

ANNUAL REVIEW

2015-16



LEWISHAM YOUTH THEATRE

WELCOME FROM THE TEAM

Since 1987, Lewisham Youth Theatre (LYT) has been delivering free, high quality theatre projects for Lewisham young people. Our decision to offer our service free of charge was a result of working with families who could not otherwise afford to take part. We saw positive changes and benefits to all who engaged, regardless of economic or social background.

Over the past 29 years our work has developed and deepened. Embedded in our work is the belief that inclusive work builds communities and informed and active citizens. This year we worked with a total of **960 young people**, as well as **21 agencies and schools who referred 47% of our new members**.

This year we took **'Exchange'** as our theme across the organisation – a natural progression building on our community play 'Catford Tales' in 2015. We met with young people from Paris, Bristol, Jamaica and Milan; and promoted opportunities for members from across our age groups to meet and share work.

We piloted a successful **Technical Theatre** project, giving training to young people to support on all technical areas of production. This will continue and develop next year, funded by **Arts Council England**.

In June we launched our **BIG Evaluation impact study**, consulting members and stakeholders to discover the **long-term impact of taking part in LYT**. The study will be published in 2017.

Many thanks to our funders for supporting our work and to The Broadway Theatre, our much cherished home.



HELEN STANLEY
LYT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR





192

young people aged 8 to 24 took part in sustained projects



708

young people and families took part in outreach sessions



90

ten-year-olds took part in Headstart resilience project

EXPENDITURE
£218,775

INCOME
£200,741

Management and admin **£13,948**
Direct cost of activities **£204,827**

Grants: **£188,543**
Commissions: **£1,450**
Box office and related income: **£4,184**
Donations/other: **£6,564**

YEAR IN NUMBERS

OCTOBER 2015

Exchange project starts -
Helen & Sheryl visit Paris

AGM led by Members'
Committee

Zoe joins as Administrator



NOVEMBER 2015

Marilyn joins LYT team as
Step Up Coordinator

MARCH / APRIL 2016

Step Up Young Touring
Company: forum theatre
performances in schools
across Lewisham and as
part of 'Catford-Upon-Avon'
Shakespeare Festival at
Broadway Theatre



DECEMBER 2015

Members take part in ITV filming for the Tonight programme

JANUARY 2016

New Technical Theatre project begins

FEBRUARY 2016

Junior Youth Theatre 12-14s performance, George Wood Theatre



JUNE 2016

Junior Youth Theatre 8-12s performances at Broadway Studio Theatre

JULY 2016

Senior Youth Theatre perform at WhatAbout Festival, George Wood Theatre and with LYT storytelling at Lewisham People's Day



"I've been involved with LYT for about 18 years: I was a member of the Senior Youth Theatre, then trained with LYT and directed my first show in 2005.

LYT is important. It helps young people to stay engaged and encourages them to pursue what they enjoy. I have seen children who would hardly speak in week one and by the final show that same person has become a leader of the group. It helped me build self-confidence; LYT had trust in me and gave me incredible opportunities to work with people and companies that helped develop me as a person."

SEBASTIAN CONSTANTINE, 34,
JUNIOR & SENIOR YOUTH THEATRE DIRECTOR





14-19yrs

SENIOR YOUTH THEATRE

37 MEMBERS / NOV. 15 - JUL. 16

'Three Little Words', devised and performed by our Acting Company, toured to WhatAbout Youth Festival (Northampton), Lewisham People's Day and George Wood Theatre (Goldsmiths, University of London).

'Indefinite Alien', devised and performed by our Workshop Company also performed at George Wood Theatre. Both plays explored personal stories of 'belonging'.

This year **five** members started their **Silver Arts Award**, a nationally recognised qualification. This builds on last year's first ever Silver Arts Award, received by Leigh-Ann.

