

A.N.D

A new direction for arts,
culture and young london

• fuel



Schools Theatre Circuit programme

Bringing professional theatre to
London schools' stages in 2017-20

Introduction

The Schools Theatre Circuit is inviting expressions of interest from schools to participate in an exciting new programme that boosts learning outcomes and improves community relationships.

[A New Direction](#), London's flagship cultural education agency, and [Fuel](#), a leading international theatre company, are in the process of applying for

Arts Council England funding to facilitate an innovative three-year theatre touring programme starting in September 2017.

We are looking for partner schools from outer London areas to join us on a three-year journey, to produce professional contemporary performances in their venues and develop the capacity to sustain locally commissioned productions into the future.

Aims

Our aim is to establish a network of high quality cultural venues in outer London communities, commissioning and producing professional artistic productions for local audiences.

We want to respond to recent reports from the likes of The Social Mobility Commission that '[Half of teenagers have 'never been in a theatre'](#)'.

Our work and research has highlighted the important role that schools play in increasing access to arts and culture. For example, our [Survey of Young Londoners](#), conducted in 2013, looked at the patterns of engagement of young Londoners aged 11-25 with cultural opportunities. It highlighted the crucial role that schools and teachers play in introducing students to cultural experiences at an early age. We want to build on this and support schools to strengthen their cultural leadership.

By taking part in Schools Theatre Circuit your school will:

- provide **opportunities and learning outcomes** for your students, including first-hand experience of the theatre industry, access to careers advice, and enhancing curriculum learning across a number of subjects
- broaden your **performing arts offer**, and enhance your wider **curriculum**
- Provide **CPD opportunities** for staff, including access to a peer learning network and business planning coaching
- Create and host high-end professional contemporary **theatre performances**
- Strengthen your school's relationships with the **local community** and raise your school's profile
- Introduce a **new source of revenue** for your school.

About Us

A New Direction

A New Direction is London's leader in cultural education - connecting children, young people and education with the best of arts and culture. Formed in 2008, A New Direction supports the education and cultural sectors to increase their reach and improve the quality of their work with children and young people. Since 2011, we have delivered [Create Jobs](#), an employability programme that equips diverse, talented young Londoners with 21st century skillsets and creates pathways into the cultural and creative industries.

Our schools programme supports London schools to deliver and embed high-quality arts and cultural provision across their curriculum and whole school community. As Arts Council England's 'Bridge' organisation for London, we support London schools through the process of achieving an [Artsmark Award](#), the nationally recognised **mark of excellence** for schools delivering quality arts and cultural provision.

We deliver **free CPD** through our creative [INSET](#) programme and as an important part of our support for schools on their Artsmark journey. We develop **networks** for teachers, such as our [SEND network](#) and [Cultural Learning Community](#), and run free networking opportunities, **events** and conferences. [ANDtogether](#) is our digital platform for schools to search and connect online with cultural organisations and opportunities.

We are proud of our [AND Advocates](#), an exceptional group of teachers, who champion the value and importance of a curriculum enriched by creativity, the arts and culture.

Fuel Theatre

Founded in 2004, **Fuel** is a producing organisation working in partnership with some of the most exciting artists in the UK to develop, create and present new work for all. Fuel responds to ideas, to artists and to projects, making them happen as best it possibly can, providing whatever is needed for that to happen – from fundraising to moral support, tour-booking to being a sounding board for ideas, dramaturgy to photocopying. Fuel is not a service provider but an initiator, a driving force, a producer in the original sense of the word.

Fuel works with artists to make fresh experiences for adventurous people. To date, many of these experiences have been theatre, whether that's in an actual theatre, on the streets, or in purpose-built structures. Fuel aims to create work for the broadest possible audience.

Both A New Direction and Fuel are Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisations and among those working to innovate practices to reach out and engage audiences by ensuring they are relevant, connected and embedded within the community.

Programme Outline



The Schools Theatre Circuit is a unique learning and development programme designed to improve access to culture for children and families in areas of lower arts engagement.

