

THEATRE  
PECKHAM

# Theatre Peckham Impact Report

Empowering change through inclusive theatre  
in South East London



2023-24

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MEET OUR  
YOUNG PEOPLE



# Isabella “

Theatre Peckham has given her the confidence to be herself and not concern herself with what she should be.” – **Veena Mohun, Isabella’s Mother**

Isabella and her younger sister Phoenix joined Theatre Peckham in 2015. Their first classes were tap and ballet, before joining street dance. Instantly both were taken in by the community, developing strong friendships which exist to this day.

Our ‘home away from home’ ethos at Theatre Peckham, extended to the girls’ mother Veena, who described the wait after picking her daughters up from class as

“

Ladies night every Friday [...] they made their friends, and I’ve made mine.”

Our dedication to the craft of theatre and how young people gain skills in the arts meant Isabella achieved multiple academy certificates, numerous performance opportunities, and as a natural bi-product her confidence increased. Her self-assuredness in her abilities were evident, as she began to perform regularly in her Secondary school productions and was scouted by the acting agency Raw Academy. Last December, Isabella was cast in a leading role in our festive production of Rapunzel. Her dedication to work across both the casts for the production of Rapunzel was essential in saving the performance, when with only two hours’ notice, Isabella was on stage after a fellow cast member fell ill.

Isabella has always regarded the theatre with respect. She has a visible pride for her peers, Theatre Peckham and our shows. After supporting last year’s Academy showcases, Isabella decided to volunteer with our Dance tutor, Jazz and support the younger age groups in the ballet class, earning her a new transferable skill in facilitation.

We are so proud to share that Isabella has now been accepted into The Brit School and started in Year 10 this September.







“

Theatre Peckham has given me real confidence to achieve my goals of having a career in theatre. I've built new relationships with loads of people, and been able to call on them for advice and collaborations. Working with my mentor especially gave me a good sense of how to keep progressing in the creative space.”

Joe joined Theatre Peckham aged five, and over twelve years later his love for performance, creativity and vibrant theatre has rocketed. Native to Peckham, Joe first took the stage in our Christmas performances, a role he kept year on year. He is a mainstay of the theatre, as a Future Leader, dance and acting volunteer turned freelancer at our Academy, a voice for his peers through our Young Ambassador programme and a passionate Heritage Ambassador.

Recognising the importance for not only his creative but also career growth, Joe receives mentoring from Natasha Brown, a Theatre Peckham Trustee, Director and Writer. Meeting monthly they have established a set of strategic goals for Joe to develop his ambitions as an arts leader and have a successful career in the creative industries.

This year saw Joe produce a showcase cabaret event at Theatre Peckham called Fire with Fire, platforming emerging artists from his peer group. The night brought together so many of the skills he has learnt over the years, whilst showcasing his passion for making engaging theatre. He curated the night with an array of talent which he amassed through his time at The Brit School. Joe is also one of our Heritage Champions, a group of young people leading an archival project on the theatre using our vault of materials and oral histories from our community over the years in preparation for our 40th anniversary in 2026.

Joe is poised to be a great leader and changemaker in the industry. He remains a staple in the collective community of Theatre Peckham and it's clear the skills and values he learns here are shaping his future.

# Joe Bernstein

# NOTE FROM OUR CEO



Dear Friends,

In sharing this Impact Report, I am proud to reflect on the journey Theatre Peckham has experienced over the past year. Our commitment to creating an inclusive environment that welcomes all remains at the heart of everything we do. Within these pages you will find evidence of the significant impact we have achieved as a united community.

We aim to blur the boundary between the outside world, and our inside space, so that every member of our community benefits. People of any age or background should feel confident and happy to wander through our doors, whether they want to watch a performance, attend a class, spend time relaxing with a coffee in the foyer, or connect to our Wi-Fi and work.

Throughout the year, we have focused on empowering young people by providing them with skills and confidence. Our commitment to nurturing talent is evident in the numerous opportunities we've created as we provide every young person with a platform to express themselves.

Our engagement with the local community is a cornerstone of our mission. We are proud to have welcomed thousands of audience members and participants through our doors, creating a dynamic space for creativity and connection. The diversity of our Trustees reflects our dedication to representation, ensuring that our leadership is as inclusive as the community we serve.

Since our founding, Theatre Peckham has been a beacon of artistic opportunity. As we look to the future, we are committed to being a reliable and consistent presence in the lives of our young people and we take pride in being a supportive environment where their creativity can thrive.

Thank you for being a vital part of our journey. Together, we are uplifting lives, celebrating creativity, and building a vibrant community in South-East London.

Suzann McLean MBE

CEO/Artistic Director



# Personal Skills

Our long-term goal is for young people to feel confident and able to engage with different groups of people wherever they are in their life or career. Select workshops allow participants to focus on building positive relationships with themselves, their peers and the arts, creating a cohort of confident young people who consider the world around them.

