

Young Vic

Press Release – Tuesday 16 April 2024

Images available [here](#)

NEW WORK ANNOUNCED BY YOUNG VIC TAKING PART AND THE CREATORS PROGRAM

- *MANTELPEACE*, a free immersive exhibition drawing on the thoughts and experiences of young men in Lambeth and Southwark and celebrating the transition from boyhood to manhood. It will be curated by a group of local Young Curators and Young Consultants with Lead Artist Adam Karim, Sound Designer and Composer Duramaney Kamara and Set Designer Finlay Jenner and runs in the Maria and Clare Theatre from 9 – 20 July.
- *Girl in the Machine*, Stef Smith's electrifying story exploring human and technological interaction, will be directed by 2024 Genesis Future Director Award recipient Annie Kershaw with design by Khadija Raza in the Clare Theatre from 16 – 26 October.
- Neighbourhood Theatre launches *The Collective*, bringing together 50 multi-disciplinary artists from Lambeth and Southwark who will create an epic new show from scratch, led by Director Michelle Payne, to be staged at the Young Vic in 2025.

The **Young Vic Theatre** today announces brand new work from **Taking Part** and the **Creators Program**.

MANTELPEACE is a free immersive exhibition from Taking Part providing an eye-opening glimpse into the worlds of young men growing up in London today (9 – 20 July); **Annie Kershaw** will direct an electrifying new production of Stef Smith's ***The Girl in the Machine*** as part of the **Creators Program** and **Genesis Future Directors Award** program (16 – 26 October), and **Taking Part's Neighbourhood Theatre launches *The Collective***, a new programme bringing together 50 artists to create an epic new show staged at the Young Vic in 2025.

Shereen Jasmin Phillips, Director of Taking Part, said: *“Our new Taking Part projects promise to bring light and fun to the Young Vic. MANTELPEACE focusses on the joy of journeying through teenage years to manhood, creating a space where young men from our community can be brave, support each other, build and share connections through illustration, music, sound and movement. The Collective will explore and redefine the co-creation of a show, utilising varied artistry from people's everyday lives in an epic new production showcasing that everyone has the potential to explore their creativity. Working with Lead Artist Adam Karim on MANTELPEACE and Director Michelle Payne on The Collective, I can't wait to see what all our participants will discover, create and curate for our audiences.”*

Sue Emmas, Associate Artistic Director of the Young Vic said: *“We are excited to be working with Annie Kershaw on *Girl in the Machine*, an exceptional play by Stef Smith. We've been lucky enough to work with Annie as an assistant director and we're looking forward to collaborating with her as an artist as she continues her Young Vic journey. With the valued and continuing support of the Genesis Foundation, Annie will realise her vision for this new production opening in the autumn.”*

Taking Part, the Young Vic's Creative Engagement Department, works with young people, adults, schools, and the local community in Lambeth and Southwark, engaging with over 15,000 people a year and providing free tickets to all shows and free creative and artistic opportunities to participants. Taking Part's three strands, Learning, Participation, and Neighbourhood Theatre, create work that is the beating heart of the organisation.

The Young Vic's **Creators Program** for multi- and anti-disciplinary artists is the only scheme of its kind. Launched in 2001, and formerly known as the Directors Program, it offers artists and producers a unique opportunity to develop their craft through opportunities that range from trainee and assistant director roles to a two-year residency through the Genesis Fellow/Associate Director position. The Genesis Network provides an online community to over 2,500 artists and producers. Each year, the recipient of the Genesis Future Directors Award directs a show in the Clare Theatre with full support from the Young Vic team.

MANTELPEACE

A Taking Part Exhibition from Young Vic

Maria and Clare Theatre

Tuesday 9 – Saturday 20 July

This summer get an eye-opening glimpse into the worlds of young men growing up in London today. **MANTELPEACE** is a free immersive exhibition that celebrates the transition from boyhood to manhood and breaks open the stereotypes of masculinity to embrace boundless possibilities.

