MICHELLE PAYNE

c/o: Helen Mumby (The Soho Agency) 020 7471 7900 helen@thesohoagency.co.uk

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

2026	*LEGALLY BLONDE*	Dir: Nikolai Foster	UK Tour (ROYO x Leicester Curve)
2024/25	*DEAR EVAN HANSEN*	Dir: Adam Penford	UK Tour + Asia (ATG x Nottingham Playhouse)
2024	*ERROLS GARDEN*	Dir: Kate Golledge	UK Tour (DEM Productions)
2023	*PIGS MIGHT FLY*	Dir: Kate Golledge	UK Tour (DEM Productions)
2023	*SUMMER CAMP FOR…*	Dir: Christa Harris	Pleasance London / Summer Hall (Edinburgh Fringe)
2022	*HEADCASE*	Dir: Laura Keefe	The Bush

RESIDENT DIRECTOR

2026	*PADDINGTON THE MUSICAL*	Dir: Luke Sheppard	West End (The Savoy)
2023	*THE HOUSE WITH CHICKEN LEGS*	Dir: Oliver Lansley & James Seagar	UK Tour & Southbank Centre (Les Enfants Terribles)
2022/23	*BUGSY MALONE*	Dir: Sean Holmes	UK Tour & Alexandra Palace (Kenny Wax Ltd)

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

2022	*PRINCESS ESSEX*	Dir: Robin Belfield	Essex Tour
2019	*CINDERELLA*	Dir: Ryan McBryde	Mercury Theatre Colchester*

** Michelle was the recipient of the **Regional Theatre Young Directors' Scheme** 2019/20 placement, **resident at the Mercury Theatre Colchester**.*

DIRECTOR

Stage:

2025	*AITOPIA*	The Collective	Maria Studio - Young Vic Taking Part
2023	*GOOD ENOUGH MUMS CLUB*	Emily Beecher & Verity Quade	UK Tour - co-director with Sarah Meadows
2022	*TO HAVE & TO HOLD*	Michelle Payne	The Bush & Mercury Theatre Studios
2021	*ENTHUSIASTICALLY, YES!*	Payne & Webb	ALP & Aria Entertainment @ The Garrick
2021	*FUNDRAISED*	Hai Le	*WriteWild* for WildChild @ The Park Theatre
2020	*SQUAD GOALS*	Michelle Payne	Dagenham & Redbridge F.C.
2020	*FIND ME*	No Fixed Address	VAULT Festival
2019	*WALK OF SHAME*	Stephanie Silver	Tristan Bates & White Bear
2018	*FULL CIRCLE*	Michelle Payne	Tristan Bates, Drayton Arms & Brewery Fringe 2017
2017	*ORDINARY DAYS*	Adam Gwon	Ye Olde Rose & Crown *(MD: Henry Brennan)*
2017	*THE STAFF ROOM*	Michelle Payne	Edinburgh Fringe Festival

For Drama Schools:

2024	*AMERICAN IDIOT*	Green Day + Michael Mayer	Chichester Conservatoire - BA Musical Theatre
2024	*PIPPIN*	Stephen Schwartz	Mountview Academy of Performing Arts - BA Musical Theatre
2023	*LCM SHOWCASE*	Various	London College of Music - BA Actor-Musician, BA Acting & Theatre-Making
2023	*STORIES IN A PUB…*	Bryan Danielson	London College of Music - BA Acting & Theatre-
2022	*CHILDISH THINGS*	Bryan Danielson	London College of Music
2022	*DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS*	David Yazbeck + Jeffrey Lane	Chichester Conservatoire
2021	*THE LIBERATORS*	Michelle Payne	Performance Preparation Academy

R&Ds:

2025	*FLIP!*	Josh Bird & Giles Fernando	NYMT
2022	*M@N ENUFF*	Michelle Payne & Emy P	Theatre Peckham (Arts Council England)
2021	*WELL-GROOMED*	Michelle Payne	Young Vic (as part of the YV Creators' Programme)
2021	*MY THREE SISTERS*	Holly Rose Hawgood	The Bush Theatre
2021	*DEAR DEAD JASON*	Jen Moss	Bruised Sky Productions (NDT Broadgate)
2021	*BLINDED BY YOUR GRACE*	Florence Espeut-Nickless	WildChild (Online)
2021	*SOUTH WEST SIDE*	Florence Espeut-Nickless	WildChild (Online)

OUTREACH

2023	*OUR VOICES*	Writer	Podcast, Small Truth's Caravan Theatre
2021	*YOUR STORY*	Director/Dramaturg/Facilitator	Online Project, Havering Changing

WRITING

2025/26	*PERSONALITY HIRE* by Vivian Panka, Michelle Payne & Charlie Turner - *in development*
2023	*HYPER! An ADHD Musical* (co-written with EMY.P for the Overture Scheme)
2022	*THE GRIND - New Commission* for a street dance play in collaboration with Neo (Flawless - choreographer) for ie Productions (Matt Cole & Morgan Large)
2022	*MAN ENUFF* (commission for Mind Over Matter) co-written with EMY.P - Stiles & Drewe Best New Song Award 2022
2022	*CHELSEA* for The End Of The Line Podcast (InkJockey)
2021	*ENTHUSIASTICALLY, YES!* (Music: Craig Webb) - The Chamber Musical Sessions, Garrick Theatre, West End (4th October 2021)
2020	*MEMORY BOX* - Mercury Theatre Colchester, Online / YouTube *(winner: Mercury Monologues)*

TRAINING

- *Future Forms* with the **Donmar Warehouse** & Sacha Wares, finding new forms for theatre.
- Puppetry - Little Angel Theatre.
- Script Writing - Mercury Playwrights (Kenny Emson), QTH Writers (Philip Ayckbourn).

