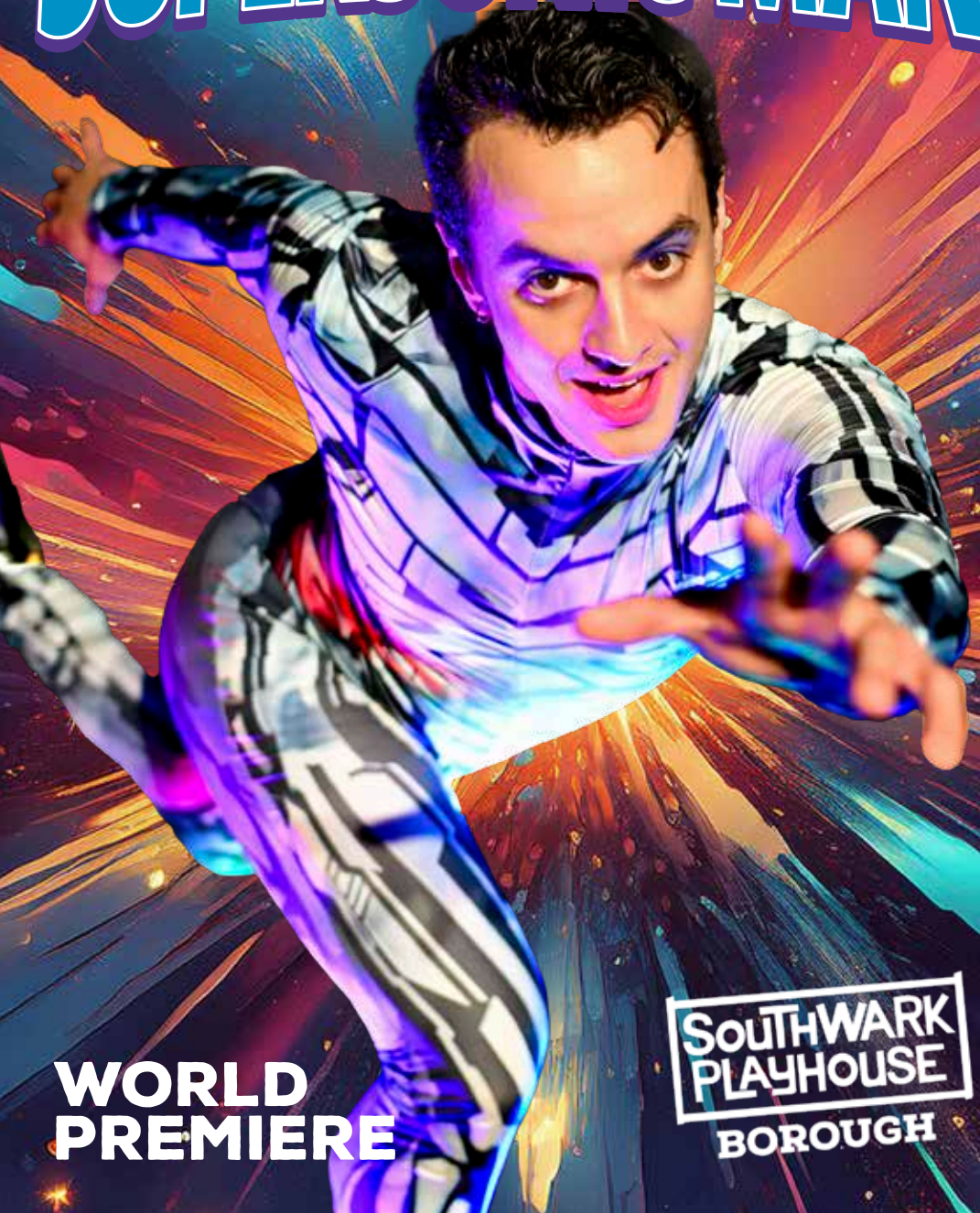


A NEW MUSICAL

SUPERSONIC MAN



**WORLD
PREMIERE**

**SOUTHWARK
PLAYHOUSE
BOROUGH**

SUPERSONIC MAN

LAMBCO is thrilled to be presenting this UK Premiere of *Supersonic Man* by Chris Burgess at Southwark Playhouse Borough. It's the first time LAMBCO has produced here, and isn't it a lovely venue!