Through our Young Peckham programme, we have seen 76 young people move into professional opportunities ranging from producing, acting, writing, facilitation, stage-management and office-based roles in arts organisations. Our young people also shared that they gained skills and confidence in: networking, leadership, communication, problem solving, organisation, and professionalism because we prioritised it.



I learnt that a straight back when you perform shows confidence and gives you an even better aura because of your confidence.” **Positive Transitions Participant**





# Wellbeing Skills



You cannot understand what a difference the classes have done for my daughter. She was in such a bad place, and since coming here she felt at home. You are like her second family. She was so happy on stage. I was crying when I saw how cheerful she was when she received her certificate.” - **Academy Parent**

The arts can be a profound and personal experience for young people, and address whatever individual needs they bring to our space and stage. We provide nuanced pastoral care for young people involved in our programmes, creating a space for open dialogue where they feel braver to share their life challenges and receive the necessary guidance and support.

Another key outcome across our delivery has been the friendships and connections formed among participants, which cultivates a feeling of inclusion. Positive feedback has shown that these connections are especially vital in our Young Peckham training programme, where young people looking to break into a highly competitive industry are able to come together to share advice, encouragement and motivation.





SUPPORTING ARTISTIC  
GROWTH BEYOND  
OUR DOORS





# Increasing diversity



You can't make a difference unless you have a seat at the table. I'm here to encourage and to say that you can punch your way through. I want people to stand on my shoulders and to surpass what I have achieved. I rejoice in being able to do that because that means we are progressing." – **Anni Domingo, Chair of Theatre Peckham**

Our young people and community benefit from seeing people who look like them working in our venue at all levels of the organisation. Across our team an average of 60% of our staff are from Black, Asian or ethnically diverse backgrounds, with 64% of them being under 30 years old. As an organisation focused on young people, it is vital that we provide progression routes for people we work with to become active leaders within our team.

At the end of the year, we recruited four new Board members bringing expertise in human resources, PR, artistic excellence and the local community. We are also a London Living Wage employer, enabling all our employees and freelancers on low income the basic right to support themselves.





# Platforming stories



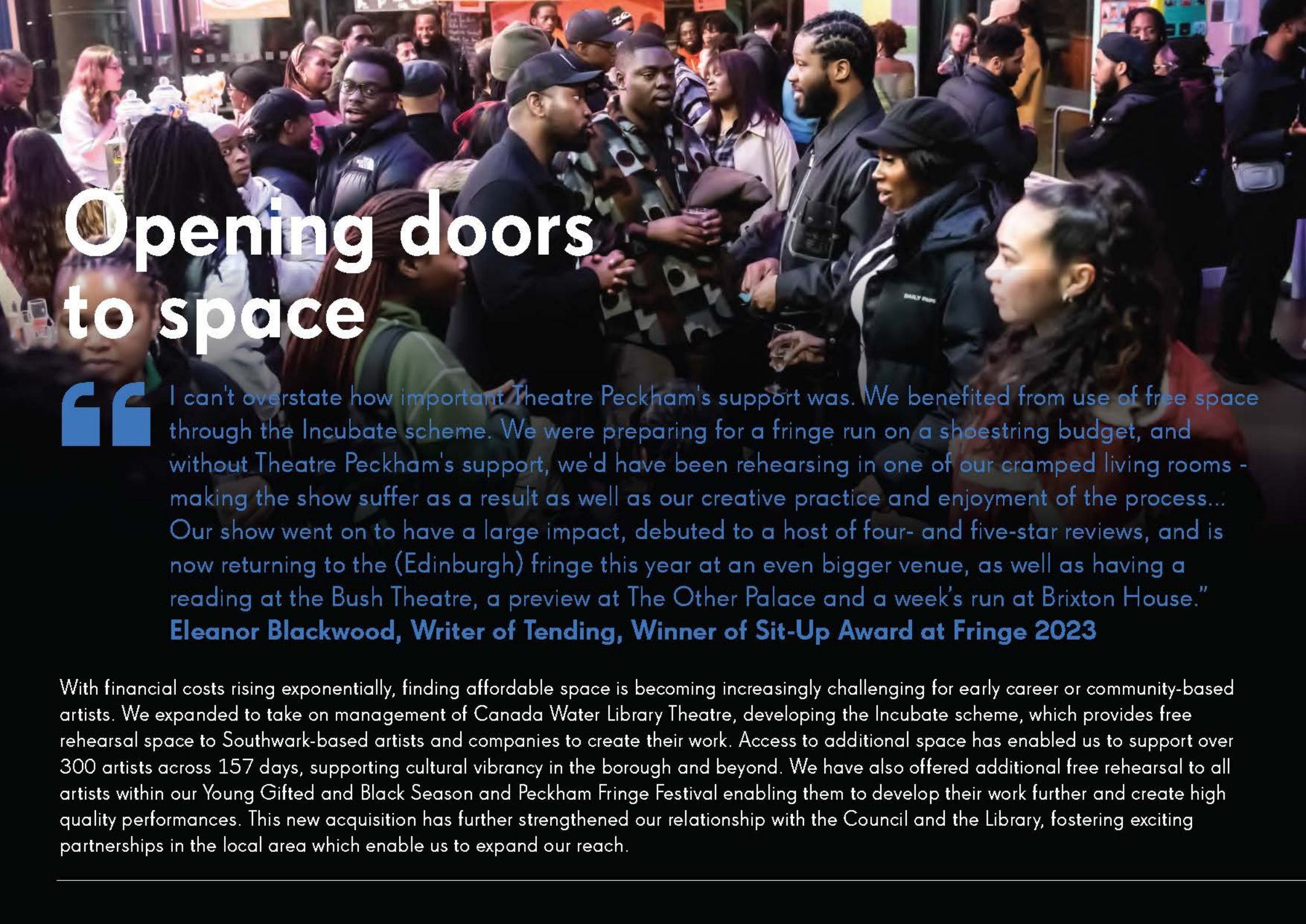
Thank you for making space for those hidden stories to be shared and for allowing their healing and transformational power to be revealed. This work is crucial.” – **Anonymous audience member, Unseen Unheard.**

