

**ALMEIDA
THEATRE**



PARTICIPATION

2022 - 2023



PARTICIPATION

As we emerge from the pandemic, in the last year we have worked with over **5,000 people** from the ages of 7 to 97 through projects in our three areas of work: **Schools, Young Artists and Community.**

In 2022-23 we made a refreshed commitment to being a local theatre, and have increased our work with young people and residents from our community. We've also attracted people from far and wide to our acclaimed Almeida For Free Festivals, where young people can see shows for free and take part in masterclasses and workshops, building their own communities of Young Artists. Last year, Rebecca Frecknall's *A Streetcar Named Desire* saw our highest Almeida For Free attendance on record - **1,065 attendees.**


All of our participation work is **free** and we are **committed to reaching as many people as possible**, constantly creating new models of working to ensure access for all. It's important to us that there are pathways through the different projects we offer: someone we meet through a schools workshop might go on to be in our Young Company or Young Designers and Technicians group, they might then become an assistant designer on a project, or become a professional actor.

We aim to meaningfully impact our community and our industry through high-quality projects, and **the Almeida is richer and more diverse** through the contributions our participants make every year.

Thank you to everyone who participated in and supported our work in 2022-23.

Dani Parr, Director of Participation at the Almeida Theatre

Rush, January 2023.
Photo by Craig Fuller.



"I loved seeing our hard work come to fruition during For Free, but the real highlight was gathering each week. We developed a true community and I love that I was able to learn so much alongside people I now call close friends."

Young Producer

Across the 2022 - 2023 period...

5,110 + **1,300**

people were reached
through Almeida
Participation activities

audiences attended
community-led
productions

Young Artists

3,750 young people participated in our Young Artist opportunities and Almeida For Free events.

Schools

1,260 students from schools across London participated in our education projects and saw our work for free.

Community

100 community members participated in productions and have attended workshops for our 2023 summer production so far...

Photo by Ian Hippolyte.



SCHOOLS

Since the pandemic, we've been committed to reaching more young people - especially those who need support most. We've worked in partnership with local schools to strengthen vital arts subjects, offer alternative ways of learning, inspire creative careers, and to cultivate young theatre audiences.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Partnerships

We have been working in-depth with Samuel Rhodes, a local SEND School, to support students with special educational needs and disabilities. We run weekly workshops to bring students closer to our theatre and the people who make it, from box office staff to lighting technicians. The students also attended our relaxed performance of *A Streetcar Named Desire*.



537

free Almeida tickets
used by local partner
schools.

In-School Workshops



In response to the post-pandemic decrease in students taking Drama for GCSE and A-Levels, we offered 90-minute workshops in-schools to give Years 7-9 students (aged 11-14) an insight to the subject, its transferable skills and what to expect when taking the subject at a GCSE level. These workshops also acted as taster sessions for Young Artist projects at the Almeida. In addition, we offered specialised curriculum set-text workshops. 100 A-Level students from 5 local schools deepened their understanding of *A Streetcar Named Desire* through our bespoke workshops.

Careers

We welcomed Year 12 students from The BRIT School for a weeklong work experience programme. The students took part in workshops with Almeida staff and freelancers which showcased the range of professional opportunities available in theatre. Students put their learnings into practice by developing a series of creative activities in response to *Women, Beware the Devil*. Additionally, we travelled to local schools to participate in 'Careers Days' engaging over 140 students with hands-on workshops and professional advice.



SCHOOLS

In 2022, we launched our Primary School Hubs to give local primary school students access to a free after-school creative programme that promotes confidence, learning, and an ongoing connection to the Almeida.

Primary School Hubs

Through our Primary School Hubs programme, we provide local schools with a free extra-curricular arts programme. We run weekly after-school sessions for students who may not usually have access to extra-curricular provisions or struggle to learn in a formal, academic setting. Our aim is to introduce these students to our wider Schools and Young Artist opportunities, and to give them the confidence to thrive at school and beyond.

"I love it! I really think that it makes me better at working as a team."

Student, Primary School Hub



Participating local primary schools



Key Stage 2 students

Of which:

- 78% receive free school meals
- 40% speak English as a second language
- 33% have access needs or additional support requirements

'There are so few opportunities for children of this age in Islington to join a structured, long-term creative project for free. Witnessing the students grow in confidence has been magical'. Annys Whyatt, Schools Producer





Through our Schools programmes, we aim to introduce students to the broader scope of our participation offer. This includes free holiday projects that provide creative outlets outside school, and welcome participants' families, friends and carers, to see them perform on the Almeida stage.

