

ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER FOUNDATION RENEWS SUPPORT FOR THE BRIGHTEST NEW TALENT IN PLAYWRITING THROUGH THE ROYAL COURT THEATRE WRITERS GROUPS

‘It’s been the most useful experience I’ve ever had for improving my playwriting,’ Tom Jensen, participant in Royal Court Theatre Writers Group

In November 2014, the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation agreed a further three years funding towards Royal Court Theatre’s writers groups, enabling them to support writers from the widest walks of life and all stages in their careers. Writers groups will unearth new talent, nurture emerging artists and establish careers of professional playwrights.

Previous participants in the Royal Court Theatre Writers Programme have confirmed the vital role that the workshops have had in developing their practice. Amita Parikh has gone on to be taken on by a literary agency, for a novel that she wrote after finishing the play she worked on at the Royal Court Theatre.

‘I don’t think I would have had the courage to even submit the novel if I didn’t have the affirmation that someone thought my writing was decent.

‘As a writer who has to work full-time to support herself in an expensive city like London, I don’t get a lot of chances to further my education. I can’t afford to take classes at university or to not work and study for an MA.’

Enabling opportunities for talented individuals who might not otherwise be able to realise their creative potential is an important priority for the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation. Madeleine Lloyd Webber, Trustee for the Foundation, said: “The work the Royal Court Theatre undertakes to develop new writers, many of whom are from minority communities, is making a huge difference to the theatre landscape. The Royal Court Theatre’s support in nurturing these writers is a vital part of the artistic ecology and reinforces London’s position as an internationally significant creative and cultural capital. I’m therefore incredibly pleased

that we can continue to help sustain the Royal Court Theatre's work and we call on others to help us make arts make the difference."

The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation supports the arts, culture and heritage for the public benefit and welcomes grant applications towards projects that provide high quality training and demonstrate the ability to enrich the quality of life both for individuals and within communities.

For more information on the type of projects the Foundation supports and how to apply for funding, please visit their website at www.andrewlloydwebberfoundation.com

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The Royal Court Theatre is the writers' theatre.

It is the leading force in world theatre for energetically cultivating writers - undiscovered, new, and established. Through the writers the Royal Court Theatre is at the forefront of creating theatre about now, inspiring audiences and influencing future writers. Through the writers the Royal Court Theatre strives to constantly reinvent the theatre ecology, creating theatre for everyone. Artistic Director Vicky Featherstone and Executive Producer Lucy Davies lead the Royal Court Theatre to invite and enable conversation and debate, allowing writers and their ideas to reach and resonate beyond the stage, and the public to share in the thinking.

Over 120,000 people visit the Royal Court Theatre in Sloane Square, each year and many thousands more see our work elsewhere through transfers to the West End and New York, national and international tours, and site-specific work. We believe that there is no more important theatre in the world than the Royal Court Theatre.