



ZooNation Youth Company (ZYC)

Audition: Saturday 5th September 2026

London

What is ZYC?

Established in 2006, ZooNation Youth Company (ZYC) brings raw energy and talent to stages all over the UK, from Into the Hoods in the West End to performing for the International Olympic Committee at the Royal Opera House during the 2012 London Olympics. Their credits include Channel 4/BAFTA's The Holloway Launderette, Breakin' Convention, Move Like Michael Jackson (BBC), and Nelson Mandela's 90th Birthday broadcast.

The company celebrates the very best young Hip Hop talent, training weekly in London through a subsidised programme that embodies ZooNation's ethos, opening doors to fresh talent and showcasing it in high-profile performance opportunities.

Resident at Southbank Centre, ZYC brought shows Groove on Down the Road created by Kate Prince and Tales of the Turntable created by Carrie-Anne Ingrouille, to the Queen Elizabeth Hall in 2013, 2014 and 2019. They have performed at the Royal Albert Hall, The Place, Southbank Centre, Excel's Move It, The Old Vic Gala, The V&A and Natural History Museums and National Theatre's River Stage.

Recent highlights include 1776 at the Schwarzman Centre, Oxford 2026 and The Royal Ballet and Opera's Next Generation Festival 2026, London.

Who Can Audition?

Prerequisites:

- Aged between 10 – 21 years old on the audition date.
- Able to attend compulsory Saturday training sessions 10am – 6pm in London, during term time.
- Understanding that additional rehearsals will be required for performances. These may take place on week nights, and during the holidays.

What We're Looking For

Essential Skills:

- High-level ability in: Locking, Popping, House, Breaking, Choreography
- Ability to freestyle
- Commitment and professional attitude



- Ability to work individually and in a team

Desirable (not essential):

- Tricks
- Experience performing to large audiences

Audition Details

Date: **Saturday 5th September 2026**

Timings: **Please be prepared to arrive from 09:30 and stay all day (exact timings will be shared with invited applicants)**

Location: **London (exact location will be shared with invited applicants)**

We do have some audition travel bursaries available for those travelling greater distances to attend the audition. Please indicate on your audition application form if you would like to be considered for a travel bursary.

Commitment to ZYC and ZAD

ZYC Saturday sessions, 10am – 1pm (*or 11am - 2pm), London

If you are successful in being offered a place in ZYC we expect you attend every ZYC training session we arrange. *Training times may vary and will be confirmed at point of successful entry to the company.

ZYC fees apply: £100 annually.

We do have some scholarships available. If you would like to apply for a scholarship, please inform us at the time of submitting your application form to audition.

ZYC training deposit: £30 per term.

All members will be subject to a full refund of the termly deposit, provided the attendance rules are followed.

ZYC Travel Bursaries are available to those members travelling greater distances to training, from outside the M25. Travel bursaries offered are based on distances travelled, with a maximum annual bursary of £500 offered. Travel bursary payments are made as either a one-off payment in September or termly payments each training year. Travel bursaries will be discussed at point of successful entry to the company.

ZAD Saturday sessions, 3-6pm, Islington, London

If you are successful in being offered a place in ZYC we expect you to attend ZooNation Academy of Dance (ZAD). At ZAD you will continue your growth and development.



ZAD fees apply: £270* for each term. It is not an optional extra, every member of ZYC must also attend ZAD classes. Term fees are due at the start of each term. We do have some scholarships available. If you are successful at joining ZYC, then please speak to us about applying for a scholarship to cover your ZAD fees if needed.

**Fees quoted are accurate for 26/27.*

Attendance and punctuality

You are permitted 3 planned absences a term (2 max either side of half term). If you have more than three planned absences, this will result in the £30 deposit for that term not being returned. These absences must be planned - i.e. agreed with ZooNation prior to the start of term to be counted as planned absences.

Any unexplained absences will not be accepted and the deposit will not be returned.

More than three unexplained absences will also result in a discussion with the management team about your ability to continue with ZooNation, each case will be assessed individually.

If a session starts at 10am we expect you to be on the dance floor, appropriately dressed and ready for warm up at this time. We therefore ask you to arrive in advance of the start time to make sure you are ready.

Lateness is not tolerated. If you are running late due to unavoidable circumstances, or ill, you are expected to inform the contact provided as soon as possible.

If you are late more than three times in one term, the £30 deposit for that term will not be returned. Further to that we will discuss removing you from the next ZYC performance, or the company.

Additional rehearsals and performances

Being part of ZYC means opportunities to perform. We will check availability prior to each performance, but generally we expect you to be available for additional rehearsals and performances. Where possible we avoid arranging rehearsals during school time, however, from time to time you may be required to miss school in order to attend and performance licenses will be issued in these instances.



Frequently Asked Questions

What is ZAD?

ZooNation Academy of Dance (ZAD) is the 'not for profit' education arm of ZooNation: The Kate Prince Company. It was born in 2008 out of a desire to work with young people and invest in their future knowing the great positive impact dance can have. ZAD is a place where young people of all ages (6 to 21-years-old), abilities, and backgrounds come together to build relationships and develop their skills through the shared love and passion for hip-hop dance. It's also their chance to learn from the professional members of the company. Classes lead to an annual Christmas show where they perform all the different styles of Hip Hop dance they have learned throughout the year.

Can parents watch the audition?

No.

Do I have to pay to audition?

No.

How many ZYC places are available?

We will be offering places to a maximum of 20 dancers.

Who are the auditions open to?

The auditions are open to people who have not worked with us before, but also to members of ZAD and ZYC who will be familiar with the teachers, and each other. Everyone will be judged objectively.

Do current ZYC members re-audition?

Yes, all the current members of ZYC are expected to re-audition.

What do ZYC wear at performances?

This varies. However, if we ask you to take part in a performance as part of ZYC, we will offer you a ZYC t-shirt. We expect everyone to have black tracksuit bottoms or black leggings, and black/white trainers. We ask that you bring kneepads to every training session and performance.

I was not successful; can I get feedback?

We are not able to offer feedback after the audition day.

I was not successful, can I join ZAD anyway?

Yes, if you are interested in joining ZAD then please get in touch and we can check availability. Please email zad@zoonation.co.uk for more information on joining.

Where are ZYC training sessions?

All normal training sessions are in central London. You may be asked to work on a project based outside of London; in which case we may be able to offer expenses. However, for any normal training session expenses are not covered.



Do I have to pay for ZYC training sessions?

Yes, the annual ZYC fee is £100 (approx. £33.33 per term). There is also a £30 training deposit per term.

Do I have to pay for ZAD classes?

Yes, £270* is due to cover your 3pm - 6pm ZAD classes per term. However, we do have some scholarships available. If you are successful at joining ZYC, then please speak to us about applying for a scholarship to cover your ZAD fees.

Are ZYC Members paid to perform?

No, we do not pay ZYC members to perform; we see the opportunities we provide at top level venues and productions as a fantastic opportunity, with value added through developing your professional performing experience.

Can ZYC Members perform with other groups?

Yes, you do not have to be exclusive to ZYC, we encourage our members to learn skills and develop networks outside of ZooNation. However, your commitment to our training and performances is paramount. As mentioned above we expect you to be at all ZYC training sessions; competitions, and other rehearsals are not valid excuses not to attend.

Can I perform for ZYC and another group at the same show?

No. We ask that if you are performing with ZYC that you do not perform with another group at the same show unless otherwise agreed with ZooNation.