

**ALMEIDA
THEATRE**



PARTICIPATION

2023 - 2024



PARTICIPATION

In 2023-24, we reached **7,000 people** through our free Almeida Participation programme. Through our three areas of work: **Schools, Young Artists and Community**, we aim to be a **creative home** for the local Islington community, but also reach young artists far and wide, **supporting the next generation** who will be a key part of Almeida's future.

This year, Almeida shows and artists have inspired an ambitious range of work. We gave away **850 free tickets** to students from our local schools and launched a new programme, **Unlocked** that enabled **130 students** to create and showcase their work on our stage.

The first part of our **Community Trilogy** project took place in the summer with an ambitious play developed and performed by **80 incredible local people**, in partnership with All Change, Arsenal in the Community and Cardboard Citizens.

Young Artists have had a busy year too - we expanded our **Young Company** to work with young writers, composers and lyricists as well as performers, and created incredible high quality mini musicals inspired by *The Secret Life of Bees*.

Almeida For Free Festivals have become the focal point of the programme and most young people say that it's their first point of contact with the Theatre. Curated by our Young Producers, **Romeo and Juliet For Free** featured a directing masterclass led by Rebecca Frecknall attracting **190 young people**, and **Cold War For Free** included an amazing jazz night (the Almeida's first) profiling emerging young jazz musicians.

We are grateful to everyone who got involved in 2023-24 and gave so much of their energy and time to projects. **Thank you** to our supporters who make this work possible, allowing the Almeida to continue to be a thriving creative hub for everyone in our local community.

Dani Parr, Director of Participation



Across the 2023 - 2024 period

5,587 + 2,720

people were reached
through Almeida
Participation activities

audiences attended
community-led
productions

Schools

1,702

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

Young Artists

3,685

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

Community

200

community members participated in the first year of our Trilogy project, including creative workshops and performing on our stage.

Photo by Ian Hippolyte.



PRIMARY SCHOOL HUBS

Now in its second year, we continued our Primary School Hubs programme in 2023-24.

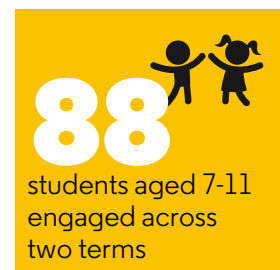
Through this programme, we give local primary school students access to a free after-school creative programme that promotes confidence, learning, and an ongoing connection to the Almeida.

PRIMARY SCHOOL HUBS

Primary School Hubs provides local schools with a **free after-school arts programme** dedicated to students who struggle to learn in formal setting or do not have access to extra-curricular provisions. We run weekly sessions centring on building confidence and collaboration through drama games, performance and storytelling. 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.

In 2023, we've continued to work with three core primary school partners, deepening our relationships with students from the inaugural programme. Now in 2024, we're expanding our programme to work with a fourth partner:

- ***Hugh Myddelton Primary School***
- ***Robert Blair School***
- ***Thornhill Primary School***
- ***Pakeman Primary School (NEW in 2024)***



Primary School Hub partnerships are built on the needs of the school and students. In 2023-24:

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



HOLIDAY PROJECTS

Through our Schools programme, we offer in-school and after-school creative opportunities to local students. However, we also continue our work during holidays: bringing students from different schools together to collaborate, and inviting their friends, families and carers to see them perform.

EASTER 'PLAY IN A DAY'

During the Easter break, we offered a special drama day for young people aged 11-13 in partnership with Islington Council's Holiday Activities and Food Programme. The aim was to reach young people from lower socio-economic backgrounds and to give them a fun, creative day out with meals provided. **15 young people** attended and created a performance for family and friends at the end of the day.



Photo by Ian Hippolyte.

ALMEIDA SUMMER SCHOOL

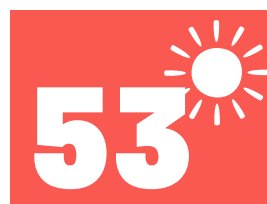
In July, we ran a weeklong Summer School for ages 11-13. We prioritised places for our Primary School Hubs students and worked with **20 young people** across five-days. The participants built devising and performance skills through a series of drama games and exercises, and created a brand-new performance around the theme of Time Capsules which was shared with family and friends on the final day.

FEBRUARY HALF-TERM CLUB

Packed with drama games across four-days, our February Half Term Club expanded on the creative work explored in Primary School Hubs. **20 young people** aged 7-11 explored collaborative working and performance skills, culminating in a sharing with parents.



