

PRESS RELEASE
19 Sept 2017

Lyric Hammersmith and Digital Theatre+ announce a new pioneering digital partnership.

The Lyric Hammersmith and Digital Theatre+ today announce an innovative new partnership which will see the creative process of theatre-making brought vividly to life on film and widen access to the secrets of creativity - as leading practitioners reveal their craft through conversation, discussion, workshops and unique behind-the-scenes footage of life in one of the UK's leading producing theatres.

The newly formed partnership between the **Lyric Hammersmith** and **Digital Theatre+** is focused on the creation of new digital learning resources, which will be available to schools and students nationally and internationally through the DT+ education platform, and the promotion of creative education in the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham where the Lyric is based.

In its first year, the partnership will encompass a range of initiatives, including the creation of a number of short digital films and documentaries that illuminate the life of a leading UK producing theatre. The first of these will focus on the making of *The Seagull*, the Lyric's major new Autumn production, which opens on Wednesday 11 October 2017 and will follow the creation of the show from the earliest days through to opening night. The films will include interviews with theatre-makers and theatre staff from across the Lyric and highlight the Lyric's extensive programmes for young people.

Over time, it is intended that Digital Theatre will also digitally capture a selection of Lyric Hammersmith productions. The films will be publicly available for a limited release through the Lyric's website, following which they will be available to schools through the DT+ website as part of a new resource called 'Lyric 360' which will bring together these in-depth materials and resources to form a unique insight into a working theatre.

The partners will also create DT+ Studio, a series of filmed masterclasses in different areas of theatre practice, working with leading theatre artists and Young Lyric participants.

Schools in Hammersmith & Fulham will benefit from unique access to the new resources and Digital Theatre's website. All local state secondary schools will have the opportunity to attend screenings of Digital Theatre films in the Lyric's cinema accompanied by an insight talk from one of Digital Theatre's film-makers. In addition, these schools will benefit from discounted access to Digital Theatre's subscription services to support drama teaching for their students.

Lyric Hammersmith Lyric Square, King Street, London W6 0QL • Tel +44 (0)20 8741 6850 • www.lyric.co.uk

Chair **Sir William Atkinson** • Artistic Director **Sean Holmes** • Executive Director **Sian Alexander** • Registered Charity No. 278518 • Registered Company No. 1443809

DIGITAL THEATRE+



The Lyric will programme a number of Digital Theatre+ captured theatre productions on the Big Screen in Lyric Square as part of the Hammersmith London Summer Festival, a free public festival that takes place each summer.

Digital Theatre + will also make use of the Lyric's state of the art facilities, including its film studio, edit suite and cinema during the partnership and both partners are committed to working together to identify further opportunities to provide digital skills development for young people as part of the Lyric's extensive Young Lyric programme and its work to provide pathways into creative careers for young people from all backgrounds.

Sian Alexander, Executive Director for the Lyric Hammersmith said "This innovative new partnership combines the work of a leading UK producing theatre, the Lyric Hammersmith, with the digital expertise and reach of Digital Theatre to create a range of insightful new digital learning resources for young people and to enable a greater number of people to enjoy and access the Lyric's work. We are excited for the potential of this creative collaboration which is enabled by the fantastic new facilities in our recently extended and refurbished building and we look forward to continuing to develop this partnership over a number of years."

Fiona Lindsay, Digital Theatre's Creative Producer added, "Our partnership with the Lyric Hammersmith will demonstrate how to maximize the potential of live work so that it has reach that extends beyond boundaries and constraints. Together, we will forge a global strategic creative, digital and cultural learning partnership that will ensure that students and teachers have access to content that motivates, inspires and that is relevant to them. We share the Lyric's commitment to young people and emerging artists and will endeavor to harness their pioneering spirit with our digital expertise to develop a new form of digital cultural learning.

Theatre has always been a fusion of the arts and technology. In the twenty-first century this can be truly transformative. With the accelerating role of broadcast theatre plus live performance in today's creative and educational landscape, it is vital for arts organisations to initiate new ways of collaborating and this ambitious new partnership does that."

NOTES TO EDITORS

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About the Lyric Hammersmith

The Lyric Hammersmith is one of the UK's leading producing theatres. For more than one hundred and twenty years it has been responsible for creating some of the UK's most adventurous and acclaimed theatrical work. It has gained a national reputation for its work with and for children and young people and creates pathways into the arts for young talent from all backgrounds, helping to diversify our industry. Recent productions include our critically acclaimed annual pantomimes, the smash hit *Bugsy Malone*, the international tour and co-production with Filter Theatre of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and a new UK production of international phenomenon, *Terror*.

