

ANNUAL REVIEW 2017/18



LEWISHAM YOUTH THEATRE

MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

It's been quite a year – great shows, new writing and amazing opportunities for our members both within and outside of LYT.

This year the stories of Shakespeare were our unifying theme across the whole youth theatre. Although Shakespeare wrote some 400 years ago, the tales still speak to us today but the language can sometimes be a little daunting. I know I felt this growing up. I wanted our young people to explore the stories, the characters and the ideas for themselves and get to know this amazing playwright.

It wasn't just the young people who had things to learn. Myself and Sheryl (Participation Manager) adapted Shakespeare for the 8-11s with help from our Members' Committee. Our Step Up Programme Manager Sophie Ellerby, now writer-in-residence at Pentabus Theatre, worked with our Senior Workshop Company and Young Touring Company to adapt Shakespeare to the lives of young people today. And our Senior Acting Company updated *Twelve* by Pia Ashberry – originally commissioned by LYT 15 years ago – for a new generation.

Throughout the year, our members have been able to expand their horizons: they've seen professional theatre at the Young Vic and Shakespeare's Globe; taken part in masterclasses at the National Theatre and Royal Academy of Dramatic Art; had a professional visit to BBC3's production team; visited North London youth theatre Company 3; and planned the inspirational *Opening Doors* event with creative professionals.

We're incredibly proud of our members moving on to exciting new opportunities this year, and we wish them success on the next steps in their journeys.



Helen Stanley
Artistic Director



"LYT is important as an avenue for children with Autism to learn life and social skills otherwise denied them in a world that doesn't always listen. [My son has gained] awareness of others' emotional needs. He has revelled in his mentoring role and is much more open and articulate in conversation as a result."
Parent of Participant with Autism



"It makes me feel more confident so that when I'm in the big world, and when I say a speech it could change the world"

Participant, age 9



YEAR IN NUMBERS

- **4** new plays adapting Shakespeare stories written with and for young people
- **17** young people received Bronze Arts Awards
- **70** young people went on **9** theatre trips
- **120** young people performed or crewed in **6** productions
- **245** young people aged 8-24 took part in LYT's core projects
- **446** young people participated in interactive outreach sessions
- **668** audience members saw LYT performances

OUR OUTREACH PROJECTS

Our projects to help young people get to know and feel comfortable coming to LYT: running free taster sessions in schools and youth services around Lewisham, this year we delivered:

CAMHS Creative Sessions – creative sessions with young people involved in Child & Adolescent Mental Health service resulting in production of their own radio play *Alex's Adventure*

Brent Knoll Project – social and emotional skills sessions with Year 11 students from Brent Knoll Special School for young people with complex learning difficulties including autism. Young Touring Company members, using their new Forum theatre skills, assisted on the project as paid work experience.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- **Dean, Rachel, Nathan and Subira** – starting the National Youth Theatre's highly prestigious *Playing Up* accredited drama course
- **Dinesh** – accepted onto the RADA Technical Theatre foundation degree
- **Emanuel** – starting the theatre and performance degree at London Southbank University
- **Gemma** – starting her degree in Television Production at University of Westminster
- **Jamilla** who travelled to the USA over the summer as a Camp America counsellor
- **Jason, Emanuel and Rav** who took up work experience at BBC3
- **Lauren** – starting her Professional Musicianship degree at the British & Irish Modern Music Institute
- **Ricky** – starting the Production Arts course at BRIT School and touring with *Cilla – The Musical*
- **Tyreke** – for securing a place in the National Youth Theatre
- **Zhane and Ricky** for taking part in RADA's Youth Company – Theatre Production over summer '18



FOLLOW THE LEADER

Young Touring Company, 16-24s
A modern-day take on the themes of *Macbeth*
written by Sophie Ellerby
Schools Tour in March 2018
Catford Fringe Festival, June 2018



"Before doing this project Shakespeare made me feel nervous. Now, I feel confident."

Participant, age 12



"LYT has been the single biggest thing that has prepared my daughter for Secondary school."

