

APRIL 2022 - MARCH 2024

'LOVE THE LYRIC. IT EMBODIES A HIGH-QUALITY THEATRE EXPERIENCE COMBINED WITH ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. THE CASTS ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF LONDON COMMUNITIES [AND] THE SHOWS ARE DIVERSE AND COURAGEOUS' WEST LONDONER, FEMALE AGED 57



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FRONT COVER SCHOOL GIRLS; OR, THE AFRICAN MEAN GIRLS PLAY 2023



FOREWORD

Over the last two years, the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre has been on an incredible journey. The Lyric alongside the whole theatre industry faced the unimaginable impact of a global pandemic. We drew inspiration from the very bones of the Lyric, which has stood the test of time for over 125 years.

We are immensely proud of the Lyric team for all that we have achieved together since we reopened our doors and are so grateful to our supporters, especially our major funders, Arts Council England and Hammersmith & Fulham Council. Most of all, we wish to thank our audiences and the people of West London, without whom, we would simply not exist.

This report articulates the work we have done from April 2022 – March 2024. A period of time that saw us come out of pandemic closure to sold out shows, West End transfers and an Olivier award nomination. A time in which we have pushed ourselves further than ever before to grow our business and contribute to creating a better, fairer and more creative community, strengthening and reaffirming our role and responsibility as West London's leading arts organisation.

As we look ahead to the Lyric's 130th birthday and the 10-year anniversary of the opening of the Reuben Foundation Wing in 2025, we know that many challenges remain within the theatre industry and for our local community. In these uncertain times, we remain confident in our resilience and commitment to serve the people of West London, to ensuring leading artists from across the world can create the very best theatre in our home in Hammersmith and that through our passion and determination we will break down the barriers to creative engagement.

We are the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre – a local theatre with a national impact.

RACHEL O'RIORDAN & AMY BELSON

Artistic Director & Executive Director



OUR STORY

The Lyric Hammersmith Theatre is one of London's leading producing theatres. For over 125 years, we have welcomed some of the world's finest writers, directors and theatre companies to our stage. Through the exceptional work on stage, we seek to inspire and support the young people of West London to discover the power of their own creativity and provide pathways into the theatre industry. The Lyric is unique in its combined role as a local theatre serving its community and major national producing house, with a pioneering approach to supporting young people through and into theatre.

At the core of our mission and values are the people of West London, who are vital to our work as a theatre. We are committed to working with local partners to create a cultural and creative community that brings people together, attracts visitors and supports the local economy.

We bring genuinely eclectic and bold programming to West London. At the heart of programming is our desire to re-lens familiar plays that speak directly to specific communities, and a passion to welcome and engage new communities. We offer affordable tickets and free first night tickets for Hammersmith and Fulham residents, to encourage our local community to visit us and, we hope to inspire them to engage with us.

Through our Young Lyric Programme and within the Reuben Foundation Wing, we celebrate and prioritise work for ages 0-25, including the most vulnerable young people in the ten boroughs of West London with subsidised places and free enrolment. We work closely with schools and social services to provide extensive opportunities for young people to engage with theatre and to use theatre to explore the challenges they are facing.

We are committed to greater representation within theatre. In 2022, we launched For the Culture: Celebrations of Blackness Festival as a statement of our commitment to providing opportunities, space and profile to Black artists and audiences in West London. We also launched SPRINGBOARD, a supported training programme for young artists that aims to inspire and sustain the next generation of theatre performers from underrepresented backgrounds.

We are mindful of our commitment to positively impact our local community through our performances, programmes, ways of working and underpinning values. We continue to innovate, to reimagine and to champion creativity as we strive for excellence.



CLOSER 2022

OUR MISSION & VALUES

OUR MISSION

We are the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre. We are the artistic and civic heart of West London.

In our big, beautiful theatre, we present world-class theatre and tell stories that matter. We bring the best artistic talent to Hammersmith to make ambitious theatre for our audience that entertains and inspires.

We believe theatre is for everyone and support tomorrow's artists to discover the power of creativity and realise their potential to shape the future of theatre.

A local theatre with a national impact. The Lyric - 125 years young

OUR VALUES

Work with integrity and respect

We support each other with kindness, openness and integrity. Together we celebrate our achievements and work collaboratively through our challenges.

Every day we learn and grow

We continue to ask questions, seek answers and share our learning with each other for the benefit of the Lyric.

Be ambitious and action-focused We believe in eventleneous a beve a control of the second second

We believe in excellence; we have a can-do attitude, go the extra mile and ensure our ideas become actions.

Serve our West London community

We are here for the people of West London, every decision we make and action we take should benefit our community.



FAITH HEALER 2024

COMMUNICATING OUR IMPACT

We recognise the need to communicate the Lyric's outcomes and the meaningful change that comes from these outcomes. We aim to be transparent and accountable, providing an overview of our actions in the current socio-political and economic landscape, whilst also highlighting our ambitions for the future. Importantly, we see the impacts explored in this report as belonging to the heart of the Lyric: our community of staff, audiences, participants and supporters.

This Impact Report looks at the Lyric's body of work across two years (1 April 2022-31 March 2024). It demonstrates post-pandemic impacts and articulates underpinning commitments and evolving priorities. We are proud to be an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation and to serve our local community. The social and economic benefits and value of arts and culture has long been debated, and we recognise the subjective nature of reporting. We have applied a holistic approach to our impact framework: evaluating the activity undertaken against our Key Business Aims; acknowledging our agreed Arts Council England Outcomes; and considering wider social value themes and sustainability goals.

