

Shout FAQs

Who/what is Shout?

Shout celebrates the best of queer culture in the Midlands, building on and learning from the successes of the past which saw the organisation attract over 400,000 visitors and platform over 400 LGBTQ+ artists since 2011, and was part of ACE's National Portfolio from 2018-2022.

Why have things changed at Shout?

When our Arts Council England NPO funding ended we were awarded Transition funding in 2023 for SHOUT Reframed, a period of consultation, independent reports and reimagining for the festival. After 15 years of Shout, this was the perfect time to stop and take the opportunity to really understand what Shout needs to be for the LGBTQ+ community in Birmingham and the West Midlands.

What does Shout plan to be doing now?

Shout's new Creative and Community Producers will present a year-long programme in 2025 and this Autumn focus on testing work with audiences, artists and producers (established and emerging) and the queer community.

The Creative and Community Producers will devise and deliver an all-year-round programme running February 2025 – January 2026. From September 2024 until Feb 2025 they will be testing work with audiences and talking with Shout's community. This multi art form test programme will make space and celebrate the full spectrum of LGBTQIA+ lives under three interconnected themes – Joyful; Activism; With Care. This new programme is just the beginning, the outcomes will enable Shout to develop a sustainable programme into the future.

Will there still be a Festival?

Yes. However, guided by community consultation, we will depart from a traditional 10-day festival of theatre and arts and become a year-round programme of LGBTQ+ co-created projects and events, creating an alternative space in Birmingham's LGBTQ+ social landscape for our communities all year round, manifesting regularly across the year in different spaces, engaging with multiple audiences.

The festival will be refocused as a single long weekend of impactful celebrations, acting as a culmination of communities' engagements through the year, and the creative products of that engagement. We anticipate this moving from the November slot to October.

Who is leading the new programme?

The new Creative and Community Producers are Dr Hannah Phillips and Pheobe Gilmore.

<https://shoutfestival.co.uk/about-us/>

What activity will happen this Autumn?

The Autumn programme, running from September, will create a space for meaningful and critical conversations around queer arts and LGBTQIA+ lives and will include The Queer Motherhood Project, a live show made from the lived experience of queer identifying mothers at MAC; At The Rainbow's End by Clare Summerskill, a verbatim exploration of older LGBT experiences of homophobia and transphobia in residential accommodation and their own homes; Comedy at The Glee Club; and a fabulous Catwalk Extravaganza in collaboration with Birmingham Hippodrome and FABRIC with more projects to be developed.

How can I get involved?

Head to our Get Involved page for information on how you can get involved with Shout.

<https://shoutfestival.co.uk/get-involved/>

How can I apply to be part of the Community Steering Committee?

If you're interested in joining our Community Steering Committee or volunteering in the future, please contact us.

<https://shoutfestival.co.uk/get-involved/>

Does the Community Steering Committee replace the previous Shout Advisory Group?

The new Community Steering Committee will replace the previous Advisory Group, creating opportunities for the community to become actively involved in decision making and co-production. The Advisory Group supported and championed Shout for many years, and we would like to thank all of the previous members for their advice, guidance and care.

I've got a queer event happening, can you share this for me?

Yes. You can contribute your events and keep up to date via the Shout newsletter, a directory of events happening in the west midlands. Sign up link: <https://shoutfestival.us18.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=a94ff073e8b2c5f4f7c7b0d9d&id=23a4795d56>

How can I find out more about Shout? And keep up to date.

Visit www.shoutfestival.co.uk and follow:

Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/shout_festival/

X - <https://x.com/shoutfestival>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/shoutfestival>

