



LEWISHAM YOUTH THEATRE

CELEBRATING
30
YEARS

OF TRANSFORMING
LIVES THROUGH
THEATRE



This year our members, staff team and stakeholders took part in our BIG evaluation, measuring the long-term impact of our work on the well-being and life chances of those who take part. The resulting BIG Impact Report comes at a very appropriate moment in our history, giving us a chance to step back, reflect on where we've come from and consider recommendations for future development. This learning has informed our new Strategic Plan, which will guide our work over the next 5 years as we seek to broaden and deepen our reach and impact.

Looking Back: A Short History of LYT's 30 Years



Before we were LYT, we were ETC - Electric Theatre Company.

Lewisham Council asks us to work with young people from the south of the borough who cannot afford to pay and have little or no experience of drama. The young people surprise everyone with the quality and power of their performances.

We set our core principles:
FREE, NO AUDITION,
HIGH QUALITY

Pre History

1987 - 1993

A committed core artistic team create LYT's first business plan and Lewisham Council commit to long term funding. We move to the Broadway Theatre and employ our first part-time administrator - a former member who has now graduated with a degree in Arts Administration.

We focus on our Senior Youth Theatre and building strong organisational foundations.

Age of Innocence

1999 - 2002

The Highs: Well-established local partnerships now refer 50% of participants. Projects are over-subscribed.

Members take part in the first technical theatre project.

The Lows: Senior Youth Theatre doesn't run for 18 months due to funding cuts.

We review and adapt, moving to a core staff, rather than freelance, delivery model. BBC Children in Need fund the Outreach & Participation staff post.

Age of Extremes

2005 - 2009

Our work continues to expand with the addition of the Step Up for 16-24s and the Technical Theatre project offering backstage training. We receive multi-year funding from the Big Lottery Fund and St. James's Place Foundation. Artistic collaborations with partners including LightWorks, Emergency Exit Arts and Central School of Speech & Drama transform the scale and ambition of our work. We incorporate film and multimedia in all Senior Youth Theatre shows.

Age of Technology

2010 and beyond

1992 - 1999

Age of Discovery

We have no permanent home. We rely heavily on the good will and support of friends.

An international exchange with Project Phakama transforms the way we work. 15 of our members travel to Johannesburg & collaborate with 15 young South Africans to create *If I Were In Your Shoes*.

We see the impact theatre can have to empower and transform young people's lives when involved over a longer term.

"Taking part in LYT helped me decide to study Arts Management at South Bank University. What I gained from LYT was the confidence to try new things in a supportive environment, the importance of hard work and persistence as well as technical and social skills."

Laverne Noel, LYT's first Administrator, now Virtual School Head for Southwark Virtual School

2002 - 2005

Age of Reason

The Youth Theatre expands to work with ages 8 to 21. We create 'Roar!' - Saturday Children's Theatre performances with 25% of tickets free to families in need. Local schools refer targeted children to the Junior Youth Theatre.

In a second collaboration with Phakama, senior members work with unaccompanied young refugees, spending the days at The Horniman Museum and nights at Dulwich College to create *Breaking The Glass Box*, a site-specific devised performance.

Inspired by this collaboration, we work to embed young people's voices at the heart of Lewisham Youth Theatre.



213

young people
aged 8-24
take part in
LYT's core
projects

403

young people
participate in
interactive
outreach
sessions

343

drama sessions,
mentoring, trips
and activities
take place across
the year

19

young people
complete their
Bronze and
Silver Arts
Awards

**2017
In
Numbers**

39

young people
see 10
professional
theatre
performances

1

new play
commission
*15 Short Scenes
About Love*,
by playwright and
former member,
Dani Moseley

555

audience
members see
LYT
performances

An independent evaluator analyses the data collected through our BIG Evaluation and finds that participation in LYT results in a range of skills, abilities, professional and academic benefits, personal development and an enhanced sense of place within the community. The report identifies the areas of LYT's approach and ways of working that make significant impact and provides recommendations for the future:

- ✓ More of the same
- ✓ Review of the theory of change
- ✓ Set out practice and aspirations around young people's leadership
- ✓ More collaboration and peer exchange
- ✓ Consider ways to further develop community links
- ✓ Consider expanded early years provision

You can read the full report on our website:

<http://www.lewishamyouththeatre.com/2017/05/17/big-impact/>

The Present Day

Our Future

All young people have a powerful voice and a right to be heard.

