

MICHELLE PAYNE

THEATRE DIRECTOR & WRITER

c/o: Helen Mumby (The Soho Agency)

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Michelle is a director & writer from Essex, a previous recipient of the Regional Theatre Young Directors Scheme 3-month placement, short-listed for the RTST Sir Peter Hall Award and the Young Vic Genesis Future Director Award, was selected for Donmar Warehouse *Future Forms* and was a finalist for ALP & Aria Entertainment Chamber Musical Competition.

ASSOCIATE, RESIDENT & ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

2024 /25	DEAR EVAN HANSEN Benj Pasek, Justin Paul, Steven Levenson Nominated: WhatsOnStage Awards - Best Revival of a Musical & Best Regional Production	Associate Dir. Dir: Adam Penford	UK Tour + Asia ATG & Nottingham Playhouse
2024	ERROL'S GARDEN Wigmore & Green	Associate Dir. Dir: Kate Golledge	UK Tour DEM Productions
2023	THE HOUSE WITH CHICKEN LEGS Sophie Anderson, Oliver Lansley Nominated: Olivier Awards - Best Family Show	Resident Dir (&Choreo) Dir: James Seagar, Oli Lansley	UK Tour Les Enfants Terribles
2023	PIGS MIGHT FLY Wigmore & Green	Associate Dir-Choreo Dir: Kate Golledge	UK Tour DEM Productions
2023	SUMMER CAMP FOR BROKEN PEOPLE Emily Beecher	Associate Dir. Dir: Christa Harris	Pleasance London & Summerhall (Ed Fringe)
2022 /23	BUGSY MALONE Alan Parker & Paul Williams	Resident Dir. Dir: Sean Holmes	UK Tour & London Kenny Wax Ltd
2022	HEADCASE Kristin McIlquham	Associate Dir. Dir: Laura Keefe	The Bush Matthew Schmolle Productions
2022	PRINCESS ESSEX Anne Odeke	Assistant Dir. Dir: Robin Belfield	Queens Theatre Hornchurch & Creative Estuary Tour
2019 /20	CINDERELLA Andrew Pollard	Assistant Dir. Dir: Ryan McBryde	Mercury Theatre Colchester RTYDS (3-month scheme)

DIRECTOR

2025	AITOPIA created by The Collective	Young Vic Taking Part
2024	AMERICAN IDIOT by Michael Mayer & Billy Joe Armstrong	Chichester University
2024	PIPPIN by Stephen Schwartz & Roger O Hirson	Mountview Academy
2023	GOOD ENOUGH MUMS CLUB by Emily Beecher & Verity Quade	UK Tour (co-director)
2023	STORIES IN A PUB... by Bryan Danielson	London College of Music
2022	TO HAVE & TO HOLD by Michelle Payne	The Bush
2022	CHILDISH THINGS by Bryan Danielson	London College of Music
2022	DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS by David Yazbeck & Jeffrey Lane	Chichester University
2021	THE LIBERATORS by Michelle Payne	Performance Preparation Academy
2020	SQUAD GOALS by Michelle Payne	Dagenham Stadium (co-director)
2020	BARD FROM THE BARN	The Barn Theatre
2020	FIND ME by No Fixed Address	VAULT Festival
2019	WALK OF SHAME by Stephanie Silver	White Bear Theatre
2017	ORDINARY DAYS by Adam Gwon	Rose & Crown

DIRECTOR - R&Ds

2025	FLIP by Josh Bird & Giles Fernando	NYMT
2023	MAN ENOUGH by Emy.P & Michelle Payne	Theatre Peckham + ACE
2022	DEAR DEAD JASON by Jen Moss	New Diorama Broadgate
2021	MY THREE SISTERS by Holly Rose Hawgood	The Bush
2021	WELL-GROOMED by Michelle Payne	Young Vic Creators Programme
2021	FUNDRAISER by Hai Le	Park Theatre
2021	BLINDED BY YOUR GRACE by Florence Espeut-Nicklass	WildChild

OTHER EXPERIENCE

In 2021 Michelle was chosen as one of 18 artists working on the **DONMAR WAREHOUSE FUTURE FORMS** program, exploring the future of theatre & technology alongside creatives including; Ella Hickson, Nessa Muthy, Zia Ahmed, Hana Pascal-Keegan, Bea Roberts, Eve Leigh, Sonali Bhattacharyya; and led by director Sacha Wares.