Parent

THE PLAY'S THE THING: LOVE FOOLED

Junior Youth Theatre, 12-14s
An evening of Shakespearean love scenes in original text, translation and adaptation
Performed April 2018

Technical Crew

Technical theatre graduates supported backstage on Junior Youth Theatre productions

Peer Mentors

Older youth theatre members supported in rehearsals and production week of Junior Youth Theatre productions

THE TEMPEST

adapted by Helen Stanley
And

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

adapted by Sheryl Malcolm
Junior Youth Theatre, 8-11s
Performed June 2018



CLASSIC STORIES; NEW VOICES

A YEAR EXPLORING THE STORIES OF SHAKESPEARE

TWELVE by Pia Ashberry

Senior Acting Company, 16-21s
A modern adaptation of *Twelfth Night*
Originally commissioned by LYT in 2003
Performed July 2018



"It has helped me understand all the jobs in the theatre."

Tech participant

Technical Theatre Production Group

Young people aged 11 – 14 supported on costume, tech and stage management of Senior Youth Theatre



MUCH TO DO by Sophie Ellerby

Senior Workshop Company, 14 – 17s
A modern adaptation of *Much Ado About Nothing*
Performed July 2018



"I feel free, I feel happy, and I feel proud because I did a performance and I did it loud and the only thing I need to do now is be proud of myself."

JYT1 Participant

"I've gained A LOT more confidence. When my friend was getting bullied I felt more able to stand up for him than I did before"

JYT2 Workshop Group Participant

OTHER PROJECTS

Workshop Groups: Introductory 'workshop' projects for each age group and technical theatre helped participants gain new skills, meet new people and learn about the world of LYT. About half of these participants went on to take part in another LYT project this year.

Life Skills: Young people aged 16-24 worked with the Step Up director and a drama therapist to develop life and employability skills. They got to see the creative industries in action with a trip to the set of BBC3's *People Just Do Nothing*.

OPENING DOORS: MEET THE THEATRE SPECIALISTS

"I think it will help me understand the opportunities I have and build determination to pursue what I enjoy doing."

Audience Member

Opening Doors was a sold-out public panel discussion with professionals from across the creative industries.

Members' Committee (LYT's youth leadership board) planned this brand new project. They created the marketing; researched and chose panellists; came up with the questions and moderated the discussion. The panellists discussed their professional stories and gave advice to young people seeking to enter the creative industries.

You can listen to the full panel discussion on our website:
<http://www.lewishamyouththeatre.com/2018/01/19/opening-doors/>

Special Thank You to Jade Anouka who, after taking part in the panel discussion, offered the Members' Committee free tickets to see a special screening of Black Panther at PeckhamPlex.



Panellists from left: Bryony Rumble (Props Maker); Michael Maynard (Corporate Trainer); Wendy Spon (Casting Director); Sope Dirisu (Actor); Rosamunde Hutt (Director); Jade Anouka (Actor); Helen Smith (Stage Manager)



"What I learnt is how to be a leader... How to ask interesting questions... Being able to listen to everyone... how to manage time...organisation and patience...We knew it was our event."

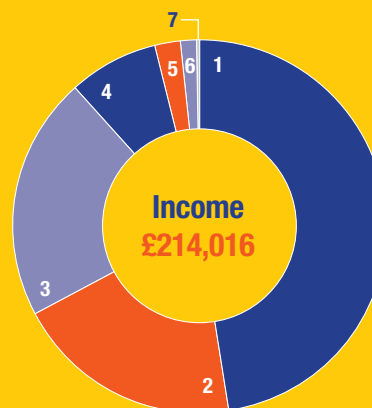
Members' Committee feedback

"It motivated me to go to uni."

Audience Member



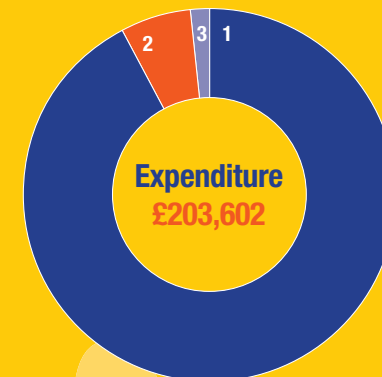
HOW WE MAKE THE WORK HAPPEN



1	Trusts & Foundations	£102,012
2	Corporate Donations	£42,150
3	Statutory Funding	£45,330
4	Lottery Funding	£16,500
5	Individual & Box Office Donations	£4,526
6	Partnerships	£3,193
7	Other	£305

