

FRAMEWORK THEATRE

2025



ORGANISATIONAL UPDATE

We are delighted in 2025 to have reached new highs as an organisation, receiving 3 years of core funding as part of Creative Scotland's new Multi-Year Funding programme.

For a company of our size, age and ambition - achieving this goal has been overwhelmingly wonderful. It has granted us stability, supported our growth and allowed us to expand.

In 2025 we have commissioned a new play in Conor O'Dwyer's *The Things You Can Only Lose Once* which we developed in April, presented our 5th Annual Framework Festival at the Traverse Theatre, ran our Fringe Takeover, delivered our inaugural Blueprint training programme and our 3rd ever Scottish Emerging Theatre Awards!

All this, alongside gearing up for our next production *Burnout: A Verbatim Play* by Ellen Bradbury in 2026 and learning how to be a new type of company working at a different scale.

Our work is never possible without the village of emerging and established folks pulling it together - and that has never been more true than in 2025.

To everyone who has supported Framework over the last 7 years, allowing us to reach this point - Thank You!

Emma Ruse,
Chief Executive Officer

2025 PROJECTS:

THE THINGS YOU CAN ONLY LOSE ONCE: COMMISSION & DEVELOPMENT

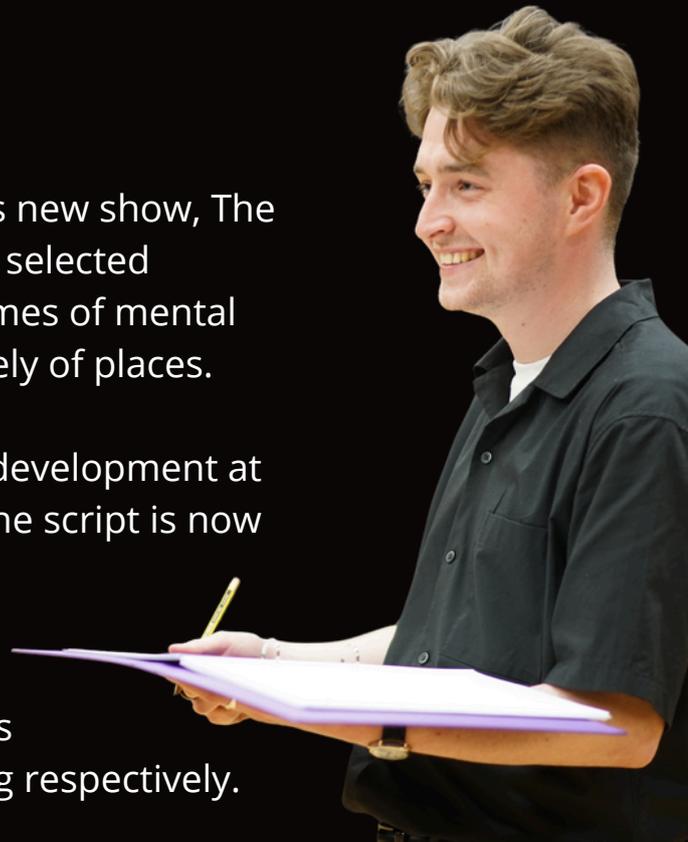
**Funded by the National Lottery via Creative Scotland
Supported by the Lyceum Theatre**

Artists: 8

We began 2025 commissioning Conor O'Dwyer's new show, *The Things You Can Only Lose Once*. This piece was selected through our lead artist callout in 2024, with themes of mental health and finding connection in the most unlikely of places.

We developed the show in April with a week of development at the Lyceum Theatre, culminating in a sharing. The script is now being developed towards a final draft!

We worked with Morgan E. Ross and Kieran Lee-Hamilton as performers, and Kate Stamoulis and Jordan S. Daniels as Director and Dramaturg respectively.





FRAMEWORK FESTIVAL

Emerging Artists Employed: 11
Attendees: 85

The 5th Annual Framework Festival returned for another year! This year we delivered an in-person event at the Traverse Theatre for nearly 100 artists, featuring workshops, panels and performances.

