

MOUNTVIEW

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

2023/24



INTRODUCTION

What an exhilarating time it is to be part of Mountview! Every day, our studios and theatres come alive with creativity, innovation, and a sense of community. Here aspiring artists refine their craft through our training, Southwark residents discover their passion for the arts through our participation activities, and leading production companies shape groundbreaking ideas in our rehearsal suites.

This year we opened our doors to even more learners. It marked the second year of delivering CertHE Musical Theatre training in Manchester and an exciting milestone with the launch of Mountview Exams — our entry into the graded Musical Theatre examinations market.

Reflecting on our staff and students' achievements this past year is a true privilege, and I am proud to share these moments with you. Your support has been instrumental in making it all possible, and on behalf of everyone at Mountview, thank you for your continued generosity. I hope you enjoy reading this year's report as much as we've enjoyed creating it.



SALLY ANN GRITTON

Principal



A YEAR IN NUMBERS

542

students at Foundation, Undergraduate and Postgraduate level

783

enrolments on Participation projects at Mountview

98%

agent signing rate for BA Performance graduates

12,622

audience members

302

subsidised space hires for local charities / community groups

40%

of students identified as D/deaf, disabled, neurodivergent

168

student performances

400

bursaries for young people to participate in Generation Next

22%

of students came from Black / Global Majority backgrounds

493

free / discounted tickets for schools and community groups

£265,000

awarded in scholarships to remove financial barriers

17%

were international students

357

pupils engaged in creative workshops in schools

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS



We develop artists and practitioners who are shaping the creative industries' future. Major industry accolades this year include:

Will Close (MA Acting 2011)

Olivier Award winner and WhatsOnStage Award nominee for Best Actor in a Supporting Role, and The Stage Debut Awards nominee for Best West End Debut Performer

Sean Green (MA Musical Direction 2009)

Winner of Best Musical Director at the Black British Theatre Awards

Grace Hodgett-Young (BA Musical Theatre 2023)

WhatsOnStage Award winner for Best Professional Debut Performance, Olivier Award nominee Best Actress in a Supporting Role in a Musical and The Stage Debut Award nominee for Best West End Debut Performer

Claudia Kariuki (BA Musical Theatre 2012)

Winner of Best Non-Binary Performer at the Black British Theatre Awards

Giles Terera (BA Acting 1999)

Olivier Award nominee for Best Actor in a Supporting Role

Amy Trigg (BA Musical Theatre 2013)

Olivier Award winner and WhatsOnStage Award nominee for Best Supporting Actress in a Musical

Jack Wolfe (BA Musical Theatre 2017)

Winner of Best West End Debut Performer at The Stage Debut Awards, WhatsOnStage Award winner for Best Supporting Performer in a Musical, Olivier Award nominee for Supporting Actor in a musical

GRADUATE ACHIEVEMENTS

A group of graduates in theatrical costumes and white face paint on a stage with a large gear backdrop. The graduates are dressed in various styles, including a white robe, a white top with a black skirt, a grey suit, and a brown suit. They are holding props like a book titled 'FINANCIAL RECORDS' and a small object. The background features a large, dark gear and a stage set with a doorway.

Students graduating in 2024 have already made an impact on the sector. Highlights include:

In the West End and London

- Eve Humphrey plays Dinah in *Starlight Express*
- Lena Pattie Jones plays in *Fangirls* at the Lyric Hammersmith
- Annie Kingsnorth leads the company of *The Lightest Element* at Hampstead Theatre
- Grace Towning and Viola Maisey appeared in the UK premiere of *Babies*

On screen and TV

- Luke Azille has a recurring role in *Grace* for ITV
- Marlowe Chan Reeves stars in *Shetland* for BBC
- Sebastian Balzaro stars in the Spanish feature film *Ammazzare Stanca*
- Theo Birkis appears in the Channel Four film *True Love*

On tour and regionally

- Hope Dawe plays the lead role of Sandy in the UK tour of *Grease*
- Aiden Carson plays the title role in *Peter Pan* at Theatre Royal Nottingham
- Freya McMahon joins the tour of *Hairspray* in the principal role of Penny
- Jessica Oppong and Savannah Hall joined the UK tour of *The Book of Mormon*
- Josh Rosewood plays the title role in *Jack and the Beanstalk* at Chipping Norton
- Will Forgrave joins the tour of *Dear Evan Hansen*

SCHOLARSHIPS

Only talent and potential should determine a student's future. However, the costs of living and studying in London are rising exponentially, putting students from low-income backgrounds at an unfair disadvantage. To help bridge that gap, we awarded £265,000 in scholarships to students thanks to the generosity of our supporters.

Case Study: Scott Slocombe

Scott graduated from BA Performance – Actor Musicianship in November 2024 and was supported by scholarships throughout his training. We're delighted to report Scott has secured agent representation and is now playing Scrooge in the West End in Schools production of *Scroogical*.

"The scholarship was very important in allowing me to focus on my training without constantly worrying about how I'm going to pay my fees. Without the funding I've received for each of my 3 years, I would almost certainly not have been able to afford to complete the course. The whole experience at Mountview has been fantastic, I was always interested in both acting and music independently. I wasn't even aware of actor-musicianship courses until starting the Foundation in Acting at Mountview. My plans after graduation are to work as often as I can in as many interesting and challenging projects as possible. No stage is too small or too big."