Thank you for coming to see this musical and for buying tickets to see live theatre. It's only due to people like you that small-scale theatre will survive. Please tell all your friends that we're here, and help us to keep fringe theatre alive.

Acknowledgments: Lynne Lester-George, Staff at Southwark Playhouse and Mattia Mancuso Dance Attic Studios and Alford House
Sue Kelvin - for her unstinting support and assistance at the auditions
The Arts Council of England – for supporting the first workshop
Matt Ryan – director of the first workshop
Lisa Burnard, Community Support Co-ordinator, Motor Neurone Disease Association – for feedback and advice
Elise Dewsberry of 'New Musicals Inc' – for dramaturgical advice
Mark Warman – music producer of the demo recording
Demo recording singers: Oliver Savile, Jack Reitman, Alfie Freidman, Jessie May and Billie Kerr
Performers of readings and workshop productions: Paul Keating, Tim Rogers, Alfie Friedman, Ryan Ebbrell, Jessie May, Raphael Lecat, Katherine Layva, Andre Frey, Jessica Manu, Shani Cantor, Ben Birkett, Dan Robinson and Dale Rapley

This production was first presented at Southwark Playhouse Borough.

Cast

Adam Dylan Aiello
Darryl Dominic Sullivan
Ben James Lowrie
Ruth Jude St. James
Shaz Mali Wen Davies

Production Team

Writer and Director Chris Burgess
Musical Director & Orchestrator Aaron Clingham
Musical Arranger Steven Edis
Choreographer Philip Joel
Designer David Shields
Lighting Designer Richard Lambert
Production Assistant Angie Lawrence
Graphic Designer Steve Caplin
Poster Photographer Peter Davies
Production Photographer Louis Burgess
Set Builder Thomas Baum
PR Kevin Wilson PR
Patron Su Pollard



A note from the Writer

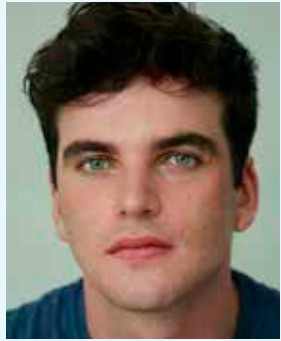
Thanks for coming to *Supersonic Man*, which all started with Peter Scott Morgan, who is famous for two things. Firstly, he and his partner, Francis, became officially the first gay couple to marry in England. Secondly, he was featured in the 2020 Channel Four documentary *Peter: The Human Cyborg* – which followed his journey to conquer motor neurone disease by use of robotics, radical surgery and AI technology. The day after seeing the documentary, I started writing *Supersonic Man*. Initially, it was based closely on Peter Scott Morgan's life, but eventually, it became 'loosely inspired by' his story.

Some people are taken aback by the fact that it is, in part, a musical comedy. But the fact is my main character, Adam, is a life force – the type who wears pink hot pants at a Pride march. He is flamboyant and witty and sexually aggressive and rebellious. And his attitude to a terminal condition is to fight, fight, fight and challenge the medical status quo. This he does, tipping over many apple carts, pulling focus, and creating a Reality TV show about his condition and his aim to become 'supersonic'. To me, that spirit sings – hence, the show is a musical.

I hope you enjoy this musical and Peter's story of inspiration, joy, hope, and the memory of a human spirit who faced cataclysm with courage and wit... and pink hot pants!

Chris Burgess

Cast



Dominic Sullivan

Training: Yale and LAMDA.
Theatre credits while training include: Josef K in *The Trial* (The Ballroom, Yale).
Theatre credits include: Freddy Bywaters in *Entertaining Murder* (Upstairs at the Gatehouse); Gordon in *Orca* (Waterfront Museum Theatre); Coriolanus in *Coriolanus* (Berkeley Basketball Court); Mr Colon and Christopher Columbus in *The SS Cancelled* (Teatro Latea) and Ottavio in *Scapino!* and Protesilaus in *Mercury's Footpath* (Black Box Theatre).
Screen credits include: Peregrine in *Young Sherlock* (MGM and Amazon) and Billy Turner in *Nr. 24* (Motion Blur Productions).