Almeida Summer School

In July we hosted a free Summer School led by Almeida artists. Across 5-days, 60 local children (aged 7-13) explored myths and legends from around the world, and created their own myths for Islington. The final day culminated in a performance for family and friends.

To deepen our relationships with Primary School Hubs students, we gave them a special priority booking window to join the Summer School.



October Half Term Project

As an extension of the Primary School Hubs programme, we ran a free 3-day intensive for students during the October Half-Term.

However, based on the success of the Summer School, we widened our recruitment to build on the friendships formed between children in the summer. The October Half-Term Project engaged 24 students and focused on puppetry and performance skills.

SHARING RESOURCES

In addition to engaging students at school, we create and share free resources that support industry-transparency, learning and teaching.

At the Almeida, we share our expertise wherever possible. Accompanying every production we create learning resources such as interviews with lead creatives and digital broadcasts, circulating them with our school network and making them publicly available online.

We also offer **DRAMA TEACHERS MASTERCLASSES** to expand their skillsets and to support inspiring teaching. In 2022-23, we've run masterclasses on devising, physical theatre, and stage combat for 25 teachers.



NEW IN OUR RESOURCE HUB, 2022-23

MAKING OF THE HOUSE OF SHADES:
5 TIPS FOR ASPIRING COSTUME DESIGNERS
WITH **LIAM BUNSTER**

MAKING OF THE TRAGEDY OF MACBETH:
FIGHT DIRECTION
WITH **'KOMAT KATE' WATERS**

COSTUME DESIGNER EVIE GURNEY
ON HER INSPIRATION FOR
WOMEN, BEWARE THE DEVIL



1,500 views of online
resources



The digital broadcast of the Almeida's 2021 production, **THE TRAGEDY OF MACBETH** was also made exclusively available for free to local schools.

YOUNG COMPANY

The Almeida Young Company aims to give emerging artists critical experience in acting, writing and devising. To broaden our recruitment, we ran **10 outreach workshops** in local schools, including **90-minute open audition workshops** which engaged **134 young people**. Between October 2022 and January 2023, **53 young people** aged between 14-25 participated in the **16-week programme**, devising 2 brand new plays. Through Young Company, we invest in diverse theatre makers of the future.

THE VILLAGE, 14-18 company

22 young people were selected to create work in response to Rebecca Frecknall's *A Streetcar Named Desire* (December 2022 - February 2023).

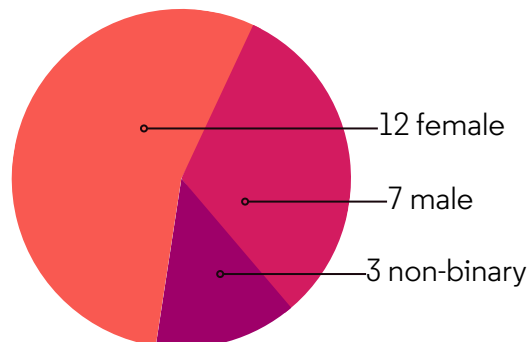
45%

of participants were from the Global Majority.

63%

of participants were from local boroughs.

Participant gender make-up:



Photos by Craig Fuller.



The Village was devised by the 14-18 Young Company with **Abi Falase**, Participation Associate and **Tatenda Shamiso**, *Streetcar*'s Assistant Director.

Pushed to the edge, a generation of young people create a future for themselves, carving out a utopia away from the failings of those who came before.

"I liked creating and devising a play, working with others, using everyone's strengths to benefit the work, and gaining insight into what goes on behind the scenes."

Young Company member

YOUNG COMPANY

RUSH, 18-25 company

Rush was devised by the 17 members of the 18-25 Young Company under the creative direction of **Abi Falase** and playwright **Rafaella Marcus** also in response to Rebecca Frecknall's *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

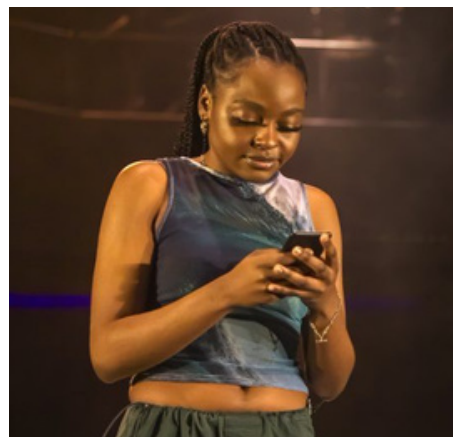
Under the garish glow of the funfair, friends try to navigate a carnival of dodgems, drinks and broken connections. But soon they find themselves contending with their own impulses and dependencies on fitness, sleep, money and work. This brand-new play examined the consequences of always chasing that next high.

