



Press Release

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LYRIC HAMMERSMITH THEATRE UNVEILS 130TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON FOR 2025

Highlights include:

- The **UK premiere** of the critically-acclaimed stage adaptation of *Sing Street* in a brand new production from Tony-Award winning creative team, including writer **Enda Walsh** (*Once*), with music and lyrics by **Gary Clark** and **John Carney**, directed by **Rebecca Taichman**.
- **Artistic Director Rachel O’Riordan** reunites with writer **Gary Owen** (*Iphigenia in Splott*) in a reimagining of Henrik Ibsen’s *Ghosts*.
- The stage adaptation of *Marriage Material* by **Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti**, based on the critically acclaimed novel by **Sathnam Sanghera**, directed by **Iqbal Khan**.
- A brand new adaptation of *Dracula*, based on the novel by **Bram Stoker**, adapted by **Morgan Lloyd Malcolm** (*Emilia*) and directed by **Emma Baggott**.
- Priority booking opens 10am today Wednesday 08 October for Lyric members. Public booking opens **10am on Friday 11 October** at www.lyric.co.uk
- Submissions are now open for **The Bill Cashmore Award: One Act Play Prize**, run in conjunction with the Lyric as a nationwide opportunity for playwrights aged 18 - 30 to develop a one-act play from the page to professional stage.
- The Lyric collaborates with **Hammersmith & Fulham Council’s Gangs, Violence and Exploitation Unit (GVEU)** for the touring theatre intervention production *Cross the Line* with the aim to support reducing future crime amongst young people within the borough.

2025 marks the 130th birthday of the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre and today it unveils its new season of work that showcases the bold, original storytelling that has kept this Frank Matcham auditorium at the heart of West London and UK theatre for over a century.

Reuniting the team behind the critically acclaimed *Iphigenia in Splott*, **Gary Owen’s** reimagining of **Henrik Ibsen’s** *Ghosts* is directed by **Artistic Director Rachel O’Riordan**. This world premiere production resituates this classic story into the modern day, and follows in the footsteps of similarly re-lensed classics in the Lyric’s recent history including *A Doll’s House* and *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*. **Playing from 10 April - 10 May 2025.**

Sathnam Sanghera’s critically acclaimed novel *Marriage Material* is adapted for the stage for the first time by **Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti** (*A Kind of People*) and directed by **Iqbal Khan**

(*East is East*). This multi-generational drama follows one Sikh family and their corner shop in Wolverhampton from the 1960s to the present day, uncovering themes of inequality, duty and ambition. **Playing from 22 May - 21 June 2025.**

The UK premiere of ***Sing Street***, a new musical based on the 2016 movie of the same name by **John Carney** (*Begin Again, Once*) is **playing from 08 July– 23 August 2025**. With a book by Tony Award winner **Enda Walsh** (*Lazarus, Once*) and music and lyrics by **Gary Clark** (frontman of Danny Wilson) and Carney, this heartfelt, joyous coming-of-age story set in 1980s Dublin is directed by Tony Award winner **Rebecca Taichman** (*Indecent*).

Completing this season is a major new version of **Bram Stoker's *Dracula***, written by **Morgan Lloyd Malcolm** (*Emilia*) and directed by **Emma Baggott** (*A Taste of Honey*). This reimagined version of the classic horror novel centres the female voices at the heart of the story, and continues the Lyric's long history of bringing thrilling tales to the stage. **Playing from 11 September - 11 October 2025.**

Tickets are on-sale from 10am Wednesday 09 October for Lyric Members; public booking opens from **10am on Friday 11 October** at www.lyric.co.uk

Rachel O’Riordan, Artistic Director of the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre, said: “*In 2025, our stunning Frank Matcham auditorium celebrates its 130th birthday. Originally designed as a music hall, it is in the DNA of the Lyric to present work in that same spirit: bold, eclectic, entertaining. Stories that take on the most important, current subjects and bring a broad audience together under one roof to enjoy them. So I’m delighted to be announcing a new season of four shows which absolutely exemplify that spirit for today in this special anniversary year for the Lyric.*

This season truly has something for everyone – an Ibsen classic radically reimagined, a family saga set against the changing face of Britain, a heart-warming musical based on a beloved coming-of-age film, and a major new adaptation of a horror classic.

