated or supported a creative or dynamic engagement between performance and audience.

**Submissions from artists/organisations who submitted in previous years but were unsuccessful will be accepted in 2026 so long as they are fresh submissions.**

### **What are the criteria?**

The nominated individual, company or space is likely to have demonstrated excellence in some of the following ways:

- Innovation and flair in creating or supporting the theatrical experience.
- Work created for, or supporting, non-traditional performance spaces.
- Creation of live theatrical events supporting a high level of actor and audience engagement
- Breaking new ground in providing inclusive theatre opportunities for a wider range of audiences and performers.

NOTE: these are not meant to be exclusive categories, and they do not preclude innovative work that goes beyond or crosses them. They are given as pointers to the kinds of work that the award seeks to recognise and celebrate.

### **What evidence is needed?**

This can be any combination of – production photos, video clips, designs, newspaper or media reviews, and testimonials, etc. You may wish to include a short list of websites/URLs, with a brief explanation of what is being included and why.

### **Who can nominate?**

Anyone with a good knowledge of the nominee. This can include members of the theatre/company being nominated, the nominee him/herself; or a member of the public. The individual nominating should also secure the support of the individual, company or performance space concerned before submitting the nomination.

**Nominations close on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2026 and will be presented at the ABTT Christmas Party at the beginning of December.**

### **How do I submit?**

Send your nominations to the ABTT office at [admin@abtt.org.uk](mailto:admin@abtt.org.uk)

Please include:

1. Your contact details.
2. Details of the nominee, including their contact details and a short 250-word statement clearly explaining why the individual, company or performance space is being put forward for the award.
3. A short 250-word statement from a seconder: someone else with personal knowledge or experience of the work, person or performance space being nominated.
4. Supporting evidence in digital form such as photos, video clips, designs, reviews, and testimonials.