

## PRESS CONTACTS

**Josh Brown**

josh@masterclass.org.uk | 020 7389 9662

**Dan Austin**

dana@soltukt.co.uk | 020 7557 6729

## PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday 30 September 2015

### ESTEEMED THEATRE DIRECTOR INDHU RUBASINGHAM TO OPEN THEATRECRAFT 2015; CELEBRATING ITS 10TH EVENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

TheatreCraft has announced Tricycle Theatre's Artistic Director Indhu Rubasingham as the TheatreCraft 2015 Ambassador. Rubasingham will deliver the welcome speech and open the event on Friday 20 November at the Royal Opera House.

TheatreCraft is free for anyone aged 16 to 25 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. Last year more than 1,200 people attended TheatreCraft.

#### Commenting on this year's event, TheatreCraft 2015 Ambassador Indhu Rubasingham said:

"This is a great opportunity for young people to realise that if you have a passion for theatre and don't want to act, there are many, many creative ways to be part of this exciting industry. That was my journey, falling in love with theatre, but not knowing where I could fit in. I wish TheatreCraft had been around when I was a young person.

I am really happy to be part of TheatreCraft – this brilliant resource is free to all, providing access and opportunity for everyone to the pivotal roles within our industry"

#### Arnold M. Crook, Theatre Royal Haymarket Masterclass Trust Chairman, added:

"Since its inception at the Theatre Royal Haymarket in 2003, TheatreCraft has been helping young professionals discover new routes into theatre and continues to help supply the industry with enthused behind-the-scenes talent. Ten inspirational events later and we are just as enthusiastic about our vision of supporting the development of aspiring theatre makers from all walks of life. They are the future of our industry; we owe it to them to offer our services where and whenever we can."

#### Jamie Simmons, past TheatreCraft attendee, stated:

"TheatreCraft is so important for young, emerging professionals because it really gives you access to theatre experts; all in one place, all in one day. You can go round the marketplace and talk to

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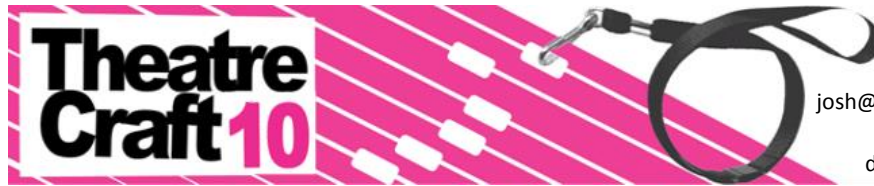


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different types of people from all areas of the industry. You can either pinpoint exactly who you want to talk to or, you can do the opposite, and talk to everybody and use the day as a fantastic networking opportunity.”

TheatreCraft was established by the Theatre Royal Haymarket Masterclass Trust (Masterclass) as a way of highlighting training and career opportunities for young people interested in working behind the scenes in theatre and performance.

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

The event is sponsored by White Light and John Good. Official London Theatre is this year’s official Media Partner.

For more information and all the latest news about TheatreCraft visit [www.theatrecraft.org](http://www.theatrecraft.org) or find us on Twitter [@TheatreCraft](https://twitter.com/TheatreCraft)

## LISTINGS

Event: TheatreCraft

Date: Friday 20 November 2015

Time: 9.00am – 3.30pm;

TheatreCraft 2015 Ambassador Indhu Rubasingham will open the event at 9am.

Venue: Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2E 9DD

Delegates can attend for free registering at [www.theatrecraft.org](http://www.theatrecraft.org)

**- ENDS -**

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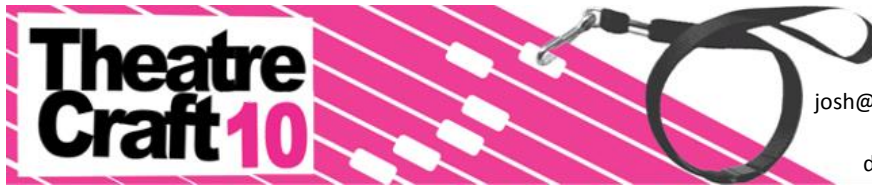


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## Notes to Editors

**TheatreCraft Project Manager** Harriet Usher | harriet@theatre Craft.org | 07916 172863

**Press Contacts** Josh Brown | josh@masterclass.org.uk | 020 7389 9662

Dan Austin | dana@soltukt.co.uk | 020 755 6729

- A selection of images and artwork from previous TheatreCraft events are available on request
- TheatreCraft takes place on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> 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, launched in 2003, will be celebrating its 10th event

## 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](http://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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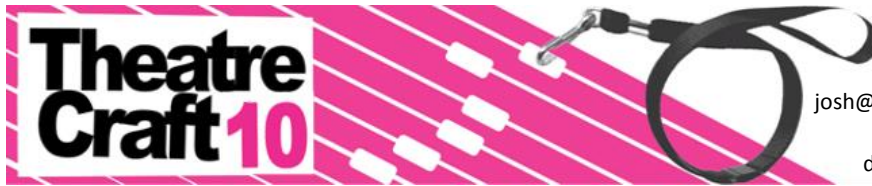


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The Royal Opera House is also playing a significant part in the regeneration of Thurrock working in schools, colleges and the local community. Its role in the development of High House Production Park is bringing new skills and training opportunities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

[www.roh.org.uk](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.ccskills.org.uk)

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