We hosted the following events:

- Speed Date Networking
- Industry Panel with Alex Bird, Eve Nicol & Cat MacLeod
- Audition Skills with Eve Nicol
- Writing Queer Joy with James Ley
- Making Political Theatre with Uma Nada-Rajah
- An Introduction to Dramaturgy with Rosie Kellagher

And presented two scratch performances of new plays:

- Play On by Erin Boulter directed by Courtney Bassett, performed by Emily Mahi'ai and Farah Saffari
- Witchy Slag Gals by Rose Murray directed by Minnie Cross, performed by Lara Meek, Órla Jones and Zannie Benfield



FRAMEWORK FRINGE TAKEOVER

Shows Supported: 10

10 Fringe shows from emerging Scottish theatre companies took over our instagram in August to shout about their work! They were:

- Happy Ending Street from Dolls'n'Rags
- Seltzer Boy from Connor McKenna
- 24 Weeks from Tatty Pants Theatre Company
- Ma Name is Isabelle from Lucy Beth
- Kanpur: 1857 from Niall Moorjani
- Perfect Dead Girls from Audaciously Tenacious Theatre
- Someone Has Got To Be John from Speakbeast Theatre
- Play On by Erin Boulter
- #KaraokeKarma from Epona Productions
- The Faustus Project from Half Trick Theatre



BLUEPRINT

Emerging Artists: 13

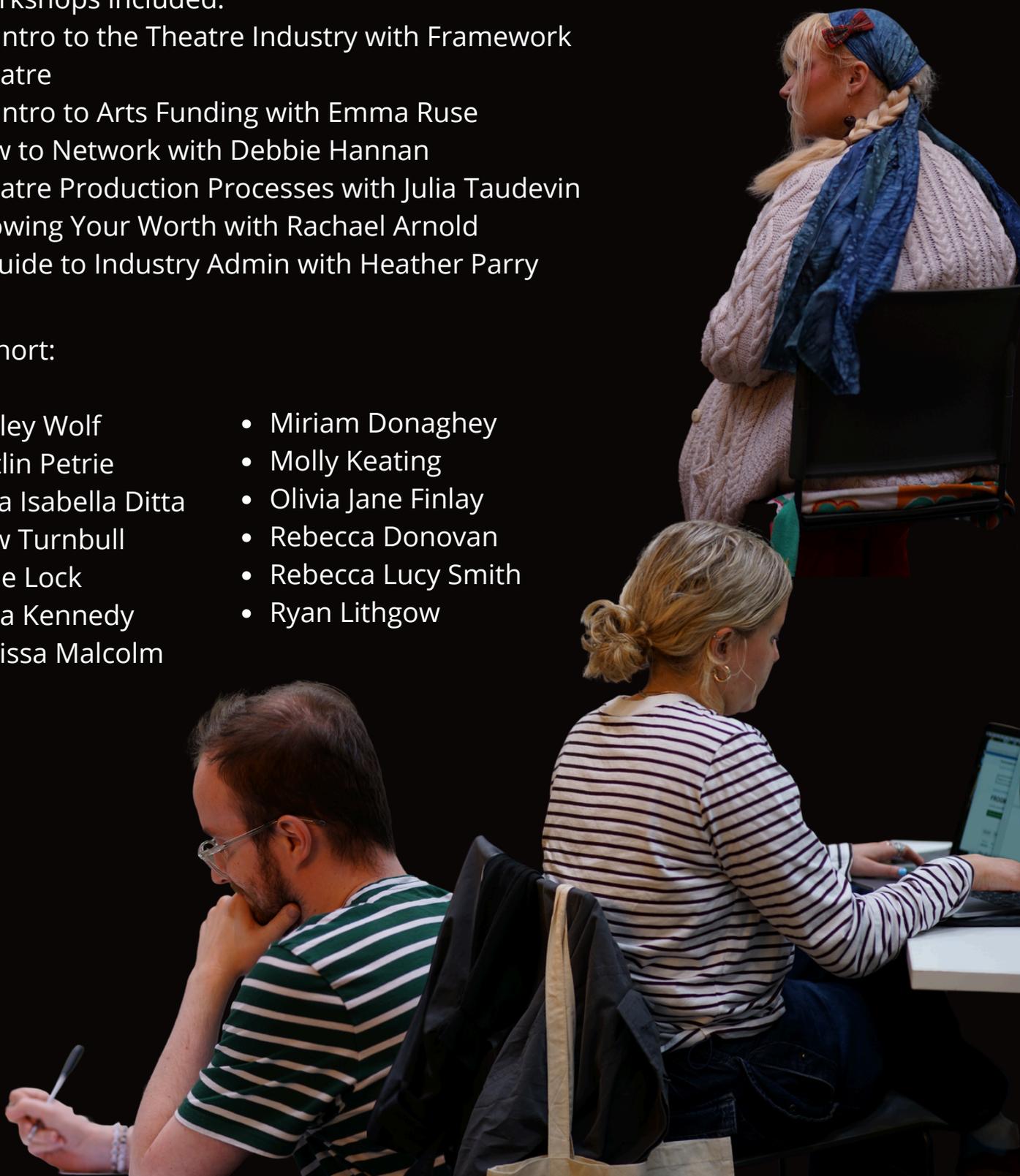
13 artists were selected to take part in our first ever Blueprint programme, a 5-week workshop programme designed to provide an opportunity to learn and upskill right at the start of their artistic journey.

