



Young Vic Company



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## TEACHERS' ACTIVITIES

supported by The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation

Supplementing the resources available to inner London English and Drama teachers and lecturers and providing a forum for them to exchange ideas lies at the core of the Young Vic's work with schools, colleges and young people. Throughout the year to coincide with each production, Teachers' Forum meetings were held each term for Lambeth, Southwark, Lewisham and Greenwich Primary, Secondary and FE College teachers. Agendas for these meetings included a presentation from the Audience Development Department on the Funded Ticket Scheme, presentation by the Marketing Department and feedback session on print images, and a practical on-stage session exploring technical elements of the Main House. These meetings were held to coincide with opportunities to see a Young Vic production which were also opened up to a wider number of teachers from across London to attend. After these special performances, teachers and lecturers had the opportunity to meet members of the cast and creative team and feed their own thoughts into the productions from their own perspective.

### Key Statistics for 1998-99

◆ Total TPR Funded Ticket Scheme participants	7656
◆ from Lambeth	2878
◆ from Southwark	1583
◆ from other SE London boroughs	429
◆ elsewhere in London	1472
◆ Total number of TPR workshop sessions	311
◆ Total number of workshop participants	2811

## Special Thanks

The Young Vic would like to express its sincere thanks to the many companies, foundations and private contributors who support our Teaching Participation and Research Programme during the 1998-99 financial year. Without their support this programme would not have been possible. These included:

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The Young Vic is supported by:



The Young Vic Theatre Company brings new interpretations of classic stories and plays to audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

Teaching others about theatre and learning ourselves from this activity is integral to the Young Vic. We provide young people with the practical means to explore theatre through the skills and experience of our award-winning core creative team.

The Young Vic focuses the greater part of its Teaching Participation and Research (TPR) programme on working with young people from the inner London boroughs of Lambeth and Southwark.

The DETR's most recent Index of Social Deprivation demonstrates that Southwark and Lambeth remain among the most deprived areas in the country. While Southwark has a greater degree of deprivation, Lambeth has a greater intensity. Both boroughs generally rank around 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> in London behind Newham, Hackney and Tower Hamlets.

Theatre and the visual arts can provide young people with the means to communicate their ideas unhindered by language constraints. Using light, sound, objects, puppetry, performance and storytelling the Young Vic can combine all these elements to inspire and stretch young people's imaginations. Indirectly, their confidence in speaking, listening and developing their own ideas can feed their love and appreciation of theatre.

# OVER 7,600 YOUNG PEOPLE !

That's the number who participated in the Young Vic's acclaimed Funded Ticket Scheme during our 1998-1999 financial year which thanks to support from companies and charitable trusts provides many young people with their first opportunity to experience a live theatre performance.

### We worked across 6 London Boroughs

While much of the work of the Young Vic continues to concentrate on the boroughs of Lambeth and Southwark, our plans to work with other SE London boroughs and those to the east of The City have continued to gain momentum.



### Provided more than 300 workshops



We facilitated more than 300 workshops involving the Young Vic's creative and technical teams both at the theatre and in schools and other community venues.

### Enjoyed by over 2,800 participants

Young people aged from three to 20 years old from many of the most deprived areas of London elected to take part in our outside of school activities

### And The Queen!

In March 1999, as part of a *Day of London Theatre*, HM The Queen visited the Young Vic to observe a group from Sacred Heart R.C. School in Southwark participating in a production workshop prior to the opening of the Young Vic/Theatre Royal Plymouth's production of *Hamlet*.



Teaching Participation and Research  
Annual Review 1998-99

Artistic Director:  
Tim Supple  
 Administrative Producer:  
Caroline Maude  
 Artistic Associate:  
Sue Emma  
 TPR Administrator:  
Sophie Pridell  
 Young Vic Company Ltd  
 66 The Cut  
 London SE1 8LZ  
 Tel: 020 7633 0133  
 Fax: 020 7928 1585  
 email:  
info@youngvic.org  
 Website:  
www.youngvic.org

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## Teaching

**Teaching** describes the work that the Young Vic undertakes with schools and colleges at the Theatre and in schools. Young people learn not only about what happens on stage but also about lighting, sound, stage management and many of the other behind-the-scenes activities which take place around a Young Vic production.

