



**pride
done
differently.**

Queer performance commissions 2026

The commission

We're looking for queer performers to create new work to be presented on the weekend of 12-14 June 2026 as part of our festival. There are two commissions available, designed to help us bring a splash of colour to the 'auld grey town.'

Our theme for 2026 is 'this is home,' so work should be linked to this in some way. However, we know that many queer people create their own 'homes' which don't necessarily conform to the traditional idea of what 'home' is. We also have an ongoing ethos of 'pride done differently' and aim to capitalise on our beautiful natural environment, so work can also connect with this.

The performance created could be any artform or a mixture but it must only need minimal tech requirements - a microphone and a stage will be available, but not much more. It could be dance, comedy, singing, lip synching or something else entirely - that part's up to you, but it needs to engage our audiences. Those audiences may be queer or allied adults, young people or families, or some combination of all those things. The versatility of performers being able to meet the needs of different audiences will be considered as part of our selection process.

The piece will need to be performed at some point over the weekend, but that will be discussed with successful artists based on what the work is and where it will fit best within the programme and its suitability for under 18s.

It could be just one short performance of around 10 minutes or two or three shorter segments which can stand alone over the course of the day or evening.

The application

You can apply using whatever method you feel is best for you. It could be a written proposal, a presentation or a video, but it must capture our attention and demonstrate the sort of performance you're going to create. Get us excited, maybe make us laugh, or inspire us.

As well as this, send us some examples of what you've done before. This could be a showreel or collection of videos, credits for previous performance work, or link to your website that shows off your best bits.



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Essentially, show why you're the perfect fit for Kendal Pride 2026.

ACTION: Send your proposal and examples of work with the subject heading 'Performance Commission 2026' to commissions@kendalpride.co.uk

The deadline

Applications for the commission close on **Friday 20 March** and we'll share the outcome to applicants by email no later than **Friday 27 March**.

The budget

Two artists will be commissioned and there is a fee of £1,000 available to create the work, plus a £250 fee for performing on the day, for each. Travel costs can also be considered in addition to this - please give an indicative idea of these in your proposal - and accommodation can be provided.

The wider festival

Kendal Pride takes place over the 12-14 June 2026 and is all about doing pride differently. On the Friday we'll be hosting an evening of queer outdoor and adventure films in association with Kendal Mountain Festival, followed by an evening of drinks and entertainment in some of Kendal's pubs and bars.

The Saturday will see the grounds of Abbot Hall transformed into the Pride Village with performances, family activities, stalls and much more besides. Plus, we'll have a range of outdoor activities including walks, cycles, runs taking place, as well as sports activities and demonstrations. In the evening, we'll head across the river to Bowness Bay Brewery, taking over their whole space for the Big Pride Party - a night of entertainment, high camp and dancing.

And finally, on the Sunday it'll have a more relaxed vibe. There'll be yoga, open water swimming, acoustic performances and a time for celebration and reflection and more besides.

So... why not come and be part of it?



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