We have framed this report around five key themes:

- 1 Welcoming everyone encouraging engagement with the Lyric
- 2 Investing in the next generation of professional theatre makers providing pathways into and through the theatre industry
- 3 Promoting creativity- increasing access and opportunity for young people in West London
- 4 Cultivating community being a place of creative collaboration in Hammersmith & Fulham
- 5 Supporting environmental sustainability- advocating for our planet

TWO YEARS OF MILESTONES AT THE LYRIC 2022 - 2024

APR 22

MAY 22

JUN 22

Scandaltown Thu 7 Apr - Sat 14 May **Britanicus Response Project**

Mon 18 Apr - Fri 10 Jun

Westside School

Summer 2022

Fri 29 Apr - Fri 8 Jun

Bank University)

Directing Module Mon 16 - Fri 20 May

LSBU (London South

REWIND x

Scandaltown **Response Project** Tue 17 May - Wed 1 Jul **Britannicus** Thu 26 May - Sat 25 Jun

The Stories We Tell Wed 1 Jun - Tue 5 Sep START -

Summer 2022 Mon 6 Jun - Thu 14 Jul Underbelly

Training Academy Mon 6 Jun - Fri 15 Ju

 $\star\star\star\star$ 'IT IS IRRESISTIBLE AS A PIECE OF THEATRE -**A PRODUCTION OF IMMENSE CONFIDENCE AND SASS.** AND ONE THAT WILL LEAVE YOU SIMULTANEOUSLY CHTLLED AND CHIICKI TNG' TIME OUT

JAN 23 FEB 23

REWIND x Westside School Spring 2023

Fri 13 Jan - Fri 17 Mar Evolution Scratches 2023 Mon 16 Jan - Tue 21 Mar

Othello **Response** Project Mon 9 Jan - Thu 9 Feb

START - Spring 2023 Mon 16 Jan - Thu 23 Feb Othello Thu 19 Jan - Sat 11 Feb

Evolution Films 2023 6 Feb - 24 Mar

Wasted

Mon 6 - Fri 24 Mar **Accidental Death** of an Anarchist Mon 13 Mar - Sat 8 Apr T

MAR 23

The Good Person of Szechwan Sat 15 Apr - Sat 13 May

APR 23

REWIND x Chelsea Academy Summer 2023 Fri 5 May - Fri 14 Jul

MAY 23

START -Summer 2023 Tue 30 May - Thu 6 Jul **Accidental Death** of an Anarchist -West End Transfer Mon 12 Jun - Sat 9 Sep

JUN 23

Springboard Studio Showcase Thu 22 Jun 2023

School Girls **Response Project** Mon 26 Jun - Thu 27 Jul

School Girls; Or, the African Mean Girls Play Thu 8 Jun - Sat 22 Jul

 \star \star \star \star \star 'TOM BASDEN'S **RIOTOUS NEW VERSION** BRINGS THE SATIRE RIGHT UP TO DATE AND COULD NOT BE MORE TOPICAL' FINANCIAL TIMES

JAN 24

FEB 24 MAR 24

Metamorphosis Response Project Mon 8 Jan - Thu 8 Feb **Evolution Films 2024** Thu 11 Jan - Thu 28 Mar

Westside School Spring 2024 Fri 12 Jan - Fri 22 Mar

REWIND x

REWIND x Harris Lowe Academy Spring 2024 Tue 16 Jan - Tue 26 Mar

Evolution Scratches 2024 Thu 25 Jan - Thu 28 Mar

Metamorphosis Thu 1 Feb - Sat 2 Mar START - Spring 2024 Mon 5 Feb - Thu 14 Mar Sancho and Me Thu 22 - Fri 23 Feb

Mon 4 Mar Faith Healer Thu 14 Mar - Sat 13 Apr V

For the Comedy

****A SPELLBINDING **PRODUCTION OF A DROP** DEAD MASTERPIECE' DATIV MTRBOR

JUL 22

AUG 22

Closer Thu 14 Jul - Sat 13 Aug LSBU Communities Module Mon 18 – Fri 29 Jul

LAMDA x Lvric Future Technicians Mon 8 - Thu 18 Aug Closer **Response Project** Mon 15 - Thu 25 Aug

 $\star \star \star \star \star$

'ESSENTIAL THEATRE... LIZ TRUSS SHOULD SEE IT, KWASI **KWARTENG SHOULD SEE IT. AND – BECAUSE** IT IS ASTONISHING. ESSENTIAL THEATRE -YOU SHOULD SEE IT TOO... RARELY IS THEATRE SO SHATTERING: RARELY DOES IT FEEL SO UTTERLY INDISPENSABLE' THE STAGE

SEP 22

Iphigenia Response Project Thu 8 Sep - Fri 21 Oct Lysistrata Thu 8 - Mon 12 Sep

Forward Wed 21 Sep 2022 -Fri 10 Mar 2023

REWIND x Courtyard Alternative Provision Autumn 2022 Fri 23 Sep - Fri 2 Dec

Iphigenia in Splott Mon 26 Sep - Sat 22 Oct **Evolution Labs 2023** Thu 29 Sep 2022 Fri 24 Mar 2023

Talking About a Revolution Wed 12 - Sat 15 Oct START -

OCT 22

Autumn 2022 Mon 31 Oct - Thu 08 Dec

Raymond Briggs' Father

Christmas 2022 Wed 23 Nov - Sat 31 Dec Jack and the Beanstalk

NOV 22

Sat 19 Nov 2022 -Sat 7 Jan 2023

Evolution Audio 2023

DEC 22

Fri 9 Dec 2022 -Fri 24 Mar 2023

★★★★ 'AN UDDERLEY **BRILLIANT PANTO...** THE CRÈME DE LA CRÈME' THE TIMES

JUL 23

The Bacchae Thu 20 - Sat 22 Jul

Technicians Mon 7 - Thu 17 Aug Hamespridian [He·mo·spo·rid·ian] Fri 11 Aug 2023 -Thu 28 Mar 2024 Virtual Schools Mon 14 - Fri 18 Aug

AUG 23

LAMDA x

Lyric Future

SEP 23

God of Carnage Fri 1 - Sat 30 Sep God of Carnage **Response Project** Tue 19 Sep - Wed 4 Oct **Evolution Labs 2024** Wed 27 Sep 2023 -Thu 28 Mar 2024