Photo by Ian Hippolyte.



young people aged 7-13 attended free holiday projects

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The Almeida partners with over 20 local secondary schools to strengthen creative subjects, support alternate ways of learning and teaching, and to inspire creative careers and theatre audiences. We focus our work with schools and students that will benefit most from our resources and opportunities.

IN-SCHOOL WORKSHOPS: Supporting GCSE Studies

In response to diminishing resources and consequently a decline in students electing GCSE Drama, we run **WHY DRAMA?** workshops in-school for Key Stage 3 students. We aim to highlight the transferable skills drama can offer and to inspire creative careers in our local community. We ran over 20 WHY DRAMA workshops across two school terms in 2023, engaging **250 students** from five schools.

PRODUCTION WORKSHOPS: From page to stage

We are committed to sharing our expertise and artists to support the curriculum, especially GCSE and A-Level English and Drama texts.

In 2023-24, we produced innovative interpretations of *Romeo and Juliet* and *King Lear* by William Shakespeare, and in addition to inviting students to see the performances for free, we offered dynamic in-school workshops to enhance student learning. Alongside *King Lear*, we ran PERFORMANCE and COSTUME DESIGN workshops to illuminate the technical 'page to stage' process.

Students from Islington and across the UK attended five of the Almeida's productions in 2023-24, supporting their studies and nurturing their interest as future theatre audiences.

850

tickets given away to local students



450

students participated in in-school workshops





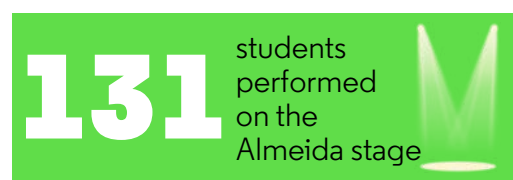
ALMEIDA UNLOCKED:

A flagship opportunity for young people to perform on the Almeida stage

We launched Almeida Unlocked in 2022 to give local school students a meaningful opportunity to make theatre on our internationally acclaimed stage. We adapted the programme in 2023, making it more intensive and so we can run multiple iterations and reach more young people with the opportunity.

In the last 12-months, we've run two Almeida Unlocked showcases in June 2023 and March 2024, working with six local schools and over **130 students** aged 12- 18 years. The Unlocked process includes:

- ***Two in-school workshops with an Almeida Artist to develop a toolkit of performance techniques***
- ***A day devising and rehearsing in the Theatre fully supported by the Almeida's technical team***
- ***Performing the final piece in front of peers from local schools and the Almeida team***



See the video below for an overview of Almeida Unlocked in June 2023:



TEACHER FEEDBACK:

"Unlocked, with links to *Romeo and Juliet* was the highlight of the year.

The day at the theatre was quite special, having the time and space to develop the piece and prep it for performance along with sharing the work with other schools and seeing how the same source material can be interpreted in so many ways.

The students' **confidence, engagement and enjoyment** was clear to see and we clicked with our director which always makes it extra special."

Lorraine Wright - Curriculum Leader Drama, Highbury Grove



WORK EXPERIENCE

Helping young people to build skills and forge a career is paramount to our work.

We work with schools and colleges to give young people invaluable work experiences.

SEND PARTNERSHIPS & CAREERS

The Almeida is committed to supporting our disabled community engage in our Theatre - as audiences, artists, participants and our workforce. As a result, we partner with **Special Education Needs and Disability** schools to nurture relationships with students with access needs, running bespoke careers courses in-school and at the Theatre. In 2023-24 we've continued our work with Samuel Rhodes School, providing tailored workshops that introduce a group of **nine GCSE students** to the breadth of career opportunities in theatre.

Across January - March, they participated in weekly sessions on set and costume design, theatre making, lighting, sound, marketing, producing and working in the box office. We invited the students to attend relaxed and accessible performances for free to further nurture our relationship with them and their families.

BRIT SCHOOL WORK EXPERIENCE

Across an intensive week, **74 Year 12 students** from The Brit School participated in a work experience course at the Almeida, including skills workshops, a backstage tour, and watching *King Lear*. The week concluded with the students pitching their ideas of how they would stage *King Lear* to the Almeida team. The majority of the students had never been to the Almeida before and many of them said *King Lear* was the "best production" they had ever seen.

