



THE EMMANUEL KAYE FOUNDATION

Press Release – Friday 28 October 2022

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#Springboard

APPLICATIONS FOR SPRINGBOARD, THE LYRIC HAMMERSMITH THEATRE'S FLAGSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMME ARE NOW OPEN FOR 2023 – 2024

- Applications to become a 2023 – 2024 SPRINGBOARD trainee are **open now** and close at **10am on Friday 11 November**. Apply for the Lyric's flagship, free two-year training programme: lyric.co.uk/springboard
- SPRINGBOARD is kindly supported by **Esmée Fairbairn Foundation** and **The Emmanuel Kaye Foundation** who are supporting the 3 year pilot programme for the first 30 trainees.

The **Lyric Hammersmith Theatre** is thrilled to announce that **2023 – 2024 SPRINGBOARD** applications are now open for the second year of the ground-breaking, free two year training programme that aims to find, shape, inspire, and champion the next generation of performers from currently underrepresented groups in theatre. SPRINGBOARD offers unrivalled theatre-based training and development opportunities, as a new alternative performance pathway into employment for future theatre makers who have had little to no formal drama training.

The full company will comprise of 20 people, with 10 places available each year via an audition process. The training programme is a vital addition to **Young Lyric's** pioneering educational initiatives for marginalised young people.

Rachel O'Riordan, Artistic Director & CEO at Lyric Hammersmith Theatre, said: *"We are delighted to soon welcome our second cohort of trainees to SPRINGBOARD. Our bold and unique alternative performance pathway programme here at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre offers a 360-degree hands-on experience through hundreds of opportunities within this theatre and builds on our long and influential history of talent development. It directly speaks to our profound commitment to equality of opportunity and we are proud to be at the forefront of changing the industry."*

Rob Lehmann, Director of Young Lyric, said: *"Over the last year this unique free training programme has nurtured the next generation of performers through unrivalled theatre-based training in their journey from participant to professional, with many having already acquired*

representation and production credits as a direct result from their engagement in the SPRINGBOARD programme.”

“SPRINGBOARD has completely changed my life – I never would have gotten where I am now if it weren't for the amazing support from my friends and the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre staff who have been there for me every step of the way. I got the opportunity to participate in interesting workshops led by industry professionals and was able to perform in short films, scratches, and our own Studio show. I think we need more programmes like SPRINGBOARD as it's a free performance pathway initiative that helps shape your future in the industry.”

- SPRINGBOARD Trainee, 2022

SPRINGBOARD is kindly supported by **Esmée Fairbairn Foundation** and **The Emmanuel Kaye Foundation** whose support has helped to launch a three-year pilot of the programme for the first 30 trainees. SPRINGBOARD is a long-term commitment by the Lyric and will provide an inspiring, industry-leading model to improve access to careers in the theatre. SPRINGBOARD's ambition is to be a template for UK arts organisations to adapt or adopt, actively making the performing arts sector more inclusive with a workforce which better represents society.

Successful applicants will be enrolled in the free two-year programme, benefiting from a bursary that will support them while they take part in a wide range of development initiatives including performances, workshops, masterclasses, artist development and opportunities both on and off the stage.

The Lyric Hammersmith Theatre is committed to championing young talent from West London and is encouraging applicants to apply who are from the Global Majority, not in education or training, who are non-binary, LGBTQIA+, who are d/Deaf or disabled. Applicants must be aged 18-25 from the programme start date (10 January 2023), have little or no formal drama training, and live in one of the eligible West London boroughs - Brent, Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Kensington and Chelsea, Richmond upon Thames, Wandsworth and Westminster.

The deadline for applications is **Friday 11 November 2022**. Group auditions will take place on **Friday 18 November**, and if successful, the second round of auditions will take place on **Friday 25 November**.

Further details to apply can be found online at <https://lyric.co.uk/young-lyric/springboard/>

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Notes to Editors

IMAGES available to download [here](#)

ABOUT THE LYRIC HAMMERSMITH THEATRE

The **Lyric Hammersmith Theatre** produces bold and relevant world-class theatre from the heart of Hammersmith, the theatre's home for more than 125 years. Under the leadership of Artistic Director and CEO Rachel O'Riordan, it is committed to being vital to, and representative of, the local community and to being a major force in London and UK theatre, resulting in the creation of adventurous and acclaimed theatrical work. The Lyric Hammersmith Theatre has a national reputation for ground-breaking work to develop and nurture the next generation of talent, providing opportunities for young people from all backgrounds to discover the power of creativity. The theatre is West London's largest creative hub working to deliver life-changing creative opportunities for thousands of young people. Right in the heart of Hammersmith, the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre is here for everyone

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation aims to improve our natural world, secure a fairer future and strengthen the bonds in communities in the UK. We unlock change by contributing everything we can alongside people and organisations with brilliant ideas who share our goals.

The Foundation is one of the largest independent grant-makers in the UK. In 2020, we provided £53.5m in grant funding towards work in support of our aims and our emergency response to COVID. We also have a £45 million allocation to social investments for organisations with the aim of creating social impact.

www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk

Listings

Lyric Hammersmith Theatre
Lyric Square, King Street, London, W6 0QL
Box office: 020 8741 6850

www.lyric.co.uk

Twitter: [@LyricHammer](https://twitter.com/LyricHammer)

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