The Empress Wed 4 - Mon 23 Oct START -

OCT 23

Autumn 2023 Mon 23 Oct -Thu 30 Nov

NOV 23

Live at the Lyric

Wed 1 Nov Springboard Main House Showcase Thu 2 Nov

Cinderella Sat 18 Nov 2023 -Sat 06 Jan 2024

Raymond Briggs' Father Christmas 2023 Wed 22 Nov -Sat 30 Dec

A Merry Lyric Christmas Mon 4 Dec

DEC 23

***** THE FUNNIEST THING **ON STAGE** THIS SUMMER' THE INDEPENDENT

ONE OF THE **MOST INTERESTING THEATRES** IN THE CAPITAL RIGHT NOW' EVENING STANDARD, MARCH 2024

9

TWO YEARS INNUMBERS

95% of visitors are likely to return to Lyric 463,442 audience members



121,720 first time attendees

Audiences gave an average of 8.7 to their likelihood to recommend Lyric to someone else



creative freelancers engaged every year permanent and casual staff employed every year unique young people took part in Young Lyric 1.5





of West London audiences believe Lyric is important to the local economy



90% of audiences felt Lyric produced high-quality theatre

16 Main house productions — 34 Studio productions/events



Local audiences spent on average in the surrounding area in their last visit



Lyric used **100%** 635,000 kWh of renewable electricity annually

93% of waste was recycled, saving 6 tonnes of CO2 annually



tubs of ice cream sold, which would be the equivalent height of 455 double decker buses

144 Panto drum rolls



288 Panto confetti blasts



WELCOMING EVERYONE ENCOURAGING ENGAGEMENT WITH THE LYRIC

WE ARE HERE FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND OUR AUDIENCES, THEY ARE AT THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO

We are inclusive of all ages, ethnicities, socio-economic backgrounds and access needs. We do this by creating work that is relevant to local audiences and by increasing access to our productions.

We recognise that the cost-of-living crisis and post-pandemic recovery has impacted our local community. Additionally, the multiple areas of deprivation in West London and reduction in funding felt by many UK creative and cultural organisations, means that many people have less access to cultural activities. The 2019 Indices of Deprivation ranked Hammersmith and Fulham as 112 out of 317 English Local Authority Districts (where 1 is the most deprived), and 16th within the 33 Greater London Boroughs. We strive to create theatre that is affordable, accessible and invites audiences to engage with current events and stories that are important to them.

OUR OUTCOMES

- Artistic Excellence a commitment to excellence across all our productions.
- Platformed space for voicing underrepresented experience through the work on our stages.
- Enhanced access for local audiences.



OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

'THIS WAS A TREMENDOUS YEAR FOR THE LYRIC HAMMERSMITH, WHICH PUT THE CHALLENGES OF THE PANDEMIC FIRMLY BEHIND IT. UNDER ARTISTIC DIRECTOR RACHEL O'RIORDAN AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AMY BELSON'S LEADERSHIP, THE LYRIC HAS BOUNCED BACK TO EVEN HIGHER LEVELS THAN BEFORE THE LOCKDOWNS' THE STAGE | JANUARY 2024

- Shortlisted for The Stage Awards 2024 Theatre of the Year.
- **370,192 tickets for Main House shows.**
- **59,806 tickets for Little Lyric Studio shows.**
- 95% of audiences said they were likely to return to the Lyric.*
- Audience/visitor feelings and opinions towards the Lyric were overwhelmingly positive, described as entertaining and creative.*
- 66% of audience/visitors felt the Lyric is affordable.*
- An eclectic and ambitious programme of work with new plays, reinterpretations of Greek tragedies, the story of a group of Ghanaian schoolgirls, two Pantos, Irish classics and an Anarchist.
- Olivier award nomination, Best Entertainment for the West End transfer of Accidental Death of An Anarchist.
- Evening Standard Award win, Best Design for The Good Person of Szechwan.
- Best Villain nomination (Jodie Jacobs) UK Pantomime Awards, Jack and the Beanstalk 2023.
- Won Best Pantomime (500-900 seats) UK Pantomime Awards, Cinderella 2022.

153 * * * * Reviews and 48 * * * * Reviews for Main House Shows



THE GOOD PERSON OF SZECHWAN 2023

'THERE'S A DISTINCTIVE FEEL TO LYRIC HAMMERSMITH SHOWS THAT'S **LIKE NOTHING YOU'LL FIND AT OTHER LONDON THEATRES**'

EVENING STANDARD REVIEW OF THE GOOD PERSON OF SZECHWAN \star \star \star

- We continue to offer free tickets to local residents through our First Free Nights initiative, with 5,965 people taking advantage the offer and a further 2,574 people taking advantage of our £10 tickets to encourage attendance.
- We are committed to ensuring children and young people have access to live theatre, with 4,039 free school tickets provided over the two years and 59,806 children and their families attending Little Lyric Productions, aimed at children under 8.

'[THE LYRIC IS] PLAYING SUCH AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL ENRICHMENT OF MY YOUNG CHILDREN. I'M SO HAPPY TO HAVE SOMEWHERE I CAN TAKE THEM TO SEE AMAZING SHOWS THAT WILL SHAPE THEIR LOVE FOR THE THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE' LONDONER, FEMALE AGED 37

As part of our Born in the Borough Scheme we have 132 registrations (to date). The scheme provides children born in Hammersmith and Fulham during the Lyric's 125th anniversary year of 2020, discounts to all Little Lyric shows, Meet and Greets with Father Christmas and opportunities to participate in workings led by the Lyric partners, Muskio Musika and New English Ballet Theatre.

'I WANTED TO SAY A MASSIVE THANKS FOR SORTING OUR TICKETS TO FATHER CHRISTMAS At the weekend. My son was enthralled, and we had a wonderful time. I'm so glad to be part of born in the borough, it's given us some great experiences' born in the borough parent 27,958 people attended the Lyric's Pantomime in 2023 including 1,982 free tickets for schools to bring Year 5&6 students to experience live theatre, many for the first time.

