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PRESS RELEASE

Immediate Release

Thursday 26th January 2017

West End Charity Makes History by Securing Place in the Virgin Money London Marathon for the First Time

For the first time in their history, the Theatre Royal Haymarket Masterclass Trust (Masterclass) has been offered a place in the 2017 Virgin Money London Marathon.

As one of only 500 charities with the opportunity to have someone running the famous 26.2 mile on their behalf, today Masterclass has announced that playwright Poppy Corbett will represent them at this year's marathon.

Corbett holds strong ties with Masterclass having staged the West End debut of her play, [Hatchling](#), at the Theatre Royal Haymarket as a winner of the prominent 'Pitch Your Play' scheme. Ahead of the marathon, Corbett will return to the Haymarket in February to host a Masterclass with fellow playwright Polly Stenham on 7th February.

Speaking about the opportunity Corbett commented;

"I've always believed in helping people further down the ladder and running the marathon for Masterclass would give me the opportunity to do so in a practical way. Masterclass changed things for me and I'd like to change things for them too."

The arts have been one of the sectors most affected by government cuts. As youth groups close and university fees go up, it is encouraging to see organisations such as Masterclass, The Lyric and Chickenshed featuring in the largest fundraising event of the year.

All of the opportunities available through Masterclass remain free for young people aged 16-30, allowing them to fully realise their potential regardless of income or background. However the only way organisations, such as Masterclass, are able to continue their work is through the generous in-kind and financial backing from our supporters.

Blayne George, Programme Director at Masterclass, added;

"We are delighted to have finally secured a place in the London Marathon and are equally overjoyed to have Poppy run for us! Masterclass stands firm as a place which will always support young people in the early stages of their theatrical career."

Watch the campaign video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l3ct8QvPlvM&feature=youtu.be>

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Theatre Royal Haymarket





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For more information on the campaign, [please visit the Masterclass website here](#) or follow their updates on [twitter here](#).

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Notes to Editors

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

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The Virgin Money London Marathon

Sunday 23rd April 2017

<https://www.virginmoneylondonmarathon.com/en-gb/>

The Theatre Royal Haymarket Masterclass Trust

Supporting and nurturing young people through theatre is, and always will be, at the heart of Masterclass. As the in-house education charity of the Theatre Royal Haymarket, Masterclass has been dedicated to opening up this beautiful and historic building as a resource for young people.

The Masterclass programme hosts FREE inspiring and empowering talks with leading industry figures, onstage workshops, careers advice sessions, creative opportunities and paid apprenticeships for young people aged 16 – 30.

www.masterclass.org.uk