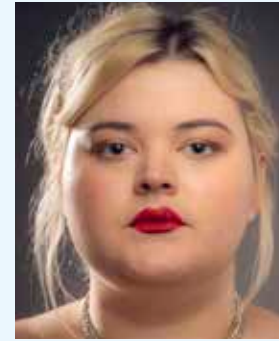
Dylan Aiello

Training: RADA.
Theatre credits while training include: Manny in *What if Birds*, Prometheus in *Prometheus Bound* and Sergeant and Katrin in *Mother Courage and Her Children*.
Theatre credits include: George Michael in *Kissing A Fool* (also co-director, Soho Theatre) and MC in *LOVE TEST: Cruising for a Bruising* (Mint ABF, September Sessions, Stockholm).
Television credits include: Giles in Season 2 of *Patterns* (Aurelia Pictures) and Stu in *I Hate People, People Hate Me* (Web Series, CBG Gem).
Film credits include: Paul in *Brom's Lament* (Unknown Pictures); Anthony Belanger in *Bracciante* (Seven to Forty Cinema); Jean in *Sidetracking* (Short Film) and Winter in *The Last Man* (Plants and Fruits Production).
Instagram: @argo.lots



Jude St. James

Training: PPA and Mountview.
Theatre credits include: Ensemble and Understudy Liesl von Trapp in *The Sound of Music* (UK Tour); Ensemble and Understudy Mistress in *Evita* (UK and European Tour and Phoenix Theatre) and Songstress in *Entertaining Murder* (Upstairs at the Gatehouse).
Other credits include: Production Vocalist (Viking Sun cruise ship, Viking Ocean Cruises); Swing Dep for 1920s vocal trio The Wild Tonic; Jude in *Dear London / Cara Londra* (Osteria Passatelli, Ravenna, Italy) and Una, Lara and Ensemble in *Jones' Diary - A Musical Valentine in Concert!* (The Space @ Studio 88).
Workshop credits include: Ruth in *Supersonic Man*.
X and Instagram: nirish_jude



Mali Wen Davies

Training: Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance.
Theatre credits while training include: Adult Women in *Spring Awakening*, Violet Newstead in *9 to 5*, Ensemble in *For Tonight* and Sci-fi Host and Lead Singer in *Loserville*.
Other credits include: *Side Show in Concert* and *Disney's St David's Welsh Weekend Concert*.
Supersonic Man is Mali's professional theatre debut.
Instagram: @mali.wen



James Lowrie

Training: Guildford School of Acting and The Dance School of Scotland.
Theatre credits include: Ensemble and Cover Comic in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* (Theatre Royal Bath); Angel and Dance Captain in *Kinky Boots* (Storyhouse, Chester); Magnificent Seven in *Snow White And The Magnificent Seven* (Darlington Hippodrome); Dancer and Dance Captain in *The Dolls Back Wi' A Bang* (Scottish Tour); Jack in *Grindr: The*

Opera (Union Theatre); Denym and Cover Tink in *Bat Out Of Hell The Musical* (West End); Denym and Cover Tink in *Bat Out Hell The Musical* (UK and International Tour); Vocalist in *The Show Must Go On! Live At The Palace Theatre* (Palace Theatre); Lumiukko in *Frostbite - Who Pinched My Muff?* (Garden Theatre); Dwarf and Dance Captain in *Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs* (Sec Armadillo); Boy in *Butterfly Kiss* (Óran Mór) and Ensemble in *Hansel and Gretel* (Scottish Opera).
Workshops credits include: Spencer in *A Second Chance: A New British Musical*.



Chris Burgess Writer and Director

Chris has written many stage shows.

Highlights include: *Dishonorable Ladies*, starring Honor Blackman (National Tour and West End); *Tales My Lover Told Me* (King's Head Theatre); *The Last Fattybottypuss in the World* (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre); *Lunch With Marlene*, starring Kate O'Mara (New End Theatre and National Tour) and a musical, *Sleeping Arrangements*, based on Sophie Kinsella's novel (Landor Theatre). He also wrote the revue shows *Jewish Legends*, *The Great Jewish American Songbook*, *The MGM Story*, *That's Jewish Entertainment*, *A Night at the Oscars*, *Elton John: It's a Little Bit Funny* and *Jewish Hollywood* (Upstairs at Gatehouse), as well as *Sophie Tucker's One Night Stand* (Pleasance Theatre, Edinburgh) and *Skin Deep* and *Bette Midler and Me* (Gilded Balloon, Edinburgh).

