

RIVERSIDE

**ANNUAL
REVIEW
2022**

STUDIOS



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WELCOME

At Riverside Studios we are driven by the belief in the power of creativity to bring people together, unlock potential and spark positive change in the world.

This year, we bounced back from the 2021 lockdowns and instability of the COVID-19 pandemic, warmly welcoming audiences with an eclectic programme of theatre shows, screenings, events and exhibitions. From international film festivals, sold-out theatre productions, bold and daring art exhibitions through to inspiring community events that champion accessibility and inclusivity, the confluence of the arts and potential for collaboration with innovative artists and producers have all helped revive the iconic Riverside spirit. As we celebrate our 40th anniversary as a charity and our 45th anniversary as an arts centre in 2023, what better time to look back at the pioneering activity that took place in our bustling arts hub over the past year. Inside, you can find highlights across all aspects of our work, from our exciting archive project to star-studded cinema events. We are hugely proud of our team members for rolling up their sleeves and rolling out the red carpet for our thousands of visitors.

Greg Parston, Chair

Tony Lankester, Executive Director / CEO

Rachel Tackley, Creative Director / CEO

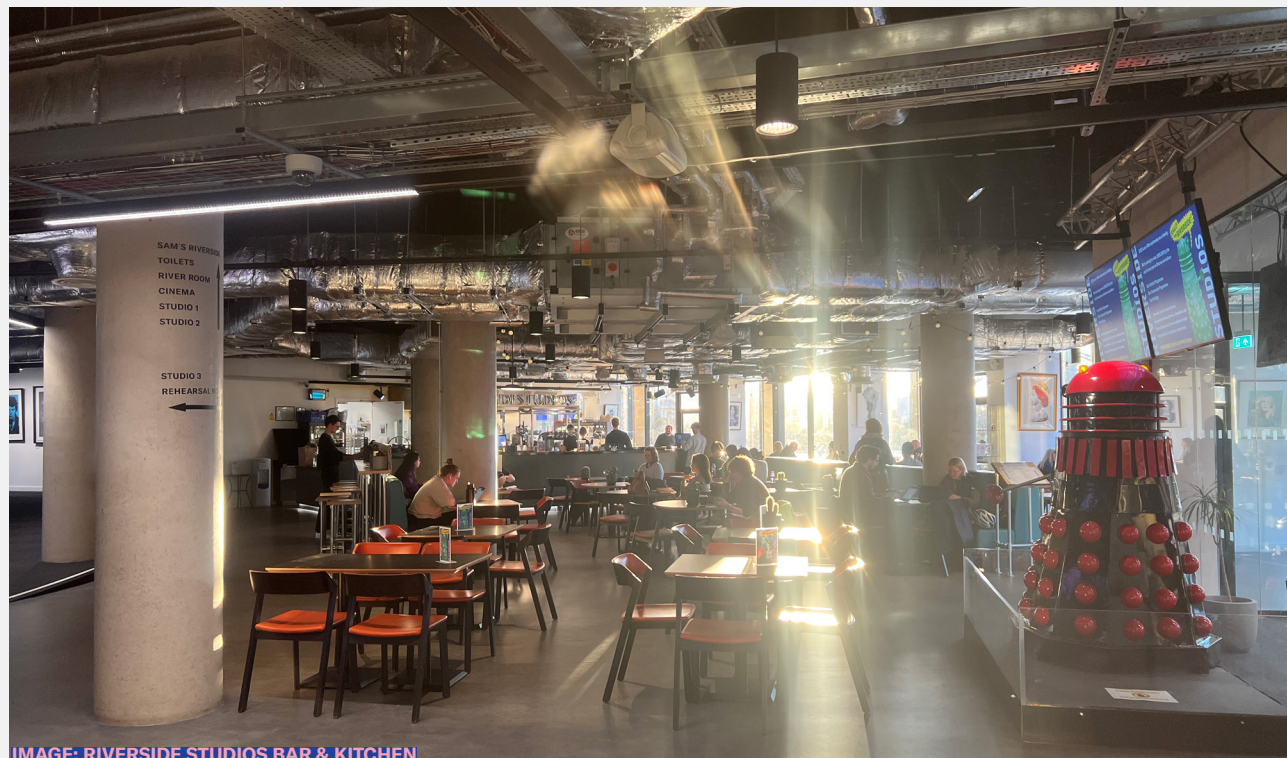


IMAGE: RIVERSIDE STUDIOS BAR & KITCHEN



THEATRE

In 2022, over 45,000 visitors enjoyed a live performance in one of our theatre spaces at Riverside Studios, spending over £1.1m in ticket purchases.

