

MOUNTVIEW



DEVELOPMENT IMPACT REPORT
2024/25

INTRODUCTION

What an extraordinary year it has been at Mountview! Across our studios, theatres and rehearsal spaces, creativity has flourished - powered by the talent, ambition and generosity of our students, staff, artists and supporters. Each day Mountview brings together professional training, community participation and industry collaboration in ways that reflect who we are: a place where artistic excellence and access go hand in hand.

As well as running a busy Peckham campus, I'm delighted to see our team reaching new learners across the country with brand new Certificate of Higher Education training in Birmingham, Exeter and Hertford (alongside our established hub in Manchester). Our new Group Syllabus for Mountview Exams has been ripping up the rule book for musical theatre examinations and reached new learners too. Meanwhile, our Participation Team have inspired hundreds of Southwark-based children and young people through programmes like Generation Next, Peckham Sessions, Open Dress Rehearsals and school workshops.

As we look back on a busy, impactful year of activity, I want to thank you for your interest in and support for Mountview and invite you to join us for one of our many splendid shows soon.



SALLY ANN GRITTON

Principal



OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

This year, Mountview continued to combine world-class training with a deep commitment to access, inclusion and community. These figures offer a snapshot of the scale, reach and impact of our work locally in Southwark and across the UK and internationally.

Learning With Us

537 students trained with us at **5** different locations in the UK

19% students came from Black and Global Majority backgrounds

18% students identified as D/deaf, disabled and/or neurodivergent

15,106 audience members attended **38** different productions

Industry-Ready Graduates

100% of undergraduates achieved a First or Upper Second-Class degree

98% of BA Performance graduates signed with an agent within four months

48% of BA Performance graduates secured professional work within 4 months of graduating

46% of postgraduates achieved a Distinction

Supporting Students to Thrive

£306,517 awarded in scholarships for students in financial need

90 students from across our courses, at all levels of study, received scholarship support

£20,125 awarded in emergency grants for students through the Judi Dench Fund for Access to Drama Training

Investing in Our Community

669 enrolments on Generation Next with **474** bursaries awarded

£135,000 directly invested in Southwark-based individuals, artists, organisations and community groups

908 pupils engaged through creative workshops in schools

£14,000 worth of free or discounted tickets provided for schools and community groups



ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS



Our training provides an exceptional vocational education which develops our alumni into multi-skilled trailblazers as performers, writers, creatives, and production artists. Major industry accolades this year include:

Chumisa Dornford-May (BA Musical Theatre 2023)

Olivier Award nominee – Best Actress in a Musical (*Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812*)

Lauren Drew (BA Musical Theatre 2016)

Olivier Award nominee – Best Actress in a Musical (*Titanique*)

Beverley Klein (BA Acting 1978)

Olivier Award nominee – Best Supporting Actress in a Musical (*Fiddler on the Roof*)

Anne Odeke (MA Acting 2013)

Black British Theatre Awards Winner – Best Playwright

WhatsOnStage Awards nominee – Best Performer in a Play & Best New Play (*Princess Essex*)

Tom Rogers (MA Musical Theatre 2009)

Emmy Award Winner (Sports) – Outstanding Documentary Series for *Formula 1: Drive to Survive* as Co-Executive Producer

Kat Ronney (BA Musical Theatre 2019)

The Stage Debut Awards nominee – Best West End Debut Performer (*Titanique*)

Tom Xander (BA Musical Theatre 2017)

Olivier Award nominee – Best Supporting Actor in a Musical

WhatsOnStage Award nominee – Best Supporting Performer in a Musical (*Mean Girls*)

24/25 GRADUATE ACHIEVEMENTS



Our 2024-25 graduates are already making their mark across industry in a range of roles on and off stage, and across the creative industries. Here are just a few examples of their extensive work so far:

Creatives & Production Arts

- Ryan Littler joined *Starlight Express* as a Lighting Technician
- Ben Spreckley is Deputy Senior Lighting Technician for *Operation Mincemeat*
- Owen Spencer is Assistant Stage Manager Book Cover for the *Hamilton* UK tour
- Saranna Parlone joins *The Mousetrap* as both cast member and Assistant Stage Manager
- Irene Saviozzi worked as Assistant Stage Manager on *Hedda* for the Orange Tree

