

THEATRE ROYAL HAYMARKET

MASTER CLASS

TRUST



WHAT WE DO

Supporting and nurturing young people through theatre is, and always will be, at the heart of Masterclass. As the in-house education charity of the Theatre Royal Haymarket, the Masterclass programme hosts inspiring and empowering talks with leading industry figures, onstage workshops, careers advice sessions, creative opportunities and paid apprenticeships for young people aged 16 – 30.

We are devoted to using theatre as a platform to build confidence, strengthen self-esteem, nurture creativity and develop business and life skills in young people –the talent of the future.





MASTERCLASSES

Masterclass programmes a regular series of free talks and workshops designed to inspire, nurture and inform young people about the arts. Leaders of theatre in the UK and abroad give their time for free to share their professional experiences as actors, directors, producers, designers and playwrights.

We offer young people the opportunity to ask searching questions in an unintimidating, open environment where they can get honest answers and advice.

"After Ruth's Masterclass I followed her advice and wrote to Mike Leigh. We then had a meeting about casting for his new film! It's the biggest meeting I've ever had with a director, it was a great experience and it's a result of the opportunity Masterclass gave me to perform with Ruth, as well as a result of all the advice I'd stored up from previous Masters."

Phoebe McIntosh, Masterclass attendee Actress



THE APPRENTICE SCHEME

Launched in 2007, the Masterclass Apprentice Scheme supports emerging theatre makers and those who are interested in furthering a career in the theatre and performance industry.

Our scheme offers:

- The chance to work alongside seasoned professionals from the industry
- The opportunity to learn on the job through handson experience
- The chance to earn while you learn; all our apprenticeships are paid opportunities
- The opportunity to develop life skills as well as job specific skills

To date Masterclass has placed 27 apprentices with 80% continuing to further employment within their cho<u>sen career path.</u>





PITCH YOUR PLAY

Pitch Your Play was launched by Masterclass in 2013 and is designed to offer emerging writers, directors and producers the chance to nurture their play and develop some valuable experience working in a commercial theatre.

Each year, Masterclass invites teams of emerging theatremakers to pitch for the chance to have their script staged as a rehearsed reading on stage at the Theatre Royal Haymarket in front of a selected industry audience. Anyone aged 16-30 can apply and the script must be a new, unpublished piece of writing.

"Having *Shakespeare's Sister* staged at the Theatre Royal Haymarket has transformed my career. The staged reading resulted in an offer to license and publish the play! Thanks to Masterclass, I am now a published playwright and the first professional production of my play is due to take place at the American Shakespeare Center in Virginia, February 2017. These are opportunities I simply couldn't have imagined before the Pitch Your Play Scheme. The opportunity to have my work seen by industry professionals has opened so many doors for me. I'm hugely grateful."

Emma Whipday. Former Winner of Pitch Your Play 2015

'Shakespeare's Sister' has since enjoyed another staged reading at King's College London as part of Shakespeare400 which led to an amateur production at ALRA (Academy of Live and Recorded Arts) scheduled to take place in October.

Pitch Your Play 2015 was supported The Noël Coward Foundation and The Vernon Cahritable Trust.



#InYourHands

In February 2016, Masterclass launched the #InYourHands campaign which seeks to combat disillusionment within the arts through a sense of self-awareness and community.

The campaign calls on people working within the industry, particularly those in the early stages of their careers, to take ownership of their craft and recognise that the 'future of our industry is in their hands'. It is those we inspire today who will make the future of theatre exciting, viable and vital.

To date, an estimated 60,000 people have engaged with the campaign and it has been very well received in the media.



THEATRECRAFT

TheatreCraft is the largest non-performance careers fair in London. Now in its 11th successful year, TheatreCraft offers young people aged 16-25 the opportunity to discover the wide variety of non-performance roles available in theatre and presents them with the opportunity to meet potential employers and understand the skills needed for employment.

Beginning life at the Theatre Royal Haymarket, TheatreCraft was conceived by Masterclass in 2003. The fair is run in partnership with the Society of London Theatre, the Royal Opera House and Mousetrap Theatre Projects.





"I attended last year after graduating from university and was unsure about which direction to take next. I had a one-to-one session with James Clutton and later attended his workshop on producing. I kept in touch with James and was offered work experience at Opera Holland Park and then a permanent job. TheatreCraft is an invaluable resource and the Marketplace is a fountain of knowledge and new opportunities. I was delighted to return in 2015."

Larah Simpson, an attendee at the event in 2014 and exhibitor in 2015



COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Masterclass runs innovative and unique theatre projects that have a positive social impact and support young people who might not normally engage with theatre.

In partnership with Kidscape, we are currently halfway through delivering The Cyberscene Project; a unique initiative created to support young people who have experienced cyberbullying. The final performance will take place at the Theatre Royal Haymarket in October 2017.

Previous projects include the Bravo 22 Company, a pioneering theatre recovery project for wounded, injured and sick Service personnel and The Peter Pan Project which supported children and young people at Great Ormond Street Hospital School and Richard House Hospice.

"Everyone has a different experience out there whether they're just starting out or they've been doing it for years... it's about dealing with knock-backs and having the courage to keep going so any advice I could give I was very happy to share."

Mark Gatiss, Masterclass October 2015





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