

Experimental Music Theatre Workshop Hits a High Note

On Friday, the 21st of October, The Barbican hosted an experimental music theatre workshop called 'The Lost Records'. Attracting varied age groups; the session highlighted how music bridges intergenerational gaps, and impacts lives. The 'Space Between Us' initiative was organised by an inclusive theatre company 'Chickenshed Theatre', in collaboration with community organisation 'Flourishing Lives'.

"We started off five years ago, and recently it's developed into a bigger programme, where we're looking at bringing people into a space and then removing the space between them", says Rachel Yates, Programme Manager of 'Space Between Us'.

Open to the public, the workshops included group discussions along with guided performances, which were recorded to be used in the main performance, scheduled for July next year.

Chickenshed volunteers and ex-students, Finn Kebbe, Keran Patel and Eloise Runnette, hosted and participated in the interactive Lost Records workshop. "I'd spent 5 years home-schooling, so I got to 16 and wanted to be with people my own age," says Finn, who performs at the sessions. "I hadn't done any GCSEs, but they let me in anyway, and suddenly I was in a course with all these amazing people doing arts and performing shows, it was amazing!"

Millie Rolle has been part of the Chickenshed Youth Theatre for seven years. "I returned to Chickenshed after my degree because I wanted to be in this space that had nurtured me and given me space for my creativity," she explains. "I've worked as a director in the Youth Theatre Company, even done a stint in the building side of things, and now I mainly work to develop the Diversity and Inclusion training programmes."

David McDonagh, Programme Director at 'Flourishing Lives' works with senior citizens and aims to showcase the benefits of engaging in art and music for older people, through a series of quarterly workshops scheduled at The Barbican with different partner organisations. "Intergenerational work is really important in creating a third point of focus, so the art we're creating is what we're looking at rather than looking at the differences between us, and so those all kind of fade away."

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2) Millie Rolle

3) Finn Kebbe

4) David McDonagh