On Stage & On Tour

- Candace Furbert stars as Muse Thalia in *Hercules* at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane
- Kiera Milward features in *The Hunger Games: Onstage* as Swing/1st Cover Katniss
- Charlie Preston plays the lead role in *Witness for the Prosecution*
- Aquira Bailey-Browne played Gertrude in a regional tour of *Hamlet*

On Screen, TV & Recorded Media

- Django Bevan won the prestigious Carlton Hobbs Award, and joins the BBC Radio Drama Company
- Jax Guerrero will feature in upcoming film *The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping*
- Talia Robens was a guest lead in TV series *Beyond Paradise* for the BBC.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

“Scholarships are not just financial support – they are fundamental to creating genuine inclusivity at Mountview.”

Dr. Sherrill Gow, Director of Learning & Teaching, Mountview

We believe talent and potential – not financial circumstances – should determine who trains at Mountview, but the reality is that over 50% of students need financial support to attend. With the costs of living and training rising faster than student loans, scholarships are a vital tool.

This year, 1 in 6 Mountview students received a scholarship, with total support exceeding £306,000. This is thanks to the generosity of our supporters, including new support from LW Theatres x Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, continuing support from major supporters, The Leverhulme Trust, Crossroads Live and Christina Smith Foundation, and many, many more.

Together we’re making the arts a viable career path for everyone, regardless of background, and creating a more representative sector. In 2024-25:

- 31% of scholarship recipients were Black & Global Majority
- 36% identified as D/deaf, disabled and/or neurodivergent
- 77% came from households with incomes under £37,000 per year



“I am trying my hardest to prove that I can do something with my life and be successful. This scholarship means everything to me [...] I would never have been able to afford or even attend university without it.”

Mimi Storey, Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation x LW Theatres Scholar (FdA Technical Production, 2024-present).



“I applied to Mountview wanting to pursue my true passion in becoming an actor/performer and learning the foundations. [The scholarship meant] I could successfully support myself whilst focusing on settling at Mountview - going toward rent, supplies, bills etc.”

Nimi Spiff, Leverhulme Arts Scholar 2024-25, finalist in The Stephen Sondheim Society Student Performer of the Year 2025 (MA Musical Theatre, 2025)

THE JUDI DENCH FUND FOR ACCESS TO DRAMA TRAINING

Due to the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, many students need extra financial support during their studies at Mountview. The Judi Dench Fund provides access to wellbeing resources, support with learning adjustments, and emergency financial support when unforeseen financial challenges arise.

Student Welfare: Mental Health & Wellbeing

Mountview's dedicated Student Welfare Manager, Amy Barber, is available for one-to-one meetings throughout the year and provides students with guidance and support in many areas of mental health and wellbeing. In 2024-25 :

- **90 students** accessed confidential one-to-one support
- **72 students accessed free counselling sessions** - amounting to **576 sessions** in total
- **83 students** with Specific Learning Differences were supported with reasonable adjustments to support their training and individual learning needs.

In the 2025 National Student Survey, over **92% of Mountview students** reported that our mental wellbeing support services are very good or good.

Emergency Grants

As the costs of living and training in London continue to rise, demand for emergency financial support from our students is on the increase, with 1 in 2 seeking some form of financial aid during their degree. In 2024-25, **33 emergency grants were awarded, totalling £20,125**. This funding supported students with:

- Rent
- Living Costs
- Diagnostic Assessments & Medical Costs



"When I was offered a place at Mountview, my financial circumstances made it nearly impossible for me. Thanks to the Judi Dench Fund, I was able to find comfort and support in knowing I could take on [my studies] and achieve my goals [...] thanks to the financial support I've received."

Louis Matthews
Crossroads Live Scholar and Judi Dench Fund beneficiary
(BA Actor Musicianship 2023-2026)

PARTICIPATION

Everyone should be able to explore and develop their creativity, so we're dismantling barriers to the arts and opening our building to the people of Peckham and beyond.