The four extraordinary playwrights who make up this season of work – Gary Owen, Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti, Enda Walsh and Morgan Lloyd Malcolm – are as dynamic and varied as our audience, and represent some of the most exciting voices in contemporary theatre. I cannot wait for audiences to see their work on our beautiful stage and can think of no better way for the Lyric to celebrate this milestone birthday.”

GHOSTS

A Lyric Hammersmith Theatre production

By Henrik Ibsen

In a new version by Gary Owen

Directed by Rachel O’Riordan

Thursday 10 April - Saturday 10 May 2025

Opening Night: Wednesday 16 April 2025

“When you spend your life in thrall to a monster you find yourself trying to make monstrous things somehow bearable.”

Helena is a woman on a mission. Since the death of her high-flying husband, she has dedicated herself to reclaiming his legacy. And her hard work is about to pay off, with a new children's hospital bearing his name on the brink of opening.

But when their son Oz returns to the family home for the grand unveiling, he has ambitions of his own. Ambitions that threaten to unravel their family's most tightly kept secrets.

*Gary Owen's new play, a contemporary reimagining of Ibsen's classic, is directed by Artistic Director Rachel O'Riordan, reuniting the team behind the critically acclaimed *Iphigenia in Splott*, *Romeo and Julie* and *Killology*.*

"Perfect theatre. Everyone should see this shattering modern classic"
*Guardian on *Iphigenia in Splott**

Ghosts is designed by **Merle Hensel**, lighting design by **Simisola Majekodunmi**, sound design by **Donato Wharton** and casting by **Anna Cooper CDG**.

Gary Owen's (Writer) most recent play *Romeo & Julie*, was directed by Rachel O'Riordan at the National Theatre and Sherman to 5* reviews. It was his fourth collaboration with O'Riordan, a relationship which began in 2015 with *Iphigenia in Splott* for the Sherman Theatre, which transferred to the Shed at the National, and toured to Berlin and New York.

Iphigenia in Splott won the UK Theatre Best New Play award and the James Tait Black Prize for Drama, and earned its lead, Sophie Melville, a Stage Award for Acting Excellence and an Evening Standard Award nomination for Best Actress. In 2022 the production was revived to critical acclaim at the Lyric Hammersmith.

Owen's other collaborations with O'Riordan are a radical reworking of *The Cherry Orchard* for the Sherman, which translated the action of the play to 1980s Pembrokeshire, at the beginning of the Thatcher era, and *Killology*, a co-production between the Sherman and the Royal Court, which won Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre at the 2018 Olivier Awards.

Previously he's written *Violence and Son* for the Royal Court. *Violence and Son* was nominated for an Olivier in 2016, and its star David Moorst won Best Emerging Talent at the Evening Standard Awards and Most Promising Newcomer at the Critics' Circle Awards for his performance as Liam. His adaptation of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* will be staged for the third time by the Sherman at its Christmas show in 2024.

Gary's earlier work includes *Crazy Gary's Mobile Disco*, *The Shadow of a Boy* (winner George Devine and Meyer Whitworth awards), *The Drowned World* (winner Fringe First and Pearson Best Play awards), *Ghost City*, *Mrs Reynolds and the Ruffian* and *Love Steals Us From Loneliness* and *Hartleby*, *Oooglemore and Jeramee*, a collaboration with Tim Crouch for the Unicorn. His plays are published by Methuen.