The exhibition will draw on the thoughts and experiences of young men in Lambeth and Southwark and is curated by a group of local Young Curators and Young Consultants, working with Lead Artist **Adam Karim**, Sound Designer and Composer **Duramane Kamara**, Set Designer **Finlay Jenner**. With contributions from **Untold Creative Training, Southwark Inclusive Learning Service, Arco Academy** and **Lansdowne School**. Young Curators, Young Consultants and Guest Artists to be announced.

Adam Karim is a freelance theatre director and facilitator. As Donmar Warehouse's Resident Assistant Director '23, his credits include *Clyde's*, *When Winston Went To War With The Wireless*, *Trouble In Butetown*. Directing Credits include *Platform* (East15), *Pressure Drop* (Immediate Theatre), *The Yard*, *Schools Tour*. *Second Person Narrative* (RBSW / Clapham Omnibus). Other Assistant Directing includes: *The P-Word* (Bush Theatre), *Sorry You're Not A Winner* (Paines Plough).

Finlay Jenner is a performance designer and theatre maker from South London. He trained at Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts and was a 2023 recipient of The Linbury Prize. He works across various fields of performance, including dance, opera, and diverse forms of theatre.

Duramane Kamara was born into a family of afro-jazz musicians, becoming infatuated with instruments, live music and production from a young age. Reggae, jazz and afro-beat continue to influence his composition, sound design and music production, in addition to hip hop and electronic influences. Duramane is also a recording artist and producer who releases music under his indie label 'BE FREE 888 REPERTOIRE'. Credits include; *Shifters*, *August in England* (Bush Theatre), *Cinderella* (Brixton House), *Clyde's* (Donmar Warehouse), *Suckerpunch* (Queens Theatre Hornchurch), *Bootycandy* (Gate Theatre), *Anansi The Spider* (Unicorn Theatre).

Tickets for **MANTELPEACE** will be available later in the year.

Girl in the Machine
By Stef Smith
Directed by Annie Kershaw

Clare Theatre
Wednesday 16 – Saturday 26 October

Genesis Future Directors Award 2024 recipient Annie Kershaw brings an electrifying production of award-winning **Stef Smith's *Girl in the Machine*** to the Young Vic this autumn.

The gap is getting smaller between the human and the hardware.

Polly loves Rowen but lately that hasn't felt like enough. Then Rowen brings home the Black Box, with its promises to cure depression, and a flick of a switch changes everything. As Polly becomes more distant from the person she planned to share her life with, will her love for Rowen be enough to resist the draw of eternal bliss that the Black Box offers?

Annie Kershaw is currently the Carne Deputy Director at Jermyn Street Theatre. She was Associate Director on *Best of Enemies* in the West End after being the Jerwood Assistant Director of the Young Vic and Headlong co-production, as part of the Young Vic's Jerwood Assistant Director Programme, supported by Jerwood Arts. Her credits as Director include *Hedda Gabler*, *Safe* (Reading Rep); *Light* (Five Shorts at the Young Vic); *It's A Flawed World After All* (Flawstate); *THIS IS NOT A PROTEST* (Reading Thames Festival); *Ulysses* (Jermyn Street Theatre).

The **Genesis Future Directors Award** program is made possible by the **Genesis Foundation** and provides early-career directors with the opportunity to explore and develop their craft by creating their first fully resourced production at the Young Vic, with mentoring and support from the theatre's core artistic team.

Girl in the Machine is designed by **Khadija Raza**, casting is by **Jacob Sparrow**.

Tickets for ***Girl in the Machine*** are on sale today at www.youngvic.org

Captioned Performances: Wed 23 October, 7.45pm

BSL Performance: Thu 24 October, 7.45pm

Audio Described Performances: Fri 25 October, 7.45pm

Neighbourhood Theatre Presents: The Collective
A Taking Part Project from Young Vic

Neighbourhood Theatre is launching ***The Collective***: 50 artists from Lambeth and Southwark who will create an epic new show from scratch which will be staged at the Young Vic in January 2025.

Led by director **Michelle Payne** and supported by creative consultants, members of the group will collaborate in learning key skills in devising, curation, design, and the building blocks to creating a show.