AWARDS

- FINALIST: **Young Vic Genesis Fellowship** - Associate Director 2023 - Final four, **The LET Award 22** - Book writer - *M@n Enuff*
- SHORTLIST: **RTST Sir Peter Hall Director Award** (2022), **Young Vic Genesis Future Director Award** (2023).
- LONGLIST: **RTST Sir Peter Hall Director Award** (2023), **ALP & Aria Entertainment's Chamber Musical Competition** - *Enthusiastically, Yes!* (2021), **The Mono Box PlayStart** - *Well-Groomed* by Michelle Payne about the threat of online grooming (2019), **Young Vic Future Director Award** (2023)

TEACHING & FACILITATION

- Mountview, PPA, London College of Music, Chichester Conservatoire, Sylvia Young Theatre School, BYMT, West End Kids, Savi Arts (Artistic Director), Vibe Arts, Spirit YPC, Damien Poole Theatre Arts, Inky Cloak, Tectum Theatre.

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Skills & Experience

- Originally trained in acting and musical theatre, and worked in multiple large cast shows often as an understudy, swing or actor-ASM.
- I directed understudy-swings on all productions, leading multiple cover runs & making track sheets. I also directed the alternate Evan on the UK Tour of *Dear Evan Hansen* after he was discovered via TikTok and the alternate Elle (also of TikTok fame!) in the UK Tour of Legally Blonde.
- I led on the auditions and rehearsal process for the cast change of *Dear Evan Hansen* - Asia tour and supported rehearsals on the *Paddington* year 2 cast change.
- Outreach experience for Havering Changing's Creative People in Places scheme as well as multiple workshops as part of ACE projects.
- Immersive theatre experience, including creating immersive experiences from scratch, strict time-keeping, improvisation and quick problem-solving in both rehearsal rooms and performances. I worked with Les Enfants Terribles as an actor over years and was Resident Director for them on *The House with Chicken Legs* UK Tour - working with puppetry and actor-musicianship.
- Highly experienced workshop leader and facilitator working with established theatre institutions including drama schools and with young actors for the West End Kids company, Sylvia Young Theatre School, BYMT, Spirit Performing Arts, Damien Poole Theatre School and Vibe Arts as well as directing professional children in *Paddington the Musical*, West End and on the UK Tour and London run of *Bugsy Malone*.
- Working as a Director with large cast shows on projects, such as my double cast play *Squad Goals,* which ran for 2 weeks in a National League football stadium, where I led a cast & team of 30+ during the pandemic. (*4 Stars "packed with humour & charm"* - The Stage & *5 Stars* - A Younger Theatre).
- Dramaturgy and script-writing - Long-listed for Adam Lenson & Aria Entertainment's Chamber Musical competition (showcasing at the Garrick Theatre, West End, October 2021), chosen as one of 6 writing teams (from 150 applications) for the OVERTURE new musical scheme (showcasing at The Other Palace, December 2023) as well as a published playwright (*Squad Goals*, Salamander Street publishing). In 2021 I completed a commission for PPA's 3rd year show.
- I've received multiple arts grants including from Arts Council England, Havering Changing (Creative People in Places), 1 micro-commission (Queens Theatre Hornchurch) plus other fundraising expertise such as crowd-fundraising, organising raffles/charity events, researching, applying for & successfully gaining small development grants from various charities.
- In my previous role of Artistic Director of Savi Arts part-time actor training I demonstrated high levels of organisation, sitting between production and creative skills, often facilitating and programming small seasons of work & bringing emerging artists through the fringe scene. Development of under-represented creatives is at the core of my practice.
- In 2020 I was a representative for the Mercury Theatre Colchester on Fuel Theatre's Freelance Task Force. This involved reporting to regular meetings to ensure freelancers were represented and kept at the forefront of conversations during the pandemic. I ensured my network of freelancers and my local venue were kept up to date with the goings-on in the industry and liaised between our meetings and my networks to ensure freelancers were both heard and informed.
- I'm an assistant for Number 54 acting agency so I attend many showcases and 3rd year shows to keep on top of emerging talent. I specifically advocate for diverse talent and ensure representation is at the core of all of my work.

Aims & Ambitions:

- To help improve representation for women on stage and screen, specifically for those from working class and under-represented backgrounds.
- To continue to champion accessibility and diversity within theatre and to ensure working class audiences have access to and engagement with theatre.
- To improve accessibility within musical theatre to working class audiences.
- To merge theatre with digital/future forms and begin working to engage with audiences in new ways including through technology & social media.

Contact:

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