'LOVE THE LYRIC. WE GO TO THE PANTOMIME EVERY YEAR. IT IS ALWAYS EXCELLENT ENTERTAINMENT, AND WE LIKE THAT IT HAS SOMETHING FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY. THE ATMOSPHERE IS FRIENDLY AND WELCOMING' West Londoner, female aged 50

- 1,064 accessibility tickets were provided to further reduce barriers faced by our West London audiences.
 - We held 66 access performances; BSL, Audio Description, Captioned, Relaxed and Chilled Performances.
- 78% of audiences felt it was really important that the Lyric continues to make theatre accessible to everyone.*

'I'M A WEST LONDONER AND IT'S SO IMPORTANT TO ME THAT THEATRE REMAINS ACCESSIBLE, BOTH TO WORKING PROFESSIONALS AS WELL AS CHILDREN. THE LYRIC IS SO UNIQUE IN THAT IT ENCOURAGES THOSE FROM ALL WALKS TO ATTEND ITS VENUE THROUGH SCHEMES, AFFORDABLE PRICES' WEST LONDONER, MALE AGED 27

In January 2022, we launched For the Culture, a programme of work that champions and celebrates Black British artists, activists, and thinkers across the year. The programme features talks, DJ sets, Q&A's, theatre, comedy nights and theatre including Paterson Joseph's Sancho & Me, DJ set by Girls Can't DJ and in conversation event with Lemn Sisay. 25 artists and speakers' talents have been platformed as part of this initiative during this period, engaging 2000+ audiences. Our next For the Culture festival will take place in October 2024.

'THIS SHOW IS A TONIC, AND **A JOY INJECTION** THAT ENCOURAGES US TO EMBRACE DIFFERENCE – A MESSAGE, I RECKON, WE ALL NEED TO HEAR RIGHT NOW' EVENING STANDARD REVIEW OF SCHOOL GIRLS ****



INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF THEATRE MAKERS PROVIDING PATHWAYS INTO THE THEATRE INDUSTRY

WE PROVIDE THEATRE-BASED TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Lyric is committed to providing training opportunities and pathways into the industry for theatremakers, regardless of background and experience. We do this by creating entry points to experience theatre making first-hand and enhance young people's creative skills. Pathways are unique and respond to the needs of participants. We draw on our network of passionate staff, freelance artists, and partners to ensure successful pathways within the Lyric and signpost to opportunities available in the wider industry.

OUR OUTCOMES

- Increased diversity of people entering the theatre industry.
- Strengthened knowledge and skills of West London young people through paid pathways and advisory roles.
- Enhanced collaborations between young theatremakers.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

The Lyric acts as a placement provider for the Theatre Direction MFA at Birkbeck University. Hosting a 12-month placement, the young director works closely with the Lyric's Artistic Director, Rachel O'Riordan; Associate Director, Nicholai La Barrie; and the Lyric's commissioned directors. 11 young directors have engaged with the Lyric through this partnership since 2011.

'THE LYRIC HAS BEEN INCREDIBLY OPEN AND IMPACTFUL FOR MY JOURNEY AND GROWTH AS A DIRECTOR. BOTH UNDERSTANDING BUILDINGS AND THE WORKINGS OF ONE AS WELL AS THE CREATING AN OPEN YET STRUCTURED PATHWAY TO MY PRACTICE AND DEVELOPMENT' MO KOREDE | BIRKBECK PLACEMENT

- The Bill Cashmore Award enables emerging artists opportunity to nurture an idea from page to the professional stage, headlining the Lyric's annual Evolution Festival. The award is open to the Lyric's SPRINGBOARD participants and provides the recipient with funding and professional support to bring their ideas to fruition. It also offers a professional credit to help them pave their way in the industry. From 2025, applications for the Bill Cashmore Award will be open to all early career playwrights, aged 18-30 within the UK, providing a platform to showcase new One Act Plays. 2022/23-2023/24 Award winners include:
 - Wasted, written by Chanel Fernandes, co-created with Kane Feagan.
 - Haemospordian, written by Sam Purkis, co-created with Ryan Stevens and Wilf Walsworth.

'WINNING THE BILL CASHMORE AWARD WAS AN IMMENSE PRIVILEGE, AND A REALLY ENCOURAGING SHOW OF BELIEF IN OUR WORK. FOR US TO LEARN-BY-DOING, WORK WITH PROFESSIONALS, START TO TAKE UP THE SPACE YOU DESERVE, AND AT THE END OF IT ALL GET SEEN IN ONE OF LONDON'S MAJOR THEATRES WAS AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE' WILF | BILL CASHMORE AWARD WINNER

Young Lyric Associates are the Lyric's youth advisory group of West Londoners, aged 18-25, who meet monthly to advise advocate and shape the life of the Lyric and its work with young people. 22 young people acted as Associates across the two years, taking part in workshops with leading arts professionals about arts management, programming, governance and skills needed to run a theatre.

'THE YOUNG LYRIC ASSOCIATES PROGRAMME DE-MYSTIFIED MANY FUNDAMENTAL PARTS OF THE INDUSTRY FOR ME. MEETING FUNDRAISERS, PRODUCERS AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL THEATRE-MAKERS FROM DEPARTMENTS THAT AREN'T EASY TO ACCESS CLOSED THE PERCEIVED GAP BETWEEN WHERE I AM NOW IN MY CAREER AND WHERE' ISABELLA | YOUNG LYRIC ASSOCIATE



CASE STUDY SPRINGBOARD

SPRINGBOARD is our free part-time training programme that aims to find, shape, inspire, champion and sustain the next generation of theatre performers from underrepresented background. Launched in January 2022, the programme recruits and nurtures 10 young people per year, aged 18-25, who live in West London and have little to no formal drama training. In 2022 and 2023, SPRINGBOARD was run as a two-year pilot programme, with young people benefitting from a bursary to support their training. The 2024 programme invites young people to take part in a one-year intensive model of SPRINGBOARD, taking on board learnings from the first two cohorts. Each year the trainees undertake masterclasses and workshops with the Lyric's Artistic Team and Main House directors to develop their skills. The trainees are provided with opportunities to be in the Lyric's Main House productions and facilitation work with Young Lyric classes.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- An accessible and inclusive theatre training programme has been embedded within the Lyric.
- 30 underrepresented young people have benefited from the programme: 57% of the cohort identified as female and 43% as male; 50% were from the Global Majority; 60% from the top 50% of deprived wards in West London, and 25% identifying a medical condition or access requirement. 13% of the cohort came from the Lyric's START programme for young people not in education, employment or training.
- 75 workshops were delivered by the Lyric's Artistic Director, Associate Artists, Resident Artistic Director and visiting practitioners.
- The SPRINGBOARD participants took part in 2 industry showcases and 1 studio show, directed by established directors.

