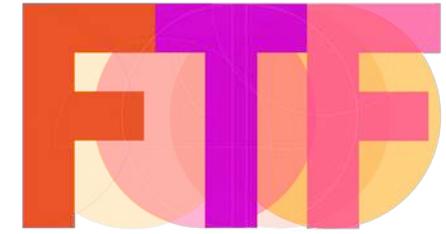




**Freelance TaskForce**  
**Early Career Artists and Practitioners**  
Survey  
July 2020

In July 2020, the Early Career Practitioners subgroup of the Freelance TaskForce issued a survey nationwide.



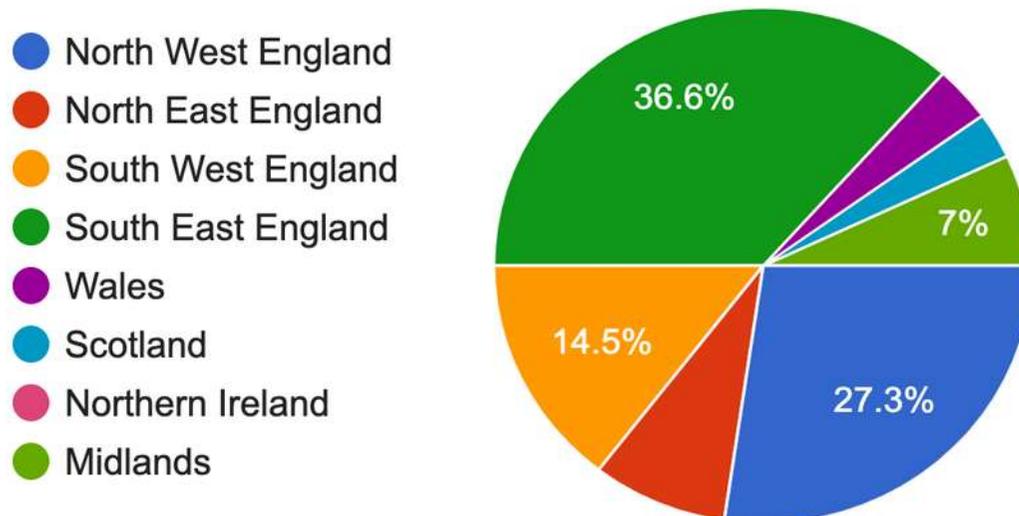
Over 150 theatre freelancers responded.

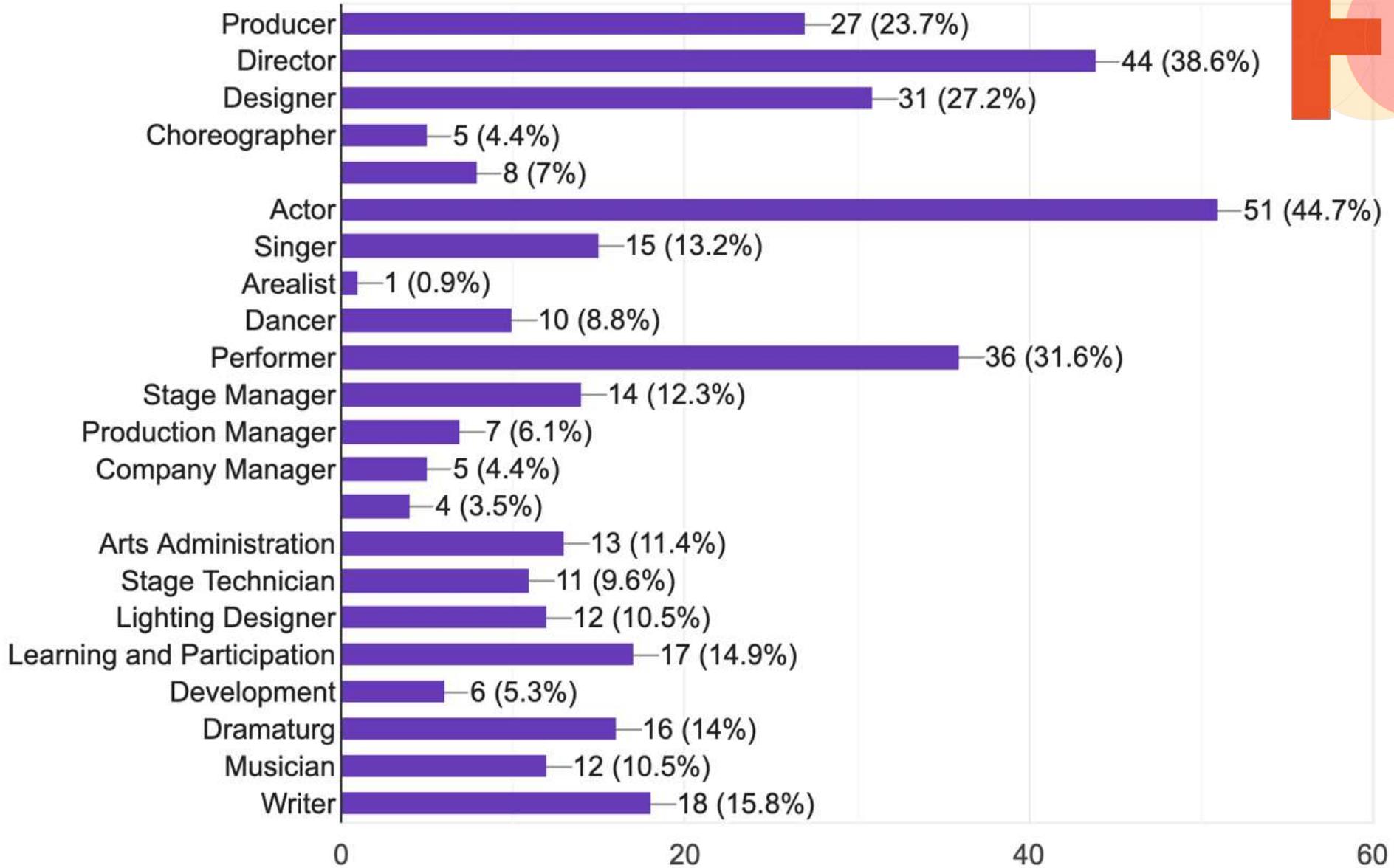
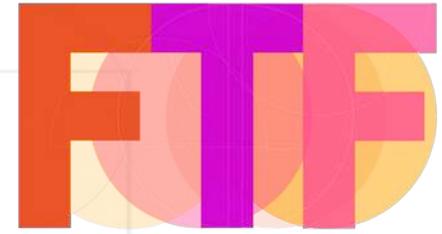
## What is an Early Career Practitioner?

