



# **National Youth Theatre Redevelopment Islington, North London**

## ***About the National Youth Theatre (NYT)***

National Youth Theatre is a pioneering youth arts charity that nurtures creative expression, personal well-being and skills development, engaging thousands of young people aged 11- 30 around the UK every year. Established in 1956 as the world's first youth theatre, NYT seeks out, supports and champions performers, theatre technicians and young creative leaders. NYT produces ambitious theatrical productions in local communities, on leading global stages and in unusual spaces across the UK and beyond, commissioning brave and relevant new writing and reinterpreting classic stories for our time.

## ***Low Carbon Renovation Project with support from the Good Growth Fund***

In 2021 NYT completed an award-winning, low carbon renovation of its north London creative home, located in one of the most deprived neighbourhoods in England in Islington. Architects DSDHA engaged members of NYT's national network of creative young people in a co-design process to create an environment that is accessible, welcoming and inclusive. Repurposing 90% of the existing building structure, the renovation created a new accessible entrance and reception; doubled the number of studio and workshop spaces for young people; and created a new Workshop Theatre onsite for the first time in NYT's 68-year history.

The additional rehearsal space created by the redevelopment, initiated with lead support from the Mayor of London's [Good Growth Fund](#), has enabled the NYT to generate vital funds, tripling its commercial hires income at a challenging time for all theatres. Professionals rehearse in the building alongside the next generation of talent and through a social value contracts model experience is shared through Q&As, workshops and the chance to watch selected rehearsals. The new state-of-the-art rehearsal spaces have been hired to leading West End, touring and international productions including *Back to the Future: The Musical*, *Mean Girls*, *The Motive and the Cue*, & *Juliet* and many more. The BBC also recently filmed their major arts series *Bring the Drama* in the building. As part of the redevelopment and with the support of Arts Council England the NYT have also purchased the lease of the building, providing long term financial resilience.

NYT's activity in the building includes the NYT REP Company, an award-winning free industry-led alternative to formal training, free programmes for young people not in employment, education or training, free backstage training for local young people and regular productions of new writing and curriculum-based productions for schools. The NYT REP's 2021 production of *Animal Farm* in the theatre was described as 'Extraordinary' and awarded five stars by *The Stage*. In summer 2024 the NYT Workshop

Theatre will host [StoryFest](#), a new writing festival featuring six new plays and over 100 young creatives. Leading companies making work by and/or for disabled people have staged work in the building, which now includes one of the only accessible [Changing Places](#) toilet in the area.

### **Award Winning Results**

The renovation won a RIBA London award in 2023, was shortlisted for Most Welcoming Theatre at the [UK Theatre Awards](#) and was shortlisted for the Sustainable Renovation Award at the 2023 International Dezeen Awards. The Guardian described it as “a beacon of optimism for the next generation of dramatic talent on and off stage.” NYT President and Bond producer Barbara Broccoli commented: “Making theatre more accessible and empowering thousands of young creatives every year is at the heart of what we do. This ambitious redevelopment has supercharged our capacity to do both at our north London home and also supported our growing national programmes across the UK.”

**For more information contact [publicaffairs@soltukt.co.uk](mailto:publicaffairs@soltukt.co.uk)**