Peckham's community is young, diverse, and dynamic: 70% of residents are Black & Global Majority and 30% are aged 25 or younger. However, inequality is high and many face barriers to the arts: 60% of households face one form of deprivation or more ([Census 2021](#)).

We work with and for residents to inspire lifelong learning and help them explore their creativity. Last year, **759** took part in creative workshops led by local artists at Mountview, **928** attended creative workshops in schools, and **759** attended free Open Dress Rehearsal Performances.



By taking part in initiatives at Mountview, Southwark residents:

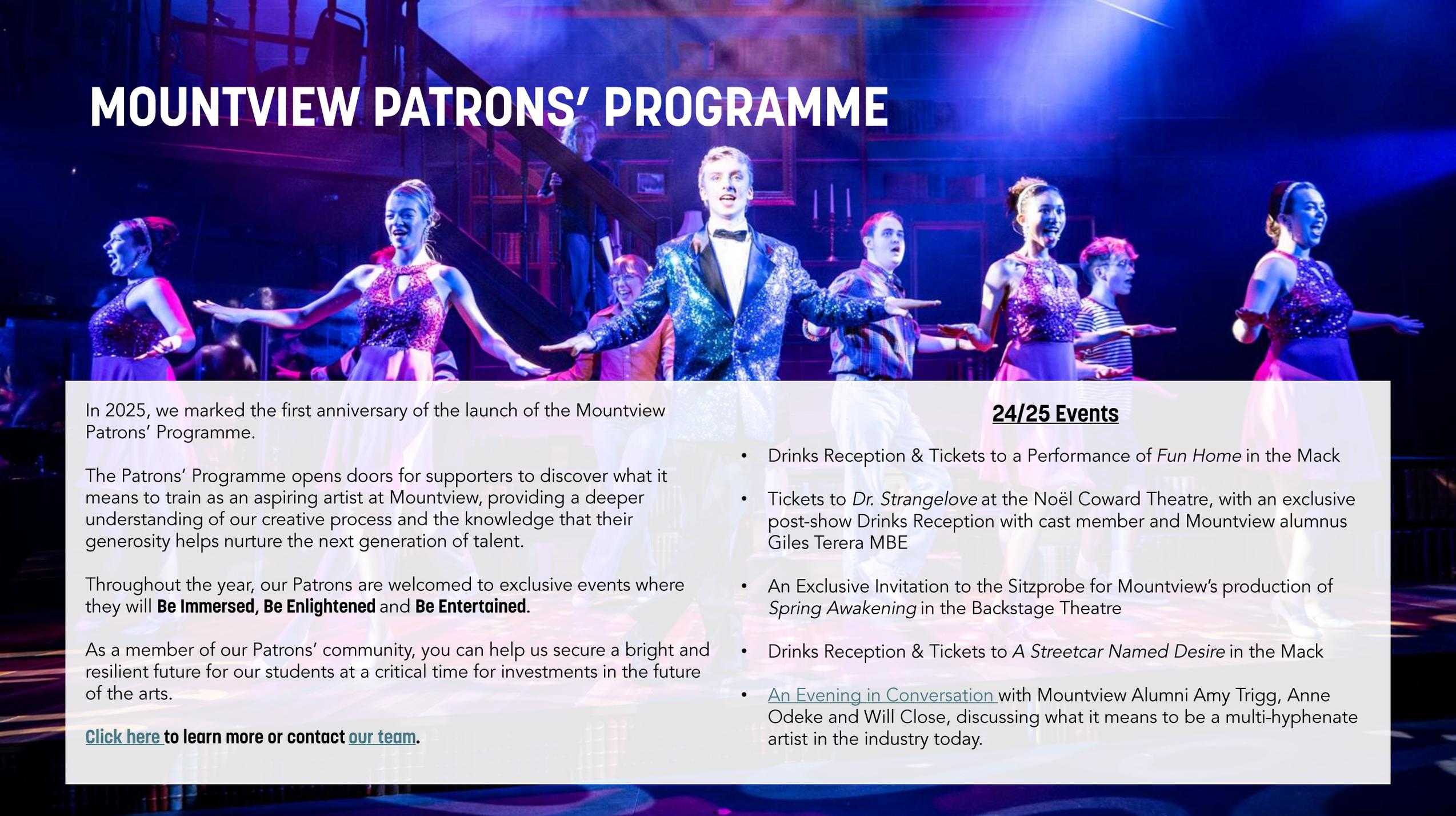
- Become more connected to Mountview; **100%** of Peckham Sessions artists and participants said they wanted to join more activities at Mountview.
- Become more skilled, creative, confident and connected; **94%** of regular workshop participants saw positive changes thanks to Generation Next, our weekend term-time workshops
- Discover their creativity and pursue their creative ambitions; several participants progressed to study with us at CertHE and Undergraduate Level.