59%

of participants were from the Global Majority.

35%

of participants were from local boroughs.



"I was in such a talented, creative, positive space! One of the most encouraging environments I've ever worked in."

- Young Company member.

Photos by Craig Fuller.



"The favourite part of this project for me was working on a professional stage with a professional team. It was fantastic industry experience."

- Young Company member.

Changes to the Young Company

In 2022, we compressed the timeline of our Young Company programme to 16-weeks (previously 12-months) so we can run multiple iterations each year, and engage more young people. We found this change promoted greater professionalism amongst participants, and resulted in stronger retention.

The 16-week programme included:

26 skills workshops including movement and vocal training

6 technical sessions with the Almeida's production team

3 performances of *Rush* and *The Village* on the Almeida stage

Our Young Technicians and Designers assisted the Almeida's technicians for the three double-bill performances. A dedicated performance for industry guests led to crucial career-developing opportunities for several cast members - a key objective of the programme.



1,040

people attended the Young Company performances.



65%

of participants have secured meetings with acting agents.

JANELLE, ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER ON RUSH

“The opportunity has opened doors for me in the industry. It has given me a lot of confidence, so much so that I am considering applying for a creative university, whereas before I never felt that I had enough experience to. It's so nice knowing that so many industry professionals want to help the younger generation. They went above and beyond.”



YOUNG DESIGNERS & TECHNICIANS

"Being able to work on the Young Company shows has brought me, for the first time, into the world of backstage."

- Participant, Young Designers and Technicians.

A new scheme for young people aged 14-18 who are interested in exploring the design, technical and stage management roles that make theatre happen.



participants aged between 14-18.



bespoke seminars and tours.

WATCH



SESSION OVERVIEW

Introductory session with **PARTICIPATION PRODUCER**

Introduction to **SET AND LIGHTING** at the BRIT School

Visit to **THEATRE CRAFT**

Introduction to **STAGE MANAGEMENT** with Sunita Hinduja

Introduction to **SOUND DESIGN** with Kayode Gomez

Introduction to **COSTUME DESIGN** with Maariyah Sharjil

SET DESIGN with Ethan Cheek

The group took on technical roles for our two Young Company shows.

40%

of participants were from the Global Majority.

53%

of participants were from local boroughs.

"Being an Assistant Stage Manager on The Village helped me immensely. I am now applying to be an ASM at my local theatre and when I had my interview they seemed really impressed."

- Participant, Young Designers and Technicians.

YOUNG PRODUCERS

Our Young Producers are a group of young people who want to learn about theatre producing. The programme offers 16–25 year olds the chance to learn about producing and planning creative projects. They meet staff from across the Almeida and learn what goes into putting on productions and running the building. Our Young Producers curate Almeida for Free Festivals for under 25's.

13 Young Producers

46%
disabled participants

53%

of participants were from the Global Majority.

53%

of participants were from local boroughs.

"I loved getting to see all of our hard work come to fruition, connecting with so many young people and getting such positive feedback from them"

- Young Producer

SAM, YOUNG PRODUCER

“ The extent to which I have benefited is immeasurable. I learned so much about the practical side of the theatre industry and made so many great friends. I benefitted a great deal even from just being in and around the buildings where I met many people in foyers, during intermissions and in the common room. Naturally, I can also include the beautiful lineup of events we put on as part of my website and CV.

Before applying I considered myself a multi-hyphenate creative, I did not consider myself a producer. I am glad to say that having experienced the Young Producers programme I not only have a greater understanding of this role but wholly consider myself one. ”



ALMEIDA FOR FREE

Almeida For Free gives away free tickets to people under 25 years to one performance of every Almeida show. We run masterclasses, workshops, and panel discussions so young people can learn about our work, meet the team, build new skills and creative networks.

29

events including workshops, masterclasses and panels.

1,141

attendees across all the For Free festival events.

2,167

tickets have been given away to For Free performances.

FOR FREE PRODUCTIONS, 2022-2023

"DADDY" A MELODRAMA dir. DANYA TAYMOR

THE HOUSE OF SHADES dir. BLANCHE MCINTYRE

PATRIOTS dir. RUPERT GOOLD

THE CLINIC dir. MONIQUE TOUKO

TAMMY FAYE dir. RUPERT GOOLD

A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE dir. REBECCA FRECKNALL

WOMEN, BEWARE THE DEVIL dir. RUPERT GOOLD



"I was nervous to go alone but felt so welcome... the fact that the event was even organised for us (aspiring creatives) was reassuring and it felt like we were a welcome part of the industry."