Rachel O'Riordan (Director) is Artistic Director and joint CEO of the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre where she launched her critically acclaimed debut season in Autumn 2019 with a triumphant adaptation of *A Doll's House* by Tanika Gupta. She most recently directed *Romeo & Julie*, by Gary Owen, at the National Theatre and Sherman, which received five star reviews and is currently in development for a film adaptation. She also directed the sold-out remount of *Iphigenia in Splott* at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre in Autumn 2022, which was

featured as one of The Guardian's 50 best theatre shows of the 21st century and was Number 1 in The Guardian's Top 10 Theatre Productions of 2022.

At the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre, she co-directed the Lyric's 2020 summer reopening production *Out West*. Other Lyric shows include *Love, Love, Love* by Mike Bartlett, in the 10 year anniversary revival; Martin McDonagh's *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* with Chichester Festival Theatre; and critically-acclaimed revivals of Brian Friel's *Faith Healer* and Timberlake Wertenbaker's *Our Country's Good*.

Previously, she was Artistic Director and CEO of Sherman Theatre, Wales from 2014 and transformed the venue which won The Stage's prestigious Regional Theatre of the Year Award in 2018. Directing credits include the Olivier Award-winning *Killology*, *Bird* and *Iphigenia in Splott*. She was Artistic Director of Perth Theatre, Scotland between 2011 and 2014 and won The Critics' Award for Theatre in Scotland for Best Director and Best Ensemble for *The Seafarer* by Conor McPherson. From 2002 to 2011, she co-founded and ran Ransom Productions in Northern Ireland. She has been named as one of the most influential people in UK Theatre in The Stage 100. Published work includes *Women in Irish Theatre*.

MARRIAGE MATERIAL

A Lyric Hammersmith Theatre production
By Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti
Based on the novel by Sathnam Sanghera
Directed by Iqbal Khan

Dates: Thursday 22 May – Saturday 21 June 2025
Press Night: Wednesday 28 May 2025

"In our shops we will be Kings of England. And we will make this place our place."

The Bains' corner shop in Wolverhampton has been at the centre of the family for three generations.

In 1969, Mrs Bains is balancing running the business, caring for her ailing husband and the demands of her two headstrong daughters, who each have their eye on a different kind of future.

In the present day, a family tragedy pulls Arjan Bains back from a life in London. The shop represents everything he was trying to escape, but with his mother insisting it remain open, how long can he stay away?

Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti (A Kind of People) adapts the critically acclaimed novel from Sathnam Sanghera (Empireland), a sweeping family portrait directed by Iqbal Khan (East Is East).

Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti, Writer, said: *"I'm thrilled at the prospect of bringing Sathnam Sanghera's wonderful book to life. It's been a privilege to take on this powerful and authentic story of a Punjabi family, exploring what people gain and lose as they make new lives in the UK."*

With vivid characters who face unspeakable pressures, yet remain full of ambition, Marriage Material is an emotional, rich, joyful piece and so relevant for today – a perfect play for the Lyric’s beautiful stage.

I hope that audiences will laugh and cry, be moved and surprised. Most importantly, I want them to have an entertaining and memorable night at the theatre.”

Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti’s (Writer) first play *Behsharam* broke box office records at Soho/Birmingham Rep. Her second play *Behzti* was sensationally closed after protests and won the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize. Other credits include *A Kind of People* (Royal Court Downstairs); *Khandan* (Royal Court/Birmingham Rep); *Behud* (Soho/Coventry Belgrade); *Elephant*, Birmingham Rep; *Dishoom*, Rifco/Watford Palace Theatre, *Fourteen*, Watford Palace Theatre; the feature film *Everywhere And Nowhere*; *DCI Stone*, Radio 4; *The Archers*, Radio 4; *Londoner*, Rich Mix; *Dead Meat*, Channel 4 and *An Enemy Of The People*, BBC World Service.

She is currently developing original series *Masala* for Home Team/Universal, adapting *Black & Blue* by Parm Sandhu for Cuba Pictures and *Brando’s Bride* by Sarah Broughton as a feature for Martha Stone Productions/Ffilm Cymru Wales.