Television and Radio Writing credits include: Episodes of *London Bridge* (ITV); *Doctors* (BBC) and *The Invincible Violet*, a five-part drama, starring Sylvia Syms (BBC Radio).

Aaron Clingham Musical Director and Orchestrations

Aaron has received twelve Off-West End Award Nominations, a Broadway World Award Nomination and a Standing Ovation Award for his work as a Musical Director.

Favourite credits as Musical Director include: *Into the Woods* (The Cockpit); *Marry Me a Little* and *The Story of my Life* (Stage Door Theatre); *Betty Blue Eyes* (Union Theatre); *Romance Romance*, [title of show] and *Grindr: The Opera* (Above The Stag Theatre); *Metropolis*, *The Kissing Dance*, *Wonderful Town* and *A Little Night Music* (Ye Olde Rose and Crown Theatre); *Faking Bad* and *Closer To Heaven* (Turbine Theatre); *Sleeping Beauty* and *Jack and The Beanstalk* (Charing

Cross Theatre); *The Addams Family* (Theatre Royal Windsor); *My Land's Shore* (Theatr Soar); *It's a Bird...It's A Plane...It's Superman* (Leicester Square Theatre); *The Ripper's Five* (Theatro Technis); *Naked Boys Singing* (King's Head Theatre and Garden Theatre); *Sondheim by Sondheim* (Roundhouse); *Next Thing You Know* (Garden Theatre); *Dorian the Musical* (Southwark Playhouse Borough and The Other Palace Studio); *Soho Boy* (Drayton Arms Theatre) and *Cinderella* (White Rock Theatre, Hastings).

X and Instagram: @aaronclingham

David Shields Designer

David has designed the sets and costumes for plays, musicals and other spectacles at venues of every scale, from international arena tours to studio theatres, via prominent international and regional producing houses and the West End.

Selected credits include: *Strictly Come Dancing: The Professionals* (Original UK Tour); *Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway on Tour* (UK Arena Tour, directed by Anthony Van Laast); *The Last Five Years* (Associate Designer, The Other Palace, directed by Jason Robert Brown); *End of the Rainbow*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Our House* (National Tours); *Hair in Concert* (London Palladium); *Heathers The Musical* (Theatre Royal Haymarket, National Tours and The Other Palace); *The Pleasure Garden* (Offie 2021 Award Winner, Best Set Design); *Closer to Heaven* (Turbine Theatre); *Ruddigore* (Wilton's Music Hall); *Rose* starring Dame Maureen Lipman (Ambassadors Theatre); *Snow White* (UK Pantomime Association Award Winner, Best Set Design, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre); *Pippin* and *The Fabulist* (Charing Cross Theatre); *Su Pollard – Still Fully Charged* (UK Tour) and *I Wish You Well* (Criterion Theatre).

Philip Joel Choreographer

Theatre choreography credits include: *Much Ado About Nothing* (Cultural Hall Theatre, Bahrain); *Henrietta* (Kate Golledge, NYMT); *Natasia Demetriou and Ellie White are Gettin' Big* (Soho Theatre); *Ferris & Milnes: Christmas Cracker* (Ambassadors Theatre); *Closer to Heaven – The Pet Shop Boys Musical* (Union Theatre, London); *Miracle on 34th Street* (UK Tour and Madinat Theatre, Dubai); *One Man, Two Guvnors* (Theatre Royal Windsor); *Six-Five Rock n Roll Express* (Assembly Hall Theatre) and *Can't Stop It* (The Other Palace).

Film and television choreography credits include: *The Last Leg* (Channel 4); *Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule* (ITV); *BBC Young Dancer Of The Year* (BBC) and *Pulse* (Short Film, Oxygen Films).

Cruise ship choreography credits include: *Rock City* (Celebrity Cruises) and *Waka Waka* (MSC Meraviglia).

Commercial choreography credits include: *Harrods 10th Anniversary* (Magazine Editorial) and *Net-a-Porter* (Internet Campaign).