Our festival programmes are examples of an affordable, low risk production model, which enables artists to understand the process of putting on a full performance. As a result, our Alumni have taken their shows to the West End and beyond.

In April 2023, **award winning writer Tatenda Shamiso** took his autobiographical play *No ID*, which premiered at Peckham Fringe 2022, to The Royal Court Theatre. He then won the prestigious **Evening Standard Theatre Award for Emerging Talent**. David Alade’s talent was recognised as he was selected for a cross cultural exchange with America in 2023, and brought his play, *Sunny Side Up* to central London with **a week’s run at Soho Theatre** in Spring 2024.

We also produced ‘Unseen Unheard, the untold stories of Black Women with Breast Cancer’ for local organisation Black Women Rising commissioned by Gilead Sciences Ltd. Post-show Q&A’s with industry leaders gave audience members an invitation to have a nuanced dialogue and share their own lived experience, creating a chance for collective healing. Unseen Unheard has continued to expand its reach with a tour to Manchester, Birmingham, Southampton and Bristol. **It picked up four awards at the Communiqué Awards** – a ceremony that recognises excellence in medical and healthcare communications.





# Opening doors to space



I can't overstate how important Theatre Peckham's support was. We benefited from use of free space through the Incubate scheme. We were preparing for a fringe run on a shoestring budget, and without Theatre Peckham's support, we'd have been rehearsing in one of our cramped living rooms - making the show suffer as a result as well as our creative practice and enjoyment of the process... Our show went on to have a large impact, debuted to a host of four- and five-star reviews, and is now returning to the (Edinburgh) fringe this year at an even bigger venue, as well as having a reading at the Bush Theatre, a preview at The Other Palace and a week's run at Brixton House."

**Eleanor Blackwood, Writer of Tending, Winner of Sit-Up Award at Fringe 2023**

With financial costs rising exponentially, finding affordable space is becoming increasingly challenging for early career or community-based artists. We expanded to take on management of Canada Water Library Theatre, developing the Incubate scheme, which provides free rehearsal space to Southwark-based artists and companies to create their work. Access to additional space has enabled us to support over 300 artists across 157 days, supporting cultural vibrancy in the borough and beyond. We have also offered additional free rehearsal to all artists within our Young Gifted and Black Season and Peckham Fringe Festival enabling them to develop their work further and create high quality performances. This new acquisition has further strengthened our relationship with the Council and the Library, fostering exciting partnerships in the local area which enable us to expand our reach.