"When I joined back when I was 11-12 years old, I was a quiet, shy kid... I was the kid that would always sit in the back, in the corner. I was one of the oldest people when I left. I had grown to become more outspoken, more of a leader, more confident."

Javan Crosbie-Panton, Generation Next Alumnus and Mountview CertHE Acting Student 2024-25.

MOUNTVIEW PATRONS' PROGRAMME



In 2025, we marked the first anniversary of the launch of the Mountview Patrons' Programme.

The Patrons' Programme opens doors for supporters to discover what it means to train as an aspiring artist at Mountview, providing a deeper understanding of our creative process and the knowledge that their generosity helps nurture the next generation of talent.

Throughout the year, our Patrons are welcomed to exclusive events where they will **Be Immersed, Be Enlightened** and **Be Entertained**.

As a member of our Patrons' community, you can help us secure a bright and resilient future for our students at a critical time for investments in the future of the arts.

[Click here to learn more or contact our team.](#)

24/25 Events

- Drinks Reception & Tickets to a Performance of *Fun Home* in the Mack
- Tickets to *Dr. Strangelove* at the Noël Coward Theatre, with an exclusive post-show Drinks Reception with cast member and Mountview alumnus Giles Terera MBE
- An Exclusive Invitation to the Sitzprobe for Mountview's production of *Spring Awakening* in the Backstage Theatre
- Drinks Reception & Tickets to *A Streetcar Named Desire* in the Mack
- [An Evening in Conversation](#) with Mountview Alumni Amy Trigg, Anne Odeke and Will Close, discussing what it means to be a multi-hyphenate artist in the industry today.

THE ANDRÉ PTASZYNSKI MEMORIAL FUND

The André Ptaszynski Memorial Fund was established in 2021 by friends, family and colleagues of André Ptaszynski, to celebrate his life and legacy as one of the industry's best-loved producers. In 2024-25, the Fund supported three incredible initiatives:

- The Judi Dench Fund for Access to Drama Training
- The Ptaszynski Prize for Producing
- The Ptaszynski Producer

Ptaszynski Producer 2024-25

Enyonam Ansah is a south London-based creative with a passion for storytelling and community engagement, who has previously participated in the Almeida's Young Producers and the Young Vic's Young Associate programmes. Since joining Mountview, Enyo has:

- Worked on the Third-Year BA Acting films, helping students adapt to acting for screen,
- Delivered projects with local communities alongside the Participation team,
- Supported our Third-Year BA Actor Musicians with their production of *Machinal*.

Enyo will continue in her role as Ptaszynski Producer into 2026, with many more exciting projects to come in the months ahead.

The Ptaszynski Prize for Producing

This prize is awarded annually to a graduating MA Creative Producing student, and this year's recipient was **Nico Bowden**.

Nico joined Mountview after studying for a law degree. She's described by our MA Creative Producing Course Leader, Dawn Ingleson, as an individual who "wants to make a difference and leads with joy and a sense of community". Her practice seeks to build community and celebrate the arts.