"A highlight from last week. [April] doesn't like to come to school. Last week she didn't come on Wednesday, however she met her group when they arrived at Almeida on Thursday. Might not sound big, but that is a huge credit to the programme as you have engaged a very complex pupil." - Teacher Feedback, Samuel Rhodes School

ISLINGTON & CITY COLLEGE: MENTORING

For the first time, we joined Islington & City College's 'Local Village Network', mentoring **16 Performing Arts students** as they consider their career options. The Network's purpose is to address 'network poverty' for young people from low socio-economic backgrounds. Eight members of the Almeida team travelled to the campus across five weeks, with the programme resulting in the students visiting the Almeida for a backstage tour and to see a performance.

100+ 

work experience & mentoring opportunities for young people



SHARING RESOURCES

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

RESOURCE PACKS

To further support learning, we create production resources that are circulated with schools and are free to download on our website. In 2023-24, we created and shared:

10 behind-the-scenes videos including an interview with award-winning writer Marina Carr (*Portia Coughlan*) and a design brief from *King Lear* Costume Designer, Camilla Dely, and Movement Director, Imogen Knight.

70k

people accessed & viewed our production resources



TRAINING: TEACHERS & FACILITATORS

We've run two free training courses in 2023-24:

- A 6 week training programme for anyone interested in gaining facilitation skills, focussing on working with young people.
- A professional development course in partnership with Coram Shakespeare Schools Foundation, supporting teachers to harness the power of the characters, worlds and themes of Shakespeare's plays.

30

people attended our intensive training courses



Costume Designer, Camilla Dely's *King Lear* storm sketches

YOUNG COMPANY

A celebration and showcase of four brand-new 10-minute musicals created and performed by young people in response to **THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES**

The Young Company is a cornerstone opportunity within our Young Artists programme. Across three months, we work with two groups of young people - aged 14-18 and 18-25 years - to **inspire artistic ambitions** and **ignite creative careers**. For the first time in 2023, we opened the opportunity up to musicians, composers, and performers interested in musical theatre.

Across March – May, the Young Company participated in weekly skills and devising sessions led by Almeida artists and *The Secret Life of Bees* creatives. The project led to a performance for family and friends and a showcase on the Almeida stage of **four new 10-minute musicals**. The two performances attracted over 600 audiences, including industry guests and agents.

“The facilitators were just fantastic - gave us the perfect amount of space, support, time, and critique. It was the warmest and most open environment where we all had creative voices.”

“I learned so much from every individual... I learned to be highly adaptable to change. My improvisation skills, confidence, and self-worth improved, and being able to see inside a theatre was fantastic. I loved being immersed in that atmosphere” - Young Company participants

53 participants aged 14-25

71 % identified as Global Majority

61 % were new to the Almeida

100%

reported improved skills & would like to join future projects





YOUNG COMPANY

The second Young Company explored the themes within **KING LEAR** and the two groups, aged 14-18 and 18-25, brought two brand new plays to the Almeida's stage in March 2024.

40 young people aged 14 - 25

4 months of skills workshops and devising across October - March

2 new plays , including one devised by the Young Company

8 performances on the Almeida stage, attracting **1,016** audiences

LEAR IS NOT OKAY

Written by Benjamin Salmon, directed by Gemma Orleans-Thompson, devised and performed by the 14-18 Young Company, *Lear Is Not Okay* was a fiery and witty exploration of adolescence, ambition, and the unrelenting yearning to feel a part of something.