Richard Lambert Lighting Designer

Theatre credits include: *DM the play*, *Roy's Story*, *The Tailor-Made Man* and *Marry Me A Little* (Stage Door Theatre); *Boys in the Buff* (Offie Award Nomination, Best Lighting Design); *Twinkle, Tickle, Boys in the Buff* and *Love is Blue* (Drayton Arms Theatre and Ed Fringe 2023); *Soho Boy* (Drayton Arms Theatre and Ed Fest 2022); *Bette Midler & Me* (Garden Theatre, Ed Fest 2022, Town and Gown, Drayton Arms Theatre); *Frostbite*, *Next Thing You Know*, *Pippin* and *Fanny & Stella* (Garden Theatre); *Undetectable* (Offie Nomination, Best Lighting Design); *The Crumple Zone* (King's Head Theatre); *Skin Deep* (Ed Fest 2018 and UK

Tour); *Marry Me A Little*, *Muscles the Musical*, *Alvaro's Balcony*, *Discotivity*, *Stand Tall*, *Vincent River*, *The Hot Mikado*, *Get Aladdin*, *A Class Act*, *Next Thing You Know*, *Nonsense*, *Bakewell Bakeoff*, *Meet Me in St. Louis*, *No Way to Treat a Lady*, *The Man Inside*, *Damn Yankees* (Offie Award Nomination), *She Loves Me*, *In the Dead of Night*, *The Clockmaker's Daughter*, *Sincerely Yours*, *Personals*, *Romance Romance* and *Devilish! A Musical Comedy* (Landor Theatre); *Margot, Dame, the Most Famous Ballerina in the World* and *Boys in the Buff*, (King's Head Theatre) and *Do You Have A Secret Crush? (Sleeping with Straight Men)* (LOST Theatre).

Other credits include: *FIFA World Cup 2022* (Luseil Stadium); Erasmus Bridge (Rotterdam); *Disney on Ice* (7 continents, Tokyo Budokan, New Orleans Super Dome, Toronto Sky Dome and NYC Radio City Music Hall); *Royal Wedding Dress Exhibition* (Kensington Palace); #Hashtag Lightie (Arcola Theatre); *Cirque Enchantment* (UK Tour) and Jazz Dance Company (UK Tour, 8th year).

Website: lambcolighting.co.uk

Steven Edis Musical Arranger

As composer, arranger and musical director Steven has worked on numerous productions at the National Theatre, the Old Vic, Chichester Festival Theatre, the RSC and in London's West End. For over 20 years he provided orchestrations for the annual musical at the Regent's Park Open Air Theatre and has been composer and musical supervisor for the Hackney Empire pantomimes since 1998.

Musical Theatre composing credits include: *Where is Peter Rabbit?* (with Alan Ayckbourn); *The Silver Sword* (with Susie McKenna) and *I Capture the Castle* and *Possessed* (with Teresa Howard).

Recent credits include: *A Christmas Carol* (Musical Supervisor, RSC, Stratford); *Perform in the Park*

(Musical Arranger and Musical Supervisor, Coram's Fields) and *What the Dickens?* (Musical Arranger and Musical Supervisor, The Telling) and *Su Pollard: Still Fully Charged*, (Musical Director, currently on a UK Tour). Steve is a regular performer with The Comedy Store Players, at their weekly Sunday night improvised comedy show.

X: @SteveEdis

Website: www.stevenedis.com

LAMBCO Productions Producer

LAMBCO is an independent live entertainment production company based in London.

Theatre credits include: *Do You Have A Secret Crush? (Sleeping with Straight Men)* (LOST Theatre); *Bluebirds* (Above The Stag Theatre); *Sincerely Yours* and (Associate Producer for) *Bewitchment on Black Ice* (Landor Theatre); *Skin Deep* (National Tour, 5 star reviews and Fringe Award from Scots Gay); *The Crumple Zone* and *Margot, Dame, the Most Famous Ballerina in the World* (King's Head Theatre); *Boys in the Buff*, *Tickle, Soho Boy, Bette Midler and Me, Twinkle and Love is Blue* (Drayton Arms Theatre and Ed Fest). Playbill chose *Boys in the Buff* as their "Pick of the Fringe" and the Scotsman declared *Tickle* and *Boys in the Buff*, two of the Fringe's four sexiest musicals.