Michelle is currently on a writing commission for ie Productions (Matt Cole & Morgan Large) with new street dance play **THE GRIND** in collaboration with Britain's Got Talent's Flawless choreographer Neo.

Writing - Mercury Playwrights (Mercury Theatre Colchester - Kenny Emson), Queens Theatre Hornchurch Writers Group (Philip Ayckbourn), *Overture*, a new musical writing scheme supported by The Other Palace, Birmingham Hippodrome, Hope Mill Manchester, MAST Southampton & Sheffield Theatres. Published play text - *Squad Goals* (Salamander Street).

Assistant Agent - Number Fifty Four Agency - June 2020 - present

Puppetry - Little Angel Theatre - 2016

Workshop Director / Acting Teacher / Industry Panellist -

Community Adults: Young Vic Taking Part, Havering Changing, East London & Essex Playwrights Group.

Adults in training (18+): Mountview, Performance Preparation Academy, London College of Music, Chichester Conservatoire, London School of Musical Theatre, The Hammond, Savi Arts (Artistic Director).

Young People & Children (9-18): National Youth Music Theatre, British Youth Music Theatre, Sylvia Young Theatre School, West End Kids, Vibe Arts, Spirit YPC, Damien Poole Theatre Arts, Small Truth's Caravan Theatre, Havering Youth Council.

Immersive -

As an actor: *Alice's Adventures Underground*, *Inside Pussy Riot* and *Search for Sherlock* all for Les Enfants Terribles.

In 2020 I created my own immersive show *Squad Goals* at Dagenham & Redbridge football stadium.

Outreach - Young Vic Taking Part lead creative on The Collective 2024-25, Writer/facilitator for *Our Voices* with Small Truth's Caravan Theatre working with communities in & around Grenfell (audio play), facilitator/dramaturg for *Your Story* community writing workshops funded by Havering Changing (Creative People in Places), director/workshop leader exploring the dangers of online grooming for Havering Youth Council: Violence Against young Women & Girls sub-group.

AWARDS

2024	Long List	RTST Sir Peter Hall Director Award (with <i>Equus</i> by Peter Shaffer)
2023	Long List	RTST Sir Peter Hall Director Award (with <i>Mother Courage & her Children</i> by Bertolt Brecht)
2023	Short List	Young Vic Genesis Future Director Award (with <i>Pramkicker</i> by Sadie Hasler)
2023	Finalist	Young Vic Genesis Associate Director (final 4)
2022	Short List	RTST Sir Peter Hall Director Award (with <i>Marat/Sade</i> by Peter Weiss)
2022	Finalist	The LET Award 2022 (<i>Man Enough</i> by EMY.P & Michelle Payne)
2021	Finalist	Stiles + Drewe Best New Song Prize (<i>Keep Me From Going Under</i> by EMY.P & Michelle Payne)
2021	Long List	ALP & Aria Entertainment Chamber Musical Competition (<i>Enthusiastically, Yes!</i> by Payne & Webb)
2020	Long List	The Mono Box: Play Start (<i>Well-Groomed</i> by Michelle Payne)

AIMS & AMBITIONS

- To improve representation for "Essex Girls" 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 marginalised communities have access to and engagement with theatre.
- To improve accessibility & quality within musical theatre for & about 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.

REFERENCES

Sean Holmes

Associate Artistic Director The Globe
Director - *Bugsy Malone*

John Manning (ATG)

General Manager - *Dear Evan Hansen*

Kate Golledge

Head of New Work @ NYMT

REPRESENTATION

Helen Mumby at The Soho Agency
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