



The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation announced as 'Principal Partner of Production Arts at The BRIT School' to support, inspire and train young theatre makers from all backgrounds to work in production and technical arts roles.

Croydon, 18th May 2021

The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation are named as the 'Principal Partner of Production Arts at The BRIT School' in a three-year partnership to ensure that prospective, current and graduating Production Arts students are nurtured through hands on training so they are match fit for careers in production and technical arts.

Significantly, the partnership will allow The BRIT School to run outreach programmes in schools to break down barriers to more young artists who want to enter the industry with the aim to nurture a more diverse and inclusive talent pipeline in to production and technical roles within the creative industries.

"We are excited to continue our support of BRIT School as Principal Partner of Production Arts, helping to inspire and train the next generation for the vital roles required behind every theatrical production."

Madeleine Lloyd Webber, Trustee - Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation

The Production Arts course at Post 16 is the only Level 3 course of its kind in London that is free to all. Amongst the 73 students currently studying across two academic years, there are more female than male students, nearly 1/5 are of Black, Asian or minority ethnic heritage, and an above average number of students (14%) qualify for Free School Meals. This course is a stepping stone to a career in theatre production and technical arts with students studying a wide range of skills in set design, costume, lighting and sound, along with stage and production management.

The School offers extensive theatre facilities, giving students the chance to learn and develop a wide range of practical skills, staffed by experienced theatre professionals and where much of the learning is delivered through work on fully realised productions. While the majority of graduating students go on to higher education - in institutions including Rose Bruford College, LIPA, Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama enrolling on courses from Theatre Design to Creative Lighting Control – many others go straight in to work within the creative industries.

Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation has previously funded the Bridge Company Programme between 2014-2019. The Bridge Company is made up of recent graduates from The BRIT School for performing arts, and equips company members with professional experience and skills to launch them into the theatre industry. The legacy of the Foundation's support for the programme is firmly embedded- now recognised by the DfE as a Level 4 qualification, and subsequently funded indefinitely.

Stuart Worden, Principal of The BRIT School said:

"We are delighted to announce Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation as the Principal Partner of Production Arts at The BRIT School. As long-term friends of the

School, we have a shared commitment to break down barriers to the creative industries for all young people who want the arts in their lives.

"With the Foundation's support, we will nurture students who wish to make live performance happen to become the future set, costume, lighting and sound designers and makers, stage and production managers. From launching an outreach programme in schools through to awarding scholarships for graduating students to afford further training, our goal is to educate, train and give more young people the springboard into a career in Production - regardless of their background, beliefs or who they are."

Sthenkosi Simpeta, BRIT Production Arts graduate, now working at Parlophone Records said,

"[My interest in production arts] really stemmed from the fascination of the production and how it comes together, and all the amazing brains and hands that contribute to the final product."

"Having the freedom to be yourself, to explore and find yourself, through the lens of academia or being practical, or through the love of the arts.... That's The BRIT School for me."

Notes to Editors

About The BRIT School | brit.croydon.sch.uk

The BRIT School is a one of a kind FREE Performing Arts and Technology School. It is an independent state funded City College for the Technology of the Arts, dedicated to education and vocational training for the performing arts, media, art and design and the technologies that make performance possible.

As a school for 14 to 19-year-olds, it is unique and pioneering in its approach to education. It recognises that most students intend to make a career in the arts, entertainment and communications industries, but the school expects all to follow full time courses to completion. It is a vocational school for students set on a life devoted to art, dance, music, musical theatre, radio, production, television/film and theatre.

BRIT stands for the British Record Industry Trust. Without the generosity of the record industry and funding from the BRIT Awards, the school would never have been built and its superb facilities would never have been installed. Nearly 100% of leavers in the last six years have either gone into higher education and/or jobs in the creative sector, the fastest growing of the UK's economy.

#keepBRITspecial: The BRIT School is an exempt charity and a state school; while we receive government funding, to remain at the heart of creative talent development in the UK and to #keepBRITspecial for future generations, the School needs additional external investment of around £1.7million a year. Cuts to our funding in recent years have been compounded by the impact of the current pandemic on our financial resilience, through both additional costs and lost funding. But it is with the generosity of our supporters and friends will we be able to continue offering such unique industry-standard facilities, cutting-edge training and opportunities free of charge, investing in the creative talent pipeline of the future.

About The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation

Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation was set up by Andrew in 1992 to promote the arts, culture and heritage for the public benefit; since inception Andrew has been the principal provider of funding for all its charitable activities.

In 2011, the Foundation embarked on an active grant giving programme and has now

awarded grants of £22 million to support high quality training and personal development as well as other projects that make a real difference to enrich the quality of life both for individuals and within local communities. Significant grants include £3.5m to Arts Educational Schools, London to create a state of the art professional theatre, £3.5m to the Music in Secondary Schools Trust, £1m to The Architectural Heritage Fund, \$1.3m to the American Theatre Wing and over £350,000 annually to fund up to 30 performing arts scholarships for talented students in financial need. The Foundation is also a founding supporter of the Get Into Theatre careers website www.getintothetheatre.org

For The BRIT School
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