



Press Release

10 September 2024

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OVER 16,500 FREE TICKETS GIVEN OUT TO LOCAL WEST LONDON COMMUNITY BY LYRIC HAMMERSMITH THEATRE

The Lyric Hammersmith Theatre today celebrates the 30th anniversary of its Free First Night scheme, funded by Hammersmith & Fulham Council.

Initially introduced in 1994 by the Lyric's former Executive Team Neil Bartlett, Simon Mellor, Sue Storr, the scheme provides the opportunity to people who live or work locally within Hammersmith and Fulham to get two free tickets to the first preview of all Main House Lyric productions and four free tickets for Lyric pantos.

Selected through a ballot entry, more than 16,500 free tickets have been given out as part of this incredible initiative since its launch 30 years ago, continuing the Lyric's accessibility pledge and the venue's commitment to support the Hammersmith and Fulham community.

Amy Belson, Executive Director and joint CEO of the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre, said: *'The people of Hammersmith and Fulham are at the heart of everything we do at the Lyric. They are the first to see every Main House show and have been part of this creative process for 30 years. We are so grateful that Neil, Simon and Sue introduced the idea in 1994 and are grateful to Hammersmith and Fulham Council for their continued support of this incredible scheme that have given so many people the chance to experience the excitement of a first night in the theatre for free.'*

The next Free First Night registration will take place open on 11 September and allow successful applicants to come see the opening performance on 08 October of Lorraine Hansberry's ground-breaking classic *A Raisin in the Sun*, directed by the Lyric's Artistic Associate Tinuke Craig, in an exciting co-production with Headlong, Leeds Playhouse and Nottingham Playhouse.

For more information, please visit [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 nearly 130 years. Under the leadership of its joint CEOs, Artistic Director 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.

- ENDS -

Press contacts at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre:

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Notes to Editors

IMAGES available to download [here](#).

Listings

Lyric Hammersmith Theatre
Lyric Square, King Street, London, W6 0QL

Box office: 020 8741 6850

www.lyric.co.uk

Tickets from £10

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