The Lyric's dual commitment to producing the highest quality contemporary theatre alongside nurturing the creativity of young people is what makes it unique within the cultural ecology of the UK. It is a local theatre rooted in its community with a national and international reputation for the quality and innovation of its artistic work.

About Digital Theatre+

Founded in 2009, Digital Theatre+ is the world's leading educational platform for English and the Performing Arts, providing over 3 million students, within schools, colleges and universities, across 65 countries, with access to 800+ theatre productions and educational resources.

We collaborate with renowned theatre companies, actors and creatives to capture live performances in stunning quality and bring you insights from behind the scenes; we curate the very best productions from over 50 of the world's leading arts organisations; and we commission educational resources from leading practitioners and academics.

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DT+ is constantly evolving, with more productions, interviews, and written content being added every month. In fact, the content available on the platform nearly tripled in 2016:

- 370+ classic, contemporary and international productions, with many exclusive to DT+
- 260+ exclusive interviews exploring the dramatic, technical theatre-making process, as well as experimental, post-dramatic and applied theatre
- 180+ essays, documentaries, lectures, and study guides, covering theatre history, context, language analysis, encyclopaedia entries, and practical technique

DT+ improves student engagement and exam results by bringing the books and plays on the English and Drama curricula to life, and is recommended by exam boards. That's why teachers in over 1,000 schools, colleges and universities, already subscribe.

Currently booking at the Lyric Hammersmith

The Seagull

Tuesday 03 October – Saturday 04 November 2017

Mon-Sat 7.30pm. Also Sat 2.30pm (excluding 7 October) & Wed 1.30pm (25 October & 01 November only) & Thu 19 Oct at 1.30pm.

Free First Night: Tuesday 03 October. For more information: www.lyric.co.uk

Previews: Wednesday 04 – Tuesday 10 October 2017 | Press Night: Wednesday 11 October 2017 at 7pm

Preview & Mid-week Matinees: £15, £20 | Tickets: £15, £20, £25, £30, £35, £40.

No booking fee.

Open Captioned Performance: Saturday 28 October 2:30pm

Audio Described Performance: Saturday 28 October 7:30pm

Jack and the Beanstalk

Saturday 18 November 2017 – Saturday 06 January 2018

Various evening and matinee performance times. Please see www.lyric.co.uk

Free First Night: Saturday 18 November at 6pm. For more information: www.lyric.co.uk

Previews: Tuesday 21–Friday 24 November 2017 | Press Night: Saturday 25 November 2017 at 6pm

Preview Tickets: £15, £20 | Tickets: £15, £20, £25, £30, £35, £40 | Schools' matinees: £15, £20

Family Ticket: £75 (limited availability). No booking fee.

Relaxed Performance (School Performance): Wednesday 06 December 1:30pm

Open Captioned Performance: Friday 15 December 7pm

BSL Performance: Saturday 16 December 2pm

Audio Described Performance: Sunday 17 December 5:30pm

Raymond Briggs' Father Christmas

Wednesday 22 November – Sunday 24 December 2017

For full schedule: www.lyric.co.uk

Tickets: £10. No booking fee.

Joe Stilgoe's Christmas at the Lyric

Monday 04, 11 and 18 December 2017

Performances 7.30pm

Tickets: £15, £20, £25, £35, £40. No booking fee.

Things I Know to be True

Thursday 11 January 2018 – Saturday 03 February 2018

Free First Night: Thursday 11 January. For more information: www.lyric.co.uk

Tickets: £15, £20, £25, £35, £40. No booking fee.

Open Captioned Performance: Saturday 27 January 2:30pm

Audio Described Performance: Saturday 27 January 7.30pm

Fatherland

Friday 25 May – Saturday 23 June 2018

Mon-Thu & Sat 7.30pm; Fri 8pm

Also Sat & Wed 2.30pm (excluding Sat 26 May & Wed 30 May. No performance on Mon 28 May)

Free First Night: Friday 25 May at 7.30pm. For more information: www.lyric.co.uk

Previews: Saturday 26 – Wednesday 30 May 2018

Press Performances: Thursday 31 May at 7pm

Preview Tickets: £15, £20 | Tickets: £15, £20, £25, £35, £40.

Free First Night

The Lyric is proud to call Hammersmith their home. In 2016 they celebrated the 20th anniversary of their Free First Night scheme, part of their long term partnership with the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, through which they give free tickets to people who live or work locally. Through this scheme last year they provided 2,354 Free First Night tickets to people who may not have had an opportunity to see theatre before. And as part of this commitment to the local community, they also provided 2,000 tickets to Hammersmith & Fulham schools. For full details including dates of future Free First Nights, www.lyric.co.uk