- Participant, For Free Festival



STREETCAR FOR FREE

A For Free highlight was our Olivier Award-winning production, *A Streetcar Named Desire*. In addition to welcoming **370 young people** to see the show for free, some of the UK's leading artists hosted ancillary events and masterclasses – including a post show debrief with Paul Mescal, Patsy Ferran and Anjana Vasan, and an intimacy workshop led by Ita O'Brien.

11

free events for
Young Artists

695

attracting attendees

...including a record-breaking
230 attendees
at Rebecca Frecknall's
Directing Masterclass

STREETCAR FOR FREE LINE UP

almeida.co.uk/streetcarforfree

SUNDAY 15 JAN

12.45 – 2.45 PM
Demystifying
the Producer's role

3 – 5 PM
Intimacy Workshop

WEDNESDAY 18 JAN

7 – 9 PM
Movement Masterclass
with Mateus Daniel

THURSDAY 19 JAN

10 – 11 AM
The Breakfast Club

10.15 AM & 11.30 AM
Almeida Backstage Tour

11.30 AM – 1.30 PM
A Streetcar Named Devising

11 AM – 1 PM
Just Write
Writing Lab: Session 1

2.30 – 4.30 PM
Directing Masterclass
with Rebecca Frecknall

7.30 – 11 PM
Streetcar free performance
and post-show Q&A

SATURDAY 21 JAN

2 – 4 PM
Just Write
Writing Lab: Session 2

7 PM – 12 AM
Under The Paper Moon:
Queer Cabaret

SUNDAY 22 JAN

4.30 – 6 PM
Learn to Swing Dance

This week of events was
programmed by our
Almeida Young
Producers.

"[I now feel] that there is space for me and all my intersections in theatre and in art! It's really easy to feel left out if you don't tick certain boxes visually in the British art scene (thin, white, tall) this was such an empowering workshop that reminded us as long as we work hard creatively we will be seen and by the right people."

- Participant, For Free Festival

YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

Our Youth Advisory Board exists to provoke, inspire and create positive change at the Almeida by including the voice and insights of young people in decision making and strategy. It also aims to support and develop the next generation of arts leaders by giving them access to the Almeida's staff, leadership and trustees.

Our 2022-23 Youth Advisory Board (below) are halfway through their first year. Since September they have met with the Almeida's leadership team including the Artistic Director, Executive Director, and Associate Director. They've participated in strategic sessions with our marketing team on branding and audience development, as well as on commissioning with our literary department. They have all had one-to-ones with our Director of Participation to create a training plan for their time on the Board.

They have now divided into three sub-groups to tackle key research projects:

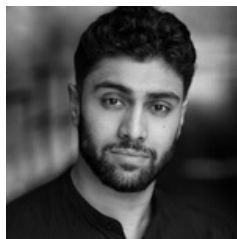
Connecting with youth networks across the UK to address shared industry problems.

Analysing audience development data to demonstrate community impact.

Evaluating our access strategy with peer research and benchmarking.



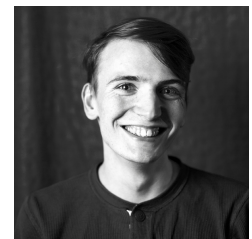
ALICE



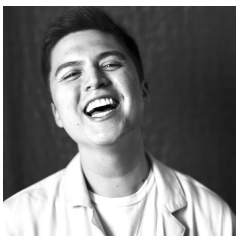
AZAN



BETH



CASPER



EDWARD



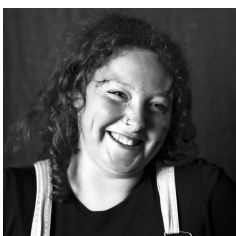
ELINA



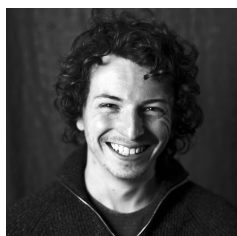
KIETON



LUKE



MADI



ROHAN



TARA



ZAHRA

OPEN SESSIONS

Open Sessions are free drama workshops for 18-25-year-olds hosted at the Almeida over the summer and spring. Participants can drop into any session, without audition or application, to network, learn new skills and build their theatre-making toolkit.



6

targeted sessions across the summer.



102

participants across the series.

Sessions offered participants the chance to utilise different techniques to breakdown texts and enhance performances. The session focuses included reinventing, adapting and staging classic plays, physical theatre and monologue surgeries. By dropping into an Open Session, we hope attendees will learn about our other Young Artist offerings, or return as an audience member.

BLACK JOY

Black Joy was a scratch event programmed alongside Dipo Baruwa-Etti's *The Clinic* to celebrate and platform art from emerging Black artists. Performances included live music, poetry, spoken-word, and theatre.

