

Welcome to the STEP Festival Closing Event - Youth Theatre Showcase -

STEP is pleased to introduce the work of nine of Southwark's youth theatre groups in the form of taster workshops, ongoing rehearsals and final performances. As the Closing Event of the STEP Festival, this Showcase celebrates the work created by young people - both in their theatrical performances and as the comperes of the event.

The STEP Youth Theatre Showcase is a regular opportunity provided by STEP for youth theatre groups to come together to perform to their peers and see each other's work. The aim of the Showcase is to inspire all those involved to challenge their own work and respond to the work of others.

Workshops: Half Moon YPT Oval House Collective Artistes
(2-4pm)

6.30pm, Showcase:

Audience members will have the chance to see the performances in the Clore Studio and the rehearsals upstairs in the Foyle Studio and the John Lyon Room before joining STEP for refreshments at the end of the evening in the foyer (from 8.30pm). Please collect a *WHAT TO SEE* card to know where you should be and when.

Rehearsals: Theatre Peckham Blue Elephant Theatre
(from 6.30pm) (John Lyon Room) (Foyle Studio)

Performances: 1) London Bubble 2) Unicorn Theatre
(Clore Studio) 3) Rewrite - REACT 4) Peckham Shed

STEP would like to thank all the young people and group leaders involved who have worked to create these theatre pieces. Special thanks also goes to Keith Palmer and Luke Sorba of the London Comedy School who has been working with the young comperes in the run-up to tonight's performance.

For more details on the Youth Theatres involved in the STEP Youth Theatre Showcase please contact:

Collective Artistes

Victoria Shaskan - Education Director
020 7587 1100 / Victoria@collectiveartistes.co.uk

Half Moon Young People's Theatre

Angela Michaels - Associate Director
020 7709 8905 / Angela@halfmoon.org.uk

Oval House

Nicholai Labarrie - Head of Youth Arts
020 7582 6279 / Nicholai.labarrie@ovalhouse.com

London Bubble

Jonathan Petherbridge - Artistic Director
020 7232 5967 - Peth@londonbubble.org.uk

Unicorn Theatre

Emma Higham - Youth Programme Manager
020 7645 0511 / Emma.Higham@unicorntheatre.com

Peckham Shed

Lucy Bradley - Director
07840 486 591 / peckhamshed@hotmail.co.uk

Re-write

Eleanor Cocks - Re-write Coordinator
07709 764420 E rewritegroup@googlemail.com

Blue Elephant Theatre

Andrew Morton - Education Officer
020 7701 0100 / andrew@blueelephant.co.uk

Theatre Peckham

Denise Keane - Head of Education and Training
020 7708 6125 / denise@theatrepeckham.co.uk

Peckham Shed leads inspiring, inclusive theatre and arts activity for children and young people aged 7 - 17 living in and around Peckham. We encourage members to explore their own creativity through varied art forms (drama, music, dance, visual arts) in a supportive and respectful environment. We promote inclusive practice, leading individuals of all abilities to independent creativity. There is no other theatre group in the Peckham area with the facilities and training to accommodate all ranges of ability.

Peckham Heroes has been devised by taking inspiration from Peckham heroes, both everyday and those more famous and their heroic achievements. We have looked at these people with a view to thinking about our own actions and achievements and those of the people around us and thus ask the question 'Who are heroes? How can everybody become a hero? and what might hold us back from acting heroically? We aim to inspire our audience and install pride in the Peckham area by showing a more positive image of people living there and we hope all our audience members take inspiration from our show into their everyday lives!

The show has been devised using the Peckham Shed inclusive theatre model, passed on to us by Chickenshed when they established the company in 2004. We collectively devise our work to suit all our performers' abilities and interests and **Peckham Heroes** is a result of the company's individual talent and creativity.



Performers

Micheal Covill
Conor Masters
Donald Fasanya
Nadine Johnson
Yabom Sesay
Kieran Ostrolenk
Delaney Harris
Ruauri Allen
Gabrielle Ucaite
Ehima Nwoko

With thanks to all the Peckham Shed support practitioners

Collective Artistes

Collective Artistes' African Theatre workshop will draw from the themes of the upcoming production of *The African Company Presents Richard III* about a Black theatre company in 1820s New York – 40 years before the end of slavery – who produce Shakespeare's *Richard III*. The workshop will interweave the history of this important story with an exploration of African Theatre techniques including storytelling, music and movement. Participants will be invited to create short scenes, using Shakespeare's text as a starting point to tell their own stories.