## Participation

**Participation** is for young people outside of school and involves making theatre and giving them a creative voice. In this element of our work, participants work with professional practitioners who have worked in the Studio Theatre and develop ideas and performances which are shown to an invited audience.

## Research

**Research** involves schools and colleges in development activities for Young Vic productions. This could range from sharing with a group of students story ideas for *Arabian Nights*, to a series of workshops that develop our understanding of an audience of children under the age of five to working with visually impaired people to explore how we can make our work more widely accessible.



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### THE FUNDED TICKET SCHEME

Since its founding in 1996 the Young Vic's Funded Ticket Scheme has provided some 12,000 young people principally from the London boroughs of Lambeth and Southwark with the opportunity to experience a live theatre performance, the vast majority, for the very first time. Thanks to the support that the Young Vic has been able to secure from a wide range of companies and charitable trusts, this programme has now been expanded and become an integral activity to all Young Vic T P R work both on stage in the Young Vic's two auditoria and in the community.

Each of the activities outlined in this report featured participation by many of the young people involved in the Young Vic's Funded Ticket Scheme, with the greatest proportion (some 2,558) enjoying the Young Vic's 1998 Christmas Show, *Arabian Nights*.

### CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

supported by **The Woodward Charitable Trust**

Providing young people with the opportunity to explore the world of theatre as a possible career path has become an increasing part of the work of the Young Vic's T P R programme. From April 1998 to March 1999 the Young Vic welcomed over 50 people on work experience. These people ranged from Year 11 pupils at school to graduates, some on as long as three month placements.

The Young Vic recruited volunteer placements through the Lambeth Volunteers Bureau, Lambeth Unemployment Project and Bankside Arts Training Trust.

In October 1998, under the title of **BACKSTAGE PASS**, the Young Vic provided 25 local young people with a practical introduction to the unseen areas of producing theatre including lighting, stage management, production, sound, wardrobe, marketing and design. Each participant came to see the Young Vic/Out of Joint revival of *Our Country's Good* in the main house on the Funded Ticket Scheme and helped the Stage Management team set up backstage.



A programme of research into training, careers and theatre involved a range of pupils and teachers from six Secondary schools and Colleges from Lambeth and Southwark. These sessions were carried out by Craig Higginson, and Sue Emmas, Artistic Associate and investigated young people's impressions of work in theatres with the view to researching practical activities and written material that would provide an insight into work opportunities that exist in theatre.

Having drawn together material from this initial research period earlier in the year and taken stock of its discoveries, the Young Vic has continued to move this area of work forward. With support graciously provided by **The Woodward Charitable Trust**, the Young Vic will produce a written resource that will be made available to schools, colleges and individuals. The expectation is also to develop ongoing activities with local schools that continue to disseminate information about working in theatre. The Young Vic has also begun research into establishing a mentoring schemes that can be provided for individuals who are committed to working in the production/technical side of theatre.





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Activities

### SUMMER MIX August 1998

supported by The Reuter Foundation & Southwark Play Scheme Programme

The Young Vic's highly acclaimed programme of summer activities for young people from London's inner city communities was faced with an unprecedented level of participant demand in 1998. Drawing upon experiences gained from the previous two years, the project was developed further into two distinct programmes of work, aiming, to empower young people to explore their own creativity.

A group of 7 to 10 year olds and a group of 11 to 13 year olds worked with director Kate Raper, an actor, a magician and a visual artist on a week of drama activities looking at the supernatural, ghost stories and magic. The week ended with a showing of work for parents and friends.



