



Supporter **Spotlight**

Welcome to your round-up of membership benefits, offers, event dates and fundraising news to accompany our new season brochure.

BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME

The year has got off to a fantastic start with the chance for the team to meet many of you at our Pantomime Relaxed Performance reception, workshop performance in the Patrick Studio of brand-new musical *This is a Love Story* and at the sparkling fundraising gala dinner alongside Matthew Bourne's *Edward Scissorhands*.

With the arrival of Emma Thompson as our Corporate Development Manager, we have another reason to be excited about everything we

can achieve together with your support during our 125th anniversary season and beyond - thank you!

See you in the theatre very soon.

Judith, Emma, Rachel and Anouk
Fundraising and Development Team

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Join us at one of our special experiences across our stages and sites:

- **JUN** Voguing Curtain Raiser at **B-SIDE Hip Hop Festival**
- **THU 27 JUN** Spectacular Fundraising Gala at **Hamilton**
- **SEP** 125 Years Heritage Open Day
- **WED 11 SEP** Online Training for Relaxed Performance Volunteers
- **WED 23 OCT** Relaxed Performance at **Disney's Aladdin**
- **OCT** Curtain Raiser at **Birmingham Royal Ballet's Luna**
- 2025**
- **WED 29 JAN** Relaxed Performance Reception at **Peter Pan**
- **FEB** Gala Night at **Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake**



MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Have you seen the Circle Lounge has introduced a delicious new lunchtime menu? As a Patron show your membership card to enjoy 20% discount during your visit and on Front of House food & drink purchases. For information about Patron ticket offers and other membership benefits click on birminghamhippodrome.com/patronshome



WILL YOU BE IN THE ROOM WHERE IT HAPPENS?

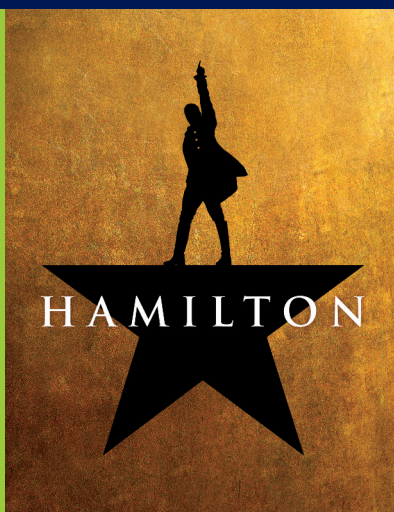
Join us on Thu 27 Jun for our spectacular fundraising gala night at the globally acclaimed musical, **Hamilton**.

Help us raise vital funds for **Hippodrome Unlocked** as part of our milestone 125th anniversary season of celebrations.

Enjoy a night of world-class entertainment and first-class hospitality with family and friends or colleagues and clients.

More information at birminghamhippodrome.com/hamiltongala

Book your places now, £225 pp with Anouk on 0121 689 3068



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Meet who we think may well be one of our longest-standing supporters, Andy Le Marr! Joining the **Ancient Order of Hippos** in 1982, Andy has been supporting the Hippodrome ever since - that's over 40 years! A variety and cabaret performer with a love for the stage, Andy has produced and starred in many shows that have raised thousands of pounds for charitable causes.



"I have maintained my connection with Birmingham Hippodrome as a supporter and theatre club member and have enjoyed many performances over the years. I think that everyone should experience the 'theatre' at least once in a lifetime, it is so magical from the lighting, to costumes, the whole ambience for me is so electrifying!"

Thank you, Andy, for your dedication and passion for theatre. If you, or someone you know, would like to become a Patron, we'd love to hear from you.

Supporter Success

Together, look at what we've achieved...



The sold-out fundraising dinner alongside Matthew Bourne's scintillating *Edward Scissorhands* dazzled 100 guests and raised over £5,000 in support of **Curtain Raisers**, our young dance talent development programme. Tori, pictured left, a participant in the **Ailey 2 Curtain Raiser**, outlined her experience of how meeting other young dancers and working with professional artists boosted her confidence and helped to set her sights ever higher. To find out more about **Curtain Raisers** check out the new webpage birminghamhippodrome.com/curtainraisers. To receive invitations to future **Curtain Raiser** studio rehearsals and performances why not join our **Curtain Raiser Circle**? Call Rachel on 0121 689 3070 for more details.

A specially invited audience were wowed by a workshop performance of *This Is a Love Story* in the Patrick Studio last month. This was the very first showing of a new production in development from our New Musical Theatre department. In the audience was arts philanthropist, Charles Holloway, (pictured right with Jon Gilchrist), Founding Supporter of the new department who said, "It's very encouraging to see an organisation like Birmingham Hippodrome commit to making new work with national and regional partners, creating new opportunities, especially for writers and creatives... I'm looking forward to following developments closely over the coming months as this important work unfolds". We're excited to see more brilliant work from the team - keep an eye out for future announcements!



A huge Hippodrome shout-out to our volunteers who supported audiences at *Dear Santa* and the *Jack and the Beanstalk* Relaxed Performances. Our wonderful team of regular Patron volunteers - **Gareth, Katie, Ros & Trevor, Tony & Jude** were joined by first-time volunteers **Paul, Richard and Victoria**, alongside representatives from **St Philips, Eversheds Sutherland** and long-term Access supporter **HSBC**. Their welcoming smiles and tireless efforts helped to make these specially adapted performances inclusive and an unforgettable experience for everyone. To be part of a heart-warming day at the theatre, look out for volunteer training dates being announced shortly.

Our Festivals team kicked off the year producing the dazzling Lunar New Year celebrations in Southside with partners **Birmingham Chinatown Business Association** and **Birmingham Chinese Festival Committee**. Sponsored by **Uber Eats**, this free family-friendly festival featured traditional and contemporary performances from professional artists and community acts. A record-breaking 38,000 crowd gathered in Southside on Hippodrome Square to celebrate the start of the Year of the Dragon and enjoy the main stage programme, traditional crafts and dance workshops, an art exhibition by a Taiwanese artist, street food stalls and marketplace. Thank you to everyone who joined us and see you for the celebrations in 2025!



We teamed up recently with British Italian artist **Charles Pedone** and held a live auction of his mixed media original artworks at The Grand Hotel in support of our youth programme. With sponsorship support from **Heligan Group**, 100 guests were hosted by BBC Radio WM presenter **Nikki Tapper** at a reception in the hotel's sumptuous Madeleine Bar. Auctioneer **Richard Winterton** helped us raise over £10,000 which will provide exceptional creative opportunities and experiences for local young people in underserved communities - our thanks to Charles, Nikki, Richard and Heligan Group!

We've been blown away by the incredible support for our **Big Give Arts for Impact fundraising campaign** in support of Hippodrome Unlocked. Thank you to over **150 generous donors, The Grimmitt Trust and Hortons Social Purpose Committee** who helped us raise over £27,000 smashing our initial target. These funds will help us to offer creative opportunities and experiences to young people in community settings and at the Hippodrome, helping to unlock creative talent. Finally, from the team (pictured right, Rachel, Emma, Anouk, Judith) a **standing ovation for Marie and Connor** who have donated to name a magnificent SEVEN seats in our auditorium - wow!



To find out more about our fundraising activities, become a member or to book for an event, please get in touch with the team on 0121 689 3068 or email fundraising@birminghamhippodrome.com