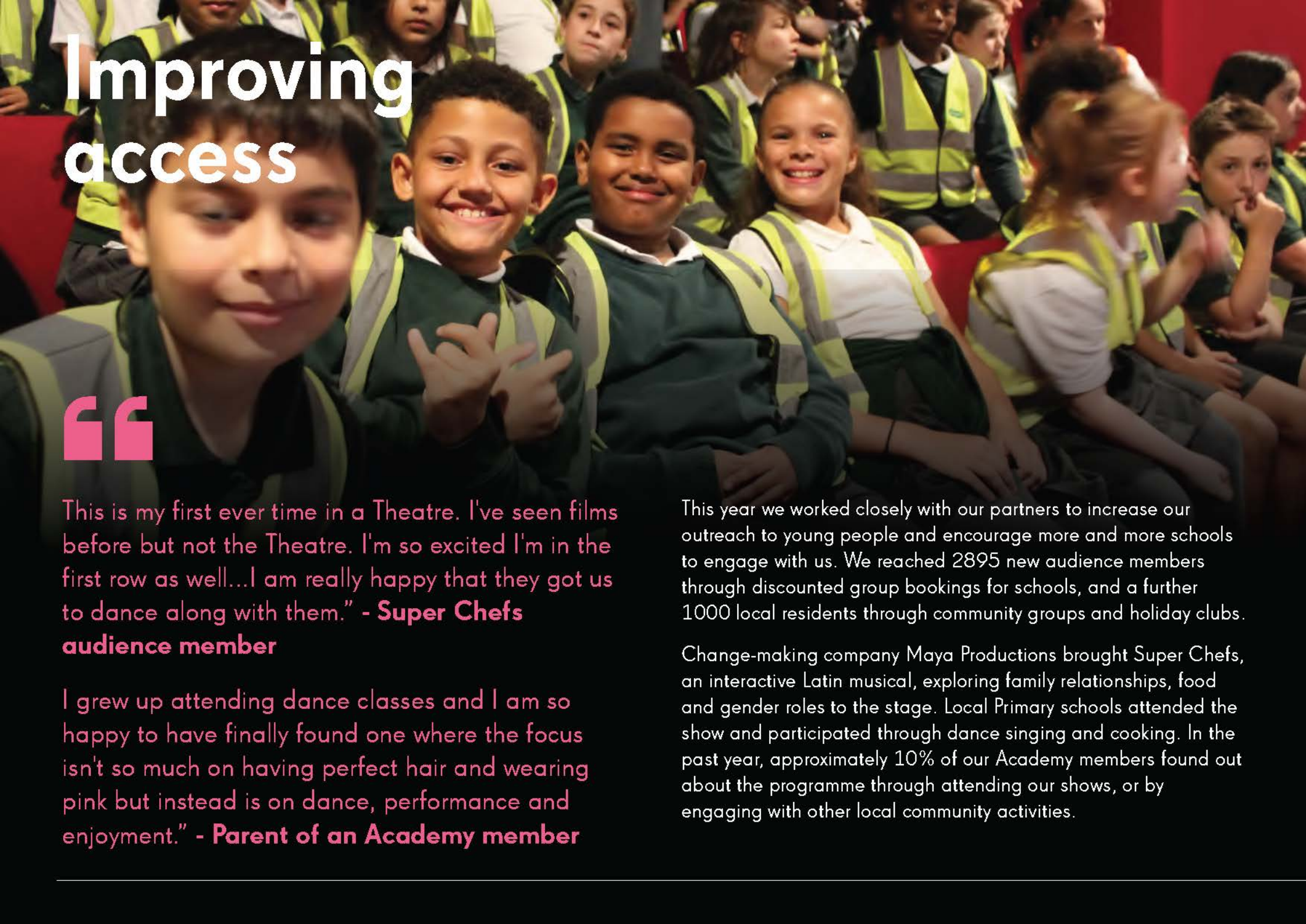


“

Theatre Peckham was one of the first theatres I attended growing up. It's such an incredible space, helping young people develop and nurture their talents. Suzann gave me my first opportunity to create sound design for (the production) "Sunny Side Up". Because of the support at Theatre Peckham, I received (a) Best Sound Design (award) at The Offies, and a nomination at the Black British Theatre Awards." - **Rasaq Kukoyi, Sound Designer of Sunny Side Up and Young Peckham Alumni**







# Improving access



This is my first ever time in a Theatre. I've seen films before but not the Theatre. I'm so excited I'm in the first row as well...I am really happy that they got us to dance along with them.” - **Super Chefs**

**audience member**

I grew up attending dance classes and I am so happy to have finally found one where the focus isn't so much on having perfect hair and wearing pink but instead is on dance, performance and enjoyment.” - **Parent of an Academy member**

This year we worked closely with our partners to increase our outreach to young people and encourage more and more schools to engage with us. We reached 2895 new audience members through discounted group bookings for schools, and a further 1000 local residents through community groups and holiday clubs.

Change-making company Maya Productions brought Super Chefs, an interactive Latin musical, exploring family relationships, food and gender roles to the stage. Local Primary schools attended the show and participated through dance singing and cooking. In the past year, approximately 10% of our Academy members found out about the programme through attending our shows, or by engaging with other local community activities.



# Leadership Skills

A young girl with long dark hair is speaking into a microphone. She is wearing a red t-shirt with 'THEATRE PECKHAM' printed on it. Behind her, a woman is clapping. In the background, a banner with the word 'INSPIRE' is visible.

“

I have found a community I fit in with' **Young Company member** from **Festive show.**

Our team of facilitators build on a foundation of trust to establish positive relationships with their students, creating an atmosphere where young people feel comfortable and confident in engaging with new ideas and knowledge. In this context, our young people are encouraged to take risks, ask questions, and make brave choices to form their training. We actively involve individuals and the community in decision-making, encouraging their input, ideas, and contributions. This creates a sense of belonging and ownership among the students, artists, and the community of Theatre Peckham, giving all participants a shared commitment to our success. This year our Young Ambassador programme was reinvigorated with more participation in developing and supporting community initiatives, including our annual Theatre Works panel and community day.