Under the auspices of Visiting Arts, South African company *lindiza* came to London as part of their UK tour and performed *Bed on Bricks* in the Young Vic Studio Theatre. This multi-cultural company of theatre practitioners brought their diverse range of skills to play by running three weeks of extensive theatre-making activities for two groups: 14 to 15 year olds and 16 to 20 year olds. The company worked with the two groups to develop their own pieces of performance initially from a visual perspective. The groups explored the immediate area of Waterloo and took photographs of both the people and buildings in the area.

As part of the process of developing their skills and expertise the groups also attended a number of live performance events such as a promenade performance by London Bubble of *A Midsummer Nights Dream*.

Following a similar way of working as *lindiza*, the young people looked at existing stories, personal memories and experiences and modern and ancient myths to create a response to the physical world they live in. Each group created a short performance piece which they presented to their parents and friends in the Young Vic Studio Theatre.

### FAMILIES EXPLORING DRAMA DAYS September 1998

supported by The National Step Families Association

A total of 16 families from all over London took part in four Sunday sessions on the Main House stage. These sessions were run by director Ruth Ben Tovim of *louder than words* and Drama Therapist Ben Yeger. They aimed to look specifically at the relationships between children and adults. The days involved drama games and activities encouraging family members of all ages to work and play together, sharing ideas and meeting other families. The focus was on improving communication skills, developing and building trust and using imagination with parents and children having fun together in a safe environment.

### GRIMM TALES TOUR REHEARSAL PROJECT October 1998

As the Young Vic prepared to take a revised version of its highly acclaimed *Grimm Tales and More Grimm Tales* to New York City and then onto Sydney, 520 young people from Lambeth and Southwark Primary Schools joined members of the acting company and creative team for a total of nine sessions to explore the stories and work on their own versions of the classic tales of the Brothers Grimm.

During the first week of rehearsals for the tour, Tim Supple (Director), Melly Still (Designer), a musician and nine members of the acting company visited four primary schools and performed a selection of stories from the revised *Grimm Tales* to a range of different ages (year groups 3 - 5). Each session was followed by the company informally interacting with the children to gain any feedback from their response to the stories which could be fed into the completed show.



Following three more weeks of rehearsal, one class from Loughborough Junior School visited the rehearsal room to watch a final dress rehearsal of the complete show and again had the chance to feedback to the company about how the work had progressed. Members of the company also performed a selection of the *Grimm Tales* at Joseph Lancaster school in four sessions to a total of 120 pupils as part of their Literacy day.

### ARABIAN NIGHTS November 1998 to January 1999

#### Funded Ticket Scheme

The Funded Ticket Scheme enabled over 80 groups to see the show, from Primary and Secondary schools and colleges based in the boroughs of Lambeth, Southwark, Lewisham, Greenwich, Wandsworth, and Newham. Resource Packs were provided for each school (two packs were produced to accommodate Primary and Secondary schools). The Young Vic sent out over sixty packs to groups.



#### Rehearsal project

During the first week of rehearsals, actors, musicians and the director visited two Lambeth primary schools and presented versions of different stories from *Arabian Nights* to two classes of 30 pupils in Year 6. The children discussed their initial responses to the stories with the creative team which were fed back into the rehearsal process. Once the show had opened at the Young Vic, the groups attended a preview performance under the Funded Ticket Scheme and talked with the Assistant Director after the show, once again feeding in their responses.

### STRATHCONA WORKSHOP WITH YOUNG PEOPLE December 1998

Strathcona Theatre Company's mission is to create original work informed by a learning disabled perspective that is contemporary and relevant to members of society with learning disabilities and without. The company wish to do so in a direct and accessible way, confronting controversial issues with the highest possible artistic and production values.

As part of Strathcona's annual residency at the Young Vic, learning disabled members of the company explored issues of beauty and perception during a two hour workshop with 12 young people challenging commonly held misconceptions.



### ANIMATED NIGHTS January 1999

Supported by Railtrack plc, Help a London Child, The Abbey National Charitable Trust Ltd



Following a period of initial research during *Twelfth Night* and *As I Lay Dying*, T P R staff members worked with a group of visually impaired students from Clapham Park School using the story of *Esindibad the Sailor* from *Arabian Nights* as the basis for their work.