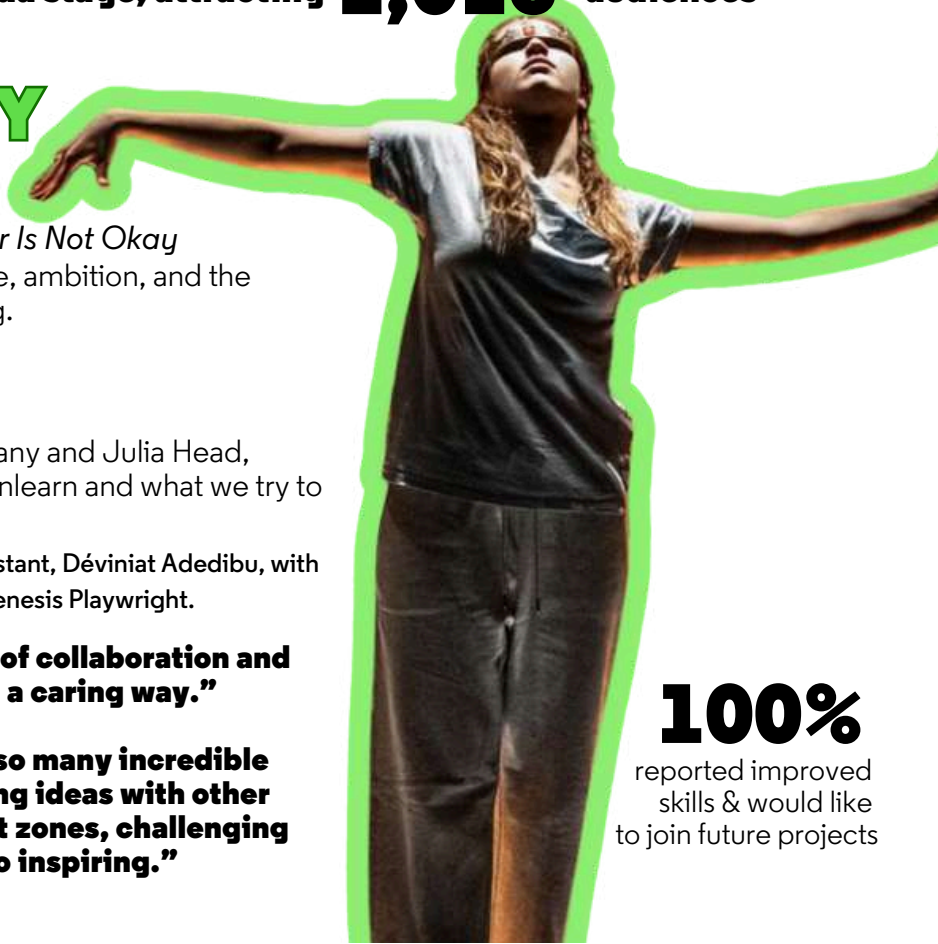
LESSONS

A new play devised by the 18-25 Young Company and Julia Head, *Lessons* investigated lessons; what we learn, unlearn and what we try to learn over and over again.

Both productions were supported by Participation Assistant, Déviniat Adedibu, with dramaturgical support from Georgia Bruce, Almeida Genesis Playwright.

“The thing I took away was the importance of collaboration and how powerful that can be when held in a caring way.”

“... stepping on the Almeida stage where so many incredible actors have performed was surreal. Sharing ideas with other creatives and taking yourself out of comfort zones, challenging the inner creative inside you, was so inspiring.”



100%

reported improved skills & would like to join future projects



YOUNG DESIGNERS & TECHNICIANS

Now in its second year, our Young Designers & Technicians scheme is one of our most innovative opportunities for young people - and continues to evolve in 2024.

The scheme addresses the need for diversity and entry-level opportunities in increasingly crucial roles in today's theatre industry: set, sound, lighting & costume design, stage management & technical roles.

In October, we ran an intensive learning week for **14 young people** aged 14-18 to learn and upskill in design and technical roles. The group attended sessions at London Screen Academy, made props for Almeida show *Portia Coughlan*, experimented with lighting and sound equipment, and were mentored by our in-house design and technical teams. Since October, they've also attended workshops at the National Youth Theatre and Mountview Drama School.

Five of the group gained work experience on the *King Lear* Young Company show as Assistant Stage Managers and Costume Runners/Assistants.

85%

of participants were new to the Almeida

35%

worked on our *King Lear* Young Company show

Photo by Minji Suh



“My favourite part was forming a group of friends that are theatre-passionate like me and could become professional relationships that I could collaborate with across my career.”
- Young Designer & Technician

In 2023-24, we created two paid early-career design placements to add to this offer. **148 people** applied and we've employed two emerging artists across a 12-month period to work on:


- The Young Company show as Lead Costume & Set Designer
- Assist a Lead Designer on an Almeida show

YOUNG PRODUCERS

Across 2023-24, we ran two groups of Young Producers for young people with an interest in producing and planning creative projects. Across three months, the Young Producers attended weekly sessions with every department of the Almeida to learn what goes into putting on productions and running the building.

The opportunity culminated with leading and curating an Almeida For Free Festival, where they put practical skills such as scheduling, budgeting & engaging artists, into practice to deliver a high-quality and large-scale creative event at the Almeida.