Scott performing in *Junkyard*, *Caucasian Chalk Circle* and *The Wizard of Oz*

THE JUDI DENCH FUND FOR ACCESS TO DRAMA TRAINING

Adapting to Mountview's intensive training can be a big adjustment. Sometimes students need a helping hand - especially when life throws additional obstacles in their way.

The Judi Dench Fund helps by connecting them to mental health and wellbeing support, arranging bespoke learning plans and reasonable adjustments, and offering emergency grants to cover unexpected costs.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

160 students received Mental Health & Wellbeing Support this year, coordinated by Amy Barber, Student Welfare Manager. By meeting with students in confidential, one-to-one settings, Amy has understood their needs and provided tailored approaches including free counselling, therapeutic support and diagnoses for hidden disabilities and aspects of neurodiversity. By putting learning plans and adjustments in place, Amy helps students to focus on their training.

"I really enjoy my work, it's very rewarding, and I think it's an important element of the suite of support that Mountview provides."

– **Amy Barber**

Emergency Grants

The Judi Dench Fund supported **28 students** through emergency grants, with an average award of £507. They were awarded to help students with costs including:

- Rent
- Living costs
- Medical appointments required for training
- Professional costs (headshots, subscriptions)

Case Study: Jewelle Hutchinson

The Judi Dench Fund supported Jewelle during her studies, ensuring she graduated in 2023. She has since performed at Chichester Festival Theatre and received a nomination from the UK Pantomime Awards 2024.

"If you're at drama school, you might be able to cover your rent, but if you're not eating well, you're working all hours of the night and you can't get to class in the morning, it doesn't make sense. The support offered through the Judi Dench Fund is exactly what we need to level the playing field."





PATRONS' PROGRAMME

In 2024, we celebrated the launch of our Patrons' Programme, inviting our supporters to experience and explore what it means to train as an artist today at Mountview, one of the UK's leading drama schools. Patrons gain an insight into our artistic approach, with the knowledge that their support is helping develop the future of the creative industries.

Our Patrons enjoy access to exclusive events throughout the year, where they will **Be Immersed**, **Be Enlightened** and **Be Entertained**.

As a Patron, you could help us build an enduring future for our students, at a time when investing in the arts is crucial. Join us, Be Mountview.

[Click here](#) to learn more

23/24 Patrons' Events

- Launch Event at Mountview featuring special guest appearances by alumni Giles Terera MBE (Olivier Award winner) and Chumisa Dornford-May (Elaine Paige Scholar for Musical Theatre Excellence)
- Patrons' reception and tickets to see *Sunday in the Park with George* directed by Principal, Sally Ann Gritton
- In Conversation – an exclusive event for Patrons with Rachel Bagshaw (Artistic Director, Unicorn Theatre and Mountview alumna) and Tim Shearer (Artistic Director, Donmar Warehouse and Mountview Trustee)
- Performance of *Hadestown* in the West End, with post-show drinks with the cast, including alumna Grace Hodgett Young, starring as Eurydice

PARTICIPATION

The arts play a vital role in community cohesion and wellbeing. Mountview is dedicated to working with and for the people of Peckham and Southwark, and with your support, we engage residents through:

Generation Next

Every Saturday during school term, children and young people from across Southwark attend regular workshops in acting, dance, musical theatre and more. This year, we received **674 enrolments** and **98% of participants** reported improved performance and fusion skills.

Our Southwark Bursary Scheme supported 67% to attend, with 94% of bursary recipients attending sessions completely free. Classes were representative of Southwark's diversity too: 67% of registrants were from Black & Global Majority backgrounds, and bursaries reached residents in 19 of Southwark's 23 wards.

Peckham Sessions

Following a successful pilot in 2023, Peckham Sessions returned in spring 2024. Over six weeks, local artists and residents aged 4 to 84 explored acting, dance, singing, zine-making, stop-motion animation and much, much more. On the final weekend, they shared their creations at Open House – a free, full day public takeover of Mountview's studios and theatres:

- **109 participants** took part in free weekly workshops and presented their work to **744 people**. 42% of participants lived in Peckham, 67% were Black / Global Majority, and 15% D/deaf, disabled or neurodivergent
- 95% of participants felt more connected, 89% benefitted from improved health & wellbeing, and 77% improved skills in their chosen art form



"This experience gave skill, confidence, inspiration and vision to my child. We appreciated the time, expertise and effort so freely given...Thank you for the opportunity." - Parent Feedback

[Click here](#) to watch our Peckham Sessions 2024 video recap

THE ANDRÉ PTASZYNSKI MEMORIAL FUND

In 2021 the André Ptaszynski Memorial Fund was established by friends, family and colleagues to celebrate the life and legacy of one of the industry's best-loved producers. In 23/24, the fund supported:

- The Judi Dench Fund for Access to Drama Training, an initiative André helped launch
- The André Ptaszynski Prize for Producing, awarded to a graduating MA Creative Producing student
- The Ptaszynski Producer, a year-long full-time role supporting early-career producers from diverse backgrounds

The André Ptaszynski Prize for Producing

This year's winner was **Jamie Holland**, a producer who distinguished himself through empathic leadership and a commitment to excellence.

