



AMERICAN
THEATRE
WING

Andrew
Lloyd
Webber
Foundation



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THE AMERICAN THEATRE WING LAUNCHES THIRD COMPONENT OF THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER INITIATIVE THE 4-YEAR PARTIAL UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

DEADLINE JANUARY 20, 2017

New York, NY (November 22, 2016) – The **American Theatre Wing** (Heather Hitchens, President and CEO) announced today that their **Andrew Lloyd Webber Initiative** has launched its first annual application period for **4-Year Partial University Scholarships**. The deadline to apply is January 20, 2017, with final notifications made by April 2017. For more information, or to apply, visit <http://americantheatrewing.org/program/the-andrew-lloyd-webber-initiative/>.

"I have always been a passionate supporter of young talent. It is crucial that proper training is available for the performers of the future and it fills me with great joy that my Foundation can help in this way," said **Andrew Lloyd Webber**.

"Thanks to Andrew's generosity we will be able to offer talented and passionate students who face financial barriers the chance to pursue a theatre degree and career. This is simply thrilling for the American Theatre Wing, and critical to the future of the American theatre," said **Heather Hitchens**.

With the generous support of **The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation**, the American Theatre Wing is investing in direct support for underserved public high school seniors demonstrating exceptional talent and economic need who wish to attend a university to study theatre or musical theatre. Through the **4-Year Partial University Scholarships**, the Wing hopes to bridge the gap between talent and opportunity, and create a strong pipeline to the professional theatre for promising artists of all backgrounds.

High school students in grade 12 who demonstrate talent and ability in the theatre arts, but have a lack of resources to attend a four year university program are eligible to apply. The student's area of focus can be from any aspect of theatre from performance, to design, to writing, to stage management, and others. Applicants should demonstrate need and talent, and passion for attending a university through an audition video or portfolio.

The Scholarships can be used at an accredited private or public university or college in the United States. Each of the scholars will be provided with scholarships of up to \$10,000 towards their course fees, renewable for four years so long as a minimum GPA of 3.0 is maintained.

The **American Theatre Wing's Andrew Lloyd Webber Initiative** is a major new national initiative which received \$1.3 million in seed funding from the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, and will support theatre education opportunities for underserved young people and under-resourced public schools around the United States. This project is an expansion of the work that the multi-Tony Award winning composer and producer has been doing to promote and fund arts education through his Foundation in the United Kingdom. It serves to both

strengthen and expand the Wing's core mission of nurturing the next generation of theatre makers and patrons. Other funders are urged to join Andrew Lloyd Webber in support of these critical opportunities for young people. To join these efforts, please contact the American Theatre Wing's Director of Programs, Joanna Sheehan Bell (joanna@americantheatrewing.org).

The Andrew Lloyd Webber Initiative consists of three separate components:

- 1) Classroom Resources: Through a grant-giving program, funding will be provided directly to under-resourced public schools to provide instruments, dance floors, lighting grids, and other necessary materials to help create new and enhance existing theatre programs.
- 2) Training Scholarships: Funding will go towards covering the costs associated with sending select students to summer study and after school training programs.
- 3) 4-Year Partial University Scholarships: Financial support will be provided to select students to pursue theatre studies at the University level.

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 US\$17m 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. In the last two years, Andrew and his Foundation have supported various projects in the USA including Little Kids Rock and The Young People's Chorus of New York. The American Theatre Wing Andrew Lloyd Webber Initiative will be the largest single grant awarded by the Foundation in the USA to date.

In 2015, the Foundation awarded over US \$2.3m in 46 new grants to organisations, made 17 grants totaling US\$1.3m to projects in their second and third year of funding and provided 30 musical theatre scholarships worth over US\$450k 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

The **American Theatre Wing (Heather Hitchens, President and CEO)** is dedicated to advancing artistic excellence and nurturing theatre's next generation: on the stage, behind the scenes, and in the audience. For nearly a century, the Wing has pursued this mission with programs that span the nation to invest in the growth and evolution of American Theatre. Traditionally, the Wing has encouraged members of the theatre community to share their off-stage time and talent directly with the theatre audience at large--whether it was singing for the troops in the Stage Door Canteen of the 1940s, or sharing their stories on a podcast today. As the founders of The Tony Awards®, the American Theatre Wing has developed the foremost national platform for the recognition of theatrical achievement on Broadway. Yet the Wing's reach extends beyond Broadway and beyond New York. The American Theatre Wing is now in a long-term partnership with *The Village Voice* to co-present The Obie Awards, off-Broadway's Highest Honor. The Wing also develops the next generation of theatre professionals through the SpringboardNYC and Theatre Intern Network programs, incubates innovative theatre across the country through the National Theatre Company Grants, fosters the song of American theatre through the Jonathan Larson Grants, honors the best in New York theatrical design with the Henry Hewes Design Award, illuminates the creative process through the "Working in the Theatre" program and media archive. Finally, the Wing supports theatre education opportunities for underserved young people and under-resourced public schools around the United States with the newly launched Andrew Lloyd Webber Initiative. Visitors to AmericanTheatreWing.org can gain inspiration and insight into the artistic process through the Wing's extensive media collection, and learn more about its programming for students, aspiring and working professionals, and audiences.

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