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Andrew Lloyd Webber
Foundation

ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER FOUNDATION AWARDS

KIDS COMPANY £30K GRANT

The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation today announced it has awarded Kids Company a grant worth £30,000, towards a Playwriting and Performance Programme to encourage young, vulnerable people to write their first play and see it performed in The Criterion theatre in the West End.

The grant forms part of the Foundation's active grant giving programme founded in 2010, which focuses on the enhancement of arts education and increasing diversity across the arts, heritage and culture sector. The Foundation has awarded over £9m to projects that demonstrate their ability to make a real difference to improve the quality of life both for individuals and within local communities.

Based at the Kids Company Urban Academy in Bermondsey, the Playwriting and Performance Programme has been running since 2009 and each year gives 25 young people, aged between 16-23, the opportunity to write their own play and see it performed in a professional theatre. The students also learn skills such as costume, lighting and stage management and the opportunity to work towards an Arts Award in Bronze, Silver or Gold. With additional therapeutic support from the trained Kids Company staff the course supports disadvantaged young people to find their voice, produce unique work and by communicating to the general public, be inspired to transform their talent into a vocation. The course culminates with students and professional actors coming together to perform the plays at The Criterion.

The project is proven to develop life skills in a nurturing environment for young people who have little or no other support. Many students have gone on to pursue careers in the creative industries, won places on the New Playwriting Course at the Royal Court and been accepted into the National Youth Theatre.

The Foundation also supported Kids Company in 2014, when it awarded £6,000 to the charity through the sponsorship of the George Frewer Charity Race Evening.

Andrew Lloyd Webber said:

'We are delighted to award Kids Company with a new grant of £30,000, as they continue with their fantastic work supporting vulnerable young people. In this challenging time, the need for such support is greater than ever and I hope that other organisations will continue to support Kids Company and enable them to carry out their valuable work.'

In 2014, the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation awarded 36 new grants to organisations, a third more than 2013, made 15 grants to projects in their second and third year of funding and provided 30 musical theatre scholarships to young performers on the brink of their careers.

About the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation

The 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 principle provider of funding for all its charitable activities.

In 2010, the Foundation embarked on an active grant giving programme and has now awarded grants of over £9m 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, £1m to The Architectural Heritage Fund, £1m to The Music in Secondary Schools Trust and over £350,000 annually to fund 30 performing arts scholarships for talented students in financial need. The Foundation owns two important paintings, a Canaletto "Old Horse Guards from St James's Park", currently on exhibition at Compton Verney and a Stanley Spencer "The Garage" on exhibition at The Stanley Spencer Gallery in Cookham, Berkshire.

About Kids Company

Kids Company was founded by Camila Batmanghelidjh in 1996. Kids Company provides practical, emotional and educational support to vulnerable children, young people and families. Its services reach 36,000 across London, Bristol and Liverpool including the most deprived and at risk children whose parents are unable to care for them due to their own practical or emotional challenges. The charity provides a safe, caring, family environment where support is tailored to the needs of each individual. Their services and support empower those who have experienced enormous challenges to lead positive and fulfilling lives.

In 2007 Kids Company was awarded the Liberty and JUSTICE Human Rights Award. In 2010 they were selected as a 'Child Poverty Champion' by the End Child Poverty project for their success in enabling children to achieve their full potential.

Registered Charity Number: 1068298
www.kidsco.org.uk

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