



**Press release: 25 April 2016**

## **Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation awards £17,128 to Oldham Coliseum Theatre's pioneering Education Partnership Scheme**



- A grant of £17,128 over 3 years to Oldham Coliseum Theatres Education Partnership Scheme will provide industry led workshops, master-classes and performances for students from 12 schools across Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside.

The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation today announces a new grant of £17,128 over three years to Oldham Coliseum Theatre's Education Partnership Scheme. This follows a successful one-off grant awarded to Oldham Coliseum Theatre in 2013 to give 450 pupils aged 16-18 from surrounding schools and colleges the opportunity to attend workshops and learn all aspects of technical theatre, acting, directing, set design and musical theatre.

The new grant will support Oldham Coliseum Theatre's work in cultivating young people's access to theatre and promoting positive intercultural relations by engaging students from diverse backgrounds in inter-school performances. Through the Education Partnership Scheme students from 12 schools will take part in a series of industry led workshops, masterclasses and an inter-school performance staged on the Coliseum's main stage. Schools will also receive theatre tickets and post and pre-show workshops to each of the Coliseum's productions.

The Foundation's active grant giving programme, founded in 2010, supports projects improving skills, access and diversity across the arts, heritage and culture sector. It has now awarded more than £11m to more than 255 recipients across the UK. Those awarded grants in Greater Manchester include The Lowry, Royal Exchange, Manchester and Hallé Concerts Society.

Carly Henderson, Head of Learning and Engagement at Oldham Coliseum Theatre comments,

‘We are grateful for the ongoing investment we have received from Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation. It allows us to continue to develop long term relationships with teachers and students from diverse backgrounds, supporting drama as a classroom subject whilst fostering links to Oldham Coliseum Theatre as a place for everyone. Our aim is to spark in young people an interest in theatre as audience members and theatre makers. This investment has enabled us to develop a sustainable and concrete model for partnership work with schools, in an area that’s been through challenging times; recognising the importance of developing skills and creativity in young people’.

Sarah Miller, Charity Executive at Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation comments,

‘The accessibility of high quality performance and training opportunities for young people is key to a vibrant creative industry. The Foundation has been impressed by the strong leadership at the Oldham Coliseum Theatre which strives to encourage and nurture life skills through theatre for the young participants of this professional community project.’

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Notes to editors

### **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 principal 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 more than £11m 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 which were on public exhibition throughout 2015: a Canaletto “Old Horse Guards from St James’s Park” and a Stanley Spencer “The Garage”.
- In 2015, the Foundation awarded over £1.5million in 46 new grants to organisations, made 17 grants totalling £860k to projects in their second and third year of funding and provided 30 musical theatre scholarships worth over £300k to young performers on the brink of their careers. The grants focus on the enhancement of arts education and participation, improving access to the arts for all, and increasing diversity across the arts, culture and heritage sector.

**[www.andrewlloydwebberfoundation.com](http://www.andrewlloydwebberfoundation.com)**

### **About Oldham Coliseum Theatre**

Oldham Coliseum Theatre provides a wide variety of distinctive and high-quality theatre performance and participatory activities for all communities in Oldham and Greater Manchester. It produced eight original shows seen by 100,000 people across the UK in 2014-2015 – this included six newly commissioned plays, either in development or presentation. The Coliseum’s tour of *The*

*Mist in the Mirror*, an adaptation by local writer Ian Kershaw of Susan Hill's novel, was nominated for a UK Theatre Awards prize in October 2015. *Nirbhaya*, presented as part of our project, Alchemy, with London's South Bank Centre, was nominated for Best New Play in 2016's Manchester Theatre Awards. The Coliseum's learning and engagement programme was accessed over 26,500 times. It offered training to over 400 people, with 20 receiving formal qualifications, ranging from an arts award to support towards a master's degree. Oldham Coliseum Theatre spent £2.3m, boosting the local economy, with an economic impact of £8.8m. The theatre employs 147 people, either on permanent or short term contracts. The Coliseum is a registered charity: 508829.

[www.coliseum.org.uk](http://www.coliseum.org.uk)