8-12yrs

JUNIOR YOUTH THEATRE

70 MEMBERS / JAN. - JUN. 16

'Our Teacher's a Troll' by Dennis Kelly and **'The Last Word'** by Christina Maiden performed in the Broadway Studio to sell out audiences. This year we ran an extra Workshop group for 24 children as this project is very popular.

JUNIOR YOUTH THEATRE

47 MEMBERS / NOV. 15 - JUL. 16

The Acting Company performed duologues from three different plays written for teenage actors at George Wood Theatre (Goldsmiths, University of London). The Workshop Group explored techniques and skills in weekly sessions. This project was for those new to LYT and those graduating from the younger groups.

12-14yrs



“I studied drama at sixth form but didn't really enjoy it. I dropped out and got a job but didn't really have interest in that either. During this I was seeing my counsellor at CAMHS (Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services) who told me about LYT. I needed a bit of a boost.

In LYT's Young Touring Company, I met other people at the same kind of stage as me. I didn't feel so alone, and it built my confidence. Everyone's nervous so you are all in the same boat! We devised a Forum Theatre play called #Filtered and performed it in different schools: a lot of it was our ideas; we really got an input.

After the project I was a peer mentor on Senior Youth Theatre and then I got myself into a drama college – the National Youth Theatre course 'Playing Up'. I'll get a qualification equivalent to A-Levels, the main focus is drama and that's exactly what I want to do.

I have definitely learnt to be professional and how to deal with my emotions under pressure by talking it out instead of hiding it or lashing out.

LYT are really supportive and they don't just let you go - once you are part of Lewisham Youth Theatre you are always part of it. LYT has given me a path into what I want to do in my future. If I hadn't joined LYT, I would probably still be stuck.”



COURTNEY, 19, STEP UP YOUNG TOURING COMPANY



STEP UP - LIFE SKILLS, MENTORING, THE YOUNG TOURING COMPANY

16-24yrs

23 MEMBERS

Step Up is our daytime project for those not in education, employment or training. It uses drama as a tool to develop employment and life skills and has three distinctive projects:

Life Skills project supports CV-writing, interview preparation, applying for further education as well as signposting to other agencies for further support. Each year we take participants on Industry Visits to meet successful business people across London, who tell the truth about the hard work and how it's not all about the money.

Mentoring Participants are offered group and bespoke one-to-one mentoring sessions to support their next steps into education and work.

Young Touring Company offers real hands-on experience. Successful applicants are supported by professional staff to create a theatre company. They take part in all aspects, both onstage and backstage. They work together to create a piece of interactive Forum Theatre and workshop, where the audience change the outcome. This year the play was about social media and peer pressure and toured to five Lewisham schools.

CHILD & ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROJECT

14-18yrs

9 MEMBERS

This partnership project with CAMHS is in its fourth year. Sessions were held at CAMHS' Lewisham Park site, and used drama to explore social skills, build friendships and confidence. Participants are now attending LYT's core projects.



RICKY BRENT, 13, TECHNICAL THEATRE

"My ambition is to be a professional technician. Sound and lighting is my passion.

When I heard about LYT, I couldn't believe it, it was just what I was looking for. I grabbed the opportunity. It was really hard at first, I didn't know anyone, but there is nowhere else in Lewisham that you can do this sort of thing and get a qualification so I stuck at it. Being with others who share your passion is good. Last year I was a stage manager on LYT's 'Catford Tales' and this year I took Technical Theatre Bronze Arts Award: that can go on your CV.

It's been like a mini work experience – I feel I know more what to expect when I do get a job. You meet so many people and you don't always get on but you have to put that to one side. You need to communicate; I know now if you don't work as a team you won't get the job done."



TECHNICAL THEATRE

12-18yrs

23 MEMBERS / JAN. - JUL. 16

This is our newest project. Young people are able to learn backstage and technical skills and use them in a professional theatre setting. This year young technicians supported on the performance at George Wood Theatre and **10** members achieved their **Bronze Arts Award**. 2017 will see big developments in this project thanks to Arts Council funding.