# Education Skills

With access to careers in the arts becoming increasingly challenging for our young people, the importance of amassing skills and experience is more important than ever. We now offer headshots and showreels as part of our acting training classes, equipping participants with the necessary materials to embark on any professional endeavour. Also, this year we evolved our Rep Company programme to include character development, stage combat and movement. Through weekly masterclass sessions with industry professionals, young people developed a more varied skillset which allowed them to access further education and to perform more successfully within audition processes.



I applied for drama school on the off-chance I would get a place somewhere, highly expecting to have to reapply this autumn. It has gone better than I had expected, and I have been offered a place at RADA. Theatre Peckham was instrumental in this happening and any joy I found at auditions was because I was constantly practising.” - **Leo, Rep Company Member**





# HEADLINE IMPACT

7932

hours of arts, culture  
and networking

training were provided for children and  
young people on site.

Equips our young people with the  
confidence and skills they need to  
enter the creative industries  
immediately.

448

children  
and young people

performed on our stage  
across 54 performances.

Boosts confidence, activates  
theatre training and exposes  
them to external audiences.

89

early-career creatives  
and performers

were given a platform  
through our annual Young,  
Gifted and Black and  
Peckham Fringe festival  
programs.

Enables our young people to receive vital free support  
for their new productions and see the immediate  
results of their creativity, whilst gaining revenue and  
career credit.

14,920

audience members

came through our doors and over 17,500 people from the local community  
engaged with Theatre Peckham.

Continuing commitment to our community by creating accessible,  
dynamic and representative productions and training.

61

young people

completed work experience,  
internships and volunteering  
positions.

Facilitates entry into the  
creative industry, enhances  
their professional skills and  
expands their professional  
network.



69%

of Trustees

are Black, Asian or ethnically diverse.

Reflects the composition of the community  
we serve, showing our commitment to  
diversity whilst demonstrating to our  
young people they can take up positions  
of change and power.

Statistic

Impact



# Our Achievements



Winners of the London & South East Prestige Award for Cultural Venue of the Year 2023/24.



Winners of the UK Enterprise Award for Best Performing Arts Venue 2023.



**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

Arts Council England renewed our status as one of their National Portfolio Organisations until 2027.



Suzann McLean, CEO/Artistic Director awarded an MBE in the 2023 King's Birthday Honours List for services to the arts and marginalised young people.

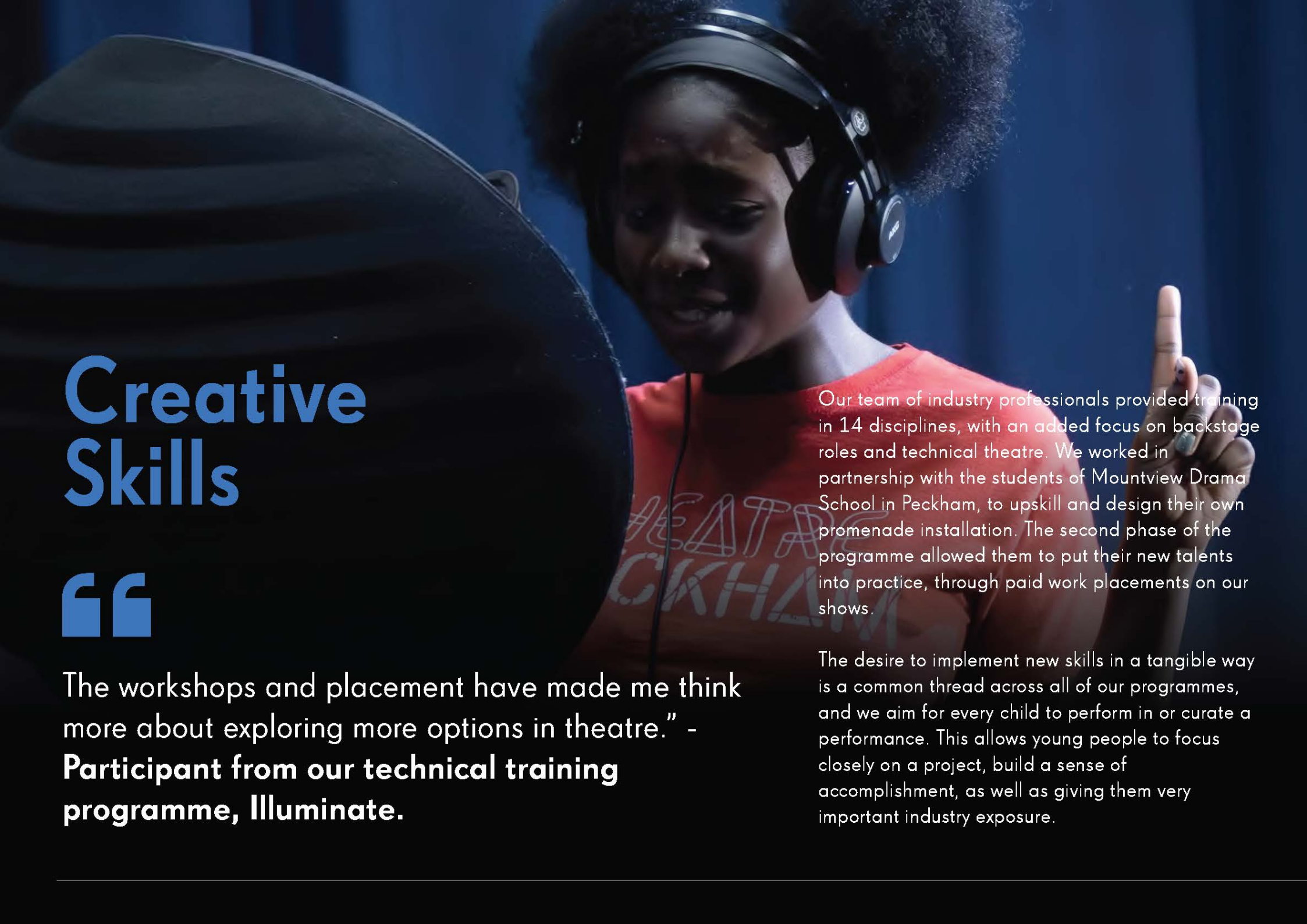
The management of Canada Water Library Theatre has allowed us to extend our reach across the borough, with the aim to continue increasing artistic opportunities for Southwark residents. Combatted the cost-of-living crisis our community faces by offering a wide range of activities and opportunities for free.