The year opened in our principal theatre space, Studio 2, with *AVA: THE SECRET CONVERSATIONS*. Elizabeth McGovern starred in her own re-telling of Ava Gardner's life. This spectacular show, designed by 59 Productions, brought a much-needed buzz to Riverside, straight after the challenges of the 'Omicron Winter' of 2021/22.

AVA was closely followed by *OPERATION MINCEMEAT, THE MUSICAL*. After highly successful outings at the New Diorama and Southwark Playhouse, this 'word of mouth hit' came to Riverside with an audience that was already clamouring for a repeat visit. Nearly 17,000 tickets were sold for this scrappy, irreverent musical that Time Out called "a ripping yarn" told with "great brio". We were proud to see our friends from SpitLip and Avalon recently announce the show's West End transfer, making Riverside – as it has been before – the launchpad for even greater things.

September saw a total change of pace with *CAGES* arriving direct from Downtown LA. This cult show was described by Dalya Alberge in the Guardian as featuring

"ground-breaking technology that could revolutionise live theatre". The resulting combination of theatre, holographic projection, live music and dystopian fantasy placed Riverside at the forefront of theatrical innovation and experimentation. Lost in Theatreland called it "mesmerising and stunning" and The Stage called it a "technological firework display".

In our smaller, black box theatre space, Studio 3, we presented a diverse and eclectic mix of theatre and performance, reaching over 27,000 audience members.

The year began with acclaimed comedian and actor Eddie Izzard performing open rehearsals of *HAMLET* for a week. This public showcase represented Riverside's ongoing creative collaboration with Eddie that began with her terrific fundraising efforts at Riverside Studios during the pandemic.

BLOODY DIFFICULT WOMEN represented a major theatrical and arguably political event for Riverside. Tim Walker's semi-fictional account of the battles between the 'Brexit foes', Theresa May and Gina Miller, performed to full houses and was commented upon in every major (and minor) news outlet apart from the Daily Mail, perhaps in light of its depiction of Paul Dacre!



IMAGE: CAGES

LIZA PULMAN – THE HEART OF IT, a show that "makes the heart sing," featured one of the stars of *Fascinating Aida*, and brought live music-making back to Riverside for the first time in a while.

Riverside was pleased to welcome Stockroom back to Studio 3 for their world premiere of *DEAD AIR*, a hilarious dark comedy about the true meaning of 'the show must go on'. They were closely followed by Murmuration Productions' version of Mike Bartlett's *AN INTERVENTION*.

ORIGINALS – LIVE AT RIVERSIDE STUDIOS brought our reputation for championing new writing and technological innovation together with a trilogy of staged, 'script in hand' productions resulting from a nationwide search for new work. Stars of the calibre of Tyger Drew-Honey, Alex Kingston, Adrian Lukis, Luke Thompson and Diana Quick performed to live and online audiences throughout and the resulting performances remain available to stream on the *ORIGINALS* platform.

Studio 3 was soon after converted into a sex dungeon for the comedy *HORSE-PLAY* by Ian Hallard and starring

David Ames and Matt Lapinskas. A glittering first night lauded by the likes of David Tennant and Paul O'Grady was followed by a successful run that welcomed over 2,300 audience members.

We were then delighted to welcome award-winning South Asian theatre company, Rifco, who started their journey at Riverside 21 years ago. We showcased *GLITTERBALL* for their 21st anniversary. The gala performance was accompanied by a spectacular exhibition in the Atrium, celebrating their anniversary with 21 newly commissioned pieces of art and costume.

TRAINSPOTTING LIVE saw Riverside reverberating with 90s techno in an immersive production that had audience members getting extremely 'up close and personal' with this hilarious and deeply moving story which was another sell-out hit for Studio 3.

The music-making continued, but to a different tune, with a fortnight of staged performances of *SAVING GRACE*, the new musical by KT Tunstall. The audience members who managed to get their hands on a ticket were treated with not only a nightly introduction from the



IMAGE: AVA PRODUCTION SHOT

Brit Award-winning musician herself but also a cast of West End stars.

