



PRESS RELEASE

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Elaine Paige OBE Accepts £17,258 On Behalf Of The Theatre Royal Haymarket Masterclass Trust From The Waldorf Hilton London And Hilton in the Community Foundation.

Elaine Paige OBE, Dame Maureen Thomas DBE, Arnold M. Crook and Alison Palin, General Manager of The Waldorf Hilton gathered in the iconic Palm Court at The Waldorf Hilton London this morning for a cheque presentation to The Theatre Royal Haymarket Masterclass Trust (Masterclass) from the foundation following the fundraising efforts of the team at The Waldorf Hilton .

Dame Maureen Thomas DBE, Deputy Chairman of Hilton in the Community Foundation, presented a cheque for £17,258 to Elaine Paige, a Patron and 3 times past Master of Masterclass, for the ongoing work Masterclass undertakes to engage young people in the arts.

In 2014 Masterclass was chosen as a beneficiary of The Waldorf Hilton London and Hilton in the Community Foundation's *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* Gala with the evening raising a substantial sum for both charities.

Masterclass was established 15 years ago by Theatre Royal Haymarket Chairman Arnold M. Crook as a way to give people aged 14 – 30 years old access to the Haymarket's stage.

Hilton in the Community Foundation was founded in 2000, dedicated to supporting young people in need by combating exclusion and providing skills, aspirations and opportunities. Donations are funded almost entirely through the generous efforts and contributions of the community. Since its establishment the Foundation has raised over £14 million for charity.

Blayne George, Programme Director at the Theatre Royal Haymarket Masterclass Trust comments; "Theatre is one of the oldest forms of creativity and is one of the most important ways we can communicate and collectively share our experiences. It allows us the opportunity to explore and question the world we live in while being equally entertaining and thought provoking. It is only through the very generous support of organisations like the Waldorf Hilton London and the Hilton in the Community Foundation that Masterclass is able to continue to give young people free access to the professional world of theatre; inspiring and encouraging them to have a voice."

Simon Sheehan, Director of Hilton in the Community Foundation said: "We're delighted to be able to present this cheque to Masterclass, to support the incredible work they do helping young people access the arts. The Foundation is proud to support Masterclass and many other charities that work to help improve the lives of young people around Europe. We'd also like to thank Elaine Paige for receiving the cheque and everyone at Waldorf Hilton, London for their wonderful hospitality."



Alison Palin, General Manager, Waldorf Hilton, London said: "We were very proud to host the *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* Gala here at The Waldorf Hilton, London and are thrilled with the funds raised for such a worthy charity. Working with Masterclass has been massively inspiring and we look forward to supporting them in the future.

Elaine Paige added;

"I've given three Masterclasses, with some fantastic young people from a wide range of backgrounds, over the past few years and each one has been an enjoyable and fun afternoon. Throughout my career I've learnt many things which I am very happy to pass on to the next generation. Even if just one piece of advice makes an impact on just one person, then it's been worthwhile. Which is why I support the Masterclass Charity as it can make such a difference by inspiring and empowering the talent of the future."

-ENDS

Notes to editor

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Dame Maureen Thomas DBE, Deputy Chairman, Hilton in the Community Foundation

Simon Sheehan, Director, Hilton in the Community Foundation

Alison Palin, General Manager, The Waldorf Hilton London

Elaine Paige OBE, Actress & Masterclass Patron

Arnold M. Crook, Chairman, TRH & Theatre Royal Haymarket Masterclass Trust

Blayne George, Programme Director, Theatre Royal Haymarket Masterclass Trust

About Theatre Royal Haymarket Masterclass Trust is a small charity that has a big impact on young people's lives with a unique offering of free masterclasses with leading theatre professionals, careers advice sessions, apprenticeships and performance experiences. Masterclass are committed to using theatre and the beautiful Theatre Royal Haymarket to inspire and empower young people – the talent of the future. To date 70,000 14 – 30 year olds have benefited from our programme. www.masterclass.org.uk

About Hilton in the Community Foundation

Hilton in the Community Foundation was founded in 2000, dedicated to supporting young people in need by combating exclusion and providing skills, aspirations and opportunities. Focussed on improving access to, and the quality of, education and care, the Foundation mobilises local giving and targets four key areas: disabled children, children in hospitals, children's hospices and homelessness. Grants help vulnerable and disadvantaged young people in the UK and Europe.

Donations are funded almost entirely through the generous efforts and contributions of the community. Since its establishment in November 2000 the Foundation has raised over £14 million for charity. www.hilton-foundation.org.uk/



About The Waldorf Hilton, London

An iconic landmark situated in the heart of London's West End, The Waldorf Hilton, London, has a rich heritage spanning over a century, with its interior bringing to life the glamour of the Roaring Twenties through its elegant art deco interior. Situated on the tree-lined thoroughfare of Aldwych, The Waldorf Hilton, London, is a stone's throw from Theatreland and some of the capital's most iconic attractions. For further information visit www.waldorf.hilton.com or call +44 20 7836 2400.

About Elaine Paige

Elaine Paige is an award winning actress, singer, producer, radio presenter, who has made a unique and major contribution to the development and production of the stage musical. She has starred in more smash hit West End & Broadway musicals than anyone else of her generation – *Hair*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Billy*, *Evita*, *Cats*, *Chess*, *Anything Goes*, *Piaf*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *The King & I*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The Drowsy Chaperone* and most recently *Follies*. In 1995 was awarded an OBE for services to Musical Theatre.

A thrilling live performer, Elaine has performed in concert all over the world; she has recorded 21 solo albums and earned eight consecutive gold and four multi-platinum discs. Elaine Paige's award winning Radio 2 show, *Elaine Paige On Sunday* is now in its 10th year, attracting more than 2 million listeners each week. Elaine celebrated 50 years in the business in 2014 and presented *The Elaine Paige Show*, a new musical theatre TV series for Sky Arts. www.elainepaige.com/