Collective Artistes is a Black-led professional theatre company that works in and with the community around issues of social concern. Collective Artistes produces national and international touring productions of plays from the African Diaspora. Based in Camberwell, Collective Artistes' Theatre for Development activities use theatre as a tool to inspire, educate and empower young people across South East London.



Half Moon Young People's Theatre

From the page to the stage: have fun discovering how to create believable and interesting characters using improvisation, physicality and text. A dynamic multi-media workshop that gives you the courage to take centre stage.

Half Moon is a leading specialist professional theatre in London with a focus of work for and with young people from birth to age 19 exclusively. Half Moon produces and presents professional theatre at the base, in venues and in youth and schools settings and provides an extensive participatory programme, including youth theatres, school and community projects.

Halfmoon

Oval House Theatre

Stories of Our Generation: the storytelling workshop will focus on young people creating stories from their own generation. The overall aim is to provide the participants with skills to be able to creatively tell a story relevant to them and their peers.

Oval House Youth Arts offers out-of-school performing arts classes and performance opportunities for 11-21 year olds. When you dream, what does your brain come up with? How far can your imagination take you? And where do you go? Do you want to find out? Play games, learn drama and stagecraft make plays and perform in them. This is for everyone who ever wanted to be on stage and have fun!

Oval House

Young Comperes

The eight young comperes involved in this evening's performance are from three of the youth theatres participating in the evening's performances:

- Emmanuel Abubakar** - REACT
- Mwila Chabala** - Blue Elephant Theatre
- Malachi Green-O'Shea** - Theatre Peckham
- Joslyn Gayle** - Theatre Peckham
- Ryan Haywood** - Theatre Peckham
- Solomon Idris** - Blue Elephant Theatre
- Terry Nii-Odoi** - Theatre Peckham

REACT is a drama group based in Camberwell for young people aged 14-25 from different cultural and national backgrounds. They work together on drama projects and performances that explore the social, political and cultural issues they feel are important. REACT is a core project of Rewrite, an organisation which brings together young people from different backgrounds to fight prejudice and injustice surrounding refuge and asylum, through the power of drama and creative writing. Rewrite is currently funded by Awards for All, England.

REACT have used the text *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* by Bertolt Brecht as a stimulus this term to create **The Arturo Company**. They have taken themes from the play and experimented with Brechtian performance techniques to devise a piece of theatre that is relevant to our times. This is a work in progress which will be developed into a full-scale production for April 2009.



Performers

- Amari Harris
- Aisha Abubakar
- Emmanuel Abubakar
- Joshua Hayles
- Sarah Akinsanmi
- Andre Bromfield
- Nana Owusu-Agyare
- Damilola Ogutuga
- Ali Khawari
- Katrina Naumova
- Shakir Hassan
- Shuang Liu
- Stefon Fenelon



Theatre Peckham has been working with young people for over 23 years, offering an extensive year round programme of performing arts workshops; from under 5s ballet to accredited theatre courses, Black Dance to Singing for All. All participants have the chance to perform at our Theatre or at events around London and young people also have the opportunity to get involved offstage and learn about technical theatre. Our professional theatre productions enable young people to work alongside professional teams on work created especially for young people and family audiences.

Students from the Theatre Peckham BTEC First course will be taking part in an open rehearsal of *Gone Too Far* by Bola Agbaje and performing a Latin style number from one of Theatre Peckham's repertory pieces, *Bird Boy*, which they are studying in Musical Theatre. The BTEC First teaches acting and musical theatre to a professional standard using professional techniques taught by highly trained and experienced tutors. The group are currently working towards a workshop performance of *Gone Too Far* for their first Assessment.



Performers

- Busola Aderemi
- Chisara Agor
- Kyle Bennett
- Adam Dransfield
- Lauren Fogg-Roye
- Zoe Goff
- Rebecca Kehinde
- Clifton Nelson
- Jasmine Ross-Thomas
- Oreoluwa Solesi
- Emily Williams
- Paris McDonald
- Lilian Ptacek
- Sophie Wall

The Bubble makes theatre with people of all ages and abilities. Our groups are friendly, fun and creative and are led by a team of highly experienced theatre makers. Throughout the spring and autumn there are opportunities to develop performance skills through a range of voice, movement, improvisation exercises and games as well as acting out stories and characters using a range of different techniques. In the summer all members from 8 upwards are invited to take part in a larger piece of open air theatre which we perform in parks and open spaces around South East London.

Our members have a wide range of abilities and experiences and we strive to create a friendly and playful environment in which we can all play and learn together.

Our Southwark groups are divided into age groups as follows 6-8, 9-12's and 13-17's. We also run two groups for adults. We also run groups in Forest Hill for 9-12s and for adults.