'SPRINGBOARD HAS OFFERED ME NUMEROUS INDUSTRY OPPORTUNITIES THAT WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN OUT OF MY REACH. MOST NOTABLY, THE CHANCE TO AUDITION FOR THE LYRIC'S PANTOMIME. NOT ONLY WAS I ABLE TO GO THROUGH THE PROCESS OF PROFESSIONAL AUDITIONS, BUT TO BE CAST IN THE SHOW GAVE ME HANDS-ON TRAINING FOR MY FUTURE AS A THEATRE ACTOR' BELLA | SPRINGBOARD PARTICIPANT

'MASSIVE POTENTIAL IS SHOWN SPREAD THROUGH THIS YOUNG CAST. MOMENTS OF Dynamism and real charisma appear throughout especially when it comes to telling the girls' personal stories' Reviews hub on the bacchae

- **77%** of the first graduates secured professional representation.
- 100% of the SPRINGBOARD alumni have found professional employment in the creative industries.
- Delivery of Participant to Professional: Creative Pathways to Employment Industry Forum. This event explored alternative pathways to employment, designed specifically for those underrepresented in theatre. Organisations presenting their learnings and expertise about innovative participatory and employability programmes included the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre, Bristol Old Vic, National Theatre and Sadler's Wells Breakin' Convention. The forum welcomed over 160 industry professionals from learning and participation departments, trust and foundations, academics and Theatre HR representatives across the UK.
- 96% of conference delegates agreed that there is potential to adapt or adopt learnings from SPRINGBOARD into their organisation's programming.
- Continued professional and pastoral support provided to trainees.

'I HAVE FOUND THE WORK AT SPRINGBOARD REALLY INSPIRATIONAL. THE SUPPORT AND CONFIDENCE GIVEN TO THESE YOUNG ACTORS IS IMPRESSIVE AND THIS HAS ENABLED THEM TO REALLY ULTISE ALL THE TOOLS TO HELP THEM ON THEIR CHOSEN CAREERS' KATTE THRELFALL | KATTE THRELFALL ASSOCIATES



PROMOTING CREATIVITY INCREASING ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN WEST LONDON

We use theatre to provide opportunity for West London's young people to develop their creative, social, personal and economic potential; positively contributing to their social mobility. Working with children and young people, professional artists and the Lyric team, we create exceptional projects and performances that respond to the work on our stages.

At the heart of this commitment, we aim to be inclusive, ensuring access for those who face barriers and who are underrepresented in the theatre industry are given ample opportunities to explore their creativity. We do this through our Young Lyric work with schools in West London, response projects to the work on our stages, after school classes for West London children and young people, and our two longstanding inclusion projects, START and Rewind.

OUR OUTCOMES

- Enhanced social mobility and equality of opportunity.
- Improved self-confidence and wellbeing.
- Improved community integration.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

YOUNG LYRIC WORKED WITH **1559 UNIQUE YOUNG People** from West London Across the two years

- Young Lyric Membership offers opportunities for young people (0-25) in West London, access to free bursary places for classes, £5 tickets to Main House shows, performance opportunities and special events. As of March 2024, 1,267 children and young people are Young Lyric Members, with 83 bursaries provided over the two years and 1,177 taking advantage of the £5 ticket scheme.
- 91% of survey respondents agreed that it is important for the Lyric to ensure young people in the local area have the opportunity to experience theatre, with 68% feeling the Lyric is a place that nurtures creative talent and provides pathways into the industry.

'MY DAUGHTER ATTENDS CLASSES AT THE LYRIC AND HAS GIVEN HER THE OPPORTUNITY To meet new people and try things she loves at an affordable price' parent of a young lyric participant

- Acting Up classes provided a pathway for young people to take part in further Lyric programmes, as well as become a pathway for some who have completed previous projects. Classes explore performance skills and aim to enhance self-confidence.
 - Three participants successfully applied for the Young Lyric Associates Programme, with two also training as facilitators within Young Lyric, joining the team of freelance practitioners.
 - Four participants successfully applied to take part in Young Lyric response projects to Main House shows in acting, writing and devising capacities, leading to further performances opportunities with Young Lyric in both the Lyric Studio and Main House.
 - Six participants represented Young Lyric in external performances with Hammersmith & Fulham Council (H&F), notably the H&F Election Results Night in 2024 and H&F Christmas Fair in 2023 and 2024.

'MY TIME IN THE LYRIC HAS SHOWN A GREATER STRENGTH IN MYSELF BUT HAS ALSO ENABLED ME TO BE MORE CONFIDENT IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE. THANKS TO THE LYRIC MY PASSION FOR ACTING AND MUSIC HAS HELD ON STRONG' RHEA | YOUNG LYRIC PARTICIPANT

- We provided enriching learning opportunities for 710 students and 76 teachers across KS1-KS5, from the 10 boroughs of West London.
 - To deepen students learning and knowledge of a production, Wrap Around Schools Workshops for 4 Main House shows were delivered.

'THANK YOU... FOR THE INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE YOU GAVE OUR YEAR 9S... OVER THE LAST Few Months... The Boys will never forget the experience through your belief And nurturing of them over your thursday sessions. How lucky were they' Maria, teacher | the green school for boys

4 CPD sessions for teachers were made available, bringing Main House productions to life and assisting teachers in confidently delivered schemes of work in the classroom.



RESPONSE PROJECTS

- Alongside Main House productions the Young Lyric team create bespoke projects to provide opportunities for young people to have a deeper engagement and creative exploration of the work on stage.
 - Meta;morphed saw two secondary schools and two SEND schools in West London complete workshops with Frantic Assembly, produced by the Young Lyric Team. 60 students explored the Frantic method and responded creatively to Metamorphsis on the Lyric's main stage. The project was underpinned by key tenets of inclusivity, openness and community.