Led by the production's Assistant Director and Puppeteer, the project started with a number of sessions at the Young Vic which for Clapham Park School pupils included a touch tour of the auditorium with the stage management team. The young people then devised their own version of the story over 14 sessions in school during which the children designed and made puppets and rehearsed the stories. The groups then came together for two sessions to rehearse and perform their work on the set of *Arabian Nights* and worked with an actor from the company and the full technical team.

Pupils and staff from the schools, local councillors, the *Arabian Nights* company and Young Vic staff attended the performance. Resource materials on *Arabian Nights* and puppet making were provided for each school.





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# Activities

## TWELFTH NIGHT & AS I LAY DYING May to July 1998



Initial work exploring Shakespeare's language took place in February 1998 with pupils from four Secondary and Primary schools from Lambeth and Southwark. These schools were then involved in further sessions exploring the story of *Twelfth Night* with the associate director, Barbara Houseman and actors from the Young Vic Company. The groups were then offered Funded Tickets to see a matinee performance of the final production of *Twelfth Night*.

In addition, over 1500 students attended either *Twelfth Night* or *As I Lay Dying* on the Funded Ticket Scheme with their school or college. Each group was offered an associated activity either before or after seeing the show.

As part of its rehearsal schedule and once the two shows had opened, as part of the on-going development of the productions, the Young Vic ran a total of 11 on-stage workshops, 24 workshops in schools and gave pre show tours of the auditorium involving the production team, director, writer and members of the acting company during the performance period. Nine post show discussions with the creative team were also facilitated. In-house prepared resource packs were also provided free of charge to each participating schools group.

## IN CLOSE RELATION May to June & November 1998 Young Vic Studio Commission

In spring 1998 the Young Vic Studio commissioned *louder than words* to create a piece of work for the following autumn Studio Theatre season. The co-directors Ruth Ben Tovim and Peader Kirk and actor Martin Gent ran an extensive research period in schools and with young people exploring initial themes of play, games and relationships between adults and children. Over 20 sessions were facilitated in schools and colleges with students ranging from Year 3 to BTec level from Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham schools and colleges. Five young people who had participated in this initial period of research then went on to perform in *louder than words'* finished work in November



## LWT TALENT CHALLENGE - The Media Mix June to July 1998



Media Mix involved 20 participants aged between 15 and 25 years old in a five-week project mixing video and live performance. The project delivered an intensive training in video and performing techniques with the group dividing into three groups to create three short films that they scripted, storyboarded, shot, lit, cast, designed and edited themselves. This work culminated in two performances of their final shows at the Young Vic Studio and a further showcase of performances in July with other Southwark groups at the OXO Tower as part of the LWT Talent Challenge which was broadcast on London Weekend Television.

The project concluded with a debrief session and post show party held at the Young Vic Studio. The participants were offered careers advice and support over the 5 weeks and were given a portfolio and showreel to mark their participation in the project.

## SCHOOLS' THEATRE FESTIVAL July 1998

Following *Diverse Images* in 1997, the Young Vic hosted its second Schools' Theatre Festival in July 1998, this time offering groups the chance to perform in the Young Vic's Main House over two evenings. While the Young Vic initially aimed to accommodate eight schools, a total of eleven schools from Lambeth and Southwark took part and a total of 165 pupils aged between 14 and 16 years old performed in the Festival.

In common with many of the activities undertaken throughout 1998, each school was offered Funded Tickets to see a performance at the Young Vic and a programme of activities to support the rehearsals of their own works which they devised in their schools with their teachers. This included a visit from a stage manager and director during rehearsals and various sessions on-stage. The entire Main House technical team was involved in staging the festival and the auditorium capacity was offered to each school so that they could share their own and each others work. In all the Festival was attended by well over 600 family members, friends and supporters.