

“I have been going through such a hard time lately and having LYT is one of the things that kept me going. You guys built my confidence so much like a little bird learning to fly. If I never found LYT, I don’t know where I would be.” LYT Participant

During 2017, **Lewisham Youth Theatre (LYT)** celebrates of **30 years** of delivering **free transformative theatre projects** for young people aged 3-24 years living and studying locally. Through a combination of sustained and compact outreach projects, the youth-led programme works with c.900 young people each year, over 70% of whom face significant socio-economic disadvantage. LYT’s comprehensive programmes are designed to achieve meaningful personal impacts for young people aged 8-19 years, **significantly increasing** their **wellbeing and life chances**. Delivering nearly 400 weekly sessions annually, both after school and at weekends, programmes are carefully positioned to support diverse needs and interests.



Opportunities range from introductory workshop projects designed to nurture personal and social development to performance projects where participants work towards an intensive finale week of full-day rehearsals and a public performance for friends and family. Our technical theatre projects are also hugely popular, providing experience of backstage roles such as stage management, design, lighting and prop-making. Through *Step Up*, we work with young people aged 16-24 who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) to build their resilience and employment readiness through daytime sessions. More broadly, members also have opportunities to participate in our youth leadership board, peer mentoring and work experience, developing leadership and employability skills.

There are no auditions and everyone is welcome. Working closely with social services and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), LYT also receives many referrals reflecting the quality of the artistic programme and the unique role LYT has to play in building the local community. There is significant demand for our work, with many projects being oversubscribed.

Your Donation Can Make a Difference

LYT is a registered charity with an annual target of £220,000. **Costing an average of just £240 per person per year**, donations of all sizes make a valuable contribution to the young people we work with, building their **confidence** and **resilience**. Key life skills such as **collaboration**, **communication**, **teamwork**, **leadership** and **employability** are nurtured alongside **creativity**, **emotional literacy** and **ambition**. Regular 1:1 sessions ensure the space and time for tailored personal support for those in greatest need. Individuals flourish, becoming **informed and active citizens** with greatly enhanced well-being and life chances. Some participants also achieve nationally-recognised Arts Award qualifications. To find out more about how you can make a lasting difference to the lives of disadvantaged young people, please contact development@lewishamyouththeatre.com

*“LYT has essentially altered the overall trajectory of their lives.”
Independent Evaluator, LYT’s BIG Impact Report, June 2017*