

Press Release  
Monday 16 October 2023  
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#Springboard

## APPLICATIONS FOR SPRINGBOARD, THE LYRIC HAMMERSMITH THEATRE'S FLAGSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMME ARE NOW OPEN FOR 2024 – 2025

- Applications to become a 2024 – 2025 SPRINGBOARD trainee are **open now** and close at **12pm on Wednesday 15 November**. Apply for the Lyric's flagship, free training programme: [lyric.co.uk/springboard](https://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 **2024 – 2025 SPRINGBOARD** applications are now open for the third year of the ground-breaking, free 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, highlighting the Lyric's continued commitment to nurture the next generation of talent.

**Rachel O'Riordan, Artistic Director & CEO at Lyric Hammersmith Theatre**, said: *"We are thrilled to soon welcome our new cohort of trainees to SPRINGBOARD. We launched SPRINGBOARD three years ago at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre as a unique immersive training to champion future generations of talent through a 360-degree hands-on experience delivered by leading industry practitioners. We are building on our long history of talent development and are proud that SPRINGBOARD is a catalyst for bringing real dynamic change in the industry."*

**Rob Lehmann, Director of Young Lyric**, said: *"Over the last two years we have seen the incredible impact SPRINGBOARD has had on the young people who have benefited from this programme. Watching our trainees take to the stage, attend professional auditions and secure agents has shown us the significance of providing a training programme that diversifies the*

*theatre industry by providing a unique pathway for those currently underrepresented in theatre. We are delighted to welcome our third year of SPRINGBOARD trainees, whereby another 10 young actors will gain full access to all areas of the Lyric by performing on our stages and working alongside the incredible artists who will lead our artistic programme throughout 2024 and 2025."*

*"SPRINGBOARD has allowed me to be acquainted with my own creativity. It really has cemented our identities as creatives. I have the inner confidence and belief to approach opportunities fully. This programme has absolutely given me a greater understanding of the theatre landscape - no other opportunity has given me the perspective the Lyric has. I wouldn't be where I am now without it."*

**- Kabira Imona, SPRINGBOARD 2023/2024 Trainee**

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 training 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 **Wednesday 15 November 2023**. Group auditions will take place on **Monday 20 November**, and if successful, the second round of auditions will take place on **Friday 24 November**.

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

**- ENDS -**

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## **Notes to Editors**

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### **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 and Executive Director Amy Belson, it is committed to being vital to, and representative of, the local community. A major force in London and UK theatre, the Lyric produces adventurous and acclaimed theatrical work that tells the stories that matter.

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 to discover the power of creativity and to experience the life changing impact of theatre.

We are the creative heart of Hammersmith, proud of our history and ambitious for our future.

### **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](http://www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk)

### **Listings**

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