28 
Young Producers
aged 16-25

25 
events curated

CURATED & DELIVERED BY THE YOUNG PRODUCERS:

- *Romeo & Juliet* 'For Free' attracting **489** young people
- *Cold War* 'For Free' attracting **494** young people

"I now feel confident moving to the next stage... I'm ready to find employment. Meeting people working in the field has made the environment feel more approachable for a young professional like me with no pre-existing industry contacts. I've been inspired by the talent around me."

"This experience has taught me to be communicative, curious, caring and adaptable."

"Regardless of my career path, this experience has been invaluable for providing me with skills to succeed in a wide variety of industries and situations."



Young Producers:
Cold War

ALMEIDA FOR FREE



'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 network.

37

events including workshops, masterclasses and panels

1,465

attendees across all the For Free festival events.

1,969

tickets have been given away to For Free performances.

FOR FREE PRODUCTIONS, 2023-24:

THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES

Adapted by Lynn Nottage, Directed by Whitney White

ROMEO & JULIET

Written by William Shakespeare, Directed by Rebecca Frecknall

A MIRROR

Written by Sam Holcroft, Directed by Jeremy Herrin

PORTIA COUGHLAN

Written by Marina Carr, Directed by Carrie Cracknell

COLD WAR

Adapted by Conor McPherson, Directed by Rupert Goold

KING LEAR

Adapted by William Shakespeare, Directed by Yael Farber

AUDIENCE BREAKDOWN:

36%

were NEW to the Almeida

34%

identified as Global Majority

17%

identified as disabled or neurodivergent

FEEDBACK:

"I feel included and safe...

excited to meet other people.

The Almeida always goes the extra mile."

"I didn't grow up going to theatre...

the opportunity to see it for free

helped me make the leap."

"[For Free] makes the Almeida

feel so welcoming and inspiring.

I love the energy and atmosphere."

"Going to theatre is not something my family does, or the people around me do.

But I love coming to For Free."



Spotlight on: ROMEO AND JULIET FOR FREE

Our Young Producers worked across three months to create two dynamic For Free Festivals for young people and aspiring artists across a wide range of disciplines. Highlights from *Romeo and Juliet* For Free included:

ROMEO AND JULIET FOR FREE FESTIVAL

Presented by the Almeida Young Producers

SUN 9 JULY

4 PM

Panel: Shakespeare, Race & Contemporary Adaptations

6 PM

Love Potions:
Creatives Happy Hour

MON 10 JULY

6.30 PM

Romeo And/Or Juliet:
A Collaborative Devising
Workshop with Roberta Zuric

TUE 11 JULY

2 PM

Intimacy Workshop
with Haruka Kuroda

6.30 PM

Translating Tragedy:
Writing Workshop

THU 13 JULY

10 AM

The Breakfast Club

10 AM, 11 AM & 12 PM

Almeida Backstage Tour

11 AM

Shake(speare) Up
Your Monologue
with James Cooney

11 AM

Queering Shakespeare:
A Creative Writing Workshop
with 1623 Theatre

2 PM

Directing Lab with Rebecca Frecknall

7.30 PM

Romeo and Juliet Free Performance

FRI 14 JULY

11 AM

Move Like Mercutio:
Stage Combat Workshop
with Jonathan Holby

SAT 15 JULY

7.30 PM

House Party

190
attendees

HOUSE PARTY showcased writing from 'Translating Tragedy' & ended the Festival with DJs, dancing & a masquerade ball for Capulet's & Montague's alike.

Spotlight on: COLD WAR FOR FREE



Also programmed by our Young Producers:

13 multi-disciplinary events featuring academics, visual artists, musicians and more, including:

POLISH DANCING WITH ORLETA

A two hour session with the Polish folk dancing consultants on *Cold War* in the Almeida's rehearsal room.



AUTOBIOGRAPHY, MUSIC & CULTURAL IDENTITY

A collaborative workshop exploring the artistic potential of telling stories of the self, culture and identity, through poetic writing and communal singing techniques.

COLD WAR, HOT JAZZ: JAZZ NIGHT

Inspired by the flamboyance of a 1950's Parisian club & featuring emerging jazz musicians, **95 young people** danced the night away closing *Cold War* For Free with the Almeida's first ever jazz night.



YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

The 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 develop the next generation of arts leaders by giving them access to the Almeida's staff and leadership.