She is also writing plays for Chichester Festival Theatre, Clean Break, NT Connections and Tara Theatre.

Her first collection, *Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti: PLAYS ONE*, is published by Bloomsbury.

Iqbal Khan (Director) is an Associate Director of Birmingham Rep, an Associate Artist of Box Clever Theatre Company, and the Artistic Director of the 2022 Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony.

He has worked extensively with the RSC, as well as directing for opera and classical music events. Credits include *Otello*, *The Wildman of the West Indies* and Shakespeare at The Bowl. He has directed in Paris, Japan (awarded a year long prestigious fellowship, based in Tokyo), had recent residencies and delivered lectures at Michigan State, La Fayette, Nanjing, and was the 2019 Michael Douglas Visiting Artist at UC Santa Barbara. His production of *Tartuffe* at the RSC was broadcast on BBC 4 in 2023, and can now be watched on BBC iPlayer. Most recently, Iqbal’s work can be seen in *Silence* at Tara Arts and *Animal Farm* at the Octagon Theatre.

SING STREET

A Lyric Hammersmith Theatre production

Book by Enda Walsh

Music & Lyrics by Gary Clark and John Carney

Directed by Rebecca Taichman

Choreographed by Sonya Tayeh

Designed by Bob Crowley

Dates: Tuesday 08 July – Saturday 23 August 2025

Press Night: Friday 18 July 2025

“You might be school kids and livin’ in dead-end Dublin – but you’re doin’ it! You’re making music!”

It's Dublin, 1982, and sixteen year old Conor can't catch a break. His parents are fighting, his brother won't leave the house and he's not fitting in at his new Catholic school.

Enter Raphina, a mysterious girl who's too cool for school and on the lookout for a modelling job. In an effort to impress, Conor hires her to star in a music video for his band. Only problem is he doesn't have a band. Yet.

With a score that embraces the new wave sounds of the 80s, Sing Street is an ode to the thrill of young love and a celebration of the power of music to lift us up.

Tony Award winners Enda Walsh (Once) and Rebecca Taichman (Indecent), with music from Gary Clark (Danny Wilson), bring John Carney's beloved coming-of-age film to the UK stage for the first time in this brand new production, following sell-out runs in Boston and New York.

Sing Street was originally developed and staged by New York Theatre Workshop and was subsequently produced by Huntington Theatre Company in Boston in September 2022 (Loretta Greco, Artistic Director and Michael Maso, Managing Director).

"Sing Street will give you joy!"

New York Magazine on New York Theatre Workshop's 2019 production

The *Sing Street* creative team will include choreography by **Sonya Tayah**, set and costume design by **Bob Crowley**, video design by **Luke Halls**, music supervision by **Peter Gordeno**, co-costume design by **Lisa Zinni** and voice & dialect coaching by **Hazel Holder**.

Enda Walsh, Writer, said: *"I'm absolutely thrilled that we're premiering this production in the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre next summer. I loved the movie of Sing Street having lived through the early 1980's in Dublin and having a similar obsession with electronic music as the teenage protagonists in this story. The Catholic Church still held a lot of influence in society - and the Ireland of that period felt depressed and futureless - a place to emigrate from. It felt like you were living in a sepia drenched atmosphere. Music was a refuge and then an expression for those who could play and a way to articulate frustrations and loves and dreams. Sing Street has all of that."*

Gary Clark, Music & Lyrics, added: *"As my first musical collaboration with film-maker John Carney, and with a story that very much echoes the forming of my own rough and unready school band in the early nineteen-eighties, Sing Street holds a very special place in my heart.*

We had so much fun creating the original songs for the movie and rekindled that spirit for the additions that we've written especially for this production, and I am absolutely thrilled to see Sing Street the musical hit the stage of The Lyric Hammersmith and to be working with such a brilliant and talented team."