The year closed with Studio 3 returning to its roots of championing new and emerging talent with two very different shows, performing in repertoire. HOLY SH*T was given its London Premiere after a sell-out Fringe run in Edinburgh and JONNY FEATHERS THE ROCK AND ROLL PIGEON brought an entirely different approach to kids theatre at Riverside, just in time for Christmas. Riverside was also extremely proud to mount 2

home-grown BITESIZE FESTIVALS in 2022. Working with partners and producers from around the world, we presented 23 different productions across 97 performances. Many evenings saw 3 productions delivered with just half-hour intervals between them, as audiences hurried from improvised Shakespeare to shows about film censorship as well as meditations on ageing and loneliness. Riverside became, again, a place for artists and audiences to come together, test out new ideas and make new discoveries.



IMAGE: BLOODY DIFFICULT WOMEN



IMAGE: OPERATION MINCEMEAT

CINEMA

Over 30,000 cinema tickets were sold for screenings at Riverside Studios in 2022. This excellent performance across over 200 titles was, of course, set against a backdrop of not only a cinema that had only just opened six months prior but also a slow return to film-going across the country, post-pandemic, in general.

Riverside's reputation as an internationally renowned independent cinema rooted in its West London community returned with a diverse array of programming for audiences both new and returning.

BELFAST was arguably the first 'hit' of the new year with over 1,300 tickets sold for screenings that featured a special filmed 'welcome' from Kenneth Branagh, just for Riverside audiences.

Riverside welcomed Ivor Powell, one of the original producers of BLADERUNNER, for a 40th anniversary screening. BENT saw director Sean Mathias and writer Martin Sherman give a Q&A after the 25th anniversary showing of the film. George Mackay joined us, exclusively, for a post-show Q&A for MUNICH. Numerous films, from FIRE OF LOVE through to EIFFEL featured themed 'cocktail accompaniments' and Riverside's screenings of OPERATION MINCEMEAT gave

patrons the opportunity to enjoy both the film and the musical in one venue in one day!

Riverside's programmers also curated seasons and 'one offs' that were distinct to our work and brand. A series of Ava Gardner movies were shown alongside the play AVA: THE SECRET CONVERSATIONS. A 'MADE AT RIVERSIDE' series saw everything from HANCOCK'S HALF HOUR through to THE SEVENTH VEIL and 'RIVERSIDE PRIDE' kicked Pride Month off with a long weekend of LGBTQ+ themed stories, starting with a 'Pay What You Can' screening of FIREBIRD. STUDIO 17 was one of many events that saw live music feature throughout the evening and we were proud to invite Minima to Riverside for a screening of NOSFERATU with their unique interpretation of the film's score, played live.

'Pay What You Can' was one of many initiatives that Riverside launched throughout the year to make its work accessible to the widest possible audience. Monthly screenings where audience members can pay as little as 1p are now very much a feature of Riverside life. Equally, monthly Screen Spotlights give better representation to marginalised voices in film and often feature introductions and Q&As with critics, historians, cast and crew. And our Monthly Members' screenings give



IMAGE: INTO FILM FESTIVAL

special complimentary access to the latest films for our 'DIVE IN' community members.

Riverside's commitment to making film accessible was also apparent in its pricing policy. £6.50 is now the 'baseline' price for all Under 25s and January and August saw 'Flash Sales' with £6.50 as the price for everyone. The Film Club now boasts over 800 members thanks to its value for money offering of up to 30 free tickets per year and, of course, all that free popcorn!

Riverside Studios swiftly re-established itself as the home for Film Festivals from around the world. Irish Film London celebrated St Patrick's Day with a screening of WOLF and the film's director Nathalie Biancheri as well as stars George Mackay and Eileen Walsh featured in a live Q&A with IFL's festival director Gerry Maguire.

Riverside was also delighted to play host to the 20th KINOTEKA POLISH FILM FESTIVAL, which saw an exciting programme full of new productions, alongside curated Polish classics and a 'singular cinematic journey into the virtual world'.

Our friends and neighbours from the BARNES FILM FESTIVAL set up shop for their '7th edition' with us and over 20 different screenings and events, including a sell-out showing of SPEED IS EXPENSIVE, featuring a Q&A with Charley Boorman.

SOUTH SOCIAL FILM FESTIVAL made two visits throughout the year with a Nordic and a Baltic themed offering. The latter saw Nordic cocktails and live music by Faroese Hip Hop artist, Trygvi Danielsen and poet Tania O. Hausen.