The scheme continued to go from strength to strength in 2023-24. We recruited seven new members in December 2023. The remaining Board members' were critical in the recruitment process. We now have more members than ever before - **14 members** - who are leading on key strategic projects, including:

Audience development and data collection

Cultural leadership and youth advocacy

Shaping our access and diversity strategies

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

The career development of our Youth Board Alumni is exceptional. You can find them:

- Working at the Almeida
- On the Almeida Board of Trustees & NPO's UK-wide
- Nimax Theatre
- The Old Vic
- Creating work & performing at major theatres (The National) & on screen (BFI & BBC)
- The Natural History Museum
- Working in Policy for the UK government

★ Recently recruited Youth Board members



ALICE



ANGELICA



ANOUSHKA



CASPER



ELINA



HETTY



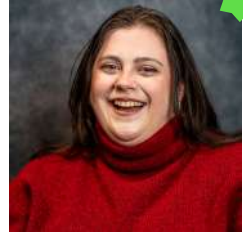
KIETON



LUKE



MADI



MADISON



MAXI



REUBEN



SELENA



ZAHRA

OPEN SESSIONS

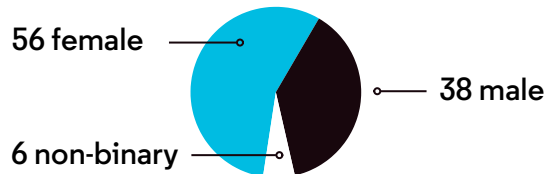
Open Sessions are free drama workshops for young people aged under 25. They are for anyone who wants to develop their creative practice or challenge themselves to explore a new skill. Participants can drop into any session without audition or application. Open Sessions serve as an important **entry point** to our wider Young Artists offer.

6 drop in drama sessions held in the Almeida's rehearsal room

100 participants aged 18-25

Curated and delivered by Déviniat our Participation Assistant across Nov-Dec the sessions covered **improvisation, movement, the Meisner Technique, scene study & devising techniques**

36% of participants identified as Global Majority



Feedback from participants:

“The person who led the group did so with fun and ease, without giving a sense of domination or judgment. The content and games were reminiscent of work I’ve done in a paid environment. It gives the opportunity to people who can’t afford drama school a taste of what it is like.”

“I could say endless things about how much I enjoyed it... it was a welcoming environment where I felt comfortable and had fun playing with everyone. As someone who is passionate about theatre but hasn’t done it in a long time and wants to get back into doing it (and has found it hard knowing where to start) it’s the perfect thing to do.”

Meet Déviniat, Participation Assistant:

A year-long paid internship for a young creative

“My first experience with the Almeida was when I dropped in to an Open Session. A year later, I am leading these very workshops. The internship has allowed me to work across all strands of the [Participation] department and gain insight within the building and theatre. For me, it’s not just about feeling empowered to step into the industry, this role has nurtured me, and given me the experience and preparation of mindset needed to navigate it.”





COMMUNITY

In 2023, the Almeida launched its most ambitious community project to date: THE ALMEIDA COMMUNITY TRILOGY

The Almeida Community Trilogy is an expansion of our work post-pandemic and aims to promote creativity, wellbeing and community cohesion across our borough of Islington.

Across the next three years, we are working with three local charities - ALL CHANGE, ARSENAL IN THE COMMUNITY and CARDBOARD CITIZENS - to ensure that people of all ages and backgrounds can access theatre and reap its vast health benefits.

TRILOGY: OUR GOALS

- **To give as many local people as possible access to high quality creative opportunities**
- **To ensure local people feel welcome at the Almeida, and to build sustained relationships with them as audiences, participants and artists**
- **To strengthen connection, wellbeing, and intergenerational relationships in our borough**
- **To play a central role in building a thriving creative community in Islington**

We kicked off the project in 2023 with **24 (Day)**, a joyful production made by and for the local community.

See inside rehearsals here:

**“community theatre as it ought to be”
- The Guardian**





24 (Day): The Measure of My Dreams

Across **eight** months, we engaged over **100** artists and local participants to create a new play that celebrated the understated joys of living and challenged the stereotypes of ageing.

24(Day): The Measure of My Dreams starred Jean Woollard who, at 70 years old, appeared in her first professional acting role in 50 years. *24 (Day)* was performed on the Almeida's stage across 3-5 August 2023.

Snapshot:

100 local people performed in the community cast, including from our three partner organisations, All Change, Arsenal in the Community and Cardboard Citizens.

