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NEWS RELEASE

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Booking Open for TheatreCraft 2015 – Celebrating 10 Inspirational Events for Young People

Booking is now open for TheatreCraft 2015, an essential, free, “beyond the stage” careers fair for anyone aged 16 – 25 looking for a non-performance career in theatre. It returns to the Royal Opera House on Friday 20th November and is celebrating ten inspirational career guidance events since the initiative launched in 2003.

TheatreCraft is for anyone looking for a non-performance career in theatre. From directing to stage management, producing to marketing, lighting to design, TheatreCraft is the only place to be for a fun and unique glimpse into the ‘behind the scenes’ world of theatre.

Attendees on the day can take part in workshops led by theatre professionals, explore the vibrant marketplace of exhibiting theatres and organisations, join in at the Ask the Experts zone for one-to-one advice and interact with peers in the networking hubs.

More than 1,200 people attended TheatreCraft last year taking part in over 70 workshops delivered by skilled theatre professionals and engaging with 55 theatres and organisations in the marketplace, making it the most successful event to date.

Speaking at last year’s event TheatreCraft Ambassador Vicky Featherstone, Artistic Director of the Royal Court, said;

“I truly believe theatre in its wider sense has something in it for absolutely everyone and TheatreCraft will allow you to explore this. [...] Today is an amazing opportunity to come together and learn about your future. Theatre is all about people and their shared experiences. British Theatre needs you.”

TheatreCraft is organised by a group of committed partners from across the creative and cultural industries who run the event; Theatre Royal Haymarket Masterclass Trust, Royal Opera House, Mousetrap Theatre Projects, Society of London Theatre and Creative & Cultural Skills.

Full programme details will be announced in September 2015. For more information about TheatreCraft sign up to the newsletter for regular updates or visit www.theatrecraft.org

- ENDS -

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Notes to Editors

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- A selection of images and artwork from previous TheatreCraft events are available on request
- TheatreCraft takes place on Friday 20th November 2015 at the Royal Opera House
- TheatreCraft is free to 16 – 25 year olds and offers a busy Marketplace of exhibiting theatre, training providers, educational institutions and career advisors. Up to **70** accompanying workshops, talks, panel discussions and one-to-one sessions led by industry practitioners will be offered to all attendees.
- TheatreCraft is celebrating its 10th successful event since the initiative launched in 2003

About the TheatreCraft Partners 2015

Theatre Royal Haymarket Masterclass Trust

Masterclass is a small charity that has a big impact on young people's lives. During the day when most theatres lie empty and unused, Masterclass opens up the historic Theatre Royal Haymarket to host inspiring and empowering talks, workshops, careers advice sessions, creative experiences and paid apprenticeships for young people aged 16 – 30. Masterclass is committed to using theatre to build confidence, strengthen self-esteem, nurture creativity and develop business and life skills in young people – the talent of the future.

TheatreCraft was established by Masterclass in 2003 to present career opportunities to young people interested in working behind the scenes in the theatre and performance industries.

www.masterclass.org.uk

The Royal Opera House

The Royal Opera House is home to The Royal Ballet, The Royal Opera and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House. Each year more than 500 performances are given with over 774,000 attendances; ROH partner with 15 UK companies with performances being given across 50 venues, and our ROH Live Cinema programme reaches more than 60 countries.

A long-established learning and participation programme now reaches almost 40,000 people of all ages each year with activities ranging from the Youth Opera Company to teacher training programmes; from special performances for families who are experiencing the work of the Royal Opera House for the first time with participatory activities beforehand, to workshops on prop making or percussion.

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The Royal Opera House is also playing a significant part in the regeneration of Thurrock working in schools, colleges and the local community. Its role in the development of High House Production Park is bringing new skills and training opportunities to Thurrock in partnership with CCSkills through The Backstage Centre, and South Essex College.

www.roh.org.uk

Mousetrap Theatre Projects

Mousetrap Theatre Projects is a theatre education charity committed to enabling young people with limited resources, access or support to engage with the best of London theatre. Since 1997, we have enabled nearly 100,000 young people to see outstanding theatre, much of it in the West End, with best seats from £5 – £10. Most theatre visits are supported by one of our 18 education programmes delivered by a range of professional theatre practitioners – from musical theatre composition to the ‘business of theatre’ to sound and lighting design to critical reviewing. At the heart of our work is the desire to open doors to young people who might otherwise consider London’s rich cultural heritage closed to them.

www.mousetrap.org.uk

Society of London Theatre

Society of London Theatre (SOLT) is the not-for-profit organisation which provides a collective voice for the theatre owners, producers and managers of all the major commercial and grant-aided theatres across London. As well as protecting the interests of all its member theatres, SOLT promotes theatregoing through activities including the Olivier Awards with MasterCard, the TKTS ticket booth, the Official London Theatre website and its printed fortnightly listings guide, Theatre Tokens and the popular annual celebration West End LIVE in association with MasterCard. It also administers the audience development initiatives Kids Week and Get Into London Theatre, and supports a number of theatrical charities including Stage One and Mousetrap Theatre Projects.

www.solt.co.uk

Creative & Cultural Skills

Creative & Cultural Skills gives young people opportunities to work and learn in the creative industries. We want to ensure that employers benefit from a skilled generation of talent and continue on a course of economic growth. Our network of industry and education supporters – the National Skills Academy for Creative & Cultural – is open to those who are committed to the provision of high quality creative education and training, apprenticeships and careers advice. Together we’ve created over 3,500 Creative Apprenticeships in the UK since 2008. Creative & Cultural Skills is the National Provider for the Creative Employment Programme.

www.ccskills.org.uk

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