

OPEN CALL

Application period: 9/12/2024 – 6/2/2025

Application deadline: 6/2/25 10pm CET

Individual artists and companies can apply with the plan to implement a pioneering contemporary circus art creation in Germany in 2025-2026.

The creation alliance for circus arts - Zirkus ON is looking for new, open-format circus creations that strengthen and inspire the existing and future repertoire of contemporary circus art productions in and from Germany.

Application Conditions

- Professional, freelance solo artists, companies and groups with a billing address or registered office in Germany
- The project deals with circus arts (open format)
- Creation has already begun
- Creation is primarily taking place in Germany in 2025-26
- The work will not be completed before January 2026
- Availability on the following dates: digital ON-boarding 3/4/24 12-14.00 am CET, in attendance: Opening presentations 30/5-06/06/25 and Stage presentations 23-26/09/25

The creation programme 2025-26 offers:

A total of 3 project projects selected by a jury are being accompanied by the creation alliance through:

- **the residency programme:** up to 3 residencies will be offered at alliance partners in the period May - November 2025.
- Individual support for the project and the core team in the period April - December 2025 as part of the **mentoring programme**
- **the qualification programme:** 3 to 4 workshops on production topics will be offered in the period April - December 2025
- **Presentation opportunities** (especially opening, stage and final presentations as well as showings at the end of the residencies - if desired)
- **Knowledge transfer formats and networking opportunities**
- **Subsidy budget** for collaboration with freelance artistic collaborators such as Outside Eye or lighting designers (up to €3000 gross)

Application documents:

- Completed application form
- Work sample of material, concept or prototype as a visual impression of the already started creation (link to the video in the application form, video duration: At least 1 min. - max. 2 min.)
- 2 photos (1x landscape, 1x portrait) and a short description (500 characters) for press release if project is being selected

Optional attachments:

- Presentation of the creation's contextualization (possible formats: max. 2 DIN A 4 pages graphics as png, jpeg or pdf or max. 2 min. video/audio .wav or mp4)
- Tech Rider (pdf)
- Green/Eco Rider (pdf)
- Access Rider (pdf)

Information on the selection procedure:

The application documents are checked for formal correctness by the team. Complete applications are made available to the jury.

In a first jury conference, all applications are discussed, statements for the subsequent feedback for applicants are documented and a shortlist is selected.

In the second jury conference, shortlisted applications are discussed by the jury and the final 3 projects for the 7th Zirkus ON edition 2025-26 are selected.

The **list of criteria** is public, part of the open call and the basis for the jury selection.

The creation alliance's alliance partners will be allowed to read submitted applications if permission was given in the application form.

Jury 2025

The 2025 jury of the Zirkus ON creation programme consists of persons nominated for positions and commissioned by the creation alliance, who fulfil the perspective to be represented by their professional activity/artistic practice in the jury.

- Perspective of Zirkus ON alliance partner, fixed venue
- Perspective of Zirkus ON alliance partner, festival
- Perspective of artist / Zirkus ON alumni
- Perspective of circus academia/trade/ Zirkus ON mentor
- Perspective of circus scene-external/expertise from cultural/societal point of view

Application and deadlines

Applying for the Zirkus ON call for proposals can exclusively be done digitally via the online form or e-mail: bewerbung@zirkus-on.de

Application period: 9/12/2024 – 6/2/2025

Deadline: 6/2/25 10 pm CET

Further questions about the Zirkus ON application are answered in the FAQs and during the digital information events in December and January

In the period between 20/12/2024-7/1/2025, the Zirkus ON team will not be available to answer questions about the application via the e-mail address: bewerbung@zirkus-on.de

For the open call of the 7th Zirkus ON edition 2025-26, the following regulations apply: Applications must be submitted by the end of 6/2/2025 10pm CET. Incomplete applications will not be handed over to the jury.

The following are excluded from applying: Graduation pieces, revival and project plans of apprentices/students or of artists and authors who have already been supported by Zirkus ON, as well as projects involving which participation of Zirkus ON employees.

Zirkus ON is being funded by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media as part of the German Federal Association of the Independent Performing Arts's programme "Verbindungen fördern".



**Bundesverband
Freie Darstellende
Künste**



Die Beauftragte der Bundesregierung
für Kultur und Medien