

## **Youth Music Theatre UK (YMT)**

**YMT** is the leading music theatre company for young people aged 11-21. Our principal aim, as an **Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation**, is to provide high-quality training for talented young performers, musicians and theatre technicians. YMT has a strong relationship with the UK's largest teaching union, the **NASUWT**, who are our principal private donor and also with **Trinity College London** who formally assess our activities. We are also one of the Department for Education's eight **National Youth Music Organisations**.

From November 2018, YMT offices will be located at the new Mountview in Peckham.



YMT is a youth theatre like no other, producing vibrant innovative and – most importantly – original works in some of the UK's top venues and festivals with leading industry professionals. The courses are mostly residential and this provides the intensive, focused energy required to travel a long distance in a short time, constantly re-working and developing new material. As well as performance skills, our courses offer significant personal and educational benefits to young people: developing confidence and self-esteem as well as improving communication and team-work whilst working in an intense, professional environment.

Although based in London, YMT works across the UK and Since 2003 we have provided experiential training to over 6,000 young people, many of whom have successfully entered the music industries such as **Ed Sheeran** and **Sam Smith**, West End theatre such as **Lauren Samuels** (Beckham), TV and Film such as **Charlotte Ritchie** (Fresh Meat & Call the Midwife), **Jack Bence** (Bad Education), **Lucy Griffiths** (True Blood) - and many more.

Creativity is at the heart of our work - developing new music theatre. We commission or devise at least eight original productions every year or redevelopments of work we have produced earlier. This allows emerging artists to develop their work and also enables young people to understand the creative process rather than merely replicating pre-existing works. Over the past 14 years we have created over 80 new works, a number of which are published through Music Theatre International.

2013 saw the first instance of a YMT show move into a professional, commercial production. **Loserville**, by Busted star James Bourne and award winning bookwriter Elliot Davis, started at West Yorkshire Playhouse before transferring to the Garrick Theatre in London's West End where it was nominated for an Olivier Award for Best New Musical.



In 2017 we launch the world premiere of a rock opera written 50 years ago – **(Excerpts from) A Teenage Opera** by Mark Wirtz, a new contemporary dance/opera **Reflections in Swan Lake** at Sadler's Wells Lilian Baylis Theatre, a view of Trump's America from women's perspectives in **First Ladies** and a political reassessment of Jo Cox's death through contemporary dance in **More in Common**. Elsewhere we look at classic British novels reimaged in **Tess of the d'Urbervilles**, **Children of the New Forest**, **Jabberwocky** and **Gulliver's Travels**.

### YMT's Programme of work:

- We hold workshop [Auditions](#) for our Summer Productions, which take place all across the UK in January and February each year
- [Summer Productions](#) take place in the school summer holidays and involve 2-3 weeks of residential rehearsals followed by public performances in professional theatre venues. Selection for particular projects is based on skills rather than geography, so someone auditioning in Inverness might join a project in London, or someone from Plymouth might be in a show in Belfast.
- [YMT's Summer Camps](#) - 6-day residential courses for anyone looking to build their acting, singing and dancing abilities.
- Outreach work - YMT is currently offering bespoke workshops to schools around London.
- The [Creative Trainee Scheme](#) provides opportunities for emerging artists (composers, directors, musical directors, choreographers and designers) to work with leading theatre industry practitioners and develop their skills.
- Teacher Ambassadors – YMT works with teachers across the UK and Ireland offering CPD training and reduced-fee workshops in return for the promotion of YMT's activities to their students.