

# We are Candoco

A producing dance company  
& artistic development  
organisation



Over and Over (and over again)' by Dan Daw, 2025. Photo by Hugo Glendinning

# Choreo Accelerator

## Open call for D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent choreographers

Candoco Dance Company is inviting applications for Choreo Accelerator, our new commissioning programme supporting D/deaf, disabled or neurodivergent choreographers to develop, create and tour an ambitious piece of original work.

**Applications open:** Thursday 20 August

**Applications close:** 11.59pm (23.59) BST on Monday 28th September 2026

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## About Candoco Dance Company

We expand what dance can be, who makes it and who experiences it.

Candoco is a dance-producing company and artist development organisation. We have remodelled our practices around democratic decision making, and this is how Choreo Accelerator was born.

We believe that D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent dance-makers are going under the radar and through our programmes we are trying to discover and celebrate them. Through our new portfolio of programmes, we will support D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent artists to develop their work, build sustainable careers and reach audiences.

**We believe dance is better when difference is celebrated.**

Keep an eye out for other new programmes we are offering, including [Motion Shorts](#), [The Lab](#) and the [Making Space Podcast](#).

# About Choreo Accelerator

Choreo Accelerator will support a UK based choreographer to make the work they want to create, with their chosen artists and creative team.

Three choreographers will be selected for a paid development period, the Commissioning Readiness Programme.

Following participation in this programme, one choreographer will be selected to receive the full commission.

The selected choreographer's work will be produced by Candoco. This includes:

- research and development time
- a supported creation and preview period in venues
- and/or self-selected mentors and directors
- marketing budget and expertise
- Access support and costs embedded throughout
- a guaranteed tour to at least six UK venues
- support to plan the future life of the work

Choreo Accelerator is intended to provide more than a one-off commission. It will give the selected choreographer sustained support to be able to develop the work beyond the initial tour.

The commissioned work will be developed from early 2027, with the plan for it to tour from autumn 2027 and into 2028.



## Commission Details

Each of the three choreographers selected for the Commissioning Readiness Programme will receive: £1,500

The choreographer selected for the full Choreo Accelerator Commission will receive a wraparound budget which covers fees, producing, production, Access, marketing, dancers, creative collaborators, touring and reporting.

The intention of this commission is for the Choreo Accelerator commission to create the freedom to explore your creativity without the burden of fundraising and with the full support of a company.

This means: not having to fundraise and a fully costed commission.

All work and workers attached to all parts of this commission are paid roles. Commission fees and budgets explored in the Commissioning Readiness Programme.

## Our partners

Choreo Accelerator is being developed in collaboration with 6 commissioning, producing, development and presenting partners across the UK.

The list of UK venue partners will be shared during the Commissioning Readiness Programme.

# The Commissioning Readiness Programme

The three selected choreographers will take part in a flexible mentorship programme throughout October and November 2026. Participants are paid for their time on this programme.

The programme is intended to support choreographers to fully explore their ideas and consider what would be needed to realise them as a full production. It is also a process designed to provide a launchpad for artists to be introduced to venues, producing partners and audiences.

These conversations will include:

- choreography, design and production considerations
- thinking about which dancers may be suited to your work and creative collaborators
- access, production and touring planning
- creating a pitch that can be used to present your ideas effectively

As well as the space to bring in your own mentors, Candoco has a pool of mentors that participants will have access to, including but not limited to:

Kate Scanlan // [scannersinc.com/about/](https://scannersinc.com/about/)

Darshun Singh Buller // [theplace.org.uk/profile/darshan-singh-bhuller/](https://theplace.org.uk/profile/darshan-singh-bhuller/)

Benji Reid // [benjireid.com](https://benjireid.com)

Samar Haddad King // [ysdt.org](https://ysdt.org)

Elaine Thomas // [amicidance.org](https://amicidance.org)

Amelia Lander-Carvallo & Quiplash // [quiplash.co.uk](https://quiplash.co.uk)

Janice Parker // [janiceparker.co.uk](https://janiceparker.co.uk)

Joe Hornsby // [joehornsby.co.uk](https://joehornsby.co.uk)

Sonia Allori // [soundandmusic.org](https://soundandmusic.org)

Scott Graham // <https://www.franticassembly.co.uk/profile/scott-graham>

# Our Curatorial Approach

Candoco curates dance that is bold, transformational and unexpected.

Not all work needs Candoco. We therefore prioritise work that would not exist in the same way without the specific conditions we create.

We are not looking for one particular dance form, style or understanding of disabled-led practice.

We are interested in choreographers with a clear artistic voice, an ambitious idea and curiosity about what dance might become.

The dance pieces we want to help create:

- Offer something new, aesthetically, structurally and/or conceptually.
- Demonstrate artistic experimentation.
- Hold contemporary relevance, whether in what it says or the movement vocabulary it adopts.
- Recognises art as a form of activism, whether explicitly or implicitly.
- Recognises lived experience of disability and intersecting marginalisations as expertise that shapes artistic and curatorial decisions.
- Is shaped through co-creation, collaboration and dialogue.

We encourage you to familiarise yourself with our [Curatorial Statement](#) and the areas the [Artistic Assembly](#) will be asking themselves when reviewing your application.



## Artistic Assembly

Candoco makes artistic decisions through Artistic Assemblies.

An Artistic Assembly is a group brought together to make a particular artistic decision.

Assemblies may include artists, Candoco staff and external participants. At least 75% of each Assembly will bring lived experience of disability.

This approach places disabled-led decision-making and lived experience at the heart of Candoco's work.

Assemblies work with clear expectations around Access, respect, accountability, conflicts of interest and transparent decision-making.