An Early Career Practitioner is someone who identifies themselves as being new to the industry. This is inclusive of those coming to careers in theatre later in life.

## Who took part?

- 64.7% of participants have been practising professionally for one year or less.
- 22.5% have been practising for two to three years.

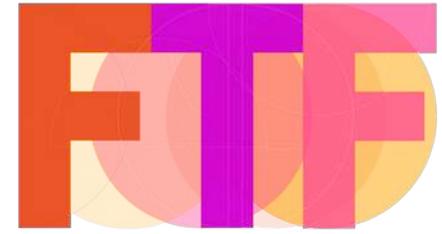




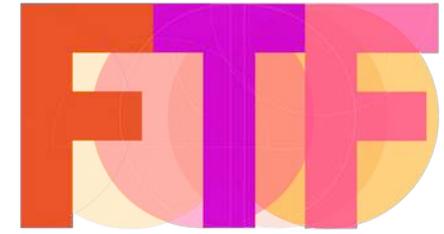


## What is your main concern for the sector?

- “No funding to reach the community.”
- “That working class artists won’t be able to afford to stay in the industry.”
- “Being pushed out of the sector due to financial problems.”
- “So many early career artists. So few jobs.”
- “Equal support for regional and small venues.”
- “I haven’t received any government support.”
- “Returning to a system that supports venues and not artists.”
- “All the work will go to established artists.”
- “That all the progress on accessibility will be lost.”

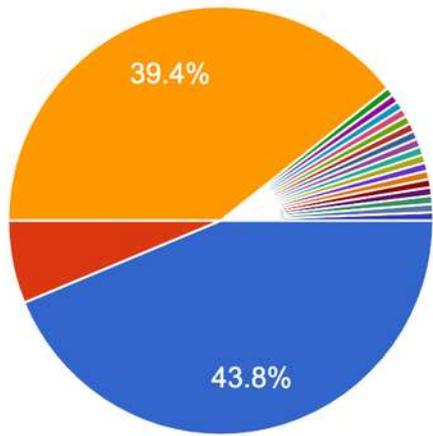


# Training and opportunities



- 52.6% of respondents went to university
- 34.1% attended a specialist training institution
- 6.9% received no formal training

## Did your training include industry work experience?

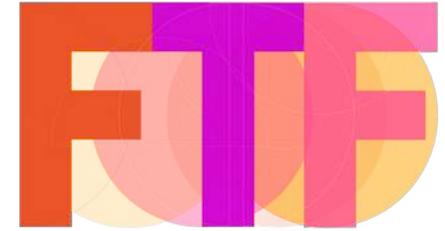


- 43.8% of respondents received useful work experience whilst training.
- 39.4% received no work experience whilst training.
- 6.3% received training that was not relevant or useful.
- 85% believe it should become mandatory for training programmes to include industry work experience.

## Do you believe there are enough opportunities for early career artists?

- 72.8% of respondents answered no to this question.
- 24.3% were unsure.

# Funding



63% of respondents did not feel that the schemes below were accessible to Early Career Practitioners.

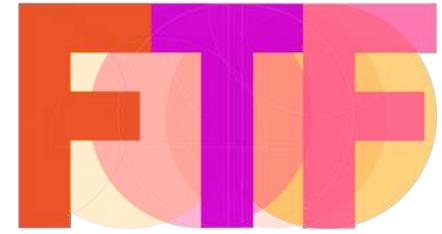
## Were you eligible for the Self Employed Income Support Scheme?



## Were you eligible for Arts Council England's emergency financial support?



# Recommendations



- Institutions delivering further/higher education qualifications in the theatre sector should offer relevant industry work experience.
- More mentorship and paid employment opportunities for Early Career Practitioners.
- Early Career opportunities that are tailored to the individual – including the option of a longer period of support for disabled, black, brown, working class, or neuro-diverse applicants who may take longer to break into the industry.
- The removal of age-limits – recognising that the terms Early Career and Emerging do not necessarily equate to <25 years-old.
- A more flexible government Self Employed Income Support Scheme, that makes allowances for loss of income during years spent training.
- Clearer guidance about who is eligible for Arms Length Body funding. More accessible information about support available to applicants.
- More sustainable financial support for community outreach projects and groups that are creating work for early career professionals.