The extract is from *Urban Dreams* – a piece made from the words and stories of various groups of Londoners. The piece was made for outdoor performance during the summer of this year. It showed the dreams and nightmares of 6 characters. The piece we are showing is ***George's Dream***.



Performers

- Muhammad Salim
- Nathan Rumney
- Hannah Rumney
- Daniel Rands
- Alice Wentworth
- Thomas Pullen
- Tara Milan-Brophy
- Alfie Webster
- Grace Tiff
- Amarah St Aubyn
- Renee Denniee
- Josh Jackson-Fenwick
- Sam Petherbridge
- Robert Herzog
- Ian McNaughton
- Miriam Simmons
- Ella McCull
- Jenevieve Lavaly
- Mark Bowsher
- Mia Goth
- Tanya Muchanyuka
- Suzanne Gibbon
- Killian McCorley
- Kathy Ballard
- Chris Goulding
- Gabriel Holdgate
- Amanda Gettrup
- Martina Schwarz
- Eric McLennan
- Lucy Bradshaw
- Jo Healey
- Lee Phillips
- Andrew Stern
- Wendy Ponting

The Unicorn's Youth Theatre Programme is for 10-19 year olds, who are interested in drama and all aspects of making theatre. The groups work year round with professional directors and artists, exploring their own ideas and creating new theatre. We currently run four groups who meet once a week after school with additional sessions during holidays. This includes Easter workshops with internationally renowned theatre companies, as well as sessions working on upcoming Unicorn scripts with writers and directors. The Summer Youth Theatre Project enables the Youth Theatre to take over the whole of the Unicorn building for two weeks of the summer to create an original piece of theatre for our Weston Stage. The Youth Theatre is open to young people who live or go to school in Southwark or Tower Hamlets. No previous drama experience is needed - just an enthusiasm to take part!

SMOK (Polish for Dragon) is the group's version of the Dragon of Krakow. Folk tales have survived over the centuries, told by parent to child and so on, because they are stories which can speak to a new generation. However the rich tradition of storytelling from Eastern Europe is largely unknown in this country so the group decided to explore something of the real cultural heritage of the people from the region. The group created their own version of The Dragon of Krakow for a new generation. This enthusiastic group of young people have devised a version that reflects the fun, energy and creativity they bring to the work. This piece is a work in progress which will be developed with the group over coming sessions.



UNICORN

Performers

Laura
Doug
Derek
Esther
Deborah
Isaac
Dali
Nicholas
Flo
Cherie
Abbie
Brooke
Amana
Kassi
Saffron

The Blue Elephant Young People's Theatre Programme provides FREE drama-based workshops to local young people who may not otherwise be able to access such services for social, economic, or other reasons. We target young people from refugee, asylum and migrant communities as well as children in care, young carers and young people at risk of offending.

Group A (7-10 years) & Group B (11-14 years) meet on Saturdays during term time. Through working with professional artists and practitioners from both the education and arts industries, they develop both social and performance skills. The Blue Elephant Young Company (Ages 15+) also meets on Saturdays to create devised work. This work, along with showcase performance demonstrations from groups A & B, will be performed as part of the season at the Blue Elephant on 8th and 9th December.

The Blue Elephant Young Company will be rehearsing a devised piece based on Hans Christian Andersen's **The Little Match Girl** which they are preparing for their end of term showcase at the Blue Elephant Theatre. They are using the story to explore themes such as homelessness and abuse and hope that their interpretation of this classic tale will remind people to remember those less fortunate during the season of goodwill.



Performers

Troy Blake
Keira Brook
Claudette Boa Amponsem
Jason Cooper
Knache McLeod
Shantelle Smith

STEP is funded by



STEP is also supported by



STEP 2008-2009

STEP creates many opportunities for Southwark's young people to access theatre and drama activities across the borough.

The 2008 Festival, *STEP Forward*, has enabled young people in Southwark to access activities in their schools and local theatre venues. This year's Festival aims to showcase the way in which theatre and performing arts activities are key to developing and progressing, moving forward and moving on.

STEP provides all Festival activities free of charge.

Young People living and attending school in Southwark can get more involved in STEP by joining the STEP Youth Forum - this is a chance to see more theatre performances in Southwark venues and attend workshops delivered by youth theatre practitioners. It is also a chance to help organise STEP activities and have a say on the youth theatre on offer in Southwark.

For more information on STEP initiatives please contact:

Beccy Allen, STEP Creative Director
020 7708 6124 – step@theatrepeckham.co.uk

PERFORMANCE

STEP FORWARD

YOUTH THEATRE SHOWCASE

step southwark theatres'
education partnership

Unicorn Theatre
Friday 21 Nov
6.30pm