For her creative project in her final term, Nico wrote and produced *Stroke in the Sun*, which debuted at Mountview's VIEW Festival in June 2025. It has since been programmed at Theatre Peckham, directed by Joy Nesbitt and starring fellow Mountview graduate, Chantal Mbadinuju (BA Acting 2025).

"Receiving this award has solidified so many of my core beliefs about creative practice and allowed me the confidence to continue moving forward with understanding, curiosity and kindness at the heart of every action I take."

Nico Bowden
Ptaszynski Prize for Producing Winner 2025
(MA Creative Producing 2025)

Image: Nico Bowden and Enyo Ansah (L-R) at Mountview Graduation in November 2025.



MOUNTVIEW EXAMS (MX)

At Mountview, 'We Do Things Differently' and **Mountview Exams (MX)** are a modern, inclusive alternative offer to traditional performance exams, designed with a syllabus that gives full creative agency and an opportunity to perform in front of a live audience in a supportive and joyful environment. Our examiners are Mountview-trained professionals who provide detailed, actionable feedback designed to build confidence. Feedback from candidates noted, "watching the others perform was part of the learning" and they "enjoyed the freedom of being able to choose [their] own pieces."

This year, we launched the Group Musical Theatre Syllabus to complement our existing Solo Musical Theatre Syllabus. We announced the launch by partnering with **British Youth Music Theatre**, assessing all of their productions and development camps in the 2025 season.

In total, we're thrilled to have awarded **597 certificates** and recruited a total of **18 centres to deliver MX** across the country, with more in the pipeline for 2025-26.

"[The exams were] a wonderfully relaxed and positive experience... an exam day that felt organised, welcoming, and genuinely enjoyable for everyone involved."

Rachel Calvert, Centre Stage Theatre Academy (MX Centre)



CERTIFICATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

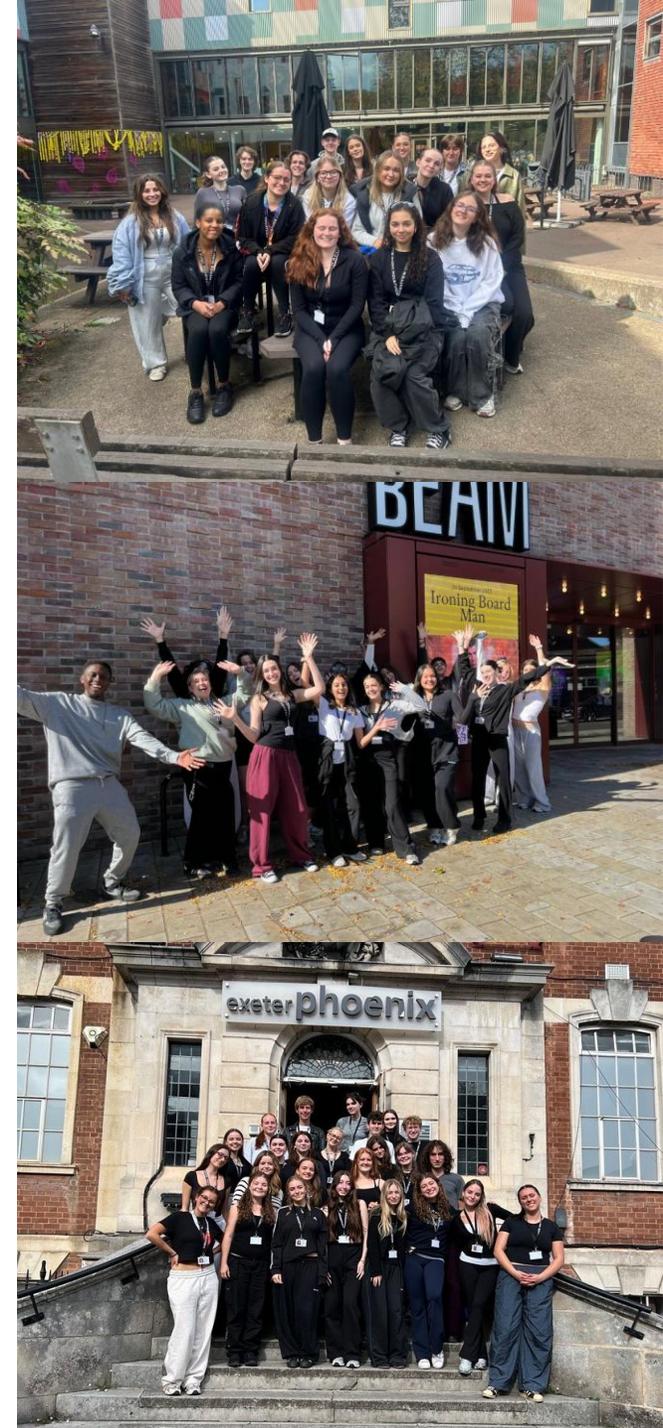
Since 2023, Mountview has joined forces with leading arts organisations across the country to bring world-class musical theatre training to people's doorsteps.