97 collaborative creative sessions, workshops and rehearsals across **three** months

1,104 audience members across **four** professional performances

16-94 age range of community cast and participants

64% of the community cast and participants identified as **ethnically diverse**

23% identified as **disabled**

52% of the audience were **first time attendees** at the Almeida

Feedback:

94% of the community cast and participants reported that they felt more **confident creative and connected** to the Almeida post-project

92% would like to join **further creative projects** and performances at the Almeida

"I loved working together in an intergenerational, diverse and all-inclusive group."

"I will carry the things I've experienced and the people with me for the rest of my life. This project helped me beyond my expectations."

"... having never acted before, this was the opportunity of a lifetime. I performed with confidence and joy. I also made a new group of friends who are so supportive and kind, and what makes this group special is that they are not people I would expect to meet in daily life."

"24 (Day)... a truly creative, collaborative, joyous and uplifting journey! I met so many wonderful humans, danced, laughed, sang, sweat and cried at both the profoundly true story, but at also the sheer power of being able to create together!"

"The professionalism and support made me feel safe and enriched throughout the whole process."

"I valued the space for intergenerational friendship - a theme that runs through the play."



Trilogy continued...

CREATIVITY FOR JOY

One of the primary **purposes** of our Community Trilogy is to build **sustained relationships** with participants. Continuing our work with Year One participants and our partner organisations we ran a bespoke 'drop-in' workshop series from Feb - April 2024: **Creativity for Joy**.

This series served as a check-in 6-months post *24 (Day)*, enabling participants to continue developing creative skills and to strengthen the friendships they built in 2023.

Since *24 (Day)*, participants have forged incredible **intergenerational friendships** that see them socialising, watching football together and supporting one another's creative endeavours.

The **six** 'Creativity for Joy' sessions covered **improvisation, an introduction to clowning, page to stage, writing, movement & voice workshops** led by six freelance artists.

We also took the opportunity to invite new people into the series as a taster for Trilogy in Year Two.

Participant Feedback:

Like all Almeida projects, it was wonderful to learn more about ourselves and explore what it means to do theatre in a warm and open environment with so many lovely people."

"I am also taking away many skills and learnings that I'll be able to apply elsewhere in life."

*"I had the opportunity to meet like-minded people... and I felt safe to share my point of view and let out my ****voice****"*

"It was wonderful to share and learn new skills with the community. The writing workshop inspired me to invest and believe more in my own capabilities as a storyteller."

49 participants joined our 'Creativity for Joy' workshop series

"Being part of these sessions got me involved in something that I have always dreamed of."

"I always feel part of something big when I come to Almeida Community Groups."

WHAT NEXT?

Schools

We will continue to nurture relationships with schools across the borough, but also expand our partnerships to ensure we're supporting young people facing the greatest barriers to theatre. We are currently working with Islington Council's Cultural Enrichment Team, running taster workshops dedicated to young people with experience of **social services** and **social care**. Our goal is to cultivate their interest in theatre, giving them the confidence to join our future Schools and Young Artist projects.

Young Artists

In 2024-25, we are committed to **strengthening the pathway for emerging artists** from Participation to our stage. We've recently employed two early-career designers, Petros Kourtellaris and Cordane Richardson, on 12-month placements which includes leading sound and costume design on a Young Company show and assisting an acclaimed designer on a mainstage show. We're also excited to welcome back Hana Pascal Keegan to direct our Young Company in response to *The Years* exploring female character stories from well-known and lesser-known plays across time, space, place and culture. Hana was Assistant Director on *Portia Coughlan* in 2023.

Cordane Richardson



Petros Kourtellaris



Community

We've already begun working on Year Two of our Trilogy Project, running community workshops alongside our core partners. Our next production, **81 (Life)**, will celebrate Islington's global diaspora communities through a focus on rituals and will be staged in **Feb 2025**.



Photo by Ian Hippolyte.

THANK YOU

Almeida's Participation work depends on the generosity of our supporters. For their steadfast support in 2023-24, we thank:

Almeida Participation Supporters

Adam & Victoria Freudenheim
Anonymous
Chapman Charitable Trust
The John S Cohen Foundation
The Noël Coward Foundation
The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust
The Mildred Duveen Charitable Trust
The Harold Hyam Wingate Foundation
Islington Council's Community Festivals Fund
Islington Giving - Young Grant Makers
The Jack Petchey Foundation
The Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust
The David and Elaine Potter Foundation
Sandra Charitable Trust
Charles Skey Charitable Trust
The John Thaw Foundation
The Woodward Charitable Trust

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