Enda Walsh (Writer) is a Tony and multi award-winning Irish playwright and director. His work has been translated into over 20 languages and has been performed internationally since 1998. His recent plays include *Sing Street* (2019); an adaptation of Max Porter's *Grief is the Thing with Feathers* (2018) for Complicité in association with Landmark Productions and Galway International Arts Festival; *The Same* (2017), produced by Corcadorca; *Lazarus* (2016) with David Bowie; *Arlington* (2016), *Ballyturk* (2014), *Misterman* (2012), all co-produced by Landmark Productions and Galway International Arts Festival; and, with

Donnacha Dennehy, the operas, *The Last Hotel* (2015) and *The Second Violinist* (2017) for Landmark Productions and Irish National Opera. In an ongoing project he has made six installations, called collectively 'Rooms', with Paul Fahy and GIAF: *Room 303, A Girl's Bedroom, A Kitchen, Bathroom, Office 33A, Waiting Room* and *Changing Room*. In 2014, he received an honorary doctorate from NUI Galway.

Rebecca Taichman (Director) won a Tony Award for Best Director of a Play in 2017 for her direction of *Indecent* by Paula Vogel.

Rebecca's directorial repertoire spans across a wide range of theatrical genres. She directs new plays, classics, musicals, and opera. Currently, she is immersed in the development of many exciting new musical theater projects.

Rebecca has collaborated and continues to work with wonderful writers such as David Adjmi, Ella Hickson, Lynn Nottage, Lupe Fiasco, Sanaz Toosi, Steven Levenson, Jocelyn Bioh, Sarah Ruhl, Danai Guirira, Enda Walsh, Brian Selznick, Kirsten Greenidge, Nico Muhly, Rick Elice, Jason Katims, Marcy Heisler and Tom Kitt. Rebecca's has worked at The Roundabout, Lincoln Center, Playwrights Horizons, MCC, Soho Rep, NYTW, The Shakespeare Theatre Company, The Old Globe, ART, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, McCarter, and Woolly Mammoth, among others.

Rebecca is a resident director at Ambassador Theater Group (ATG) as well as at The Roundabout Theater in NYC, a Henry Crown Fellow at The Aspen Institute, and a graduate of the Yale School of Drama.

Sonya Tayeh (Choreographer) is a New York City-based Tony Award-winning choreographer and director. Her work has been characterised as a blend of powerful versatility and theatrical range. Selected credits include: *Romeo & Juliet/Bway, Moulin Rouge! The Musical//Bway, The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window/Bway, Is It Thursday Yet?* (La Jolla Playhouse and Perelman Arts Center – Directed/Conceived/Co-Choreographed), *Sing Street* (Huntington Theatre - Dir. Rebecca Taichman), Martha Graham Dance Company (Joyce Theatre/Tour), American Ballet Theatre/*What Becomes of Love* Dance Film, *Unveiling* with Moses Sumney and dancers (Fall For Dance/City Center), *The Lucky Ones* (Ars Nova - Dir. Anne Kauffman), *Hundred Days* (NYT Workshop - Dir Anne Kauffman). Visit www.sonyatayeh.com.

Gary Clark (Music & Lyrics) began his career in late '80s as front person of the Scottish band Danny Wilson writing the band's 1987 international hit "Mary's Prayer". As a songwriter and record producer his credits include Natalie Imbruglia, Liz Phair, Melanie C, The Veronicas, McFly, The Wanted, Demi Lovato and many others. His songs have appeared frequently in film and television, including *There's Something about Mary, Nightwatch, Wild Things, Charlie's Angels, Grey's Anatomy, Teen Wolf* and *Blinded by The Light*. In 2016 he wrote the songs and score for the movie *Sing Street* with Screenwriter/Director John Carney, a relationship that has continued through two seasons of Amazon Prime's *Modern Love* and two further feature films; 2023's *Flora and Son*, from which two songs were Oscar short-listed, and the forthcoming *Power Ballad*. He is currently writing songs and score for Nanny McPhee the musical with Dame Emma Thompson.

