

Young Vic's Groundbreaking INNOVATE Programme Announces Visiting Project Associates and Research Partner

Taking Part, the creative engagement department at the Young Vic, today announces the addition of six Visiting Project Associates and the appointment of **Royal Holloway, University of London** researcher **Dr Yvonne Robinson** to **INNOVATE**, a radical two-year theatre-in-education programme designed to understand how the arts can enable students to engage, learn and thrive across all of their subjects. A collaboration between Young Vic Taking Part, two partner schools, multi-disciplinary artists and an advisory panel of educational and cultural experts, INNOVATE is exploring the role that artists and arts organisations can play in teaching the curriculum.

At the start of the 2021 academic year, INNOVATE embedded three multi-disciplinary artists at each partner secondary school, **South Bank University Academy** and **Dunraven School**, where over the past six months, the artists collaborated with teachers to co-create unique learning experiences. For 2022, six Visiting Project Associates will work across both schools to support INNOVATE by delivering specialist workshops, ad hoc project support and bespoke creative opportunities.

The INNOVATE Visiting Project Associates are **Anyebe Godwin, Bruno Correia, Nadège René, TD. Moyo, Vicky Moran** and **Vincent Shiels**. This increase in artists, the variety of artistic disciplines and the ability to respond to the needs and requests of the schools will broaden INNOVATE's impact as it is monitored by Dr Yvonne Robinson and Professor Helen Nicholson at Royal Holloway, University of London.

As INNOVATE Researcher, Dr Robinson will document, analyse and evaluate the successes, challenges and future of the flagship learning project. Their research aims to explore the programme's impact on teaching and learning approaches as well as the ability of the arts to influence students to understand, engage with and be excited by the concepts, modules and subjects they are studying. It will also find tangible ways to share the transferable learnings to benefit as many students as possible in the future.

**INNOVATE is supported by The Rix-Thompson-Rothenberg Foundation,
Newcomen Collett Foundation and the John Thaw Foundation.**

ENDS

For more information, please contact:

Karl-Lydie Jean-Baptiste, Press Officer

karllydie@youngvic.org

Kate Hassell, Interim Head of Press

kate@breadandbutterpr.uk

Dr Yvonne Robinson

Yvonne Robinson is a researcher with over ten years' experience of delivering commissioned research and evaluation within the arts and education sectors. Her PhD, obtained from University College London in 2004, examined the work of community arts organisations, and since then Yvonne has worked at the Nottingham Trent, Institute of Education, King's College London and London South Bank University, where she has held various senior research positions. Undertaking research and consultancy for government and public funding agencies, Yvonne has written on the value of the arts in promoting young peoples' wellbeing and fostering inclusive educational practice. Yvonne is also a trained actress.

Professor Helen Nicholson

Helen Nicholson is Professor of Theatre and Performance in the [Department of Drama, Theatre and Dance](#) at Royal Holloway, University of London. She has written several books on applied theatre, including research on the arts in dementia care, theatre education and performance with people who have experienced trauma, displacement and homelessness. She recently led research on the National Theatre's Public Acts Programme, a nationwide initiative of participatory performance with community partners. Helen's research has won major awards in both the UK and the United States, and she regularly works with academics and practitioners internationally, most recently in Scandinavia, India and Singapore.

About Royal Holloway, University of London

Royal Holloway, University of London, is ranked in the top 25 universities by the UK by the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide. Through world class research that expands minds and changes lives, the dedication of our teachers and the feel of the Royal Holloway experience, ours is a community that inspires individuals to succeed academically, socially and personally.

The university was founded by two social reformers who pioneered the ideal of education and knowledge for all who could benefit. Their vision lives on today. As one of the UK's leading research-intensive universities we are home to some of the world's foremost authorities in the sciences, arts, business, economics and law. We are strengthened by diversity, and welcome students and academics who travel from all over the world to study and work here, ensuring an international and multi-cultural perspective within a close knit and historic campus.

Royalholloway.ac.uk

About the Young Vic

For over fifty years, the Young Vic has produced new plays, classics, musicals, adaptations of books, short films, digital projects, and game-changing forms of theatre, attracting large audiences from many different backgrounds.

Based in London's Waterloo, 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 [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 theatre-makers a unique opportunity to develop their craft through skills workshops, peer-led projects, paid assistant roles through the [Genesis Fellow](#), the [Jerwood Assistant Director Program](#) and the [Boris Karloff Trainee Assistant Director Program](#), as well as access to the [Genesis Network](#). Twice a year, the recipient of the [Genesis Future Directors Award](#) directs a show in The Clare theatre at the Young Vic with full support from the Young Vic's creative, administrative and production teams, enabling us to support and nurture an emerging theatre artist as a part of the Young Vic programme.

For many years, the Young Vic has been synonymous with inclusivity, accessibility, and creativity. We catalyse debate and channel our work into the digital world, to reach new audiences and continue conversations outside of our four walls. We foster emerging talent and collaborate with some of the world's finest directors, performers and creatives; creating award-winning productions which engage with the world we live in.

Artistic Director: **Kwame Kwei-Armah**

Interim Executive Director: **Sarah Nicholson**

youngvic.org

Public Support



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Season Support

BANK OF AMERICA 



The Young Vic's 2022 season is also supported by the Genesis Foundation and IHS Markit. We gratefully acknowledge Ian Burford and Alec Cannell for generously supporting the Young Vic's mission.