Emerging from the pandemic, LAMBCO created an outdoor theatre, opening a musical ahead of Broadway and the West End and produced *Fanny and Stella*, *Pippin*, *Next Thing You Know*, *Naked Boys Singing* and *Frostbite* (Garden Theatre, Vauxhall).

Last year, LAMBCO set up the first pub theatre in the West End and produced *Marry Me a Little*, *The Tailor-Made Man*, *Slices of Life* and the UK Premiere of the Broadway musical *The Story of my Life* (the award-winning Stage Door

Theatre). LAMBCO has also recently produced *Entertaining Murder* (Upstairs at the Gatehouse) and *The Crumple Zone* (Waterloo East Theatre).

BlueSky: @lambco.bsky.social

Facebook: @lambcoprods

Instagram: @lambcoproductions

Website: www.lambcoproductions.co.uk

Angie Lawrence Production Assistant

Angie is a freelance Production Assistant and has worked on numerous shows in the London area and beyond.

Training: University of Leeds BA (Hons) German with Linguistics.

Theatre credits include: *Death on the Throne: The Loosical*, *Road Show*, *Entertaining Murder*, *Tom Lehrer is Teaching Math and Doesn't Want to Talk to You*, *In Clay, You're A Good Man*, *Charlie Brown*, *Jewish Hollywood*, *Elton John: It's A Little Bit Funny*, *The MGM Story*, *Barmitzvah Boy*, *Working – A Musical* and *The Marvellous Wonderettes* (Upstairs at the Gatehouse); *Maria Caruso's Incarnation* and *Cinderella: Boom or Bust!* (Theatre Royal Drury Lane); *Marie Curie and Zorro* (Charing Cross Theatre); *A Song of Songs and Rags* (Park Theatre); *Becoming Nigella*, *Dorian* and *Bromance: The Dudesical* (The Other Palace Studio); *Bette Midler and Me* (UK Tours); *Zorro*, *Pippin* and *Parade* (Hope Mill Theatre); *[title of show]* (Waterloo East Theatre); *Jerry's Girls* (St James Studio and Jermyn Street Theatre); *It's a Bird...It's a Plane...It's Superman* (Ye Olde Rose and Crown Theatre and Leicester Square Theatre); *Into the Woods* (Ye Olde Rose and Crown Theatre and The Cockpit); *My Land's Shore* (Ye Olde Rose and Crown Theatre and Theatr Soar) and *The Adventures of Pinocchio* and *Tommy* (Greenwich Theatre).

X: @Angie_Law132

SOUTHWARK PLAYHOUSE







Songs

Act One

- 1 Once Upon A Time
- 2 Breaking The News
- 3 Stephen Hawking
- 4 The Idea
- 5 What A Life We Live
- 6 The Way We See It
- 7 Never Again
- 8 Invisible
- 9 Boffins
- 10 Beyond Stephen Hawking

Act Two

- 11 That Dream
- 12 Finding A Voice
- 13 Never Any Question
- 14 Fuck It
- 15 Time
- 16 Is It Worth It?
- 17 Celebrating Adam
- 18 New Ways To Live



WELCOME TO
**SOUTHWARK
PLAYHOUSE**
BOROUGH



Southwark Playhouse is all about telling stories and inspiring the next generation of storytellers and theatre makers.

It aims to facilitate the work of new and emerging theatre practitioners from early in their creative lives to the start of their professional careers.

Southwark Playhouse engages people of all ages across its community by offering a range of drama related activities that promote learning and social cohesion. Each year we work with hundreds of people through a range of projects both in-school and as extra-curricular activities. Southwark Playhouse's Participation programme is predicated around the belief that involvement in the arts is a fundamental right for all, regardless of what stage they may be at - and provides benefits far beyond the immediately obvious that benefit the individual and the community as a whole.

At the start of 2023, Southwark Playhouse opened its second new theatre in Elephant & Castle. Southwark Playhouse Elephant houses two spaces: a reconfigurable auditorium that seats up to 310 people, and a youth and community space exclusively for the use of Southwark Playhouse's extensive community and participation work.

In November 2023, Southwark Playhouse celebrated its 30th anniversary. Over the last 30 years, the theatre has been showcasing innovative and engaging work by talented theatre artists and looks forward to continuing this in future years to come.

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