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PRESS RELEASE

Immediate Release

Wednesday 21st February 2018

Theatre Royal Haymarket Masterclass Trust's Young Playwriting Scheme 'Pitch Your Play' Returns for 2018

Over the last twenty years, the [Theatre Royal Haymarket Masterclass Trust \(Masterclass\)](#) has worked hard to curate unique theatre opportunities for young creatives at the start of their career by opening up the Theatre Royal Haymarket during the day, when most other theatres lie dormant.

The future of theatre relies on today's generation having the opportunities and support to go forward and create. As such, Masterclass has announced the return of their successful Pitch Your Play scheme which invites people aged 17-30 to pitch for the opportunity to stage a reading of a new play at the Theatre Royal Haymarket.

Generously supported by the [Noel Coward Foundation](#), Masterclass' Pitch Your Play scheme offers three successful pitches access to admin support, marketing provision, rehearsal space, office space and creative guidance to hone their ideas at the Theatre Royal Haymarket. Working closely with Masterclass, this is an exclusive opportunity to showcase new work in front of an invited audience of peers and industry professionals. It is a chance to invite potential funders, financial producers and potential theatres to see the play or to simply test a new piece of writing on stage in the heart of London's West End.

Masterclass are asking for all applications to include: a short synopsis of the play, a hard copy of the first 30 pages and covering letter, but the script must be a new, unpublished piece of writing. Applications are now open and the deadline to submit the first 30 pages of the script is 10am, Tuesday 13th March! [For more information and how to apply, visit the Masterclass website here.](#)

Speaking about the return of the Pitch Your Play scheme, **Jez Butterworth** commented:

"Twenty five years ago when I gave up my first and last paying job to try to write for a living, I swiftly felt alone. A scheme such as Pitch Your Play would have felt like a lifeline. Witnessing work rehearsed and hearing it read aloud is oxygen for fledgling playwrights. I'm a bit jealous of those taking part, who will hear something for the first time; the strange and familiar voice, which startles, haunts, galvanises and nourishes them enough to try again."

One of the initiative's previous playwrights, **Emma Whipday**, explains how the process has helped to further her career:

"Having *Shakespeare's Sister* staged at the Theatre Royal Haymarket has transformed my career. The staged reading resulted in an offer to licence and publish the play and its first professional production took place at the American Shakespeare Center in Virginia, February 2017. These are



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career-changing moments I simply couldn't have imagined before Pitch Your Play. The opportunity to have my work seen by industry professionals has opened so many doors and I'm hugely grateful."

The Masterclass Pitch Your Play initiative is generously supported by the Noel Coward Foundation.

- ENDS -

Notes to Editors

For more information, please contact Josh Brown on josh@masterclass.org.uk or 020 7389 9662

A selection of **images and artwork** can be [found here](#)

A **filmed interview** with Pitch Your Play's 2015 playwright, Emma Whipday, can be [found here](#)

For more information on the Pitch Your Play scheme, please visit the [Masterclass website here](#). Please note: only hard copies of your scripts will be accepted, electronic copies will not be accepted. All applications should be sent via post to **Masterclass, Theatre Royal Haymarket, 18 Suffolk Street, London, SW1Y 4HT** or drop them off at the Theatre Royal Haymarket Stage Door.

The Theatre Royal Haymarket Masterclass Trust

Now celebrating 20 years, Masterclass is the education charity based at the Theatre Royal Haymarket which offers free masterclasses by leading theatre professionals, careers advice sessions, apprenticeships and performance experiences. Masterclass is committed to advancing the education of young people aged 16-30 by promoting the study of drama and the craft of theatre. We hope to inspire and empower young people, the talent of the future. To date over 80,000 young people benefited from our programme. www.masterclass.org.uk

The Noël Coward Foundation was set up as a charitable Trust in 2000 by Graham Payn and Dany Dasto. Its aim is to award grants to educational and development projects across the Arts and to continue the keen interest Coward himself took in charitable work during his lifetime. The Foundation is proud to support a diverse range of outstanding organisations working in theatre, music, playwriting, academic research and many other areas. www.noelcoward.org



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