We have transformed the Theatre Peckham foyer into a hub of creativity throughout the day so our young people can work, connect with friends or create new work.

Our four programmes have expanded to give young people the confidence to pursue careers in the arts.

We have developed new relationships with local businesses and increased our income through fundraising by 30% to build a more sustainable model that ensures the longevity of the Theatre.





# Creative Skills



The workshops and placement have made me think more about exploring more options in theatre.” -  
**Participant from our technical training programme, Illuminate.**

Our team of industry professionals provided training in 14 disciplines, with an added focus on backstage roles and technical theatre. We worked in partnership with the students of Mountview Drama School in Peckham, to upskill and design their own promenade installation. The second phase of the programme allowed them to put their new talents into practice, through paid work placements on our shows.

The desire to implement new skills in a tangible way is a common thread across all of our programmes, and we aim for every child to perform in or curate a performance. This allows young people to focus closely on a project, build a sense of accomplishment, as well as giving them very important industry exposure.



# ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

"Bringing It to Life"

16+ years

Our thoughtfully curated Artistic Programme gives the stage to local artists from intersectional backgrounds who push the boundaries of form in theatre, and use innovative methods to reimagine existing stories, or conceptualise new stories. We promote our creators to reflect their audience, who in turn see themselves and their stories reflected on our stage, making them feel acknowledged and valued. We adopt a festival approach to programming, supporting artists collectively as part of a season or festival of work. All artists receive marketing and PR engagement enabling them to grow their audiences and raise their profiles in the industry.

With our support, artists are able to hone their craft in an environment that has low financial risk and favours their work. Therefore, Theatre Peckham's stage is accessible to all creatives. Our annual artistic seasons are: Peckham Fringe, Young Gifted & Black, and our festive production.

77%

of creatives engaged were from the Black, Asian or ethnically diverse backgrounds.

1554

Peckham Local tickets were given to residents of estates in the local area (13%).

“

It's programmed by Londoners for Londoners showcasing amazing stories centred in what it means to be human and to be fallible.” - **The Ambassadors**

“

My family and I loved the play. The actors were very talented and engaging. I really enjoyed the performance, the storyline and the inclusivity of it all. Overall a great day out.” **Anonymous audience member**





# THE POWER OF OUR PROGRAMMES

Our delivery focused on developing a core training skills programme across five pillars: technical, professional, wellbeing, education and leadership. We also strengthened our festival approach and further embedded opportunities for the community to engage with our work.

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# OUR SEASONS



For many of the plays it's a first iteration and we're really really excited that we have opened the doors for them where other venues can't, in order to put their stories on stage." **The Ambassadors**

I know I can speak on behalf of the entire company when I say how much we appreciated the steady support and help to make our run a success. This weekend was actually my first time visiting Theatre Peckham, but it certainly won't be my last." – **Producer in Peckham Fringe**

Our programme was curated by our Ambassadors, formed from local community advocates, who worked collaboratively to select the festival programme ensuring the plays selected were engaging and relevant.



My family and I loved the play. The actors were very talented and engaging. I really enjoyed the performance, the storyline and the inclusivity of it all. Overall a great day out." **Anonymous audience member**

The show deserves huge respect for its engagement, for its heart, and for its ambition." **Anonymous audience member**

Our company highlighted themes of connection, community, and empathy in the four staged plays: I Love Acting but F\*\*\* the Industry, Bystanders, Roll Your Sleeves with Eve and The Farm. We also hosted five exclusive events, including a musical offering and scratch night, and workshops to support skills development in playwriting and special effects.



