



Immediate  
Theatre

# Welcome

Immediate Theatre  
Unit 1, The Sidings  
10 Andre Street  
E8 2AA

Inclusive | Interactive | Imaginative



# About Us

Immediate Theatre has worked with young people and communities in Hackney and East London for 28 years. We are committed to increasing access to the arts for all and we believe in the transformative power of theatre and the arts to all our lives, and the importance of giving people a voice. Our purpose is to involve communities in creative projects that inspire wellbeing, break down barriers and engage people in the process of personal and social change.

## Our Objectives:

- Providing inspiring participatory arts programmes, enabling people to reach their potential and preventing exclusion and social isolation
- Creatively exploring social issues, engaging people in the process of change and encouraging and enabling them to influence decision making
- Improving health and wellbeing and increasing life skills and employability through engagement in the arts





# Youth Programmes

## Estate-based Youth Theatre

We have been providing high quality open access youth theatres on estates in Hackney since 1998. The programme has engaged thousands of participants who do not traditionally have access to arts opportunities and are supported by Peer Facilitators, young people paid LLW. We currently run nine groups in Hackney and Newham. All our sessions are free, and inclusive.

## Speech Bubbles

Speech Bubbles programme is a year-long, evidence-based drama intervention for children in KS1 who have speech, language and communication Needs. The programme is designed to give young children an opportunity to have fun telling stories and acting them out, and has a particular emphasis on supporting children to gain confidence and develop their physical and verbal communication skills.

## Interactions

Interactions works with 13-19-year-olds who are excluded or at risk of exclusion, providing access to positive creative activities through which they can improve their academic attainment and achieve their goals.



# Working With Adults

## Pathways to Employment

We provide creative programmes and one-to-one support to help participants develop their skills & explore potential career opportunities. This includes weekly sessions for the Hackney Young Collective (18-30) and the Indie Project for people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities aged 25+.

## Theatre Exchange

A weekly theatre group for over 60's - we are currently rehearsing a tour of the group's fantastic cabaret which will provide much needed entertainment for more isolated older people.

## Voices of Change

Voices of Change works with volunteers aged 60+ gathering oral histories from migrant communities in Hackney and Newham and turning these stories into podcasts. We were very proud to launch the Hackney and Newham History Social Club podcasts at Hackney Archives in November 2023

For further information see  
[www.immediate-theatre.com/about/](http://www.immediate-theatre.com/about/)





## Working In Schools

Immediate Theatre has been using the voices and ideas of our participants to create touring productions for schools since 2005. Our work is co-produced and aims to encourage students to be able to explore vital issues. We also run workshops in schools alongside productions and as independent projects.

### **Rift - by Abi Falase**

This play was initiated through workshops with young people and led to us forming a group exclusively for young women. Abi Falase and the writer of our previous production *Pressure Drop* - Anna Bennett also ran a young women's writers group who wrote five short scripts which will be included in the education pack for this project

This audio project is a new endeavor for Immediate Theatre, recognising the challenges schools face when trying to accommodate theatre productions. Our aim is to provide contemporary and relevant drama in a format that can be used by teachers in the classroom enabling young people to hear characters that sound like them.



# Our Patron

We were delighted to welcome our first patron, Idris Elba, in July 2020. Idris' representation and commitment to our organisation at such a challenging time for the industry has brought much-needed support to continue our work with the most vulnerable communities across Hackney and make a positive impact in our society. Being a Hackney boy himself, he has been a huge inspiration to the young people we work with, strengthening their belief in what they are capable of achieving.

“Community theatre companies play such a vital unsung role in supporting young people in some of London's most underprivileged boroughs. I have been so impressed with the team at Immediate Theatre and their tireless efforts working with young people in Hackney, providing them with a place of safety and encouragement where they can be free to express themselves, and I'm proud to join them as Patron.”

**Idris Elba**





# The Team

Jo Carter, Artistic Director - [jo@immediate-theatre.com](mailto:jo@immediate-theatre.com)

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