Through three years of learning and development, including performances of acclaimed productions from some of the most exciting artists in the UK, students will access culture in new and powerful ways, and schools will develop stronger relationships with the community through exciting and relevant content, supporting school improvement and strategic planning.

Partner schools will receive an outstanding programme of contemporary theatre, produced by Fuel and designed to develop knowledge and skills to help students and staff use performing arts facilities more effectively for teaching across the curriculum, as well as raising revenue through public performances.

Each year will provide a full season of activities enabling schools to develop the confidence and capacity to create their own production and commissioning models.

Seasons will be structured to complement the three school terms, each having its own distinct offer and approach. Artistic content and supporting resources are being made available by A New Direction and Fuel, with new content and resources created during the programme.

The programme is aimed at Key Stage 3 to provide support through transition from Key Stage 2, as well as a structured learning programme during pre-GCSE years.

Delivery Plan

The formal programme will commence in the Autumn term 2017 and conclude in the Summer term 2020. We have constructed a programme that will populate each academic year with celebratory moments during each term.

Prior to each season, building on a baseline offer, schools will work with A New Direction and Fuel to create an effective, bespoke approach that works with the schools' available resources, spaces and relationships. Fuel will then tour shows and educational content to a circuit of partner schools based on the stages below:

Autumn term – Performance Stage

Professional performance for years 7 to 9 in your theatre space during November. A month prior to the performance, a CPD session for teachers will be delivered to present the show and help them integrate the project into their lesson plans for the term/month. Each performance will be followed by a theatre workshop by the performer.

Spring term – Creation Stage

In February, staff and students will have the opportunity to work with producers and artists working at Fuel to work creatively and collaboratively on new artistic ideas. During this term, students will be actively involved in the research and development phase of theatre making.

Summer term – Community Stage

During June/July a family show and theatre experience for public audiences to help open your venue to your local community. In year three a programme offer will be curated in collaboration with Fuel, drawing on their project portfolio and theatre industry contacts.

Underpinning the stages is a support package which enables school to:

- Carry out strategic review and apply expert advice on cultural partnerships, asset management, fundraising and business planning
- Receive professional development support from Fuel's expert producers and technical leads
- Visit cultural venues e.g. The Young Vic, National College for Creative Industries
- Develop new brokered relationships with artists, producers, cultural organisations and audiences
- Become a member of a new schools touring network, which will include peer learning, collaborative CPD and funding opportunities
- Get creative industries careers advice and guidance from A New Direction's employment programme [Create Jobs](#)
- Receive digital marketing support to enhance communication strategy and impact

Shows and Educational Content

Artistic and learning content has been selected to engage and inspire students and provides opportunities to link to a wide range of curriculum areas, including English, science, citizenship, music and design and technology.

2017-18

Autumn term: performance for year 7s- 9s (with CPD and post-show workshops)

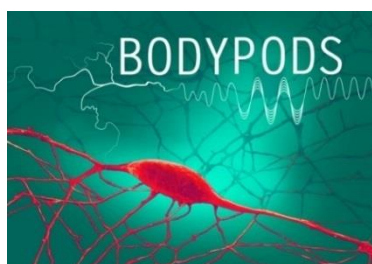


Portrait written and performed by Rachael Ofori

A frank, fun and provocative look at the trials and tribulations of modern life as seen through the eyes of a young black woman. Inspired by Racheal's own experiences, *Portrait* uses music, poetry, humour and dance to examine identity and role models and challenge cultural stereotypes.

The show launched with great success in Edinburgh (4**** The List, Top pick by BBC Front Row) and toured England in autumn 2015, culminating in performances at the Southbank Centre and a feature on BBC 2 Artsnight, 30 October 2015. Watch the show trailer [here](#).

Spring term: research and development workshops with Year 7s



Body Pods

Body pods is a series of 12 podcasts created by scientists and theatre makers, which Fuel produced in collaboration with the Roundhouse. Each podcast explores the surprising and incredible ways in which the human body works.