'MOST OF OUR STUDENT HAVE A DUAL DIAGNOSIS, OR AT LEAST THEIR AUTISM PRESENTS AS Adhd Sometimes. [Using the Frantic Method] worked very naturally... This is the First ever project that we have participated in, where they have been included Within a mainstream setting'

TEACHER | QUEENSMILL SCHOOL

School Girls: Or the African Mean Girls Play - For the Culture Wraparound Response Project was for Black women aged 16-21. 10 participants worked with a Director, Assistant Director, and Writing Facilitator to create a response piece, Xpressions. The 20-minute piece was developed over 5 weeks and was set in a Black owned hair shop and hairdressers, exploring friendship, beauty and joy.

'I WANT TO GIVE THANKS TO ALL OF YOU FOR GIVING MY DAUGHTER THIS WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY... [SHE] HAS HAD A HARD TIME WITH BULLYING FOR A LONG TIME WHICH HAS MADE HER VERY SHY AND NOT SURE OF PEOPLE AROUND HER. FROM WEEK TO WEEK, [SHE] GOT UP AND FOUGHT HER ANXIETY, AND MADE IT EVERY MONDAY... THANK YOU FOR BRINGING OUT HER CONFIDENCE ON STAGE. THANK YOU FOR MAKING HER FEEL WELCOME. SHE FEELS SO MUCH LIGHTER, HAPPIER MENTALLY, THANK YOU ALL' JOSEPHINE | PARENT OF SCHOOL GIRLS RESPONSE PARTICIPANT



INCLUSION PROJECTS

- START is the Lyric's longstanding 6-week project for young people aged 16-25, who are not in education, employment or training. The programme aims to aid young people in re-engaging with education, employment or training using drama to identify and address the underlying causes of participants' disengagement, exploring issues that are personal to them, whilst fostering a group ethic of inclusive, accessibility, encouragement and respect. START provides opportunity to broaden perspectives as participants develop drama skills and engage in self-reflection. Across the two years, 68 young people took part in six projects.
 - **74%** were referred onto employment, education or training.
 - **78%** cited improved soft skills and renewed motivation in achieving future goals.
 - 67% took part in further Young Lyric opportunities.
 - 75% of START participants reported a sustained or increased ability to manage their emotions and wellbeing after completing START.

'I WAS FEELING REALLY LONELY, AND I MADE NEW FRIENDS IN START. PERFORMING TOGETHER LIKE THAT MAKES YOU CLOSE - NOW I'M WORKING AS AN ACTOR AND WOULD NOT BE WHERE I AM WITHOUT THE LYRIC. I FEEL SUPER GRATEFUL' START PARTICIPANT



- REWIND is a free programme which works in partnership with Alternative Education providers to support young people aged 9-16 years who are identified as 'at risk of becoming NEET' (Not in Education, Employment or Training), who have low attendance rates, are underachieving academically, or are in a specialist provision, all as a result of complex behavioural and emotional needs. Over 10 weeks (1 full school day per week), students use ensemble theatre-based activities to enhance self-confidence and increased communication skills, equipping young people with further tools to mindfully address challenges and re-engage with their education.
 - **55** young people took part in seven projects.

'THE STUDENTS WHO ATTENDED THE REWIND PROGRAMME HAVE DEVELOPED CONFIDENCE AND SELF-ESTEEM. THEY HAVE BECOME MORE ENGAGED IN THEIR LEARNING, AND ALSO MORE PREPARED TO TRY NEW THINGS, HAVING DEVELOPED THIS CAPACITY ON THE PROGRAMME. REWIND PROVIDED ROOM AND SPACE FOR EXPERIMENTATION AND NEW EXPERIENCES, AND THIS HAS LED TO IMPROVEMENTS IN COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING FOR ALL THOSE WHO TOOK PART.' KEVIN BROWNE | DEPUTY HEADTEACHER, WESTSIDE SCHOOL



HIGHER EDUCATION ENGAGEMENT

The Lyric delivered two modules for students undertaking a MA in Creative Performance Practice at London South Bank University. 2022/23 saw the final year of this partnership approach, providing 16 students practical, hands-on and place-based learning from industry professionals through 50 sessions.

'THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU DID FOR US OVER OUR TWO-WEEK RESIDENCY. I COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN THROUGH THE STRESSFUL HURDLES WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE! AND A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE STAFF AT THE LYRIC WHO WERE SO ACCOMMODATING AND MADE ALL OF US FEEL REALLY WELCOME' Lyse | London South Bank University ma Student

- 40 students from Roehampton University's PGCE Secondary English and Drama programme took part in bespoke workshops.
- 2 work placements with students from Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.



CULTIVATING COMMUNITY BEING A PLACE OF CREATIVE COLLABORATION IN HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

WE ARE THE CREATIVE HEART OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

We work in partnership with other creative organisations, many of whom hold offices in our building, or who work with the Lyric on a regular basis. We work closely with Hammersmith & Fulham Council and the Hammersmith BID to ensure residents and people who work in the Borough are provided with ample cultural opportunities across the year.

OUR OUTCOMES

- Being a creative and cultural hub for people who live and work in Hammersmith and Fulham.
- Leading and supporting the growing cultural industry in Hammersmith and Fulham.
- Making a positive contribution to the local economy.

QUOTES

'HAMMERSMITH BID HIGHLY VALUES THE LYRIC HAMMERSMITH THEATRE AS A CULTURAL HUB FOR OUR TOWN CENTRE. THE LYRIC PROVIDES WORLD-CLASS THEATRE AND GROUNDBREAKING PROGRAMMES THAT DRAW IN A WIDE AUDIENCE TO HAMMERSMITH, BOTH FROM THE LOCAL AREA AND FURTHER AFIELD. IT BRINGS HUGE BENEFIT TO THE LOCAL BUSINESSES, WHO FREQUENTLY NOTE BOOSTED TAKINGS ON SHOW DAYS, AND THE BID'S LONG-RUNNING PANTO NIGHT IS A FAVOURITE FIXTURE FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES AND OFFICE WORKERS. THE LYRIC TEAM IS ALWAYS OPEN TO COLLABORATIONS AND WE HAVE WORKED WITH THEM ON EVENTS THAT ENGAGE THE LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY, KEEPING WORKERS IN HAMMERSMITH INTO THE EVENING AND ENSURING THE LYRIC'S WORK IS REACHING AS WIDE AN AUDIENCE AS POSSIBLE' HAMMERSMITH BID

'THE LYRIC HAMMERSMITH THEATRE PLAYS A CENTRAL ROLE IN THE CULTURAL LIFE OF THE Borough, not just as a venue with thought-provoking and entertaining shows, but also in delivering high quality education and training programmes and as a home for other cultural companies. We are proud to have such an asset in hammersmith & fulham, and pleased to be working closely with the theatre on delivering our cultural ambitions.'