DRACULA

A Lyric Hammersmith Theatre production

By Morgan Lloyd Malcolm

Based on the novel by Bram Stoker

Directed by Emma Baggott

Dates: Thursday 11 September – Saturday 11 October 2025

Press Night: Wednesday 17 September 2025

“Beware the teller as much as the tale”

Mina Harker has a story to tell. Armed only with her husband’s journal, a pile of old letters and her wits, she begins to piece together the story of the mysterious Count Dracula and his journey to England.

But is Mina’s story merely memory – or does it have the power to conjure the dead?

In this major new adaptation of Bram Stoker’s horror classic, Morgan Lloyd Malcolm (Emilia) uncovers the female voices at the heart of the tale. Directed by Emma Baggott (A Taste of Honey), this is a theatrical thriller not to be missed.

Morgan Lloyd Malcolm, Writer, said: *“I am so excited to be returning to the Lyric Hammersmith with Dracula. The last time I did a show here it was a pantomime and this will be a very different vibe! It’s been a joy digging into this classic which still has so much relevance and poignancy today; but mostly I am so looking forward to trying our best to scare the pants of everyone.”*

Morgan Lloyd Malcolm (Writer) was commissioned by The Globe to write *Emilia* which then transferred to the West End in 2019, winning three Olivier awards. Other stage credits include *Belongings* and *The Wasp*, produced by the Hampstead Theatre and Trafalgar Studios. *Belongings* was shortlisted for The Charles Wintour Most Promising Playwright Award. Morgan also wrote *Typical Girls* (Sheffield Crucible, 2021); *Mum* (Plymouth Theatre Royal and Soho Theatre, 2021); and *When the Long Trick’s Over* (High Tide for New Wolsey Theatre and UK tour, 2022). She co-wrote the book for new musical *Cake*, produced at various dates in 2023 and 2024, and runs theatre company *Terrifying Women* with Abi Zakarian, Sampira and Amanda Castro, producing horror plays written by women.

Morgan adapted *Damage* (produced as *Obsession* in April 2023 by Netflix). Her feature adaptation of *The Wasp*, starring Naomie Harris and Natalie Dormer and directed by Guillem Morales, was released in 2024.

Emma Baggott (Director) trained at The Brit School, Goldsmiths College and the Young Vic. Her production of *A Taste of Honey* was nominated for the UK Theatre Award for Best Play Revival and *The Wonderful World of Dissocia* was shortlisted for Off West End Award for Best Production (Plays).

Recent credits include *A Taste of Honey* (Royal Exchange); *The Wonderful World of Dissocia* (Theatre Royal Stratford East); *Face the Music: The Social Care Workers Play* (Almeida Theatre); *The Snow Queen* (Polka Theatre); *Neville’s Island, Misfits, Stiletto Beach* (Queens Theatre Hornchurch); *She is Fierce* (The Swirl/Royal Shakespeare Company); *Leaving, How To Kill Your Mother, Copper & Steel* (The Bunker); *Normal* (Styx); *Under Milk Wood* (National Youth Theatre of Wales); *Cyrano de Bergerac, Pomona, Mr Burns, X, The Christians* (LAMDA); *The Cosmonaut’s Last Message, Attempts On Her Life* (Royal Conservatoire Scotland); *Love Steals Us From Loneliness* (Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama); *Dennis of Penge, Attempts On Her Life* (Guildhall School of Music and Drama).

Credits as an Associate Director include *This House* (Headlong/National Theatre); *The Sound of Yellow* (Young Vic); *McQueen* (Theatre Royal Haymarket).

She facilitates regular workshops for organisations such as Cardboard Citizens, National Theatre, Young Vic and Regional Theatre Young Director Scheme.