"Jamie was always ready to support others, share his expertise, work harder, do more, ask more questions, and seek creative solutions to help the team achieve the best possible result. Jamie is an outstanding leader, and team player."

– Pam Fraser Solomon, **Head of Creative Producing**

Ptaszynski Producer 2024

This year's Ptaszynski Producer was **Toyin Omari-Kinch**, a London-based Actor and Producer from Birmingham. Toyin gained a wealth of new experiences and skills by:

- Supporting student productions in our two theatres
- Acting as first point of call for external directors working at Mountview on student productions
- Launching new projects including a Puppetry Masterclasses partnership between Mountview & Fuel
- Acting as Series Producer for BA Acting students' short films, supporting MA Creative Producing students' projects and facilitating screenings at Peckhamplex

"My time at Mountview has been amazing...it's been educational, it's been informative, and it's given me a lot of tools to go forward."

[Click here](#) to watch a short interview with Toyin



MOUNTVIEW EXAMS

Launched in 2024, Mountview Exams (MX) is bringing a new Musical Theatre offer to the 1.1m young people taking graded arts examinations in the UK today. MX bears Mountview's hallmarks of innovation and access, with solo exams distinguished by:

- No prescribed repertoire lists – any material (including self-written material) is eligible
- Exams are conducted with other performers present - creating an authentic audience environment
- Performers have total creative agency of their work
- Examiners are all professionally trained in Musical Theatre, with the first cohort of examiners all Mountview alumni

We're excited to have run our first live examinations in the autumn, receiving fantastic feedback from performers:

"Thank you for making me feel so comfortable while performing, despite the large audience! It was an amazing experience."

We will shortly be launching new syllabi for group examinations. Watch this space!

[Click here](#) to find out more about MX



CERTIFICATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION



Our new partnerships with established arts organisations across the UK mean hundreds of students can now study Musical Theatre closer to home.

Previously a Foundation programme, the new Certificate of Higher Education status means students will receive a recognised qualification and can access the Student Loan book for the first time too. Our first partnership with **Z-Arts in Manchester** launched in September 2023, and it has since doubled in size. Further partnerships have launched in Birmingham, Exeter and Hertford, with more in the pipeline.

Case Study: Liv Baker

Our Head of CertHE Training saw Liv's potential in a production at Pendleton College. He encouraged Liv to apply to our newly launched Manchester CertHE, which she completed in summer 2023. She received multiple recalls and offers from drama schools but choose to accept a place on Mountview's BA Performance - Musical Theatre.

"I was fortunate to be a part of the first ever Mountview Manchester cohort, ultimately solidifying my love for Mountview, defining the knowledge that this school was the perfect choice for me."

INDUSTRY & COMMUNITY

Mountview was the venue of choice for hundreds of hires, ranging from international brands to grassroots organisations. Every penny generated from these hires supported our charitable mission. Leading industry names developing and rehearsing new productions at Mountview included:

Disney Theatrical
Runaway Entertainment
Shakespeare's Globe
English Touring Theatre
Factory International
Headlong
Glyndebourne
Kenny Wax
Royal Opera House

Our Community Partners Scheme supported 11 local not-for-profit community initiatives through heavily subsidised hire rates.

And we continue to host resident arts companies Candoco Dance Company, Touretteshero, British Youth Music Theatre and English Touring Opera, all pioneering organisations within their respective fields.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Mountview works tirelessly to remove barriers to the arts and deliver training that transforms the sector - but we can't do it alone.

You can help us by:

- **Becoming a Patron** for a unique insight into how Mountview delivers its training through special events
- **Making a regular donation** to one of our initiatives like the Judi Dench Fund for Access to Drama Training
- **Establishing a Scholarship** and helping students from low-income households cover the costs of their tuition fees
- **Supporting our work** as a trust, foundation or business through a philanthropic donation, grant or sponsorship

To discuss how to donate and what the impact of your support would be, please contact the Development Team on development@mountview.org.uk or call 020 8829 1071



OUR SUPPORTERS

Mountview extends a sincere thank you to the individuals and organisations who generously supported our work in 2023/24, including the following major donors and those who wish to remain anonymous.

The Backstage Trust

The Mackintosh Foundation

Southwark Council

The André Ptaszynski Memorial Fund

Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation

Arts Council England

The Audience Club

The Champniss Foundation

Crossroads Live

The Emily Oulton Memorial Fund

The Foyle Foundation

Greater London Authority

The Gyearbuor Asante Memorial Fund

The Harold Hyam Wingate Foundation

Michael Harrison

The Leverhulme Trust

Jamie Lonsdale

LW Theatres

Maria Björnson Memorial Fund

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Angus Hanton

Johnny Levy

Scott and Laura Malkin

Tali Pelman

John Reiss and Freda Matassa

Sir Howard Panter

Joanna Santinon

Anthony Van Laast CBE

Philip Walters

THANK YOU!



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