

STAGE ONE'S 2019 REGIONAL PLACEMENT HOSTS ANNOUNCED

Congratulations to **HOME Manchester, Leeds Playhouse, Royal Lyceum Edinburgh** and **Wiltshire Creative** who have been announced as the hosts for the **Stage One's Regional Placements** in **2019**, supported by **The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation**.

Stage One is delighted to announce 4 x 12 month commercial placements in Regional subsidised theatres and/or organisations across the UK. The venues will train a new entrepreneurial producer by providing them with hands-on experience.

The objectives for the scheme are:

- To graduate 4 outstanding entrepreneurial placements who have developed their knowledge through hands-on experience and increased their commercial contacts.
- The subsidised venues will be more ambitious in their plans to exploit work commercially and will acknowledge the importance of the placements in supporting this cultural change.

“With thanks to the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation we are able to support 4 placements with some of the most influential regional producing houses across the UK. We are committed to supporting emerging producers and have over the past 5 years, placed individuals with venues including; Dundee Rep, the Mercury Theatre and Nuffield Southampton Theatres. Regional theatre is the lifeblood of the industry and my first experience of theatre was outside of London so it's important to me that we champion the work that these venues create and this year we are thrilled to be working with Leeds Playhouse, Edinburgh Lyceum, Wiltshire Creative, HOME in Manchester and Northern Stage.”

- Joseph Smith, Chief Executive of Stage One

HOME Manchester

HOME is Manchester's centre for international contemporary culture. Since opening in 2015, HOME has welcomed over 2.5m visits, presented over 1,000 theatre performances, 20,000 cinema screenings and 40 exhibitions; and worked with over 60,000 participants, especially young people, through its engagement programmes.

HOME's ambition is to push the boundaries of form and technology, to experiment, have fun, take risks and share great new art with the widest possible audience. The organisation works with international and UK artists to produce extraordinary experiences, creating an exciting mix of thought-provoking drama, dance, film and contemporary visual art with a strong focus on international work, new commissions and talent development.

HOME exists for new art and new artists and in 2019 it will launch its new artistic strategy. Key to this will be a fresh creative direction for the theatre programme, focused on reaching more people, developing more ground-breaking ideas and supporting a new generation of artists and theatre-makers. This is a brilliant time to get a Stage One producer on board.

HOME Manchester's Executive Director, Jon Gilchrist said:

“Stage One has had an extraordinary impact on the UK theatre landscape, providing important opportunities for emerging producers across the country, and we're delighted to be partnering with them at a significant time for HOME. We look forward to providing an opportunity for a talented young producer to help us bring in new work by an exciting generation of artists to the stages in Manchester and across the country.”

Leeds Playhouse

Leeds Playhouse was established in 1970. Over the next two decades the theatre thrived and a purpose built new complex opened on Quarry Hill in 1990 as West Yorkshire Playhouse. In 2018, as the theatre embarked on a major capital redevelopment project to transform the theatre, the organisation has become Leeds Playhouse once more. The theatre successfully balances a firm commitment to serving the communities and artists in its region alongside maintaining a national profile for the quality of its work.

The Regional Producer Placement would take place during an exciting time in the history of the Playhouse, with the successful candidate being part of the planning and delivery of the opening season of work in a newly redeveloped theatre.

Leeds Playhouse's Associate Director, Amy Leach said:

"Stage One is a brilliant and unique organisation doing vital work to support early career Producers across the U.K. At Leeds Playhouse, we endeavour to support artists from the region in their artistic development across a range of disciplines, and we are delighted to be working with Stage One again to create this much needed opportunity for Producers."

Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh

The Royal Lyceum Theatre Company is Scotland's leading producing theatre, led under the new Artistic Directorship of David Greig where the company is working on more productions and in more partnerships than ever before. With a strong reputation for excellence in both classical and contemporary work The Lyceum is committed to developing Scotland's considerable indigenous talents while presenting the best of international drama.

The Stage One Producer will be joining the producing team as a new way of working evolves at The Lyceum; together they will discover new systems and strategies across the organisation for developing and delivering an expanded artistic programme. There are many exciting plans and an overall aim to create work worthy of a European capital city at The Lyceum, many of them commercially viable, and to work with both the best companies from around the world while also nurturing and commissioning Scotland's foremost theatre artists and voices.