We were proud to screen BFI London Film Festival Previews of DECISION TO LEAVE and LIVING in Screen 1 as a centrepiece to our 'festivals rosta' in 2022.

Irish Film London returned in November with another eclectic offering as well as a sold-out preview of AFTERSUN and a Q&A with director Charlotte Wells. And that was joined, soon after, by London Surf / Film Festival - a celebration of the cream of international surf culture, bringing to the UK a line-up of hotly anticipated premieres, award winning features, the very best



IMAGE: SOUTH SOCIAL (TREE OF ETERNAL LOVE)



RIVERSIDE
STUDIOS

homegrown short films and independent underground projects.

We received special funding for a UK wide cinema season, 'Film Feels Curious', where we curated 'A PETER STRICKLAND RETROSPECTIVE', featuring double bills, live Q&As with Peter Strickland, and a live introduction from film critic Be Manzini.

NT Live's PRIMA FACIE was, as was the case for many UK cinemas, an enormous success with nearly 1,500 tickets sold for that title alone. And our friends from PITCHBLACK PLAYBACK brought their unique 'immersive album listening sessions' to our cinema, attracting over 1,600 audience members.

Returning to our local community, our Silver Screen

strand remains a popular staple of the schedule. We also partnered with the educational film charity, Into Film, and took part in their annual Into Film Festival, which welcomed children from local primary schools in Screen 1. Plus, at the beginning of December we worked with our colleagues at Hammersmith & Fulham, welcoming hundreds of local schoolchildren for free screenings of WAKANDA FOREVER.

A recent survey of cinemagoers gave us some extremely useful and positive feedback as we continue to plan the year ahead. Some notable comments included:

"I think your shows where people can pay want they can afford are amazing. Cinema can be such as feel good factor and it is essential everyone has the option to attend."



IMAGE: HANCOCKS HALF HOUR

EXHIBITIONS

Riverside Studios has always been a place for the visual arts as well as the theatrical and cinematic. From Yoko Ono, Anthony Gormley to David Hockney, Riverside remains home to the iconic and the new.

In 2022, we saw a full programme of exhibitions in our Atrium. This large, bright and welcoming space serves not only as a place to gather and meet but is also a hub for presenting and enjoying the works of art that are curated for our visitors to enjoy.

In January, working with the Art Hound Gallery, we presented BAD REPUTATION. This four-month bold art exhibition ran from January to April and was inspired by 'bad ass females' and celebrated 'awesome women who dare to kick back'. Highlights included thought-provoking light boxes and edgy photographic portraits by street artist and rising star Naomi Wallen, and custom hand-blown neons by superstar British artist Lauren Baker hung cheek by jowl with new diamond dust celebrity portraits by master screen printer David Studwell.

BAD REPUTATION was followed by TIME LORDS TO TOP OF THE POPS: A CELEBRATION OF BBC TELEVISION MADE AT RIVERSIDE STUDIOS. Marking 100 years of the

British Broadcasting Corporation and 65 years since the BBC Riverside Television Studios were opened by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, the exhibition celebrated the long and illustrious history of BBC television production at Riverside Studios.

Complementing the photographic exhibition, we hosted a variety of related special events including the unveiling of a BBC Heritage Trail blue plaque and a screening in tribute to the founding producer of Doctor Who, Verity Lambert.

HIGH VIS was a unique work of art celebrating disabled people and artists across Hammersmith and Fulham. In 2021, the This New Ground collective joined forces with acclaimed disabled digital artist, Jason Wilsher-Mills, to co-create a unique work of art. Imagined over a series of online workshops, the result was a striking 10-foot inflatable sculpture, which was exhibited in the atrium of Riverside Studios from 17 – 26 June. The highly decorated sculpture, an expression of vibrance, pride and the desire for visibility shared by the Borough's learning disabled residents.

Then came the impressive, THE COVID CHRONICLE, set up by artist Wendy Bliss during the February UK

Lockdown, 2021. The completed project was made up of 142 submissions from around the world, and the panels were curated and stitched together into metre square blocks of 4, making a total of 36 metres of work. Described as a 'Bayeux Tapestry' for the 21st century pandemic, this historic installation recorded personal reflections in textiles and stitch. To celebrate the exhibition opening, we also invited artist Manoela Grigorova to host a free embroidery demonstration amongst the art to unveil the intricate process of embroidering and answer any questions from the public about mixed media art. We were delighted to learn that THE COVID CHRONICLE can now be seen at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital where it, no doubt, delights, comforts and inspires all who pass through its doors.

