

A close-up photograph of a man with a beard and dark hair, singing passionately into a microphone. He is wearing a dark shirt and a tie. The background is dark, with a large, glowing white balloon on the left side. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the man's face and the microphone.

**“Incredibly brave,
and deeply,
deeply moving”**



Edinburgh Guide on Pub Corner Poet's
SAD LITTLE MAN. Two time recipients
of the NSDF Fund.

NSDF Funding

What it is

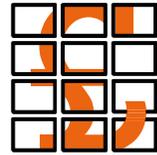
With tuition fees and student loans at an all time high, student theatre-makers from disadvantaged backgrounds are unable to access the platforms and opportunities crucial to showcasing their work, which are vital to secure a future for their talents outside education.

NDT, partnering with universities across the country, will provide the funds for up to twelve exceptional student theatre companies each year to enter National Student Drama Festival – twice the number supported in previous years.

“NDT provided a great deal of support, offered crucial advice. Without their support we wouldn't have attended National Student Drama Festival, where we won the Sunday Times Playwriting award, 2015.”

Pub Corner Poets

How it works



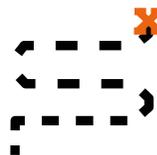
Twelve £98 investments

Student theatres companies write to NDT with a proposal. We'll write a cheque for £98 for the shows we're most excited about.



NSDF select for the festival

The NSDF send an assessor to each show entered. The best shows from the year are selected to attend the festival.



✦ Further support for selected groups

If our supported companies get selected, we work with the group(s) to ensure they are able to afford and attend the festival.



Impact

Supported groups have gone on to win prizes at the festival, including the Sunday Times Playwright Award. These shows have toured nationally.

Report

National Student Drama Festival (NSDF) is an annual showcase of the best student theatre from across the UK. The NSDF Pickles Fund exists to pay the festival's £98 entry fee for those who can't afford it. If a supported group is selected, NDT commits to sourcing additional funds to help the company present their show.

This is the only grant of this kind available to students in the UK, and has been running since 2014. Many companies that form at university struggle to continue making work once they graduate. My interviews show that this money tells companies that a respected, supportive fringe theatre believes in them and their work. The significance of this investment should not be underestimated, from a psychological as well as a financial point of view.

“They didn't know our work, but the support was already there. It's almost like an open hug to a stranger, because they don't know us but they're giving us that care and support that we need to grow ... It's been the most valuable relationship we've made with any organisation, and kind of the most important one”