



MEDIA ALERT

Thursday 2 November 2017

## The Lyric Hammersmith presents its Local Cultural Education Partnership in response to Arts Council Cultural Education Challenge

On Thursday 2 November 2017 the Lyric Hammersmith launched its new **Local Cultural Education Partnership (LCEP)** as a direct response to the **Arts Council Cultural Education Challenge** and as part of the Lyric's ongoing commitment to nurturing the creativity of young people from the widest range of backgrounds and ensuring access to the arts for all. The partnership has been set up to ensure a creative cultural childhood for all children and young people in Hammersmith and Fulham and is unveiled at the Lyric's annual **Arts and Education Conference** taking place today.

The LCEP comes as a direct response to the Arts Council's call "*for the art, culture and education sectors to work together in offering a consistent and high quality art and cultural education for all children and young people*".

The partnership has been in development since 2016 and the first phase involved consultation with a broad range of potential partners and mapping of arts provision in schools locally. Working with partners in education, the local authority and leading arts organisations, the Lyric now sets out a shared vision and strategy that will see a step change in how arts organisations and schools work together to enhance the cultural childhood for every pupil in Hammersmith and Fulham.

Within the first year of the partnership, the Lyric and its nine partner organisations will undertake a pilot Arts Award programme, supported by Trinity College and A New Direction, working with **four primary schools, four secondary schools and one SEND school** within the borough, engaging **over 600 students**. The programme will give them access to high quality artistic practice, knowledge of different art forms and skills that will complement in-school learning, and support teachers to enable students to achieve the accredited **Arts Award**.

The partnership will also create a new Teachers' Network connecting teachers and arts organisations to share best practice, skills and enhance understanding of each others' challenges. **18 teachers** will engage in CPD training, Arts Award advisor training to deliver 'Discover and Explore Arts Award' (Year 4: Primary/ SEND) and 'Bronze Arts Award' (Year 7: Secondary).

Within this new partnership the Lyric Hammersmith is working with Tri-Borough Music Hub, Dance West, NEBT - New English Ballet Theatre, TEAFilms, Musiko Musika, Action on Disability, Zoo Nation, Amici and Turtle Key.

The Partnership is guided by a steering group of headteachers, local authority officers and councillors, key agencies and arts leaders from the borough. The initiative forms part of the local authority's new arts strategy.



Sian Alexander, Executive Director of the Lyric said:

'We are passionate about the power of the arts to transform lives and working with our partners to achieve our vision of a creative and cultural childhood for all children and young people in Hammersmith and Fulham. Never has it been more important for arts organisations and schools to work together, listening, supporting and challenging each other to achieve this shared goal. Developing this partnership over the past year has been a privilege and we are excited for all we hope to achieve together over the coming years.'

The Local Cultural Education Partnership is launched at the Lyric's annual **Schools Conference on Thursday 2 November**. This year's conference is aligned with the themes of the new partnership, exploring effective collaboration in order to achieve a cultural childhood for all. It features a panel discussion led by **Mel Giedroyc** and break out sessions to address how arts organisations and schools can share their skills.

## 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 reopened in April 2015 following a multi-million pound redevelopment which saw the addition of the Reuben Foundation Wing housing state-of-the art facilities for theatre, dance, film, music, digital and more. The 'new' Lyric is now the largest creative hub in West London and home to an innovative partnership of like-minded leading arts organisations who work together to deliver life-changing opportunities for thousands of young West Londoners every year. In 2016/17 there were 33,000 attendances by young people age 0 – 25 at classes and activities across a wide range of artforms at the Lyric.

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.

## Digital Theatre+

The Lyric Hammersmith recently announced its partnership with Digital Theatre+ to bring the creative process of theatre-making to life on film. The project aims to widen 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.

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.

## Free Tickets for Local Schools

As part of the Lyric's commitment to the local community, alongside their Free First Night Scheme they also provide 2,000 free tickets for their annual pantomime to Hammersmith & Fulham schools. For full details visit [www.lyric.co.uk](http://www.lyric.co.uk)