The show deserves huge respect for its engagement, for its heart, and for its ambition." **Anonymous audience member**

Our festive production takes a classic story, and gives it a unique Peckham twist. 2023 brought to the stage the classic "hairy-tale" of Rapunzel, relocating it to a South London hair salon named Barnet Magic. Alongside a professional cast and crew, 26 Academy members were selected through an audition process to work on the production, providing them with professional experience on a major large-scale theatre production.





Theatre Peckham takes its community mission very seriously indeed, and does outstanding work with young people in the area." **The Reviews Hub**



Next time it would be nice to have 3 sessions because I really enjoyed it and wish we could have had more!!" **Young person participating in audition workshops over October half term**

Our Community Engagement programme opens the doors of Theatre Peckham to the fellowship of South London residents on our doorstep. We work directly with local schools and community groups to close the access and perception gap in the arts for people who may not have previously engaged with it. We aim to showcase how exciting and dynamic this aspect of culture is.

Our free half term workshops provide a chance for communities to connect with each other in a safe space on their doorstep, welcoming students and parents to come together. We co-design an annual community fun day with our Young Ambassadors – a group of 16-29 year olds who represent the voices and perspective of our young people and feedback to our Artistic Director – and the local tenancy and Residents Association on Sceaux Gardens Estate. With over 100 local residents attending the day, families were encouraged to connect through arts and crafts, free dance workshops and live music, giving them a taste of our Academy and the opportunities available.

Our outreach programme Positive Transitions empowers and nurtures Year 6 pupils as they move from Primary to Secondary school. The sessions enabled young people to improve their mindset and self-esteem within education, and prompted them to consider how they present themselves, and how their actions affect others.

Young people were highly engaged throughout the programme, and feedback from their teachers highlighted the demand for these kinds of workshops in schools, particularly where there is a lack of funding. During February half term, students from Bellenden Primary School and Pilgrims Way came together and used their newfound confidence to devise short scenes and present their key learnings from the workshops.

## COMMUNITY

"Bridging the Gap"  
0-100 years

**15**  
**FREE**  
**WORKSHOPS**  
were held during the school holidays.

**38**  
**WORKSHOPS**  
were delivered to local schools.

**84%**  
**OF YOUNG**  
**PEOPLE**  
felt more confident after taking part in our Positive Transitions programme.



A photograph of three young people in theatrical costumes. The person in the center wears a bright pink jacket, a matching top, and a large, spiky pink wig. They are also wearing large, ornate, gold-rimmed sunglasses. To their left, another person wears a dark, textured jacket with a wide, patterned scarf. To the right, a third person wears a red vest over a white collared shirt and white gloves with star patterns. The background is dark with some stage lighting.

# OUR ACTIVITIES

Providing the space for our community and our young people to express themselves is critical to our future. We say Theatre Peckham – our programmes, our building – is like a train that our young people can hop on and off at any time, regardless of where paths in their life may take them. We will always be there to encourage their relationship and respect for theatre, because we pride ourselves on being available, reliable and consistent.

We consult with and are led by young people and the community which ensures we are responding to the changing needs of those we serve. Every child and young person has a place at Theatre Peckham throughout their creative life, and will graduate through one of our four interconnected programmes during their time with us.

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# ACADEMY

"Access to the stage"

3-16 years

music&drama  
education awards 2024  
WINNER



He is singing more and more, and just continues to be alive and bubbly." – **Mother of child in the Academy programme**

95%

OF YOUNG PEOPLE

made new friends through our training programmes.

354

CHILDREN ATTENDED

our Academy, of which 248 were returning attendees.

919

CLASSES DELIVERED

through our weekly Academy training sessions.

84%

OF ACADEMY MEMBERS

felt proud of themselves after performing on our stage.

The Academy is the first step in our partnership with young people, giving them a taste of the arts and access to their local theatre to find joy. Through weekly classes in ballet, acro, tap, street dance, acting, musical theatre, music production, backstage production and steel pans they have unlimited opportunities to connect with arts, music and culture. There are multiple ways for them to express themselves, communicate with others and develop interpersonal skills, making them well-rounded members of the community.

From the age of 3, Academy members start to develop a strong sense of self, and are introduced to the importance of their physical and mental wellbeing, a priority they carry throughout our programmes and into adulthood.

Under the theme 'Our Bold World,' 31 Academy groups curated their own original productions for the annual talent showcase, 'Stars of Peckham'. Described by one of our young people as 'a pretty big deal', 278 Academy graduates performed their show to a packed-out theatre. After the show we presented them with a certificate of excellence in recognition for their hard work and development throughout their year.