LYT's vision statement

Using the BIG Impact Report and its recommendations as a starting point, we have developed a new Strategic Plan, with a refreshed mission statement, that will guide our work over the next 5 years.

Our new strategic priorities are:

1. Improve the transferable life skills of Lewisham young people aged 3 – 24 by engaging them in drama workshops, performances, backstage work and events management activities that provide practical opportunities to achieve and progress.
2. Increase our members' ambition and access to further opportunities through the delivery of projects and schemes that focus on further life pathways.
3. Share our expertise and working practice with other youth organisations across the capital, nationally and internationally
4. Achieve sustainable financial, staff and operational resources that will allow us to deliver against our strategic priorities.

A full strategic plan will be published on our website later this year.



[My daughter] loved every minute of it. She has gained confidence and increased concentration in learning scripts. She has learnt to take responsibility in a small way for influencing outcomes for herself by dedicating time to a project outside of school.

Parent



66 participants aged 8 to 11

Junior Youth Theatre 1

45 young people took part in sessions and 42 performed in two performances: *Monster Munch* by Jack Sanderson-Thwaite & *SuperHeroes* by Ian McWethy

21 young people took part in weekly skills session in summer term

22 participants aged 12 to 14

Junior Youth Theatre 2

Young people perform a showcase of scenes from 4 plays about first encounters, mysterious changes and the drama that connects us

I enjoyed meeting new people and putting on an amazing performance together. It has made me more confident and made me more in control with emotions on stage. Also more independent as I had to bring the work home.

Performer

Our Youth Theatres

Sessions for young people aged 8 to 21 run after school and on a Saturday morning. Each age group has weekly rehearsals over 3 to 4 months with an intensive rehearsal week falling in a school holiday. The final productions this year were at our home, the Broadway Studio Theatre.



68 participants aged 14 to 21

Senior Youth Theatre

In Autumn 2016, 19 young people took part in introductory skills sessions and 16 previous members explored potential exchange opportunities with other youth groups.

In Summer 2017 45 young people took part in our two Senior Companies, performing our 30th Anniversary production - *30 Short Scenes About Love*

"I was really impressed with the quality of work the youth theatre delivered. I actually cried! I thought to myself wow, youth of today are actually really inspiring."

Audience Member



The Workshop Company performed scenes from LYTs plays over the last 30 years, woven together with verbatim & physical theatre.

Playwright and former member Dani Moseley worked with the Acting Company to create *15 Short Scenes About Love* – a beautiful love story spanning 30 years of one family.



Members Committee

50 participants aged 11 to 23

Participants from across the youth theatre make up our youth leadership board. This year they have:

Represented the Membership: The Members Committee helped develop the BIG Evaluation questionnaire and supported on focus groups with ex-members, parents and referring professionals. They were also involved in the interview process for our new Step Up Programmes Manager.

Planned Events: In December 2017, Tyreke and Raf organised a Christmas Event as the Leadership part of their Silver Arts Award. 30 members took part in masterclasses in mask skills and latex make-up effects.

Being a member here has provided me with the skills I need to develop into an amazing actor and given me opportunities for meeting people in the industry and places of possible future work. [It has helped me] develop my confidence when performing and just [made me] be generally happier.