MANY RIVERS TO CROSS was a new exhibition by the Riverside Artists Group. Members collaborated with other artists, ranging from visual media to performance, poetry and sound, to create new work exclusively for Riverside Studios. As part of the Totally Thames 2022 Festival, the theme focused on the River Thames, or as a

metaphorical interpretation of the nature and influence of rivers.

21 ARTISTS FOR 21 YEARS was a project to celebrate the enormous contribution that British South Asian creatives have made to the success of Rifco Theatre Company. Rifco commissioned one artist for every year of their life to create work that celebrated their 21st anniversary – a journey that started, in many ways, at Riverside.

The year concluded with CAGED. This third collaboration with The Art Hound Gallery was inspired by our theatre show CAGES and saw top tier cutting edge contemporary artists, hand-picked to respond to the show's themes, style and story-telling. Some standout pieces included a life-like beating human heart lenticular artwork by the light artist Lauren Baker; the multidisciplinary artist Naomi Wallens presenting a futuristic handmade neon flower painting and 'Punk Rock Legend' Mark Illuminati teaming up with Amy Winehouse's tattoo artist Henry Hate to create a custom neon monkey installation. The exhibition was described as 'dark, broody, and sexy as hell' and ran from 12 October to the end of the year.



IMAGE: BBC EXHIBITION



IMAGE: GINA SOUTHGATE: FROM LIVE MUSIC

RESIDENT AND ASSOCIATE ARTISTS AND COMPANIES

Riverside is proud to work with a variety of Resident and Associate Artists and Companies, providing opportunities to collaborate as well as providing a home for new work and new audiences.

Founded by theatre producers Pip Brignall and Thomas Winsor, The Round is the world's first Web 3.0 platform for live entertainment in Augmented Reality (AR). The Round is a resident company, who are provided with year-round office space, along with other forms of support as the need arises. The team were very excited to spend their first full year as a resident digital company at Riverside Studios building their platform to make it scalable and accessible to the entire live entertainment industry. On the way, they were invited by the Department for International Trade to speak at the South by Southwest Festival in Austin, Texas, and received investment from leading firms including Outlier Ventures and Gaingels to see them through their period of research and development to launch in 2023.

The Round said, **"We are very excited to be going into**

2023 preparing to release our product to the industry, including working closely with Riverside Studios to make their incredible work even more innovative and accessible through the use of pioneering live Augmented Reality technology."

Our Dive In Associate, Flute Theatre, changes the lives of autistic individuals and their families and create and deliver ground-breaking productions of Shakespeare as well as for the general public. As Dive In Associates, they are given rehearsal and performance space throughout the year, along with marketing and box office support. This year, Flute Theatre presented THE TEMPEST and a brand-new production of PERICLES.

Dive In Associate This New Ground seeks to elevate the artistic voices and talents of people with learning disabilities. We regularly collaborate with this incredible organisation to help champion their mission. This year, we screened the Collective's creative short film entitled LOCKED IN (OUR LOCKDOWN STORY) followed by a post-show Q&A which explored the disproportionate



IMAGE: FLUTE THEATRE

impact the COVID-19 pandemic had on the lives of people with learning disabilities. One member of the Collective said: "I felt really proud of myself for standing up and speaking about our film in front of everyone at the premiere at Riverside. I had never done anything like that before. I felt like a real artist telling people about our film in a big cinema."

Cats Whiskers Community Arts is also a Dive In

Associate who we regularly collaborate with and who also receive special benefits. Cats Whiskers supports older people in the community through theatre and film workshops and productions. This year, they delivered weekly drama workshops for the community and hosted a showcase of the group's play, THE SEVEN AGES OF US. Their weekly meet-ups are a vital space for older people to socialise, learn new skills and feel more connected to their community.



IMAGE: THE ROUND



FUNCTIONS AND EVENTS

Riverside Studios has, in 2022, swiftly become the 'location of choice' for functions and events of all shapes and sizes. We have become skilled at adapting the Bar & Kitchen, River Room, Cinema Foyer, Screening Rooms, Meeting Spaces, Rehearsal Room and Atrium for the needs of everything from birthday parties, meetings, Boat Races, sustainable markets to Dive In events!