Following the launch of our first partnership with Z-arts in **Manchester**, this year we launched CertHE Musical Theatre courses in **Birmingham** (Midlands Arts Centre), **Exeter** (The Phoenix Arts Centre) and **Hertford** (BEAM).

This means learners can explore their passion, access the Student Loan book, and build their skills closer to home before committing to longer-term study. At the end, they receive a recognised qualification and can use their experience to pursue further study or enter the industry straightaway.

This year, we reached **119 students**, with **98% receiving certificates**. Students have since accessed further performing arts training at BA and MA levels at Mountview, and at other schools across the country.

As a sector, we are stronger when we work together, and we're excited to launch more partnerships across the UK in the years to come.



INDUSTRY & COMMUNITY



At Mountview, 'We Are Creatively Connected' and committed to giving back to our community in Peckham, Southeast London. This year, we invested £135,000 worth of direct support to Southwark-based individuals, artists, organisations and community groups.

This includes over £35,000 worth of subsidised hires, including appointing 16 designated Community Partners who received 25% discounts on studio bookings, supporting creative activity and employment across the borough. Partners included Afro Arts, Care2Dance, DK Initiative Theatre, DABB Official, TTA Peckham and Project Motiv8.

As well as an important community anchor, we were also a hub for the commercial and subsidised theatre sector welcoming Crossroads Live, Trafalgar Entertainment, National Theatre, Old Vic Theatre, ATG and many more.

"Being able to welcome such a wide range of local artists and community organisations, alongside commercial producers and NPO organisations into our building enriches Mountview's culture of art and education for all."

Kate Cleverley, Mountview Sales & Events Manager

HOW YOU CAN HELP

By supporting Mountview, you will become an integral part of our community and play a vital role in shaping the next generation of artists, and supporting us to make the arts accessible and a viable career path for all.

You can help us make a difference by:

- **Establishing a Scholarship**, to give the gift of opportunity to students from low-income households towards the costs of professional training,
- **Making a regular donation** towards one of our initiatives like the Judi Dench Fund or Generation Next,
- **Becoming a Patron** and joining our community of dedicated advocates, who enjoy access to exclusive events and insights throughout the year, or
- **Wishing us a Happy Birthday** with a gift to commemorate our 80th Birthday, which we'll be celebrating through a host of exciting events and initiatives across 2025/26.

If you would like to build a closer relationship with Mountview or discuss the impact your support could have for an aspiring artist, 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 2024-25, including those who wish to remain anonymous.

The Backstage Trust
The Mackintosh Foundation
Southwark Council

The André Ptaszynski Memorial Fund
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The Audience Club
The Champriss Foundation
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Tali Pelman
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Dame Rosemary Squire and Sir Howard Panter
Teale Charitable Trust

MOUNTVIEW FOUNDING PATRONS

Iain Barbour and Rebecca Wilmot
Helen Enright
Angus Hanton
Johnny Levy

Scott and Laura Malkin
Tali Pelman
John Reiss & Freda Matassa
Dame Rosemary Squire and Sir Howard Panter

Joanna Santinon
Anthony Van Laast CBE
Philip Walters

THANK YOU!



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MOUNTVIEW

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