***Black Joy* was produced by the 2021-22 Participation Assistant, Montel Douglas.**

14 ART-ISTS

aged between
20-54

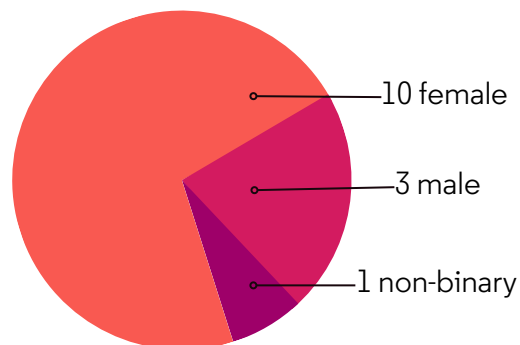
93%
working class participants

78%

were first-time Almeida participants.

14%

of participants were disabled.



318 tickets sold for the performance on Sunday 18 September 2022.

COMMUNITY

During the pandemic, we committed to reaching as many people as possible with creative opportunities - supporting wellbeing and connection in our borough. Across the next 3-years, we will continue this work, deepening our impact through a **TRIOLOGY** of community productions.

BUILDING TOWARDS 24 (DAY)

Across the next 3-years, Trilogy will bring together professional creatives, local artists and community performers of all ages and backgrounds, to explore what it means to live, work, love, pray, celebrate and mourn in Islington through a day, a lifetime, and countless millennia.

24 (DAY) is our first production scheduled for **August 2023**. Almeida Participation are working closely with three local charities to ensure we recruit people who are new to the Almeida and ordinarily experience barriers to the arts. So far, we've run **13 taster sessions** and engaged **80 local people** through developmental workshops.

1,000 local people engaged in Trilogy over 3-years.

3 local partners helping us to engage key community groups:

**ALL CHANGE
ARSENAL IN THE
COMMUNITY
CARDBOARD CITIZENS**

Together we will promote creative opportunities for all, strong intergenerational relationships, and community cohesion.

JEAN performed in The Key Workers Cycle (2022) and will star in 24 (DAY)

“ At the age of 70, I have been offered my first professional acting role for 50 years!

I love that Annie is writing a play in which an older woman takes centre stage as a fully-rounded character and that an 'ordinary' life like hers is celebrated.... so you can imagine how delighted I was to be offered the part!

I have to admit that along with the excitement also comes some nerves! This is both a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and a challenge for me and I want to do justice to both the character of Liz and the play as a whole. However, it feels like Almeida Participation has given me, in my seventies, a chance to revisit my first love of acting...in the most supportive and encouraging environment I could wish for....and now I can't wait to get started! ”



WHAT NEXT?

Post pandemic, we are continuing to broaden our reach, ensuring that people who experienced major disruptions in their lives, education or employment, do not miss out on creative opportunities. Through Trilogy, we are ramping up our **civic commitment** in Islington. We will bring people of all ages and backgrounds together to make extraordinary theatre.

Young Artists

Recruitment for our next Young Company is underway, and for the first time we're welcoming multi-disciplinary young creatives to make 10-minute musicals in response to *The Secret Life of Bees*. In the coming year, we are also strengthening the progression routes between our Young Artist programme and our mainstage opportunities for early-career artists.

Schools

As we look to the new academic year, we will assess our school partnerships to make sure we work with students and teachers who need support most. We will continue to give away up to 1,000 tickets to local schools, run careers days, masterclasses, workshops, and provide performance opportunities for young people on our stage. We are currently devising curriculum-based workshops to roll out in schools alongside Rebecca Frecknall's *Romeo and Juliet*.

Community

2023 will mark the first year of our ambitious three-year Trilogy community production project. Through our inclusive recruitment methods, we will engage up to 250 people and select a final community company of 80 people to perform in *24 (DAY)*. We will welcome everyone who auditions to join our wider participation activities and to see shows at the Almeida for free - building meaningful, ongoing relationships with all our participants.

Photo by Ian Hippolyte.



THANK YOU

Almeida's Participation work depends on the generosity of our supporters.
For their steadfast support in 2022-23, we thank:

Almeida Participation Supporters

Two anonymous supporters
Chapman Charitable Trust
Christina Smith Foundation
The John S Cohen Foundation
The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust
The Mildred Duveen Charitable Trust
The Worshipful Company of Grocers
The Harold Hyam Wingate
Foundation
The Jack Petchey Foundation
The Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust
The David and Elaine Potter
Foundation
Charles Skey Charitable Trust

**If you are interested in supporting the
work of Almeida Participation, contact:**

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