We now have a wider array of clientele than ever before, from Hammersmith & Fulham Council through to L'Oréal, all of whom enjoy the unique atmosphere and service that Riverside can offer.

For much of 2022 we have been utilising a variety of our spaces for filming and rehearsals. 'House' shows (such as HOLY SH*T which developed and rehearsed its new version solely at Riverside) as well as Jermy Street Theatre, SIX THE MUSICAL, Eddie Izzard and many more have enjoyed our facilities and warm welcome to develop their work.

Our Dive In events and Associates have also made great

use of our spaces with more than 120 events, from dance cardio classes through to playwriting workshops, making their home in everywhere from our Board Room through to our Rehearsal Room.

In the first weekend of November, we were proud to welcome the British Guild of Travel Writers to Riverside for their annual awards ceremonies and celebrations, marking the start of the World Travel Market. Over 200 guests enjoyed our Bar & Kitchen's 'food from around the world' canape offerings, as well as a specially-staged 'gala presentation' of CAGES in Studio 2. Michael Palin appeared as guest of honour and the event showcased the studios and screening rooms in great style.

Also in November, we were proud to welcome both Winch Design and L'Oréal back to Riverside for their annual events. The latter, a spectacular 'hair fashion show' delivered by award-winning graduates from the Toni & Guy Academy, saw Screen 1 turned into a catwalk for the occasion.



IMAGE: BGTW AWARDS

HOSPITALITY

This year our hospitality staff have been busy preparing and serving thousands of customers in our popular Bakery and in our buzzing Bar & Kitchen. We made multiple changes to the menu throughout the year to streamline preparation time so that most items are now made to order, and we introduced more delicious snacks and sharing plates to benefit theatre audiences who want a quick, great quality service. In our Bakery, we have changed the menu to include more options, and we've created a better display of what's on offer.

In the Bar & Kitchen, we introduced a wider selection of beers on draught and brought in a new contract with Asahi and Peroni with achievable targets and volumes, and better prices on the barrel. The top three most popular items sold in our kitchen were:

- Asahi Super Dry (16,472 compared to 8,327 last year).
- Cappuccino (15,719 sold compared to 8,722 last year).
- Latte (13,584 sold compared to 8,533 last year).

Over the summer, the warm temperatures filled our outdoor tables day in, day out, and we introduced a 'cold menu' during the heat wave to benefit our chefs, staff and customers. It was such a successful initiative that our very own staff member was interviewed in The Guardian! In the colder and darker winter months, we created a warm and welcoming atmosphere with mulled wine and Baileys Hot Chocolate on offer. We are welcoming more and more regular customers in our Bakery and Bar & Kitchen, helping create a wonderful community spirit.

With the expansion of functions and events this year, we developed event menus to deliver quality catering for a huge numbers of guests.

Lastly we have made changes to staff food, improving the offer for staff members which is financially accessible and fantastic quality.



OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS

Sam's Riverside continues to be an important member of the Riverside Family. Offering one of the main dining experiences at the Studios, the 70-seat restaurant offers a modern British menu with a focus on sourcing the very finest produce found in the UK. In addition, Sam's Larder, a deli and foodstore filled with decadent delights is located on Crisp Road.

Riverside TV Studios (RTVS) is a resident in Studio 1 at Riverside Studios. Since reopening in December 2019, RTVS has played host to THE BRITS LAUNCH PARTY, CHANNEL 4'S ALTERNATIVE ELECTION NIGHT, PETER CROUCH SAVE OUR SUMMER and HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU, to name but a few. In 2022 they mounted HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU, FANTASY FOOTBALL, THE LAST LEG, THE JOHN BISHOP SHOW, THE APPRENTICE

YOU'RE FIRED, GREAT SCOTT, SORRY I DIDN'T KNOW, UNFORGIVEABLE, ITV'S CONSERVATIVE LEADERSHIP DEBATE, THE NEW YEAR'S EVE SHOW and many more.

Our new 'hot desk' offer opened up working at Riverside to a wider range of local businesses and individuals. Stingray Media Group, a long-standing tenant of Riverside settled nicely into their new offices and sixth form students from Burlington House are now regular 'hot deskers' with us for their work experience module.

We also continued to work with our neighbours both in the building as well as in the local area by holding regular meetings, briefings and events to ensure community stakeholders are more involved with our activity.