"Headstart was very powerful. We were taken aback by the quality of the storytelling that emerged over such a short time. We saw the quietest children find their voices, which is no mean feat."

**Jackie Bates, Deputy Head,
Sandhurst School**

HEADSTART - RESILIENCE STORY TELLING

9-10yrs

90 MEMBERS

This Big Lottery funded initiative aims to build good mental health and resilience. LYT worked with year 5s at Holbeach and Sandhurst schools in November and June 2016. We have a robust project to deliver in more Lewisham Schools in 2017.

EARLY YEARS CREATIVITY: PLAYING TO LEARN, LEARNING TO PLAY

80 CHILDREN AND PARENTS

Supported by The Ironmongers' Company, we worked with Kilmore Children's Centre to develop two interactive stories which also toured Lewisham libraries.

MEMBERS' COMMITTEE

25 MEMBERS

Our youth board helps to develop LYT. They run our Annual Review and Christmas event. This year they took part in designing the BIG Evaluation Survey, and the consultation on the future of the Broadway Theatre.

Special thanks: Suha Al-Khayyat/Little Fish Theatre Company, Ellie Barton, Selina Busby, Christine Carnell, Catford South Scouts, The George Wood Theatre, Lucy Govan, Debbie Hughes, Kevin Ireland, Carmel O'Connor & Helen Haylett, Zephreyn Taitte/Pan Intercultural Arts, Beatriz Vidal, Caroline Zihler

Volunteers and Placements:

Many thanks to all 38 people who gave up their time to support our projects. A full list, including work experience and peer mentors, is on our website.

Collaborations and Partners: The Broadway Theatre, CAMHS, Kilmore Children's Centre, Leaving Care Team, The Mayor's NEET Strategy Team, Rose Bruford Drama College, Youth Offending Team, WhatAbout Youth Festival.

Schools: Abbey Manor College, Athelney Primary, Bonus Pastor Catholic College, Brent Knoll, Brindishe Green, Forest Hill, Holbeach Primary, New Woodlands, Prendergast Ladywell, St Mary's C.E Lewisham, Sandhurst Junior, Sedgehill, Torridon Junior

LYT Core Team:

Helen Stanley (Artistic Director), Victoria Shaskan (Executive Director), Sheryl Malcolm (Programmes Manager: Participation), Jennifer Taillefer (Programmes Manager: Production), Marilyn Rice (Step Up Coordinator), Zoe Fidel (Programmes Administrator), Elizabeth Downie (Development Officer)

LYT Members Committee: Abiola, Adina, Alana, Bushra, Dhilan, Dylan, Eliezer, Freya, Georgia, Jahleesa, Joni, Karel, Kayla, Leigh-Ann, Maya, Miriam, Molly, Nicole, Oriana, Rafail, Reece, Sally, Sekai, Shannon, Tyreke

LYT Council of Management: Emma Chalk & Jamiel Thomas (Co-Chair), Dani Moseley (Secretary), Tom Toomse-Smith (Treasurer), Grahame Anderson, Julia Fletcher, Dawn Rowe, Rena Sodhi, Genine Whitehorne

Advisory Board:

Sarah Ricca, Gaby Ojeda Tiulzi, Jane Wilson

Patrons:

Phaldut Sharma, Shirley Greenwood, Polly Teale

Supporters: LYT is a registered charity. This year, grants and donations from the following made our work possible: Artemis Charitable Foundation, Arts Council England, BBC Children in Need, Big Lottery Fund, City Bridge Trust, Nick Heard, Heritage Lottery Fund, Hillcote Trust, Ian Jamieson, The Ironmongers' Company, Lewisham Commissioned Youth Provision, Lewisham Borough Council, St. James's Place Foundation, The Sumner Wilson Charitable Trust, Tom Toomse-Smith, William Wates Memorial Trust.

If you would like to find out more about our individual donors programme, contact Liz Downie on liz@lewishamyouththeatre.com

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