Our work this year was made possible by grants and donations from: BBC Children in Need, Garfield Weston Foundation, Henry Smith Charity, Hillcote Trust, Jimmy Dixon Leadership Fund, Lewisham Borough Council, Mercers' Company Charity, PIMCO Foundation Europe, People's Postcode Lottery, St. James's Place Foundation, Team London and LDN Thrive, Sir William Boreman's Foundation, Sumner Wilson Charitable Trust and the William Wates Memorial Trust.

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



1	Direct Charitable Activities	£187,943
2	Support Costs	£12,426
3	Governance Costs	£3,233

Balance of Funds at 31 Aug 2018

Restricted Funds	£5,210
Unrestricted (Designated to Projects)	£30,421
Unrestricted Reserves	£59,005
TOTAL	£94,636

Sadly, our Patron Mike Wilson CBE, passed away in February 2018. Mike supported LYT for 18 years, enabling our charity to grow and inspiring hundreds of Lewisham young people. He will be missed by us all.

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

THANKS

Special Thanks To: Cllr Brenda Dacres; Carmel O'Connor, Helen Haylett and Chris Birkett (the Broadway Theatre); Christine Carnell (Holbeach Primary), Ian Thomas (Chief Exec, Lewisham Council), Jade Anouka, Emily Doherty (National Youth Theatre), Georgina Carey (BBC3), Mark Perry (CAMHS), Len Duvall (London Assembly), Liz Dart, Andy Thomas and Nancy Stridgen (Lewisham Culture Team), London Youth, Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, Ruth Perrin (Supersets) and all the panellists from the Opening Doors industry panel.

Referral Partners: Lewisham Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), Islington Social Services, Lewisham Childrens' Social Care, Lewisham Virtual Schools, Lewisham Homes, Targeted Family Support, Way4Ward, Youth Engagement Lewisham.

Local Primary School Partners: Athelney, Holbeach, Kender, Myatt Gardens, Rushey Green.

Local Secondary School Partners: Abbey Manor, Bonus Pastor, Brent Knoll, Forest Hill, Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy, New Woodlands, Prendergast Ladywell, Sedgehill, and Sydenham School.

Volunteers and Placements: Many thanks to all 34 volunteers and placements, and 38 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)
Charlie Risius (Programmes Administrator)
Louise Balhatchet (Technical Programmes Manager)
Sheryl Malcolm (Participation Manager)
Sophie Ellerby (Step Up Programme Manager)
Thanks and good luck to Sophie Ellerby, now writer in residence at Pentabus Theatre

Freelancers: Amanda Mascarenhas, Annekoos Arlman, Arne Pohlmeier, Ben Moon, Chloe Edwards-Wood, Junior James, Kyra Hall-Gelly, Laura Wheeler, Laurel Ashton, Lewis Ashby-Whelan, Louise Dickinson, Maria Avramidou, Molly Cox, Ruby Bender, Sally Hardcastle, Sebastian Constantine, Zoe Fidel.

Paid Work Experience: Bushra Baig, Emanuel Mendes-Da-Silva, Dean Phillips, Jamilla Cheke, Michael Sookhan, Rachel Isaac-Wilson, Subira Damali.

LYT Members' Committee: Abiola, Amaarah, Angel, Ava, Daniel, Daquan, Dejuan, Dhillan, Dylan, Eysa, Emanuel, Eve, Fran, Jason, Jemima, Jodie, Joni, Kewen, Kieran, Leighton, Leila, Lynette, Malgorzata, Nathan, Nayah, Nicole, Oriana, Ruby, Sally, Shannon, Zhane.

LYT Council of Management: Genine Whitehome (Chair), Dani Moseley (Secretary), Tom Toomse-Smith (Treasurer), Ed King, Grahame Anderson, Jamiel Thomas, Mairi Hayes, Stella Jeffery

Advisory Board: Jane Wilson

Patron: Phaldut Sharma, Shirley Greenwood, In memory of Mike Wilson CBE

LYT Principal Supporters:



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Registered Charity 297075

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