The Collective is open to anyone who has been part of a Neighbourhood Theatre project or production in the past 5 years. It will be a multi-disciplinary group of 50 that reflect key moments in the creative process and aims to bring together people covering a range of artistic skills and interests, for example, anything from acting, writing, sound and lighting design to DJing, hairdressing, make-up artistry, baking, floristry and more.

With commitment, community and collaboration as the central focus, the group will embark on this chapter with openness and creativity. At the start of the process, Taking Part will pose the question to The Collective: “What does co-creation look like when we interrogate the traditional conventions of making multi-disciplinary art that centers creative exploration and joy?”

Members of *The Collective* will be recruited through a [series of workshops](#) and will meet weekly for 8 months from June 2024.

Michelle Payne was recipient of the Regional Theatre Young Directors’ Scheme, based at Mercury Theatre Colchester, and worked on Future Forms with the Donmar Warehouse. Directing credits include *The Good Enough Mums Club* (UK Tour); *To Have & To Hold* (The Bush/Mercury Theatre); *Jess by Stephanie Silver* (Digital Theatre); *Find Me* (VAULT Festival). Writer & director credits include *Squad Goals* (Dagenham & Redbridge FC); *Full Circle* (Brewery Fringe Festival, Best in Fringe 2019). Associate/Resident Director Credits include UK tours of *The House With Chicken Legs*, *Bugsy Malone*, *Pigs Might Fly*.

-ENDS-

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Images: [available here](#)

About the Young Vic Theatre

Founded in 1970 as a space for world-premiere productions and unexpected takes on classic plays that speak urgently to our present, the Young Vic Theatre has been one of London’s leading theatres for more than fifty years.

Welcoming more than 100,000 visitors a year to its London Waterloo location, the Young Vic stands out in the city’s cultural landscape for balancing daring commercial drive, success and artistic flair with genuine grassroots social impact change in our neighbourhood. We forge deep connections in our neighbourhood through our Taking Part programme, where we engage with over 15,000 people every year via a wide range of projects, from skills-based workshops to on-stage performances. We give 10% of our tickets free to schools and neighbours, irrespective of box office demand, and we are committed to keeping ticket prices low.

The Young Vic's Creators Program is our space for multi- and anti-disciplinary artists, and is the only scheme of its kind. Launched in 2001, and formerly known as the Directors Program, we offer artists and producers a unique opportunity to develop their craft through opportunities that range from trainee and assistant director roles to a two-year residency through the Genesis Fellow/Associate Director position. The Genesis Network provides an online community to over 2,500 artists and producers. Each year, the recipient of the Genesis Future Directors Award directs a show in the Clare Theatre with full support from the Young Vic team.

Built upon the principles of access, innovation, and community, the Young Vic is deepening its roots nationally and internationally. Recent transfers include a *Death of a Salesman* and *The Collaboration* on Broadway, and *Best of Enemies* and Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!* in the West End.

The Young Vic's founding spirit is iconoclastic and pushing at the forefront of possibility, bringing together artists and audiences on a global scale and using the power of stories to change our world.

Artistic Director: Kwame Kwei-Armah

Executive Director: Lucy Davies

www.youngvic.org

The Young Vic's annual activities are made possible with public funding from Arts Council England.

We thank Lambeth Council and Southwark Council for their ongoing support.

Additional support is provided by The Black Heart Foundation and the Genesis Foundation.

We gratefully acknowledge Ian Burford and Alec Cannell for generously supporting the Young Vic's mission.

About the Genesis Foundation

The Genesis Foundation has supported the Young Vic's Directors Program (now Creators Program) since its inception 20 years ago and currently funds the Genesis Future Directors Award and the Genesis Fellow.

The Foundation was founded by John Studzinski and has supported thousands of artists in their career development since 2001. Through its partnership model, it provides opportunities for talented artists, principally in theatre and music.

The Foundation's focus is on partnerships with leading UK arts organisations that include the Almeida Theatre, National Theatre, Young Vic and The Sixteen, and on training initiatives - such as the Genesis Theatre Design programme, and the Genesis Future Curators programme at the Royal Academy of Arts – that equip emerging artists for life as a creative professional.

For more information, please visit genesisfoundation.org.uk