



Press Release  
Friday 13 May 2022  
[DOWNLOAD IMAGES](#)

T: [@LyricHammer](#) | I: [/LyricHammersmith](#) | F: [/LyricHammersmith](#)

## **THE STORIES WE TELL – AN INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE RESIDENCY FOR YOUNG QUEER THEATREMAKERS FROM THE UK, KENYA AND SOUTH AFRICA**

- The Stories We Tell is a partnership between the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre of the UK, Sibikwa Arts Centre of South Africa and Youth Theatre of Kenya. It is supported by the British Council and The Daneford Trust
- Applications to audition are now open to Young LGBTQ+ women, genderqueer and/or non-binary theatremakers from the Global Majority, aged 18-25, based in West London. Apply via <https://lyric.co.uk/young-lyric/next-generation/the-stories-we-tell/>

The **Lyric Hammersmith Theatre's Young Lyric** today announces **The Stories We Tell**, a new theatre cultural exchange residency that will bring together a collective of young queer participants from the UK, Kenya and South Africa to create a new piece of theatre exploring gender, sexuality, ethnicity and nationality following two weeks of devising that culminates in a live performance in South Africa in August 2022.

**The Stories We Tell** will bring together six participants from across three countries and two continents who will unite to create a 45-minute live theatre performance that interrogates and celebrates African and British queer experiences. They will perform to the local community and film their piece for a digital sharing in each of the participants' home countries.

Six participants from London, Nairobi and Johannesburg, will work with a professional artist from each country: British-South African Director **Ameera Conrad**, South African Writer and Director **Tankiso Mambola**, and Kenyan filmmaker **Michelle Shingi**. They will lead the residency which includes a response to the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre's upcoming main house play and 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary production of *Closer*, interrogated through an intersectional lens to explore how gender and sexuality play a part in who we let in and how the world reacts. With a collective of performers and creatives from three countries, The Stories We Tell will ask the questions 'Why do we love who we love and how does it change us?'

Young Lyric is now encouraging young LGBTQ+ women, genderqueer and/or non-binary theatremakers from the Global Majority, aged 18-25, based in West London who are interested in developing devising and performance skills to apply for an audition for a place on the project.

**The Stories We Tell** is a partnership between the **Lyric Hammersmith Theatre** of the UK, **Sibikwa Arts Centre** of South Africa and the **Youth Theatre of Kenya**. It is kindly supported by the **British Council** and **The Daneford Trust**

**Rob Lehmann, Director of Young Lyric at Lyric Hammersmith Theatre**, said: *“On behalf of the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre and our international partners and artists, we’re delighted to launch The Stories We Tell, providing an opportunity for talented young theatremakers from across the world to develop their performance skills in a safe and collaborative creative space that celebrates their cultural identity.”*

**Phyllis Klotz, Sibikwa Arts Centre Co-Founder, Board Member and Consultant**, said: *“Young people’s voices and rights have always been a focus for Sibikwa. We are thrilled to partner on The Stories We Tell and look forward to the new perspectives, narratives and opportunities that will emerge from this collaboration.”*

**Jazz Moll, Director of Youth Theatre Kenya** said: *“On behalf of Youth Theatre Kenya, we are delighted to be part of The Stories We Tell, and part of the team offering a safe space for young creative artists from around the globe to explore their creativity and identity, bridge cultures and most importantly, tell and share their stories.”*

For further information on **The Stories We Tell** and to apply, visit <https://lyric.co.uk/young-lyric/next-generation/the-stories-we-tell/> . The deadline for applications is 20 May and auditions will be held at the Lyric in the week commencing 23 May.

- ENDS -

Press contacts:

Su-Ann Chow-Seegoolam: [su-ann.chow-seegoolam@lyric.co.uk](mailto:su-ann.chow-seegoolam@lyric.co.uk) | 07577 63 64 65  
Burt Tsogbadrakh: [burt.tsogbadrakh@lyric.co.uk](mailto:burt.tsogbadrakh@lyric.co.uk)



Supported by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



The **Daneford** Trust

## **Notes to Editors**

IMAGES available to download [here](#)

### **Young Lyric**

Young Lyric is the home for all young people at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre. It encompasses all of our projects and activities, including classes, performance opportunities, apprenticeships, work experience, supporting emerging artists, schools activity and targeted work supporting vulnerable young people. Young Lyric works with artists and young people to create innovative and exceptional performances and projects. Over the past decade the Lyric has established a national and international reputation for its work with children and young people. We are committed to giving young people from all backgrounds access to the arts to develop their creative, social, personal and economic potential. We recognise the power of bringing young people into the Lyric to create work in a professional theatre alongside professional artists.

### **Sibikwa Arts Centre**

Sibikwa is an award-winning multi-disciplinary Centre of Excellence, established in 1988 in the City of Ekurhuleni, Gauteng, South Africa. Specializing in the performing arts, within the landscape of arts education, civic engagement and cultural exchange; Sibikwa has extensive experience in vocational training, community development and the creation of innovative issue-based performances, with a particular focus on working with women, youth and people with disabilities. Our vision is of a world where the arts provide an expansion of minds, hearts, opportunities and livelihoods.

### **Youth Theatre Kenya**

Youth Theatre Kenya was founded in 2015 to provide a creative platform for the youth of Kenya aged 9 to 25. It supports professional training through workshops and classes and offers opportunities for theatrical excellence in regular performances of true Kenyan and African stories through original works.

### **The British Council**

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We build connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and other countries through arts and culture, education and the English language. Last year we reached over 80 million people directly and 791 million people overall including online, broadcasts and publications. Founded in 1934, we are a UK charity governed by Royal Charter and a UK public body. We receive a 15 per cent core funding grant from the UK government. [www.britishcouncil.org](http://www.britishcouncil.org)

### **The Daneford Trust**

The Daneford Trust is a limited company and a registered charity with the charitable objectives of giving young people, locally and from abroad, the opportunity to experience life in a different culture and their development of international understanding. It has values of global education,

social justice and cultural exchange at the core of its work. 1982 - 2022: Celebrating 40 years of international youth work.

### **Listings**

Lyric Hammersmith Theatre  
Lyric Square, King Street, London, W6 0QL  
Box office: 020 8741 6850  
[www.lyric.co.uk](http://www.lyric.co.uk)

Twitter: [@LyricHammer](https://twitter.com/LyricHammer)  
Instagram: [/LyricHammersmith](https://www.instagram.com/LyricHammersmith)  
Facebook: [/LyricHammersmith](https://www.facebook.com/LyricHammersmith)

### **British Council**

Twitter: [@SouthernAfricaArts](https://twitter.com/SouthernAfricaArts)  
Instagram: [#SouthernAfricaArts](https://www.instagram.com/SouthernAfricaArts)  
Facebook: [@SouthernAfricaArtsBritish](https://www.facebook.com/SouthernAfricaArtsBritish)