Fuel presented the podcasts and toured them across the UK over the last 4 years using wooden-made listening stations. Over the next three years, we are working to re-present the 12 short theatre pieces either through digital platforms or through devising a new immersive installation. Through a series of workshops over one day, Fuel will deliver investigative and creative workshops engaging your students in this

redevelopment project. Watch interviews about the project [here](#).

Summer term: shows for the local community



The Day I Fell Into A Book (family show), created and performed by Lewis Gibson.

An immersive show for 8-11 year olds and their families or teachers, exploring the wonder of reading and imaginary worlds we create when we read. Sitting at the front of the space is a man, surrounded by books. When he was young he would spend every spare moment with his head in a book, living and breathing the stories they contained.

The audience members are given headphones and a beautifully made collaged book to read together. Using 3 dimensional sound recordings, and a mix of lighting and video, the man explores the spaces in between the written and the actual world, and takes the audience on an adventure in words and sound.

Capacity: up to 35 people per performance



Fiction (16+ show), conceived by David Rosenberg and Glen Neath

A surreal, immersive experience taking place in total darkness. Fiction explores the areas where sleep and wakefulness meet. The audience don headphones for an anxiously intimate, disorientating journey through the sprawling architecture of dreams as the hyper-realistic binaural 3D sound puts the audience in the centre of the show. Fiction sold out throughout the Edinburgh Festival 2015, did two runs at Battersea Arts Centre and toured across England in 2015-17. Watch the trailer [here](#).

“The use of technology is superb. Your senses are constantly being manipulated and deceived. It is genuinely immersive.” The Guardian, Lyn Gardner

Capacity: depending on the theatre space (50-100 audience members) Age guidance: 16 +

Throughout the year: career and professional development programme

- Technical sessions for school staff operating their theatre and equipment (how to operate LX and sound equipment / where to get equipment from for free or small budget / maintenance of equipment / role of tech team from touring companies)
- Theatre production sessions for teachers and key school staff
- A New Direction's Create Jobs team will provide tailored information, advice and guidance to some or all of teachers, careers staff and students, about careers in the creative and cultural industries.

2018-19

Autumn term: performance for year 7s- 9s (with CPD and post-show workshop)



The 14th Tale written by Inua Ellams and performed by Michael Oku

A hilarious and poetic coming-of-age story about a natural-born trouble maker, and his relationship with his father. The story follows Inua's real life journey from his birth place in Nigeria to the culture-shock of England, charting his trials, tribulations and mischief-making along the way. Using playful rhymes, Inua weaves vivid and endearing characters, while at the same time challenging expectations of what it is to be a young black male in the UK today.

The show won a Fringe First at the Edinburgh Festival in 2009 and has since toured across the UK, including at The National Theatre, and internationally. You can watch the [show trailer](#) to give you an idea of Inua's poetic style and watch [feedback](#) from secondary school students and teachers from Newcastle as the show toured to their school in 2016.

Spring term: research and development workshops with Year 7s



Phenomenal People

In 2014 Fuel commissioned a range of female artists to create a live performance about inspiring women. Alongside the live installation, a digital garden in the form of a [micro-website](#) was produced, where people can read about inspiring women, nominate one, take a quiz and more.

In 2020, Fuel is planning to celebrate great women scientists as 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of Julia Bell's graduation from the Royal College of Physicians, 100 years since the birth of Rosalind Franklin and 100 years since women became full members of Oxford University. Members of the Fuel team will therefore do some R&D on how to celebrate these women in spring 2019.

Summer term: shows for the local community



The Mausotourus Rex (family show)

A new comedy devised by Will Adamsdale for children aged 6+ and their families, exploring the act and joy of being naughty for children.

Will Adamsdale is a comedian who starred in the film *The Boat that Rocked*. While developing a career in writing and devising theatre. He won a Comedy Perrier Award in 2004 and a Fringe First at Edinburgh in 2006.

In 2014, Fuel co-produced [The Victorian in the Wall](#), written by Will, with The Royal Court. The show sold out and was adapted into a radio show on the BBC in 2016. The Mausotourus Rex will be his first show for children.