Theatre Peckham has given her the confidence to be herself and not concern herself with what she should be." – **Father of child in Musical Theatre class**





Adrian (lead facilitator) encouraged us to see that our dreams aren't these abstract things that are far away but that they're very much tangible and we can use the resources that we have at the moment to start them. I've definitely left the programme feeling more empowered and with a lot more self-belief, so I'm really grateful to have been chosen to take part." - **Enyo, Young Producers Participant**

# YOUNG PECKHAM

"Levelling the playing field"

17-29 years

Young Peckham is designed to develop, inspire and equip young people with the tools they need to thrive professionally and pursue a variety of performing arts careers such as producers, technicians and in cultural leadership. Our young people are empowered to identify their passions with us, and find clear paths into high quality education and a range of potential roles in the industry. This year, we extended the age range from 25 to 29, responding to the needs of our young people who have noted that many industry opportunities become limited after the age of 25.

We encounter fresh perspectives, energy and extraordinary talent every day at Theatre Peckham. This passion, dedication and creative ability is often overlooked by an industry that puts up barriers to entry for people from ethnically diverse backgrounds. Barriers can include an absence of access to training opportunities, unfamiliarity with the imposed cultural landscape, lack of network and connections, as well as low self-confidence, limited role models and poor mental and physical health.

Young Peckham equips each child with the necessary transferable skills to successfully enter and navigate their careers in their chosen field, giving them a voice in decision-making processes, by advocating for their own creativity. By offering free, high-quality training from our Young Producers, to Spoken Word Theatre and Originate strands, we create equal opportunities and support the next generation of diverse industry leaders.



I got my first (acting) credit! I'm so happy right now. [I] dreamt of being an actor for so long. For one night we were all one. Don't let the opinions of others get in the way of your dreams, in fact prove them wrong." - **Elie, Young Actors Company member**

79%

OF YOUNG PECKHAM  
are Black, Asian or Ethnically Diverse.

87%

OF YOUNG PECKHAM  
MEMBERS

felt more confident in pursuing a  
career in the arts after participation.

94

YOUNG PEOPLE

participated in Young Peckham.



# WE ARE THEATRE PECKHAM

Since Theatre Peckham's  
founding in

1986

we have focussed on delivering high-quality artistic opportunities to our local community. 38 years later, we continue to make this commitment, elevating our reach and breadth of training to prepare the next generation of leaders to enter the creative industries.

## Mission

Advance education for the public benefit through the promotion of performing arts, in particular by widening public access, and therefore fostering greater creativity and inclusivity in society.

## Values

Provide exceptional performing arts experiences and opportunities for young people, nurturing their artistic development, building their confidence, and equipping them with valuable life skills.

## Vision

Build a genuinely representative and inclusive society where everyone can participate in, lead, work in, and enjoy creativity and culture.

## Community

Uplift the lives of Peckham residents, locally and beyond. Continue to grow as a community-focussed venue and vibrant centre of activity, synonymous with arts and culture in South-East London.



# Montel Douglas



Theatre Peckham has been an essential part of my journey as a creative. From developing my first play to co-founding a production company, I've gained invaluable skills and opportunities through the range of projects and roles I've taken on here. Their support has empowered me to grow as both an artist and a leader in the community."

Montel is an excellent example of how our work of change, creativity and culture cultivates lasting relationships with our young people, enabling them to feel empowered enough to pursue careers in the creative industries. After joining in September 2019 as part of our Rep Company, Montel has evolved from a burgeoning actor to a brilliant creative leader.

In the height of the 2020 lockdown, Montel's work with the Rep Company continued online, and he created a ten-minute audio play, 'One Way Out', with the support of our six-week writing programme 'Scratch That.' In 2021, Montel joined the staff at Theatre Peckham through the Government's Kickstart scheme (which helps transition young people on Universal Credit into creative employment following the pandemic.)

We invited Montel back in 2022, for our 'Young Gifted and Black' season - he was able to build on his scratch play and perform it to over 300 people. This same year he led our former resident company 'No Table Productions' to apply for the Untapped Award at Edinburgh Fringe. Beating off a tonne of applicants, Montel and his cast were selected as the winners which led to a 4-week run at the prestigious Edinburgh Fringe in 2023.

Montel's story came full circle at our annual festive show, when he played a lead role in our twist on the classic fairy-tale Rapunzel. He continues to create space, drive change and innovate in the arts. He has featured in short films, an episode of the BBC drama Casualty, curated a scratch event at the Almeida Theatre celebrating Black Joy and performed in the award-winning show 'Run It Back' with Talawa Theatre. He is an excellent illustration of how impactful our investment in young people long-term allows them to go for what they want in this industry.







“

Theatre Peckham was instrumental in helping me build a solid foundation and network within the industry. The Illuminate workshop provided me with a comprehensive understanding of all the activities that happen backstage, from technical setups to production management. It was a formative experience that deepened my appreciation for the hard work and coordination that goes into every performance. This has been one of the best experiences of my career so far.” **Ryan Rusconi, Attendee of Illuminate Technical Training programme**

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Our work is not possible without the  
generous contributions from our supporters.

# Thank You

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Charity registration Number: **294399**

Company number: **02016836**

## Board of Trustees:

Dr Anni Domingo,  
Aurea Garrido, David Richards,  
Amari Harris, Anoushka  
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