HERITAGE AND ARCHIVE

Having been paused in June 2020 due to the instability caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, this year has been all about reviving and delivering the NLHF-funded Archive Project – for which Riverside was awarded £410,000.

We decided to relaunch the archive project in the spring with a large public exhibition in collaboration with BBC History. Working with the BBC's Head of History and staff at the BBC photography archive, we made a selection of 30 images taken at Riverside between 1954 and 1974, during production of classic programmes such as DOCTOR WHO, HANCOCK'S HALF HOUR and TOP OF THE POPS. In addition to presenting the photographs in the Atrium, we were loaned a Dalek for display in the bar – where it has proven so popular with the public and staff alike that it remains on a permanent basis.

To inaugurate the 'TIME LORDS TO TOP OF THE POPS' exhibition in April, we arranged for broadcaster Bob Harris to unveil our BBC heritage trail plaque. We also had a private view which was attended by many special guests, many of whom had worked at the old BBC Riverside Television Studios. The exhibition ran for 3 months and was complimented by a well-attended cinema screening of HANCOCK'S HALF HOUR and popular community Dive In events taking inspiration from Blue Peter and Jackanory.

In June, Hope Fulton was appointed as our full-time Archivist. Hope joined us from the Royal Archives and made an immediate priority of cataloguing our 380 boxes of archive material in preparation for digitisation next year. Hope has also played a key role in our public tours and activities and, in the summer, attended the Archives and Records Association conference, where she found a number of attendees were already aware of our Riverside's heritage work.

In July, we appointed our first archive volunteer to assist Hope with the cataloguing of material, to learn more about our heritage and to develop heritage-related skills. As the project continues, we will involve a total of 25 volunteers across a range of different opportunities, including exhibition planning/delivery and website content development. As with all participants of the project, volunteers complete monthly feedback forms to provide data for analysis.

Over the summer, we led 4 free Riverside history tours, during which we shared the stories behind our buildings' plaques, guiding enthusiastic participants through our BBC photographic exhibition, going behind-the-scenes of Studio 1 and providing access to some of our archive material. Thanks to their success (feedback forms

recorded a positive response from all participants), we will schedule another series of history tours in spring 2023.

In the late summer and autumn, we delivered the first 2 (of a proposed 7) Creative Workshops for members of the community. Taking inspiration from our Riverside Icons coasters, we invited the artist Wilfrid Wood to lead two sculpting sessions for local people. Each participant chose their favourite Riverside Icon and, instructed by Wilfrid, created a plasticine model of them from scratch. To aid inspiration, the group worked to a playlist of some of Riverside's most famous musical guests including David Bowie, Amy Winehouse and Yoko Ono. It was a lot of fun exploring and modelling some of the key figures who have shaped Riverside's history.

In October, we appointed Sarah Boiling as an independent evaluator of the project (a funding requirement), who will work with us to help us achieve our proposed outputs and outcomes and shape our methods of data collection and analysis. At the end of our funding period, in March 2024, Sarah will deliver an outcomes-focussed report, providing what NLHF needs, and will also be a useful internal learning document for the team.

After we met with Hammersmith & Fulham Council's Heritage Officer, Riverside was added to H&F's Black History Trail, a self-guided tour of sites with significant Black heritage. We conducted fortnightly Black history tours for local primary school classes, introducing them to stories and visual material celebrating black artists who have worked at Riverside, including Eartha Kitt and Benjamin Zephaniah.

Also in October, we presented our latest exhibition, OUR HISTORY, which provided a cross-section of our archive material. Focussing on some of Riverside's 'big name' collaborators (including Alan Rickman, Helen Mirren, Samuel Beckett, Benjamin Zephaniah, Vanessa Redgrave, David Hockney) the exhibition was mounted in a prominent position in the Atrium, to showcase some of the unique items we hold in our collection and to help

attract new volunteers to the archive project.

Towards the end of 2022, we appointed our project's first Creative Associate, Reuben Esson-Parkes. From January until May 2023, Reuben will work closely with us to curate an exhibition celebrating Riverside's Black performance heritage, as well as a programme of public activities that take inspiration from the exhibitions' themes and content.

Having grown our team of volunteers to 6, we have completed the cataloguing of our entire archive collection. This database will form what material we select for digitisation and what we prioritise for the process. When the digital catalogue goes live, it will allow researchers access to material which has been hidden from public view for 45 years.