Everyday Moments (16+ show), a sound installation for one person at a time

A 15-minute experience in complete darkness. One person at a time, with headphones, moving or dancing freely while listening to the gentle instructions of choreographer Hofesh Shechter.

The installation was recently presented at Pop Brixton in London and during Freshers' Week at the University of Essex, Colchester. You can view audience's reactions to their experience in this [short video](#).

"Combining elements of both the site-specific and one-on-one theatre, the results are intriguing, fun and, at times, exquisitely touching" Exeunt Magazine

Technical requirements: space blacked-out by a technician from Fuel and a technician from the school, equipment brought in by Fuel. Fuel technician will

teach the school technician how to operate the experience.

Capacity: 3 slots and therefore 3 members of the public can do the experience every hour. Age guidance: 16+

Throughout the year: career and professional development programme

- Sessions for students (careers in theatre / how to promote a show locally / how to welcome an audience to your venue)
- Sessions for teachers (how to develop new work with artists / how it might work in a school context / understanding the theatre making process of early idea development)
- A New Direction's Create Jobs will provide tailored information, advice and guidance to some or all of teachers, careers staff and students, about careers in the creative and cultural industries.

2019-20

Autumn term: performance for year 7s- 9s (with CPD and post-show workshop)

Fuel is currently developing new shows, which would be suitable for this age group and available for touring in November 2019. In 2018-2019, Fuel will work with the partner schools to collaboratively pick the most suitable show for the year, out of Fuel's project portfolio.

Spring term: research and development workshops with Year 7s

Partner schools will choose an artist and project they'd like to develop new work with, with support from Fuel.

Summer term: shows for the local community

Partner schools will be invited to programme up to two shows from touring companies other than Fuel, with support and contacts from Fuel.

Throughout the year: career and professional development programme

- Sessions for school staff (how to programme your own venue and link it with your curriculum)
- Sessions for students (careers in theatre / how to promote a show locally / how to welcome an audience to your venue)

Partner Criteria

We are looking for 10 to 12 partner schools to work with on The Schools Theatre Circuit.

The programme will be part funded by Arts Council England and matched by cash and in kind contributions from A New Direction, Fuel and participating schools.

Partner schools are invited to participate based on satisfactorily meeting the following criteria:

- Passion for the programme and its ambitions
- Access to purpose built theatre/drama facilities with lighting rig which holds a minimum audience capacity of 80 persons. Preference will be given to those venues which include option for black-out performances.
- Ability to provide a minimum of £2,500 for each year of the programme (see below for further information)
- Firm commitment to dedicate key teachers to the programme
- Buy in and leadership from Senior Leadership Team
- Available to receive a visit from the team in May

For your school's investment of £2,500 per year, you will receive direct services and activities which have a cash value of approximately £6,000. An indicative breakdown of these costs is provided below for your reference.

Baseline costs per year		
Autumn	Students show	£500
	Post show workshop	£150
	Staff CPD	£120
	Technical support	£295
Spring	R&D workshops	£625
	Technical support	£205
Summer	Family show	£1,600
	Adult show	£1,000
Additional support	Staff CPD	£750
	Careers advice	£750
		£5,995

How to take part

The Schools Theatre Circuit is a one time offer to participate in a programme beginning in Autumn 2017 that runs for three school years.

We will be making visits to prospective partners in early May.

If you would like to be considered for the programme, please return the attached expression of interest form to schools@anewdirection.org.uk by Tuesday 2nd May.

We appreciate this is a quick turnaround but hope you see the value of the offer and consider taking part.

For an informal conversation, please call 020 7608 2132, asking to speak to Lawrence Walker, Development Manager.

In recognition of your time spent on expressing interest and meeting with us to discuss the programme, we can also offer shortlisted schools **a free consultancy visit from one of A New Direction's associates**, designed to **support your school in developing your arts and cultural offer**. It will last approximately two hours and you will receive a written summary of what takes place during the visit. Visits will be arranged and take place in the summer term.