The workshops included:

- An Intro to the Theatre Industry with Framework Theatre
- An Intro to Arts Funding with Emma Ruse
- How to Network with Debbie Hannan
- Theatre Production Processes with Julia Taudevin
- Knowing Your Worth with Rachael Arnold
- A Guide to Industry Admin with Heather Parry

The Cohort:

- Ashley Wolf
- Caitlin Petrie
- Cora Isabella Ditta
- Huw Turnbull
- Kane Lock
- Kilda Kennedy
- Melissa Malcolm
- Miriam Donaghey
- Molly Keating
- Olivia Jane Finlay
- Rebecca Donovan
- Rebecca Lucy Smith
- Ryan Lithgow



SCOTTISH EMERGING THEATRE AWARDS

2025

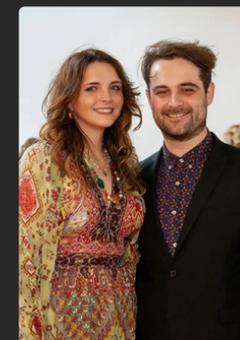
Over 100 artists nominated!

We wanted to recognise the successes of artists who may otherwise be overlooked. As such, we brought back the Scottish Emerging Theatre Awards!

Nominated and decided by emerging theatre-makers, these awards celebrate emerging artists doing exceptional work in Scottish Theatre.

After shortlisting and panel-making decisions, the 2025 recipients are (from top left to bottom right):

Cormac Myles, Katie Slater, Lucy Beth, Morgan Woods / Rowan Douglas / Rebecca Dunn (Gaun Yersel' Workshop), Vee Smith / Sadiq Ali, Milly Sweeney, Challum Brown, Shamama Fatima, Lowen Hunt / Isaac Frost (Speakbeast), Aila Swan, Taylor Dyson / Calum Kelly (Elfie Picket), Éimi Quinn.



OTHER PROJECTS

SCOTTISH GRADUATE SHOWCASE

We have once again supported Molly Graham at the Scottish Graduate Showcase through producing mentorship, and additionally supported the showcase to openly recruit it's Assistant Director role.

This year that role was filled by Olivia Millar Ross.



BURNOUT: A VERBATIM PLAY

Over the course of this year we have been preparing to deliver our first mainstage production, coming to the Tron Theatre on February 6/7 2026.

We are delighted to be working with Tom Showell, Alfie Packham, Maia Imogen Harding and Louis Handley in our production team. Our cast will be announced in January.

Tickets are on sale now and we would love to see you there!



MULTI-YEAR FUNDING

A lot of this year has also been spent understanding and implementing the new role of our charity as a multi-year funded organisation. There are new challenges to this, alongside the benefit of organisational security for the next 3 years.

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

10th December 2025

To wrap up the year, we believe that we all deserve a work Christmas “do”!

As a freelancer, especially an emerging one, that might not be something that happens so we invited everyone for a drink, a raffle and a game of pass the parcel to wrap the year up in style!

This also gave us a chance to meet some of our SETA awardees in person and celebrate their brilliant work!

We love this event, as it's always so warm and full of excellent people with excellent chat.

And with that, on to 2026!



YEAR AT A GLANCE

628 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

36 OPENLY RECRUITED ROLES

32 INTERVIEWS

100+ SETA NOMINATIONS

5 PROJECTS DELIVERED

1 SHOW PLANNED

70K OF FUNDING HANDLED

250 TICKETS BOOKED FOR EVENTS

1 MULTI-YEAR FUNDING BID SECURED

3 CORE TEAM MEMBERS

50 ARTISTS EMPLOYED

2,942 INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS

4,599 UNIQUE WEBSITE VISITORS

1 SCRIPT COMMISSIONED

12 SETA AWARDEES

Conclusion & Thanks

This year has changed Framework forever, the step up into regular and long-term funding has allowed us to stabilise and grow and hopefully begin to provide some regularity to our offer to help support early-career theatre-makers in Scotland.

However it's also been a year of learning, a lot of fast-paced growth and new challenges to come with it. As we move into 2026, we're hoping to see the true benefit of the newfound stability.

A huge thank you to our board, our support networks and the brilliant emerging artists who make what we do so special.

On to the next!
The Framework Team x

