



Lyric

**THE LYRIC  
HAMMERSMITH  
THEATRE HAS  
STOOD IN THE  
HEART OF OUR  
WEST LONDON  
COMMUNITY  
FOR 130 YEARS.**

Alongside our ambitious, entertaining, inspiring main house shows we remove barriers to engagement and ensure young people have the opportunity to discover the power of their creativity, shaping the future of British theatre and beyond.



**YOUNG  
LYRIC**

**YOUNG LYRIC IS  
THE HOME FOR  
LYRIC'S WORK  
WITH CHILDREN  
AND YOUNG PEOPLE.**

We offer free, inclusive, and high-quality opportunities in the arts to West Londoners – particularly those least likely to access them.

Our aim is to widen access to the arts, inspiring young people to think creatively, gain cultural capital, and improve their social mobility.

Our programmes are free of charge to participants and delivered in close partnership with local schools, councils, and youth services.

Our three flagship programmes are REWIND, START, and SPRINGBOARD, which work intensively with young people throughout the year, creating long-lasting impact with proven results.

Alumni have gone on to become professional actors, directors and creatives across the theatre and wider arts industry, as well as business owners, entrepreneurs, nurses and educators.

# WHY DO WE NEED THESE PROGRAMMES?

## Some stark statistics\*:

- Since 2010, government funding for the arts has been cut by almost 20%
- In the same time period, 250 libraries have permanently closed their doors, along with countless other third spaces for creative community interaction
- 25% of live music and theatre venues are at risk of closure due to the cost-of-living crisis
- 729,000 young people in the UK were unemployed in 2025; 103,000 more than in 2024.



But Young Lyric is thriving. Trainees and participants tell us they are enriched by their time here; we in turn are inspired and informed by them as members of the local community of which we are so proud to be a part.

*'The Lyric is actually a powerhouse for potential. Once you see your potential they will keep pushing you. In the future I will come fund the Lyric myself because it's just amazing.'* **Chrissy**, START alumnus

\*Fancourt, Daisy. *Art Cure: The Science of How the Arts Transform Our Health*. London: Cornerstone Press, 2026.

# START

START is an Arts Award–accredited six-week course for **NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) young people** aged 16–25. It is our longest-running programme, having started in 2006.

Working with around **30 young people each year**, START enables participants to gain **soft skills, mentorship, and pathways into employment and training**. Many participants go on to take part in other Young Lyric programmes including our response projects and SPRINGBOARD.

## ‘I AUDITIONED FOR LAMDA...



*...I made it to the third round for the National Youth Theatre repertory company. I've done maybe 15 shows or projects since I came here. **It feels like a crazy achievement for me** because growing up I didn't really care about the arts. My parents always said focus on the books... education is secure but creativity isn't.'*

**Chrissy**, START alumnus

# SPRINGBOARD

SPRINGBOARD is a free, year-long, bursary-supported **actor training programme** designed for **10 young people** aged 18–25 from **underrepresented backgrounds** in West London.

The programme equips participants to become professional creatives through a series of **high-quality masterclasses led by established industry professionals** – including directors, producers, and writers – before they perform in showcases for agents, family and friends.

SPRINGBOARD has proven its impact not only as a launchpad for emerging talent but also as a unique life-changing resource for young people who may not otherwise have the opportunity. Due to its length, depth of engagement, and the intensive support it provides, it is also our most complex and resource-intensive programme, and therefore the one currently most in need of funding and support.

After the first three years, 84% of graduates were working in the creative industries. Two alumni have performed on the West End stage, including Rima Georges, who understudied the role of Holly in the Olivier Award-nominated *Stereophonic* in 2025.



**‘THIS BUILDING HAS MADE ME WHO I AM AS AN ACTOR AND JUST AS A PERSON.**

*I love this version of myself and a lot of it has to do with this building... In the interview one of the questions was ‘Do you have a support system?’ And in my head I was like ‘no’, and I thought because I didn’t have a support system that was it. I understand how important that question is now because this industry is really tough on you, you need a backbone. And now I realise [the Lyric] heard that and knew they could be my backbone.’*

**Rima**, SPRINGBOARD alumnus

# REWIND

REWIND is our award-winning project to re-engage young people aged 11-18 years old **at risk of leaving school**, or already disengaged from education.

REWIND uses theatre-based activities to build character traits that will equip the young people with tools to deal with

their difficult personal challenges. It aims to increase their perseverance and raise their aspiration by motivating participants to re-engage with and take responsibility for their own learning. They can gain a Bronze |Arts Award and explore literacy in a creative and accessible way.



The programme aims to **reduce young people's chances of being permanently excluded from education** by intervening when they are at risk of disengaging or leaving school. Their reintegration is supported by professionally led drama-based workshops aimed at improving their soft skills including confidence, communication and time-keeping.

# THE LYRIC BELIEVES THAT ALL YOUNG PEOPLE DESERVE ACCESS TO THE ARTS

Especially those who would otherwise have no other opportunity to engage with them. The **demand for our free creative programmes continues to grow**, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic, which intensified existing inequalities among young people in London.

Through our fundraising activity, we aim to ensure that the following key components are maintained:

- Providing access to creative programmes for **underrepresented young people**
- Delivering **high-impact, high-quality** training and mentoring opportunities
- Our **barrier-free model** (no fees or hidden costs) alive and sustainable
- Reaching **more young people** across West London, expanding our outreach



The Lyric is proud to be a trusted, inclusive space that meets local young people where they are, not where systems expect them to be.

# WANT TO BE PART OF IT?

Every year the theatre engages with 30,000 young people; it costs almost £500,000 to fund this work.

We are so grateful to our donors for believing in the importance of this work. That support enables underrepresented young people to step through the doors of a theatre for the first time, to experience the magic of a Lyric main house production, and to gain cultural capital, confidence and skills for greater employability.

## WHERE DO THE DONATIONS GO?

- **£100** could pay for lunches for a START cohort
- **£500** covers theatre tickets for programme participants
- **£1,800** could pay the bursary for a SPRINGBOARD trainee
- **£3,000** could fund a START participant or a SPRINGBOARD showcase
- **£6,000** pays for all Teacher CPD
- **£10,000** puts one young person through SPRINGBOARD for the entire programme
- **£13,000** covers the cost of all our education packs
- **£30,000** supports vital hours of staff and creative practitioner time across all our education projects

**IT COSTS £500,000 EVERY YEAR TO ENSURE ALL OF THESE VITAL, AWARD-WINNING AND LIFE AFFIRMING PROGRAMMES CAN CONTINUE**

If you'd like to be part of this exciting and meaningful work in the year ahead, please [click here to donate](#) or contact us at [development@lyric.co.uk](mailto:development@lyric.co.uk)

You can read more about all of our projects on our [website](#).

Thank you.