LAUNCH AUDITIONS AND ANNOUNCE 2019 SEASON OF PRODUCTIONS AT THE OTHER PALACE THEATRE

The National Youth Music Theatre is proud to launch online auditions ahead of auditions across the UK, as well announcing their 2019 season at The Other Palace Theatre, which includes: Parade by Alfred Uhry and Jason Robert Brown, Legend Trippers (commissioned especially by NYMT) by Scott Gilmore and Claire McKenzie and Anything Goes by Cole Porter. As well as the three productions at The Other Palace, NYMT will be taking their production of Growl by Timothy Knapman and Laurence Mark Wythe on the road for a mini tour of festivals.

In January and February each year the National Youth Music Theatre auditions throughout the UK to find outstanding young people aged 10-23 for their upcoming productions - as actors, musicians, stage crew and creative assistants.

This is an outstanding opportunity to benefit from over 40 years of musical theatre history by auditioning for the award-winning National Youth Music Theatre. The 2019 programme comprises four full productions - including a new commission and the première of another new musical - and a residential workshop of a piece currently in development.

NYMT provides exciting opportunities for:

- Stage performers
- Musicians and actor-musicians
- Lighting & sound technicians
- Stage management, backstage crew & costume assistants
- Assistant directors, musical directors, choreographers & designers

Auditionees must be aged at least 10 years old by 1 April and no older than 23 years by 1 September 2019.

Following the initial online auditions, NYMT will be auditioning throughout January and February at the following centres:

- Belfast - The MAC
- Birmingham Ormiston Academy
- Bristol Old Vic Theatre School
Recalls will then take place in London at the end of February 2019.

Full details on auditions can be found here: https://nymt.org.uk/auditions/

The National Youth Music Theatre’s annual residency at London’s The Other Palace will feature three contrasting works. Amid religious intolerance, political injustice and racial tension, the stirring Tony Award-winning Parade explores the endurance of love and hope against all the odds. With a book by acclaimed playwright Alfred Uhry and a rousing, colourful and haunting score by Jason Robert Brown, Parade tells the tragic, true story of the trial and lynching of a man wrongly accused of murder.

NYMT’s new commission for 2019 is Legend Trippers by Scott Gilmour and Claire Mackenzie aka Noisemaker. Legend Trippers uses the lens of a group of mismatched school kids who all share a love of the supernatural to explore themes of social and political division, shining a light on how we treat “outsiders”.

The third of NYMT’s productions for The Other Palace is the classic Cole Porter musical, Anything Goes. Music, dance, laughs, and the age-old tale of Boy Meets Girl – Anything Goes is a hilarious shipboard romp, wrapped around one of Cole Porter’s most magical scores.

NYMT represents the very best in work with young people through musical theatre and for over 40 years has enabled thousands of youngsters across the UK to develop both their creative and personal potential, leading Andrew Lloyd Webber to dub it “the best youth music theatre in the world”.

Established in 1976 by Jeremy James Taylor, NYMT’s productions have been seen throughout the UK and abroad. From its first show, The Ballad of Salomon Pavey, at the Edinburgh Fringe (subsequently part of Her Majesty’s Silver Jubilee celebrations in London) the company’s work has toured to Canada, Greece, Hong Kong, Japan, Norway, Taiwan and the United States winning numerous accolades and awards.
The semi-professional company featured prominently at the Edinburgh Festival in the mid-1980s, premièreing shows such as Richard Stilgoe's *Bodywork*, highlighting NYMT’s commitment to developing new work. This has continued to this day with premières of *The Kissing Dance* and *the dreaming* by Howard Goodall and Charles Hart, *Orvin* by Alan Ayckbourn and *Creation* by Richard Taylor. In 2009 the NYMT were the first to produce a musical at Hull Truck’s brand new theatre with Melvyn Bragg’s and Howard Goodall’s *The Hired Man*. 2010 began with Jeremy James Taylor being awarded an OBE in recognition of his many years’ service to young people and the theatre. Then, to mark Sondheim’s 80th birthday, NYMT took his thriller, *Sweeney Todd*, out of the theatre and into a converted Victorian warehouse in London’s East End.

Highlights of the last few years have included an invitation from Her Majesty The Queen to perform for a reception at Buckingham Palace celebrating Young People in the Performing Arts; an unforgettable collaboration with the outstanding American musical theatre composer, lyricist and playwright, Jason Robert Brown, who directed a young NYMT cast in the West End première of his musical 13 at The Apollo Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue; an epic, site-specific production of *West Side Story* in the vast Victoria Warehouse, Manchester, directed by Nikolai Foster and with exciting new choreography by alumnus Drew McOnie; and - most recently - a huge, celebratory concert in London’s West End to mark the company’s 40th anniversary.

Recent commissions have included *The Other School*, by Dougal Irvine and Dominic Marsh, *Prodigy* by Jake Brunger and Pippa Cleary, and *Brass* by Benjamin Till, which was commissioned to commemorate the Great War centenary and went on to win the UK Theatre Awards title of Best Musical Production 2014. NYMT restaged the work in 2016 at Hackney Empire to mark the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. In similar tribute, the company premièred *The Battle of Boat* by Jenna Donnelly and Ethan Lewis Maltby at Rose Theatre, Kingston. In 2017, NYMT commissioned two outstanding new works: *Imaginary* by Timothy Knapman and Stuart Matthew Price, and *Billy The Kid* by Ben Frost and Richard Hough. In 2018, NYMT produced three productions at The Other Palace; *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* by Helen Watts and Eamonn O’Dwyer based on a short story by Washington Irving, *The Beautiful Game* by Ben Elton and Andrew Lloyd Webber and *A Little Princess* by Carol Miller and Marc Folan, based on the novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett. There was also a touring production of *Superhero, The Musical* by Adam Johnson and Henry Roadnight which visited Bury St. Edmunds, Leicester and Kingston.

Further information about The National Youth Music Theatre can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M7OlxZp_B3U

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