Harriet Mackie, Producer, The Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh said:

"We couldn't be more thrilled to be recruiting for a Stage One Producer Placement for 2019. Our year gets off to an exciting start with the biggest show the Lyceum has ever led, the musical Local Hero, alongside a series of productions that David Greig, our Artistic Director, and our team have put together that we're really proud of. The opportunity for the person stepping into this placement will be to work with many fantastic artists, some of Scotland's finest as well as many from all of our National and International partnerships. Also, I hope seeing and becoming a valuable cog in a producing house and getting a real insight into our Season planning will excite the right person. With projects planned across the world and right here in our beautiful capital city there is much to experience for the successful individual who is keen to learn and throw themselves in".

Wiltshire Creative

Launched in February 2018, Wiltshire Creative is a pan-arts organisation that brings together Salisbury Arts Centre, Salisbury International Arts Festival and Salisbury Playhouse.

Salisbury Playhouse is one of Britain's leading producing theatres, with a national reputation for home-grown work of the highest quality that attracts audiences from across Wiltshire, Hampshire, Dorset and beyond. The organisation is rooted in, and draws inspiration from, the city of Salisbury and works beyond its boundaries and draws audiences from across the county and further afield. The creation of new work is at the heart of its programme, as it builds new relationships with audiences, artists and participants.

Sebastian Warrack, Executive Director of the organisation said:

“We at Wiltshire Creative are absolutely delighted to be working with Stage One to support the new generation of theatre producers. We have huge admiration for the work that Stage One have done so far and we’re delighted to be part of this programme. We very much look forward to welcoming our Producer placement.”

Northern Stage (7 months)

Our host from last year’s placement will also be looking for a replacement producer for 7 months. After gaining experience on the placement, their Stage One producer made the decision to take on the job of Creative Producer at another regional venue leaving a space open in the scheme.

Northern Stage in Newcastle upon Tyne makes work that is imaginative, engaging and politically connected to the life of the region. They present and collaborate with the most original regional, national and international theatre companies in their venue in Newcastle upon Tyne. They create opportunities for a broad range of audiences to participate in the performing arts, and are a vital resource for theatre training in the North East. They champion creativity and support a diverse range of artists to create ambitious and adventurous theatre.

Matthew Runham, Senior Producer at Northern Stage said:

“We were delighted to be able to offer a Trainee Producer placement in 2018 and, following the successful candidate securing a senior producer role at another venue after just five months with us, thanks to Stage One, we’re able to offer a seven month placement in 2019. I’m a huge believer in learning whilst doing the job and this placement is an opportunity to develop producing experience across the board in a dynamic and creative environment. Stage One’s fantastic programme of workshops underpins this learning and allows a genuine fast track in a competitive and complex industry.”

Applications for 2019/20 placements open on **Friday 4th January** and close on **Monday 4th February 2019**. Please keep checking the website and sign up to our newsletter to keep up to date with Stage One news!

For more information please contact Louise on: 0207 557 6737 / louise@stageone.uk.com

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors

Stage One Stage One is the operating name of the Theatre Investment Fund Ltd, a registered charity number 271349. Stage One supports new theatre producers with industry-led training workshops, bursaries, Placements, Start-Up investment, mentoring and advice. The Regional Placement Scheme was launched in 2014. Last year, Stage One supported placements at Exeter Northcott, Dundee Rep, Leicester Curve and Northern Stage. Patrons of Stage One include Sir Cameron Mackintosh, Dames Judi Dench and Maggie Smith.

To find out more, please visit www.stageone.uk.com

“Esmée Fairbairn Foundation aims to improve the quality of life for people and communities throughout the UK both now and in the future. We do this by funding the charitable work of organisations who are building an inclusive, creative and sustainable society.

The Foundation is one of the largest independent grant-makers in the UK. In 2017 we made grants of £40.5 million towards a wide range of work within the arts, children and young people, the environment and social change. We also have a £45 million allocation to social investments for organisations with the aim of creating social impact.”

To find out more, please visit www.esmeefairbairn.org.uk.

40 YEARS OF STAGE ONE IN FACTS AND FIGURES:

- 52 producers have been placed since 2010.
- The Regional Placement scheme receives hundreds of applications each year and places candidates in subsidised regional venues to focus on the commerciality of the work produced.

- Stage One award on average 12 Bursaries to outstanding producers each year. Since 2010 284 bursaries' have been awarded, totalling nearly £700,000
- The iconic New Producers' Workshop is held twice a year and receives over 200 applications for a limited number of places. In the past 4 years Stage One has seen almost 400 producers attend their New Producers' Workshop.
- In 40 years Stage One has interacted with over 3,000 aspiring producers and theatre makers across the UK.
- Among its notable Alumni are: Matthew Byam Shaw, Eleanor Lloyd, Tracey Childs, James Seabright and Paul Taylor Mills.

For more information, images and interview opportunities, please contact **Stage One:**

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