

LEARNING & PARTICIPATION

Alongside our work on stage, we run a Learning & Participation programme that is accessible and inclusive to all. Over 9,000 young people and over 2,000 adults engaged with us through our Learning and Participation work last year. Our range of programmes creates a lasting impact for our local communities and aims to:

- Provide routes into the industry, across all theatre departments, with a particular focus on diversifying those coming into the workplace, ensuring the theatre workplace of the future is a diverse and skilled one
- Provide opportunities to people of all ages to develop their creative talents and engage with the work of the theatre, ensuring that there is a creative outlet open to the widest possible constituency

Key projects include:

Junior Youth Theatre (11-15 year olds) and Youth Theatre (16-21 year olds): A year-round programme for young people to develop their acting and creativity.

Young Company: A 10-month programme for 18-25 year olds who are interested in developing their acting skills. Working with a range of industry freelancers, and led by a professional director, the programme culminates in a full production on the Stratford East stage.

Young Techs: A short course to develop the technical theatre skills of 16-21 year olds. The course leads to paid work experience, and potentially paid casual work.

Adult Drama: A termly course for any Newham adult above 26, to develop their acting and creative skills in a friendly environment.

Schools Programme: Offering technical theatre insight days and bespoke programmes linking to the productions and the school curriculum.

Community Ambassadors: A programme supporting 10 volunteers to work with groups in the community to introduce them to the theatre, as well as to run heritage tours of the theatre.

Community Socials: Regular light touch events to introduce local people and community groups to the theatre. Between 30 – 40 local community groups access free tickets, workshops and events with us across the year.

In July this year, over 140 local people will come together to create our production of *Romeo & Juliet*, involving young actors and dancers, adult community actors, a community choir and a visual art project.

Freelance Royalty Scheme: A free membership scheme to support all theatre freelancers living or working in East London. Membership includes access to space, free tickets, workshops, networking and surgery events and we currently have over 1,000 members.

“Our children aren’t able to afford theatre trips so this was particularly important for us. I loved the diversity in the cast also. It allowed the students to see themselves.”

- Newham Primary School Teacher