ALSO ANNOUNCED:

THE BILL CASHMORE AWARD: ONE ACT PLAY PRIZE

The Bill Cashmore Award is presented by the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre. It is a new playwriting award for young writers, founded by Sasha Bates in 2018 in memory of her husband, the actor, playwright, director and entrepreneur Bill Cashmore.

This playwriting award offers a paid opportunity for two new one-act plays to be professionally produced at the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre. The prize is for writers aged 18 – 30 to submit new scripts for selection by an industry-leading panel of the Lyric's Artistic Associates. The two winning plays will run as a double bill and will be performed by the Lyric's SPRINGBOARD trainee actors in autumn 2025.

Submissions are now open and will close Monday 23rd December 2024, 12pm. For more info please visit <https://lyric.co.uk/bill-cashmore-award/>

Sasha Bates said: *"A successful one act play can pack a punch all the more powerful for the brevity of its delivery. It was Bill Cashmore's chosen medium for his own writing. He would be delighted that this new iteration of the Award in his name, is celebrating this challenging but satisfying art form. We will be searching for a young writer who, supported by us, can create a tightly and beautifully written one act play, with a profound message. Once again, The Bill Cashmore Award, with the Lyric Hammersmith will then provide the resources necessary to produce this play and stage it in the Lyric's Studio Theatre."*

CROSS THE LINE

A Lyric Hammersmith Theatre production

In association with Hammersmith and Fulham Council's Gangs Violence Exploitation Unit (GVEU)

By Azuka Oforka

Directed by Philip Morris

Monday 9 June – Friday 27 June 2025

Cross The Line is a brand new touring theatre intervention production based on county lines within West London. The production will tour to primary schools, youth clubs and pupil referral units within the Hammersmith and Fulham Borough across summer 2025.

This is a collaboration project between the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre and the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham's (GVEU) Gangs Violence Exploitation Unit. The GVEU was formed in 2020, due to the rise in gang activity and its impact on families. The GVEU is a non-statutory service made up of council professionals and H&F Council-funded police officers. It seeks to identify young people at risk of becoming involved in gang activity or exploitation and provide effective early-intervention strategies to vulnerable children, young people and their families. Both the GVEU and Lyric Hammersmith Theatre have worked with the young people of H&F to ensure their voices are heard in this production.

The production celebrates the 60th anniversary of TIE (Theatre in Education) and uses the power of theatre and storytelling to develop understanding, empathy and knowledge for young people across the borough around gang culture and exploitation. *Cross The Line* is a new educational intervention for young people to support the reduction of future crime within the borough.

Cllr Rebecca Harvey, Hammersmith and Fulham Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Community Safety, said: *"Our pioneering Gangs Unit has teamed up with the Lyric Hammersmith Theatre as part of our mission to help protect vulnerable local young people. This fantastic opportunity helps them lead a life away from crime and offers creative alternatives to build positively on young people's talents."*

AMICI DANCE THEATRE COMPANY'S 45TH **ANNIVERSARY PRODUCTION: OUR TIME**

Amici Dance Theatre Company celebrate their 45th anniversary with a full-company production, *Our Time*, a love story that spans the decades from the 1970s to the present day, produced by **Turtle Key Arts**.

Directed by **Amici's Artistic Director, Wolfgang Stange**, the show will celebrate the enduring relationship between two men against a turbulent historical landscape and explore society's changing perceptions of same sex couples.

This compelling festival of colour and music, tragedy and comedy is an intimate portrayal of a 50-year personal story passing through world events such as the Cold War and the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Miners' Strike, the AIDS crisis, gay marriage legislation to the present day conflicts in Ukraine and Palestine.

Amici's unique use of live music, dance and circus has inspired thousands of audience members to look at art and the world from a new, slightly magical perspective and draw focus towards every individual's abilities, whether disabled or not, developing their empathy and understanding of people with disabilities.