# How to apply, and how selection will work

The first Artistic Assembly will select three choreographers for a flexible six-week mentoring programme called the Commissioning Readiness Programme.

A second Artistic Assembly will then select one choreographer for the full commission to start in January 2027.

The Assemblies read your application and will consider:

- your choreographic practice
- your artistic idea
- how the idea connects with Candoco's curatorial approach
- the potential for the work to develop
- your interest in creating work for touring
- what difference the Choreo Accelerator programme could make to your next career moves

You do not need to present a finished production plan, confirmed creative team or detailed budget at this stage.

We are interested in the ideas and the person/s who will be creating them and so will accept applications in the form that best communicates the idea.

'The Show Must Go On' by Jerome Bel, 2014. Photo by Nick Rutter



# Who should apply?

You should apply if you are a UK-based and:

- identify as D/deaf, disabled and/or neurodivergent
- are an artist with a choreographic practice
- have an idea for an original, full length, performance work
- want to lead the creation of that full length work
- are interested in developing work for touring

Individual choreographers, small companies or collaborative partnerships can apply.

This commission is looking for artists who have made work before, and who have presented in front of audiences. This commission is looking for applicants who will be bold in their vision and ideas. The Assembly will be looking for examples which can support and contextualise the vision, and how this vision has an awareness of its potential audiences.

This commission is also looking for artists who have worked to a budget before, who can identify what their creative journey is, and where they would like to go next.

You do not need to have a producer, venue partner, dancers or complete creative team in place when you apply.

We understand disability as a self-defined identity. For more information about Candoco's approach to inclusion, please go to our [Inclusion Statement](#)

# What we will ask you when applying

We will ask you to respond to four areas.

This application is intentionally concise, so please do not create a new film, pitch deck, detailed budget or production plan.

[Look back at our Curatorial Approach](#)

## 1. About you and your choreographic practice

Tell us about you as an artist, the ideas that interest you and how you describe your practice.

**Up to 200 written words or around two minutes of audio or video.**

## 2. Tell us about the full length work you want to make – and why it is important to you now at this moment in your creative journey.

**Up to 500 written words or around three minutes of audio or video.**

Please tell us:

- the central idea
- what an audience might experience
- the form or scale you are imagining
- why you want to make the work
- who you might want to work with

We understand that ideas change through development.

## 3. Not all work needs Candoco. Why are we the right fit for your work? Why is Candoco the right partner for you?

**Up to 200 written words or around two minutes of audio or video.**

Continues...

# What we will ask you when applying

## 4. Previous work

Please share two examples of previous work.

These could include performance recordings, work-in-progress, photographs, written information, a website or another form of documentation.

The supporting material does not need to be professionally produced.

'Face In' by Yasmeen Godder, 2017. Photo by Hugo Glendinning



# How to apply

Complete the online application form and equal opportunities form:

[APPLICATION FORM](#) | [EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FORM](#)

If the online form or another part of the process is not accessible to you there are other methods to submit. You may apply using:

- an audio recording
- a video recording
- a video in BSL
- a Word document
- handwritten or visual responses
- a combination of formats

All formats will be considered equally.

You may use bullet points or conversational language. You will not be disadvantaged because of spelling, grammar, speech, signed language, writing style or the structure of your response.

You may ask another person to help you prepare or submit your application. They should not develop the artistic content on your behalf.

**Applications sent by email should be sent to: [jobs@candoco.co.uk](mailto:jobs@candoco.co.uk)**

Please use the subject line:

Choreo Accelerator application – [your name]

**Applications close at:**

**23.59 (11.59pm) UK time on Monday 28 September 2026**

You will receive confirmation when your application has been received.



## When you will hear from us

We expect to contact all applicants by:

Thursday 8 October.

Applicants selected for the Commissioning Readiness Programme will receive further information about fees, dates, Access conversations and next steps.

Where something in an application is unclear, we may contact the applicant for clarification.



## Access during the application process

We want the application process to be accessible to as many people as possible. You may request additional time as an access requirement.

We also have a limited number of 30-minute sessions available to work with a coach to support the writing process. Please let us know if this is something that would work for you.

For questions, support or alternative arrangements relating to access requirements, contact:

[jobs@candoco.co.uk](mailto:jobs@candoco.co.uk)

This call-out is also be available as:

- a plain-text document
- a large-print document
- an audio version
- a BSL version

# Access throughout the programme

Access will be embedded throughout Choreo Accelerator.

If you are selected, we will invite you to have an Access conversation with Candoco. This will be separate from the artistic assessment.

We will work with you to understand the support and working conditions you need. Access provision may include:

- captions
- BSL interpretation
- audio description
- rest breaks
- flexible scheduling
- remote or hybrid participation where appropriate
- accessible travel and accommodation
- personal assistance or support workers
- accessible rehearsal and performance spaces
- other agreed support

Access requirements may change as the work develops. We will continue these conversations throughout the programme.

Access costs will be budgeted separately and will not rely solely on Access to Work.

## Feedback

If requested, we will provide individual feedback to applicants.

We will also share general information about the Artistic Assembly's decision-making process.

## Questions

For general questions about Choreo Accelerator or the application process, contact:

Nick Galak-Anderson and Emma Wee

Co-Leads: Performance, Commissions and Advocacy

[nick@candoco.co.uk](mailto:nick@candoco.co.uk)

[emma@candoco.co.uk](mailto:emma@candoco.co.uk)

For questions or support relating to access requirements, contact:

[jobs@candoco.co.uk](mailto:jobs@candoco.co.uk)



'Cantaloupe Reel' by Adam Benjamin, 1992. Photo by Eleni Leossi

