

IF I CAN'T DANCE, I DON'T WANT TO BE PART OF YOUR REVOLUTION

9 October 2026

Open Rehearsal, Cycle 4 Call for participants

Deadline: 18 November 2026, 23:00hr

Upload your application as a single PDF (max 10MB) to:

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/i90ndymn770sdh2jaczr>

All inquiries to or@ificantdance.org

About Open Rehearsal

Open Rehearsal is a programme developed by If I Can't Dance to support the development of performance practices in the Netherlands by giving artists time, space, and a structure in which to try-out work-in-progress. After three engaging cycles, we are excited to launch the open call for a fourth Open Rehearsal cycle, taking place from January to May 2027.

Making performance is a process of testing, revising, and making decisions, often in dialogue with others. The possibility of sharing work-in-progress is therefore key in moving forward. Open Rehearsal creates a dedicated space within that process: a moment to share work before it is finished, and receive thoughtful feedback that can inform what comes next.

The programme is intended for artists who have already begun developing a performance and who have reached a point where an external perspective, dedicated rehearsal time, and an encounter with an audience could meaningfully contribute to the work's further development. Rather than presenting a finished performance, participants are invited to use Open Rehearsal as a space for experimentation, testing, and exchange.

Structure of the programme

Open Rehearsal offers artists conditions and input for further developing and articulating their work. This is achieved through:

- An advisory trajectory with a professional in the field chosen by the artist
- One studio visit with Open Rehearsal Curator Mini Maxwell
- One-week rehearsal time in the If I Can't Dance theatre space
- One closed rehearsal with Mini Maxwell and the If I Can't Dance Team
- One public open rehearsal followed by a feedback session carefully prepared by the artist together with If I Can't Dance and Open Rehearsal Curator Mini Maxwell, who will also moderate it.

A space for exchange

Open Rehearsal understands performance as a practice that develops through exchange: between makers, audiences, peers, and the contexts in which work is encountered. The programme therefore brings artists and audiences together not to evaluate a finished performance, but to engage with work while it is still taking shape.

Through public open rehearsals and carefully facilitated feedback sessions, audiences are invited to look closely, respond, and share their perspectives, while artists have the opportunity to listen, question, and consider what might happen next. The aim is not to reach consensus or provide definitive answers, but to create an intimate, respectful, and productive environment in which different perspectives can coexist and new questions can emerge.

The programme draws on the rich feedback practices of performance pedagogues and practitioners to create a space for exchange that is attentive to both the work and the people engaging with it. In doing so, Open Rehearsal contributes to the development of a shared vocabulary around the diverse performance practices taking shape in the Netherlands.

Who can apply

Open Rehearsal is for artists who are already developing a performance work and are looking for time, space, and a supportive structure in which to test, question, and further develop their practice.

Seeking to bolster an intersectional, intergenerational, and interdisciplinary performance scene, Open Rehearsal welcomes experimental and hybrid performance practices, particularly those that move between or beyond conventional disciplinary boundaries. We encourage applications from artists at different stages of their careers and with diverse educational and professional backgrounds, who feel that their work would benefit from a dedicated period of rehearsal, exchange, and feedback.

We are interested in practices that ask questions about what performance can be, where it can take place, and how it can relate to its audiences. Given the expansion of what a stage or space for performance might mean in a digitally mediated world, we also encourage applications from artists exploring online, hybrid, or digitally mediated spaces through or for performance.

Please note that Open Rehearsal is specifically intended for works that are already in development. The programme is not intended to support the creation of entirely new projects: proposals should demonstrate that the work has already begun and that there is a specific aspect, question, or stage of development that would benefit from the programme's rehearsal and feedback structure.

Programme trajectory

The three Open Rehearsals will take place on three different afternoons in the month of May 2027. Taking place in our theatre space, the event is open to the public, including general and peer audiences. The Open Rehearsal is preceded by a week of rehearsal time in our space.