Tyreke

Represented LYT: As London Youth Gold Badge holders we were invited to their 130th Birthday event. Raf & Sekai met the Duke of Edinburgh at Buckingham Palace

Supported Projects: 19 members supported projects as Peer Mentors in the drama sessions and 7 supported backstage as part of our Technical Crew. Thanks to Awards for All funding, 5 members received training & then led on Front of House at all our youth theatre shows.

The Step Up Programme

35 participants aged 14 to 24

Step Up is a daytime programme for those aged 16+ who are not in education, employment or training. The programme includes a special outreach project with Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services. Now in its 6th year, this project uses drama to develop life skills and pathways to further opportunities.

Life Skills – 10 young people took part in employability skills sessions and industry visits. Special thanks to Producer Jules Hussey, Encore Filmhouse and Rushes Creative Studio for sharing skills and their professional stories.

Young Touring Company – Working alongside our professional team, 5 young people gained work experience as performers, workshop facilitators and backstage assistants as they created and toured their own performance-workshop to Lewisham schools and youth setting. 163 young people took part in 7 interactive performance-workshops about managing pressure and stress.

It has helped to show me back to the path of possibility, it has helped me have more faith in myself and become more confident in pursuing my aspirations.

Participant

Outreach Project with Child & Adolescence Mental Health Services – 8 young people aged 14-18 involved in CAMHS took part in workshops at Kaleidoscope and at LYT. Participants will be supported to take part in LYT's core youth theatre in the coming year.

Progression Pathways – Step Up participants access a range of opportunities to help them progress, including 1 to 1 mentoring sessions, volunteering and work experience.

This year we supported participants to:

- ✓ Secure a place on the National Youth Theatre's Playing Up programme
- ✓ Gain further work experience through volunteering on LYT projects
- ✓ Get back into education
- ✓ Gain paid employment through LYT



“Because of [my daughter’s] disability, she thought there were things that might not be open to her. But this [project] is just about her skills and her passions. It’s really opened up her mind to the opportunities that might be available to her.”

Parent

28 participants aged 12 to 18

Our Technical Theatre projects provide training in lighting, sound, stage management and design to young people aged 12-18.

12 took part in an introductory workshop project in November – December 2016

18 took part in a Technical Bronze Arts Award project in April – July 2017.

14 participants supported backstage on our Youth Theatre productions and will gain a Bronze Level Arts Award.



A
Special
Congratulations to 3
members achieving Silver
Arts Award this year. Here’s
how they’re continuing their
artistic journeys:

Tyreke is studying at the
BRIT School

Raf is studying performing arts
at Islington College

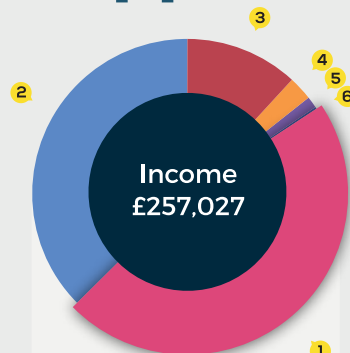
Bushra is studying a drama
degree at Southbank
University



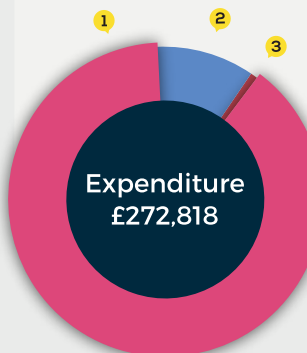
Technical Theatre Project

How we make the work happen

This year we have changed our financial year end dates to bring our accounting period in line with our programme year. Our finances this year span 17 months from April 2016 to August 2017.



1. Statutory & Lottery
£120,350
2. Trusts/Foundation
£96,301
3. Corporate Donations
£30,311
4. Individual Donations
£6,465
5. Box Office Income
£3,069
6. Other
£531



1. Direct Charitable
Activities
£241,777
2. Support Costs
£28,074
3. Governance Costs
£2,967

Balance of Funds at 31 Aug 2017

1. Restricted Funds
£16,656
 2. Unrestricted Funds
Designated to
Projects
£14,705
 3. Reserves
£52,861
- Total**
£84,222

LYT is a registered charity and we rely on a range of grants and donations in order to make our work possible.

