

PRESS RELEASE
8 September 2017



Lyric Hammersmith announces the newly formed Lyric Young Company to develop young acting talent.

- The Lyric Young Company is newly created to help aspiring young actors and is generously supported by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and the McGrath Charitable Trust.
- Established to assist the development of actors from diverse backgrounds who have no access to professional training towards next steps within the industry.
- Anne-Louise Sarks announced as the Lyric Young Company's Artistic Director.
- Auditions to take place on 16/21 September 2017.

The Lyric Young Company will establish an ensemble of 15 actors through auditions who will work and train two nights a week over nine months with international director Anne-Louise Sarks (*Seventeen* Lyric Hammersmith) Nicholai La Barrie (Director of *Young People*, Lyric Hammersmith), Sean Holmes (Artistic Director, Lyric Hammersmith) and the Lyric's Artistic Associates.

The Lyric Young Company will create a brand new show for a two week run at the Lyric in June 2018 and perform a work in progress in March 2018 as part of the Lyric's Evolution Festival, which celebrates and platforms the work of younger artists. The Lyric Young Company will also provide opportunities for aspiring creatives including designers and directors to work alongside leading theatre practitioners in realising company shows.

Lyric Young Company members will be part of the Lyric for a year and will receive mentoring, careers advice and pastoral support from the Lyric team. They will also be invited to Lyric press nights and other Lyric events and receive free Young Lyric membership for a year entitling them to access cheap tickets, additional classes and activities and a wide range of other benefits.

Sean Holmes, Artistic Director said, "I am thrilled to announce the launch of this all new Lyric Young Company. Led by visionary Australian director Anne-Louise Sarks, young Londoners from all backgrounds will create work of vision, relevance and surprise, building on the unique energy of the Lyric. Making world class theatre whilst empowering the creative instincts of young people."

Anne-Louise Sarks, newly appointed Artistic Director of the Lyric Young Company said, "This is such a rare opportunity - full of possibility and freedom. I'm thrilled to be working with the Lyric to create an ensemble of the most talented young artists in London. It's a unique chance to build a company of the most exciting actors and theatre makers and to start from scratch to build a language together and make new work specifically for the amazing spaces at the Lyric. All of our most celebrated artists have begun in collaboration with an ensemble. This is the next generation of talent and we are making a new work specifically for them. It will be a thing to behold. I can't wait to start."



Anne-Louise Sarks

In 2017 Anne-Louise directed *Seventeen* for the Lyric Hammersmith, *Minnie & Liraz* for Melbourne Theatre Company, *Merchant of Venice* for Bell Shakespeare and *Testament of Mary* for Malthouse Theatre.

Recently for Belvoir Street Theatre Anne-Louise has directed *Jasper Jones*, *Seventeen* and *Stories I want to tell you in person*; she directed and co-wrote *Elektra/Orestes*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Nora* and *Medea*. Sarks was also assistant director on *The Wild Duck* and dramaturg on *Thyestes*. In 2015 Anne-Louise directed a new production of hers and co-writer Kate Mulvaney's modern day imagining of *Medea* at The Gate Theatre in London to critical acclaim. *Medea* won five 2013 Sydney Theatre Awards including Best Direction, Best Mainstage Production and Best New Australian Work. It was also awarded an AWGIE for Best Stage Play and in 2013 was nominated for four prestigious Helpmann Awards including Best Direction, Best New Australian Work and Best Play. Silo Theatre Company's production marks the New Zealand premiere of *Medea*.

Anne-Louise's other theatre credits include *The Fiery Maze* (Malthouse Theatre Company and Sydney Festival); *The Seed* (Melbourne Theatre Company); *The Nest*, *Yuri Wells* and *By Their Own Hand* (The Hayloft Project). She has also worked as dramaturg for post (Zoë Coombs Marr, Mish Grigor and Natalie Ros) on *Oedipus Schmoedipu's* (Belvoir and Melbourne Arts House) and *Ich Nibber Dibber* (Sydney Festival).

Anne-Louise was Resident Director at Belvoir Street Theatre, Sydney from 2013-2015. In 2011, Anne-Louise was Director in Residence at the Malthouse Theatre Company in Melbourne and from 2010-2013 was Artistic Director of the independent theatre company The Hayloft Project.

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For more information visit www.lyric.co.uk.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

The Lyric Hammersmith is one of the UK's leading producing theatres. It is a recognised leader in creating pathways into the arts for young talent from all backgrounds, helping to diversify the theatre workforce. The creation of a new Lyric Young Company complements and builds on the Lyric's existing Next Generation programme, creating a vital stepping stone for young adults from under-represented backgrounds to access a performing arts career.

The Lyric's Artistic Associates are, Jude Christian, Paule Constable, Joel Horwood, Ola Ince, Ferdie Roberts, Tal Rosner, Simon Stephens and Joel Horwood.



Auditions

Auditions will take place on either 16 September 10am-4pm, 21 September 6:30-8:30pm
Call backs: 23 September 10am-1pm

This opportunity is for those aged 18 – 25 years old who have not yet received formal training or worked professionally.

The fee to be part of the Lyric Young Company is £70 per term x 3 terms. This can be paid in instalments of £35 per half term. Bursaries are also available.

To register and for more information please visit www.lyric.co.uk
or email becky.martin@lyric.co.uk

Booking Information

Tickets 020 8741 6850 | www.lyric.co.uk
Lyric Square, King Street, London, W6 0QL

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