

OPEN CALL

Research Residency 2026 for the Performing Arts in Theater for Young Audiences

The newly launched residency at the COMEDIA Theater is open for applications until March 2, 2025, for up to 4 participants for the year 2025. Applications are welcome from existing groups, collectives, or ensembles of artists working in the performing arts. Applications can be submitted online in German or English via the COMEDIA Theater website, where you can also find all the important details about the residency and the application process. The digital submission date applies.

What is the COMEDIA Residency?

The residency aims to provide professional freelance artists with a laboratory opportunity.

What makes this residency unique is its open-ended research format. It offers time and space for developing and exploring new, daring ideas – whether in terms of new aesthetic approaches, artistic development, or current topics. The only requirement is that the artistic research is rooted in theater for young audiences and targets an audience aged 4 to 12, as defined in the application form.

During the residency, groups of up to four people can practically explore a self-chosen topic and experiment with new forms over four weeks. Instead of a premiere, there will be a public presentation at the end of the residency, offering insight into the research process.

Application form: www.comedia-koeln/haus/residenz

What does the COMEDIA Residency offer?

- A four-week work residency for up to 4 people
- €3,000.00 per person for the residency period
- Rehearsal space available throughout the residency period (24/7 access)
- Professional process support from the dramaturgy and theater education team at the COMEDIA Theater
- An assistant

Residency period: The four-week residency can take place in coordination with the COMEDIA Theater between **March 23 and May 3, 2026**.

Who is the COMEDIA Residency for?

- Existing groups, ensembles, or constellations of professional artists (up to 4 people) from all areas of the performing arts.
- Preference is given to groups, ensembles, or constellations of professional artists who have little or no prior experience with theater for young audiences and wish to explore it.
- There are no age restrictions for the COMEDIA Residency – artists of all ages are welcome to apply.

What are the requirements for the group?

- The scholarship is designed for up to four participants. Fewer participants are possible, but no more than four.
- Applications from individual artists will not be considered.
- All participants in the residency must be listed in the application form.
- A professional artistic status is required for all participants (involvement in at least one production or professional work, or their own production).
- The primary residence of the applicant must be in Germany.

What are the residency obligations?

- Participants must adhere to a general presence obligation, as regulated in the contract.
- A work plan outlining the weekly research activities must be submitted in advance for the four-week period.
- Participants must present their research in a final event on the last day of the residency.
- A final report with feedback on the research scholarship is required.

Application Process

Would you like to get to know theater for young audiences and conduct research on it? Then apply for a four-week residency at the COMEDIA Theater in 2026!

Complete the COMEDIA Residency application form – available on our website – and send it by March 2, 2025, to the email address provided in the form.

A jury comprising Manuel Moser (Artistic Director), Anna Stegherr (Dramaturgy), and members of the COMEDIA Theater youth advisory board *imp:act* will select one research idea from the submitted applications.

Contact Person for the COMEDIA Residency

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