Before this public sharing moment, the participant has the opportunity to engage in an advisory trajectory with a specialized practitioner, whose background and expertise is relevant for what the artist wishes to try-out in the work. The practitioner is selected by the participant and will be

paid by the programme to accompany the artist within a stipulated framework of studio visits.

As an additional element, this edition will include one closed rehearsal and conversation with high school students.

Budget and equipment

If I Can't Dance provides the selected participants with an artist fee of € 6000 and a budget of € 3000 for production costs related to the development of the work and the live presentation moment. Please note that this fee does not change if you apply as a collective. For the Open Rehearsal, technical assistance and basic AV equipment present in the space will be provided. Please note that the compensation for the specialised practitioner will be paid directly to the practitioner and is not part of the production budget.

The If I Can't Dance space



Collegezaal, photo: Nicoline van Harskamp

In October 2023, If I Can't Dance found a new home within the WG-terrein in Amsterdam's Oud West, a former hospital complex turned into artist studios, houses and cultural spaces in the 1980s by a group of artists and cultural practitioners. We are now located in what was once the medical theatre of the Women's Clinic. The participants of the Open Rehearsal programme will be working and showing their performance in this space. Still holding the original 1920s century furniture, the space is shaped as an amphitheatre with tribunes and a central stage. Please note that the space does not have a light grid but a simple lighting system with neon tubes and lamps. During the day, lots of natural light comes through from the glass ceiling.

Available equipment:

- PA with subwoofer and mixer
- 1 x Beamer and 1 x large projection screen
- 4 x Shure mics
- 1 x lapel mic
- 2 x 65 inches flat screens

Any extra equipment should be rented or acquired with the production budget.

Please note that the space is located on the second floor of an old building and, unfortunately, is not accessible by elevator. Access across the tiered seating (tribunes) is via two narrow staircases.

When preparing your application, please consider these notes carefully!

Application

The application should include the following documents in a **single PDF format, max 10MB**:

1. Work description and motivation (max 1 A4)
 - description of the work in progress you would like to present within Open Rehearsal, showing that it is not an entirely new work but something already in process, and that it can realistically be presented within the programme and the available resources

- why you think this work would benefit from the Open Rehearsal programme and its feedback structure
 - what elements of the work you are most interested in exploring or trying-out and wish to receive feedback on within the context of Open Rehearsal
 - who you would like to invite as a Netherlands based specialized practitioner to work with you. If you can't think of a name, please describe the type of specialization you are looking for
2. A basic budget demonstrating that the project is feasible with the production budget.
 3. CV with email (max 3 pages)
 4. Portfolio (max 5 pages)

Other requirements:

- You must be based in the Netherlands.
- The work you'll be presenting should not be presented anywhere else just before or during the months of the Open Rehearsal period.
- During the Open Rehearsal period you cannot be enrolled in any educational programme.
- Your practice does not stand for any discriminatory, intolerant, or patriarchal worldviews.
- Late or incomplete applications will not be processed.

Upload your application as a single PDF file (10 MB max) before the deadline: Wednesday 18 November 2026, 23:00hr CET to this dropbox folder **<https://www.dropbox.com/request/i90ndymn770sdh2jaczn>**.

Questions can be addressed to **or@ificantdance.org**

Selection process

Upon meeting these criteria, your application will be eligible for consideration by a committee chaired by Open Rehearsal curator Mini Maxwell, and composed by the If I Can't Dance Directors (Anik Fournier, Sara Giannini, Annick Kleizen)

A shortlist of six applicants will be invited for interviews on Friday 11 December 2026.

All applicants will receive notification of the selection of the participating artists by Wednesday 16 December.

Summary of key dates

18 November 2026
Application deadline

11 December 2026
Interview with shortlisted applicants

16 December 2026
All applicants will be notified about selection results

13 January 2027
Introductory gathering and welcome drinks

January - May 2027
Preparation / development

May 2027
One week rehearsal at If I Can't Dance
One Open Rehearsal day

The fourth cycle of Open Rehearsal is made possible by Ammodo and Fonds21. If I Can't Dance is structurally supported by the Mondriaan Fund.