This year, our work was made possible by grants from: Artemis Charitable Foundation, Arts Council England, BBC Children in Need, Big Lottery Fund, Henry Smith Charity, Hillcote Trust, Lewisham Borough Council, PIMCO Foundation Europe, St. James’s Place Foundation, The Sumner Wilson Charitable Trust, Surrey Square Trust, Trusthouse Charitable Foundation, William Wates Memorial Trust and Youth First.

We would also like to thank our regular donors for investing in the wellbeing of Lewisham young people: Angela Shakespeare, Ian Jamieson, Nick Heard, Nitya Bolam and Tom Toomse-Smith.

If you would like to find out more about how you can help make a difference for Lewisham young people, contact us at development@lewishamyouththeatre.com

Special thanks:

Carys Williams (RADA), Christine Carnell (Holbeach Primary), Carmel O'Connor & Helen Haylett (The Broadway Theatre), Rebecca Packwood (Age Exchange), Judith Purkiss (Rushey Green Primary), Jules Hussey, Jim Coe, Emily Doherty (National Youth Theatre), Mark Perry (Lewisham Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services), Liz Dart, James Lee, Andy Thomas and Nancy Stridgen (Lewisham Culture & Community Development Team), Henry Raby (National Association of Youth Theatres) and London Youth.

Referral Partners:

Lewisham Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services, Family Action, Job Centre Plus, Lewisham Baseline, Lewisham Leaving Care Team, Lewisham Children's Social Service; Lewisham Homes, Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust, Targeted Family Support, Young Lewisham Project and Youth First

Local Primary Schools:

Athelney, Brindishe Green, Holbeach, John Ball, Myatt Gardens, Rushey Green

Local Secondary Schools:

Abbey Manor, Brent Knoll, Forest Hill, New Woodlands, Prendergast Ladywell, Sydenham, Sedgell, St. Matthews Academy

Volunteers and Placements:

Many thanks to all 29 volunteers and placements, and 24 youth theatre members who gave up their time to support on our projects. A full list, including work experience and peer mentors, can be found on our website.

LYT Core Team:

Helen Stanley (Artistic Director)
Victoria Shaskan (Executive Director)
Sheryl Malcolm (Programmes Manager, Participation)
Charlie Risius (Programmes Administrator, from Jan 2017)
Laurel Ashton (Individual & Corporate Fundraiser)

Thanks and good luck to team members who left LYT this year:

Jennifer Taillefer, now at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts
Marilyn Rice, now at Lyric Hammersmith
Zoë Fidel, now at Greenwich Theatre
Elizabeth Downie, now at High Tide Theatre

Freelancers:

Annekoos Arlman, Ben Moon, Dani Moseley, Flo Hazard, Jen Camillin, Kat Gill, Lewis Ashby-Whelan, Louise Balhatchet, Louise Dickinson, Nicole Alison, Sebastian Constantine, Simone Watson, Stella Cecil, Subira Damali, Zoë Fidel

LYT Members Committee:

Abbie, Abiola, Adina, Alana, Bushra, Dhilan, Dylan, Eliezer, Georgia, Joni, Kayla, Kewen, Leigh-Ann, Maya, Miriam, Molly, Nicole, Oriana, Rafail, Reece, Sally, Sekai, Tyreke.

LYT Council of Management:

Dani Moseley, Genine Whitehorne, Grahame Anderson, Jamiel Thomas, Rena Sodhi, Tom Toomse-Smith (Treasurer).

Advisory Board:

Jane Wilson

Patrons:

Mike Wilson CBE, Phaldut Sharma, Shirley Greenwood

LYT Principal Supporters:



Sponsors of the Annual Review 2017:



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