CLLR HOLDER, CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC REALM



The Lyric is home not only to the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre, but to seven partner organisations who pioneer and deliver best practice for young people in a range of activities including music, dance, acting, technical theatre, digital skills and disability arts. Working in partnership, 595 children and young people from West London engage in free or low-cost classes each week.

STEPHEN COWAN, LEADER OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL, WITH THE CAST OF JACK & THE BEANSTALK 2022

Lyric Partner organisations from 2022 - 2024 include:



'TURTLE KEY ARTS FEEL VERY PRIVILEGED TO BE AN ONGOING PARTNER AT LYRIC HAMMERSMITH. OUR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH AUTISM FEEL REALLY AT HOME IN THE BUILDING AND THIS LEADS TO VISITS BEYOND THE KEY CLUB TO OTHER EVENTS. THE YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV ARE TREATED WITH CONFIDENTIALITY AND RESPECT AND SEE THE LYRIC AS A SAFE SPACE. BEING BASED IN SUCH A VIBRANT CULTURAL VENUE HAS AN ENORMOUS IMPACT ON ALL OF OUR YOUNG INTERNS, EMPLOYEES AND COLLABORATORS' ALI KING | TURTLE KEY ARTS

'THE TRI-BOROUGH MUSIC HUB HAS BEEN RESIDENT AT THE LYRIC SINCE 2015. The partnership between us and the lyric is of mutual benefit – we can use space in a good location, and we bring hundreds of young people and families from the community into the building each week' stuart whatmore | tri-borough music hub



- The Lyric is home to three further organisations supporting the cultural and community sector of West London: Young Hammersmith & Fulham Foundation, Savage Personal Management and Tenebrae Choir.
- Theatre companies both subsidised and commercial regularly use the Lyric's spaces for production rehearsals seen across the UK including Chichester Festival Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company, Playful Productions and Sonia Friedman Productions. These connections make the Lyric a creative hub for not just the Borough but also the UK Theatre Industry.
- Despite the tougher economic climate, the Lyric continues to generate economic benefit for the local economy. 84% of West London survey respondents believe the Lyric to be important to the local economy with an average of £54 spend when visiting the area. With 93% of respondents saying they have been to the Lyric 1-5 times in the last 12 months, this brings in an estimated £162 to the local economy for every 9 in 10 respondents.*
- West London Drama School, ArtsEd deliver their Foundation in Acting from the Lyric, with 30 students per year working within the Lyric's Dance Studio and TV Studio, 9 months of the year.

'HAVING MOVED WEST RECENTLY, IT'S A MUCH NEEDED SURPRISE ON MY DOORSTEP THAT NURTURES MY INTEREST IN PERFORMING ARTS AND COMMUNITY BUILDING' LONDONER, FEMALE AGED 34

'[THE LYRIC] MAKES HAMMERSMITH A PLACE OF CULTURE IN WEST LONDON' West Londoner, female aged 30

'I LOVE WHAT THE LYRIC STANDS FOR AND THE OPPORTUNITIES IT PROVIDES A LOT OF PEOPLE, WHILE ALSO BRINGING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER' West Londoner, Female Aged 30 LYRIC YOUNG ASSOCIATES, 2023



- As the largest cultural organisation in Hammersmith & Fulham, the Lyric supports and leads the way in the delivery of the Council's Cultural Strategy.
 - Lyric Executive Director Amy Belson sits on the Hammersmith & Fulham Cultural Compact, responsible for oversight and delivery of the Cultural Strategy.
 - The Lyric took a leading role in the Hammersmith & Fulham Borough of Culture Bid for 2025.
 - Lyric Executive Director Amy Belson chairs the Hammersmith & Fulham Arts Marketing Group for cultural organisations to deliver joint destination marketing, promoting the Borough as a cultural destination.
- The Lyric works in partnership with Hammersmith & Fulham Council teams to address social issues alongside residents. The Lyric has collaborated with LBHF GVEU (Gangs, Violence, Exploitation, Unit) to develop a brand-new touring theatre production based on the themes of the GVEU CYP presentation. The production will be staged at primary schools, youth clubs and pupil referral units within the borough reaching 1,500 young people. Our intention is to use the power of theatre and storytelling to develop understanding, empathy and knowledge for young people (aged 9 11) across the borough around gang culture and exploitation. We envisage this programme will serve as an intervention for young people to keep themselves and their families safe and support in the reduction of future crime within the borough.

'THE JOINT WORKING BETWEEN THE [GANG, VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION UNIT] AND THE LYRIC THEATRE WILL ALLOW US TO BRING AN AWARENESS OF COUNTY LINES TO YOUNG PEOPLE IN AN INNOVATIVE WAY. THE IMPACT OF THIS CANNOT BE UNDERSTATED WITH YOUNG PEOPLE BEING VULNERABLE TO EXPLOITATION, HIGHLIGHTING THIS IN THE FORM OF A PRODUCTION WILL ALLOW YOUNG PEOPLE TO REMEMBER THIS IN THE FUTURE' LUKE BURGE | COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OUTREACH WORKER, HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM COUNCIL FOR THE CULTURE FESTIVAL, 2022



BRITANNICUS 2022

SUPPORTING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY Advocating for our planet

The Lyric is committed to reducing its impact on the environment and was the first theatre to receive 5 stars from Julie's Bicycle Creative Green Certification. Supporting environmental sustainability is part of our business aims as we continue to reduce the theatre's long-term impact on the environment and become a model of best practice for other cultural organisations.

