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PRESS RELEASE

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ROYAL OPERA HOUSE PLAYS HOST TO LARGEST THEATRECRAFT EVENT TO DATE: OVER 1000 YOUNG PEOPLE ATTEND THEATRECRAFT'S 10TH EVENT

More than 1000 young people aged 16-25 from all over the UK attended TheatreCraft 2015 - the free non-performance theatre careers fair that was opened by Indhu Rubasingham, Tricycle Theatre's Artistic Director.

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 offers a unique glimpse into the behind the scenes world of theatre.

Attendees took part in workshops led by theatre professionals, explored the vibrant marketplace of exhibiting theatres and organisations, joined in at the Ask the Experts zone for one-to-one advice and interacted with peers in the networking hubs.

This year's event was the largest yet with over 64 exhibitors and 75 workshops from skilled theatre professionals. Throughout the day delegates were able to explore everything from puppet-making and marketing to automation.

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.

This is the fourth time the event has been hosted at the Royal Opera House with workshops taking place across the West End at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane and at the Theatre Royal Haymarket, where TheatreCraft launched in 2003.

Across its 10 events TheatreCraft has hosted over **300** exhibitors, **500** workshops, **950** one-to-one sessions and had more than **7500** young people through its doors.

Speaking at the event, Indhu Rubasingham said:

"You have every right to be part of this industry. It will be totally exciting and brilliant. We need more and more people of different voices and different perspectives, to be part of this. That's what will make the future of theatre exciting, viable and vital.

You may not know what you want to do but what's brilliant about TheatreCraft is it lets your imagination be opened to see all the possibilities in the industry."

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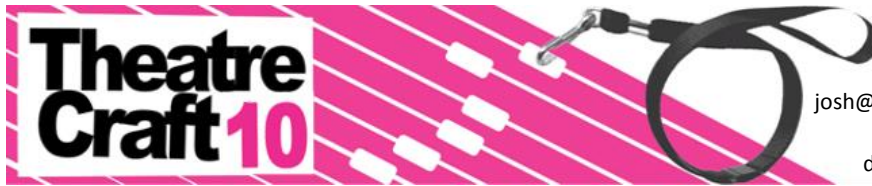


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Larah Simpson, an attendee at the event in 2014 and exhibitor in 2015, said:

“I attended last year after graduating from university and was unsure about which direction to take next. I had a one-to-one session with James Clutton and later attended his workshop on producing. I kept in touch with James and was offered work experience at Opera Holland Park and then a permanent job. TheatreCraft is an invaluable resource and the Marketplace is a fountain of knowledge and new opportunities. I was delighted to return in 2015.”

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 was 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 or find us on Twitter [@TheatreCraft](https://twitter.com/TheatreCraft)

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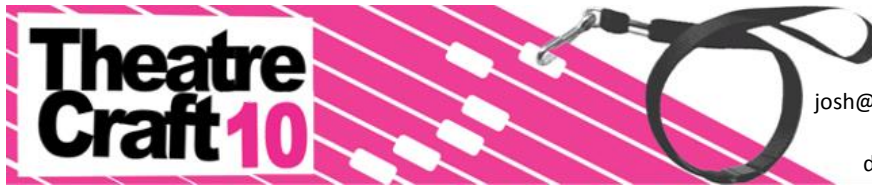


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- A selection of images and artwork from previous TheatreCraft events are available on request
- TheatreCraft 2015 took place on Friday 20th November 2015 at the Royal Opera House
- TheatreCraft is free to 16 – 25 year olds and offers a busy Marketplace of exhibiting theatre, training providers, educational institutions and career advisors.
- TheatreCraft, launched in 2003, celebrated its 10th event this year.

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. We are 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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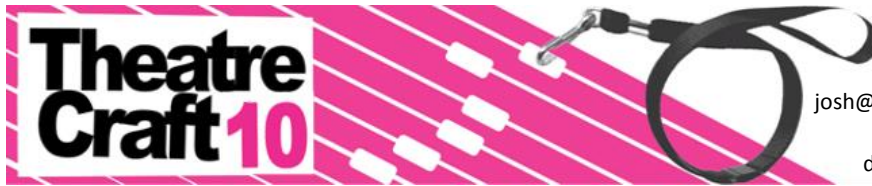


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The Royal Opera House is also playing a significant part in the regeneration of Thurrock working in schools, colleges and the local community. Its role in the development of High House Production Park is bringing new skills and training opportunities 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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