Amici will once again be collaborating with director **Michael Vale** (*Macbeth*, RSC; Bent, National Theatre), costume designer **Tina Bicat** (winner of the Critics Circle Award for Design for Punchdrunk's *Faust*) and lighting designer **Phil Supple** (*Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red*, Tower of London).

Priority booking opens 10am today Wednesday 08 October for Lyric members. Public booking opens 10am on Friday 11 October.

- ENDS -

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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 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.

School Tickets

The Lyric offers a discounted schools rate for all Main House shows, which is available to all schools, colleges and universities.

Tickets are offered at £15 per student with one free teacher ticket for every ten students and two free teacher tickets for SEND schools. This offer is available for all performances Monday – Wednesday during the main run of the show (subject to availability).

Young Lyric Membership

The Lyric offers Young Lyric Membership for young people aged 0-25 who live in one of the 10 West London boroughs (Brent, Ealing, Hammersmith & Fulham, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Kensington and Chelsea, Richmond upon Thames, Wandsworth and Westminster). You can sign up for membership as an individual (over 18) or as a parent/carer of a young person (under 16). Young Lyric members get £5 tickets to Main House shows, access to low cost or free courses and masterclasses, access to free bursary spaces for classes, performance opportunities and many more opportunities throughout the year.

Tickets go on sale from **10am on Friday 11 October** at www.lyric.co.uk

Listings

Lyric Hammersmith Theatre
Lyric Square, King Street, London, W6 0QL
Box office: 020 8741 6850
www.lyric.co.uk
Tickets from £10

X: [@LyricHammer](#)

Instagram: [/LyricHammersmith](#)

Facebook: [/LyricHammersmith](#)

Ghosts

A Lyric Hammersmith Theatre production

By Henrik Ibsen

In a new version by Gary Owen

Directed by Rachel O'Riordan

Dates: Thursday 10 April - Saturday 10 May 2025

Opening Night: Wednesday 16 April 2025, 7pm

Audio Described Performance: Tuesday 06 May, 7.30pm

BSL Performance: Tuesday 29 April, 7.30pm

Chilled Performance: Wednesday 30 April, 2.30pm

Open Captioned Performance: Thursday 08 May, 7.30pm

Marriage Material

By Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti

Based on the novel by Sathnam Sanghera

Directed by Iqbal Khan

Dates: Thursday 22 May – Saturday 21 June 2025

Press Night: Wednesday 28 May 2025, 7pm

Audio Described Performance: Tuesday 17 June, 7.30pm

BSL Performance: Tuesday 10 June, 7.30pm

Chilled Performance: Wednesday 11 June, 2.30pm

Open Captioned Performance: Thursday 19 June, 7.30pm

Post-Show Q&A with writer Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti: Tuesday 03 June

Sing Street

A Lyric Hammersmith Theatre production

Book by Enda Walsh

Music & Lyrics by Gary Clark and John Carney

Directed by Rebecca Taichman

Choreographed by Sonya Tayeh

Designed by Bob Crowley

Dates: Tuesday 08 July – Saturday 23 August 2025

Press Night: Friday 18 July 2025, 7pm

Audio Described Performance: Tuesday 12 August, 7.30pm

BSL Performance: Tuesday 05 August, 7.30pm

Chilled Performance: Wednesday 06 August, 2.30pm

Open Captioned Performance: Thursday 14 August, 7.30pm

Dracula

A Lyric Hammersmith Theatre production

By Morgan Lloyd Malcolm

Based on the novel by Bram Stoker

Directed by Emma Baggott

Dates: Thursday 11 September – Saturday 11 October 2025

Press Night: Wednesday 17 September 2025

Audio Described Performance: Tuesday 07 October, 7.30pm

BSL Performance: Tuesday 30 September, 7.30pm

Open Captioned Performance: Thursday 09 October, 7.30pm

Chilled Performance: Wednesday 01 October, 2.30pm

Post-Show Q&A with writer Morgan Lloyd Malcolm: Tuesday 23 September