In 2019, the Lyric joined Hammersmith & Fulham Council in declaring a climate and ecological emergency and setting a target to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2030. In 2023, the Lyric underlined its commitment to this by signing up to the Hammersmith & Fulham Climate Alliance, recognising the need for organisations to take rapid climate action to deliver net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 for the borough of Hammersmith & Fulham. Additionally, we work collaboratively with London Theatre Consortium Environmental Sustainability Programme delivered in partnership with Julie's Bicycle to build awareness, share expertise and collectively monitor and drive down carbon emissions.

We strive to promote energy efficiency, recycling waste materials, and the use of recycled products in the pursuit of creating an economic, efficient, and environmentally friendly workplace. We seek to create awareness, understanding and a positive approach to environmental sustainability recognising the global significance of this issue and the social justice implications of addressing climate change.



LYRIC HAMMERSMITH THEATRE IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE H&F CLIMATE ALLIANCE, WORKING WITH H&F COUNCIL AND LOCAL BUSINESSES TO **TACKLE THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY IN HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM**. THIS HAS INCLUDED CONTRIBUTING TO KNOWLEDGE SHARING SESSIONS AND HOSTING THE H&F CLIMATE ALLIANCE MEET 'N' GREET EVENT IN MAY 2023'

OUR OUTCOMES

- Reduction in carbon emissions and air pollution.
- Safeguarding the natural environment through reuse and recycling.
- Promoting sustainable and ethical procurement.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Building and Offices

- The Lyric used 635,000 kWh of 100% renewable electricity per year [Based on forecast energy use for 23/24].
- Based on waste reports for 24 months (Feb 22-Jan 24), 93% of our waste is recycled, saving 6 tonnes of C02 per year.
- A 'paperless' system continued to run in our finance and resources department.

Theatre Production

- Reuse/repurposing of show floors, set materials, and props.
 - The 2023 Panto, Cinderella saw the dressing tables and market carts fully built from previous sets.
 - Cloths behind the band first made an appearance in the Lyric's 2014 panto.
 - Panto portals framing the stage have been reused for the past 11 years.
- Donation of materials and equipment to other organisations and schools: show floors and framework from Scandaltown to Wimbledon College of Art for student projects; ironmongery and castors donated to scenic construction companies.
- Investing in structural steel decks has saved cost and reduced waste of materials, with the decks used to create stage floor formations for 9 productions in the two-year period.
- Use of LED fixtures to use less energy, reducing carbon footprint and use of single use plastics from lighting gels. The Lyric's Studio theatre rig is now entirely rigged with LEDs. In 2023, the Lyric's Main House Production *The Empress*, was entirely lit by LED fixtures.
- Environmental themes were prevalent in our Little Lyric theatre programme and in our participatory programmes.



HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

- Committed to a minimum of 1 vegetarian/vegan menu option per category on bar and event menus.
- Reducing the number of deliveries by consolidating our product ranges to a smaller number of companies.
- Introduction of reusable plastic glasses for audience to take into our theatres, reducing single use plastic consumption.
- Implementing timed shutdowns of equipment where appropriate to minimise electric usage during closed hours.
- Increasing digital displays use to reduce print and delivery on promotional items.
- Introducing digital ticketing via Visit.



LOOKING FORWARD

The Lyric's strategic vision through to 2026, which encompasses the 130th Birthday of the Lyric's iconic Frank Matcham theatre in 2025, articulates our ambitions and forms the foundations of the work across the entire organisation.

Our vision is informed by the strategies of our major funders – Arts Council England's 'Let's Create' and the Cultural, Education and Industrial Strategies of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham – alongside our creative and organisational priorities that will ensure the future success and longevity of the Lyric. At the heart of our vision is our organisational mission and values.

Our vision focuses on four strategic strands:

OUR WORK & IDENTITY

Positioning the Lyric in the UK theatre landscape.

- OUR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & SUSTAINABILITY
 Developing and delivering against the Lyric's business model.
- OUR AUDIENCE & COMMUNITY Engaging and growing the Lyric's audience and wider community.
- OUR PEOPLE & CULTURE

Supporting staff, artists, children and young people to excel.

Our supporters, local and creative community fuel our work and ambitious. If you are interested in connecting with us to talk about how you can be part of the Lyric's future, please contact us at **development@lyric.co.uk**.

THANK YOU

We are incredibly grateful to all the Trusts and Foundations, individuals and corporate companies who have generously supported our vital work from April 2022 – March 2024, and to all those who currently support.

Sasha Bates and contributors to the Bill Cashmore Award The Bevan Family Kate Brooke Lameya Chaudhury Mark & Sarah Crosbie **Chris & Amanda Curry** Liz Elston Mayhew & Luke Mayhew Roger de Freitas **The Grace Family** Julian Granville & Louisiana Lush Lorraine Heggessey **Rebecca Lenkiewicz** Britta & Jeremy Llovd Kate & Kevin McGrath Sandy & Caroline Orr Caroline Posnansky Vicky Pearson & Alan Stewart The Ramos Fuentenebro-**Handal Family** Mary-Louise Stewart Sue Vertue & Steven Moffat Martha Winfield & many other anonymous Supporters

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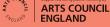
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We would also like to say thank you to the committed Lyric team, freelance artists, our Board and partners who live our mission each day as they deliver outstanding work in West London. And, importantly, a thank you to our audiences and participants who invest in our programming and bring new perspectives and creativity into the Lyric.

REFERENCE NOTES

(1) Statistics drawn from: Hammersmith & Fulham Paper (2019), Deprivation in Hammersmith and Fulahm: Analysis of the 2019 Indices of Deprivation data. Available at Deprivation in Hammersmith and Fulham (Ibhf.gov.uk) [Accessed 1 April 2024].

(2) In January 2024, Lyric commissioned Tapestry Research to develop and deliver an Insight Survey. The survey was sent to Lyric's current mailing list, resulting in 1041 people providing responses. This data provided Lyric with supporting evidence of its impact and is used throughout this report. We have marked data derived from this survey with an asterisk (*).

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> IMAGE OVERLEAF ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST 2023



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