

2026-2027 Fresh Tracks Residency Guidelines

New York Live Arts' **Fresh Tracks Residency & Performance program** is a season-long residency for early career movement-based artists in support of new work creation and professional development. Fresh Tracks began in 1965 and was a signature program of Dance Theater Workshop to bring new choreographic artistry to the forefront.

Four choreographers will be selected through an in-person interview style audition process. The residency includes:

- an Artist Fee of \$5,000 and 60 gratis studio hours to support the development of a 15 minute performance work;
- Professional development workshops led by renowned professionals from the field;
- [Live Core Artist Membership](#);
- Guidance from **Artistic Advisor, Martita Abril**;
- Support from New York Live Arts' communications, development, production and programming staff towards a shared evening in New York Live Arts theater, with professional photo and video documentation.

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

Guidelines are updated for the 2026 - 2027 cycle. Please read fully before applying. If you have questions around eligibility, contact Fresh Tracks Program Manager, Hannah Emerson Jernigan at hemerson@newyorklivearts.org.

Choreographers:

- identify and create work that aligns with New York Live Arts [mission and values](#);
- are in the early stages of their career as a choreographer. **Please read the early career criteria as defined by the Jerome Foundation**;
- are based in the Five Boroughs of New York City during the time of the residency, July 2026 - April 2027;
- are available for **all activities** listed on the residency calendar below. **No exceptions**;
- agree to Live Arts Anti-Harassment Policy that can be found [HERE](#).

Choreographers are NOT eligible if you:

- auditioned in 2025;
- are scheduled to perform your auditioned work in New York City 60 days before or 30 after the performances at New York Live Arts in April 2027 (Please see [Fresh Tracks FAQs](#) for exceptions);
- have participated in the Fresh Tracks program previously;
- are enrolled full time, part-time, or a low residency student in any degree-granting education program, or have tenured faculty status (or the equivalent);
- live outside of New York City's Five Boroughs.

HOW TO APPLY FOR AN AUDITION

Through an open-call application, 16 pre-selected choreographers will be invited to an in-person interview style audition in front of a panel of artists and professionals from the field. The interview will begin by viewing the video of the work submitted virtually. It will also include questions from the panel relating to the choreographer's background, artistic work, creative goals, and what they hope to gain from the residency.

Please read through the guidelines fully before applying. If you are a choreographer who is part of a team, one of you may apply on behalf of the group. You may not save applications in process. Applications can not be edited once they are submitted.

The Application Form can be accessed [HERE](#).

Frequently Asked Questions can be accessed [HERE](#).

The Work Sample: As part of the application process, choreographers must submit a 5-minute video excerpt of the work they are applying for that is in the early stages of the creative process, **OR** an excerpt of a recently completed performance that best represents their choreographic work. **Do not** submit a compilation of works. The excerpt must be shared as a video link (Vimeo or Youtube) and submitted through the Google Form application. Please indicate a timecode if the video is longer than 5 minutes, and please make sure the video **is not** password protected.

Please note: Fresh Tracks is not a performance showcase for finished works. It is a residency for the development of a new work, while learning about the various elements of production and producing, as well as the building blocks of a career in live performance creation.

Application opens: Monday, April 20, 2026

Application closes: Sunday, May 24, 2026 at 11:59pm, no exceptions.

Applicants alerted: By Tuesday, June 16, 2026

In-person Panel Interview at Live Arts: Tuesday, June 30 between 10am - 6pm. Each interview slot is 20 minutes long.

Notification of acceptance or decline: By Tuesday, July 7, 2026

Selected artists announced to public: Mid to Late July 2026, or shortly thereafter

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

The Fresh Tracks program is first and foremost a residency opportunity. In considering your eligibility for the program, please note that Live Arts values collaborative minds that are willing to engage in dialogue with other peers in the program. Live Arts is looking for choreographers who are interested to grow as an artist and apply proficiencies gained through the program to their future as choreographers. Fresh Tracks is not solely a performance opportunity.

Choreographers selected for the program are required to participate in all scheduled activities listed on the residency calendar below.

Fresh Tracks values experimentation, collaboration and a genuine commitment to the original ideas, aesthetics and perspectives. Please note that New York Live Arts rejects harassment and discrimination of any kind and strives to create a safe place for bold ideas and an environment of respect, empathy and compassion.

2026 - 2027 Fresh Tracks Residency Calendar

60 Gratis Studio Rehearsal Hours
Individual Artist Meeting & Studio Visit

Start July 2026
(2) 1-hr sessions with Advisor x Artist

In-Person Orientation

Thursday, July 9, 2026
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Dialogue Session #2

Monday, December 7, 2026
3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Practical Tools, Resources and Strategies for Economic Well Being

Thursday, September 17, 2026
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Cohort Artistic / Design Meeting

Monday, December 14, 2026
3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Dialogue Session #1

Monday, September 21, 2026
3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Live Arts Intake Meeting

Thursday, January 28, 2027
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Accessibility Workshop

Thursday, September 24, 2026
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

***In-Process Studio Showings**

Friday, February 5, 2027
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Intro to Fundraising Workshop

Thursday, October 1, 2026
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Dialogue Session #3

Monday, February 8, 2027
3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Independent Artist | Independent Producer

Thursday, October 29, 2026
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Production Meeting

Thursday, February 25, 2027
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Tech and Production Workshop

Thursday, November 12, 2026
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

***Final Designer Showings (Theater)**

Sunday, March 21, 2027
10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Communications Workshop

Thursday, December 3, 2027
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Theater Show: Week of April 12, 2027 *Please hold entire week until tech schedule is confirmed*

*Load-in & Tech Rehearsals

Monday–Wednesday, March 29-31, 2027

*Tech, Dress Rehearsal + Notes

Thursday, April 1, 2027

*Performances

Friday–Saturday, April 2 & 3, 2027 at 7:30 PM

Post Mortem / Program Evaluation

Thursday, April 15, 2027, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

**All of the cohort's performers and/or collaborators should be available for the dates with an asterisk. Each cohort member is responsible for asking their own performers and/or collaborators to attend these notated activities.*