One of our key outcomes for this project is that Riverside Studios' staff, volunteers and trustees will become effective advocates for heritage and learning. This year, it has been extremely encouraging and rewarding to see how enthusiastically Riverside's heritage has been celebrated and utilised by a range of stakeholders. From our RALLY FOR RIVERSIDE fundraising campaign to our social media posts and our cinema programming, the rich heritage of Riverside Studios is clearly proving inspirational to staff and audiences alike.



IMAGE: RIVERSIDE STUDIOS ARCHIVE ROOM



IMAGE: RIVERSIDE STUDIOS ARCHIVE TOUR

COMMUNITY

This year, we significantly expanded the criteria of our free community Dive In Membership to the following:

- H&F residents in Council Tax bands A-D.
- H&F residents on Universal Credit.
- H&F residents with children on Pupil Premium.

These new criteria aim to ensure that more residents in H&F can benefit from a free programme of events. Dive In Membership has nearly tripled since the start of the year – this is thanks to a renewed outreach strategy which includes the likes of collaborating with the Council and local schools to spread the news.

With an expanded eligibility criteria and renewed outreach plan, we hope to reach 500 Dive In Members by spring 2023.

We have developed 10 new collaborations since last year, forming partnerships with local individuals and organisations to bring exciting one-off and regular events to the community.

We were hugely proud to partner with our Dive In Associate, This New Ground, for the pop-up installation of the Collective’s work (as discussed in the Exhibitions section.)



IMAGE: PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

One participant said:

“Having our sculpture at Riverside Studios meant we could share our talents with many people. We want people to see how important disabled people are in Hammersmith and Fulham and how much we can bring to the community. Showing our work at Riverside meant lots of people saw our work. I loved being at Riverside and felt like a professional artist with our sculpture on show.”

In January 2022, we launched RIVER SESSIONS, a new monthly live music event, curated in-house, which supports emerging artists at the start of their careers, and helps develop our 18–30-year-old demographic. In 2023 we will expand the live music events to classical and jazz evenings to help expand the audience.

We also started a new collaboration with the Photojournalism Hub to bring photography workshops for young people aged 16-30 focusing on the environment and climate change. By popular demand, we extended the workshops to 12 weeks instead of 6, and our aim is to partner with this impressive organisation again in 2023.

We formed a new partnership with illustrator and animator Will Powers, to bring themed draw-a-long



IMAGE: RIVERSCRIBES

workshops for primary school-aged children. They were a space for children to develop their creative instincts and helped inspire them to learn new drawing techniques with a professional illustrator.

To help celebrate Black History Month we collaborated with actor and writer Nadine Gray to run a hugely popular interactive storytelling and hair-styling workshop, working in partnership with H&F Library to supply the books. We will continue to work closely with local state primary schools to build on the success of the first session and help build a more diverse young audience at Riverside.

In 2022 we also launched Italian Culture Club, a monthly event that has developed a loyal following. After seeing the success of the ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL at Riverside which had sold out shows in Screen 1, the new partnership with Italian Language school Vivere L’Italiano, who focus on teaching Italian through culture, seemed like the perfect fit for the Dive In events programme.

We also teamed up with professional dancer, Anna Wicks to bring a series of dance-cardio workshops for people of all ages. These fun classes for the community help support mental and physical wellbeing, and will continue in 2023.

One participant said, **“I love that I can fully relax and enjoy myself in a safe space.” Another person said, “I always come out with a smile and feeling like I’ve had a workout too.”**

We collaborated with the charity Open Age for the first time and co-devised a unique workshop for people over 50 in the community. We brought in theatre director and writer, Laura McCluskey who has previously worked with the theatre charity, Clean Break, to run weekly Theatre and Movement classes.

We also developed a monthly playwriting workshop called RIVERSCRIBES, which is an intergenerational space for people to learn new playwriting skills. Collaborating once again with Nadine Gray who took inspiration from her experience as a workshop facilitator

for the Black Writers' Collective at Southwark Playhouse, these monthly sessions build on the theatre themed workshops we have available on our programme and will culminate in a Showcase.

The ongoing workshop, 'STAGE DOOR: OVER 50S DRAMA' was delivered in partnership with Dive In Associate, Carol Allen from Cats Whiskers Community Arts, who has been one of our most successful collaborations since starting them in 2020. From 2021 - 22, Carol has led weekly 2-hour workshops and held a showcase in Studio 3. These regular classes are hugely important for building a strong community bond, combatting isolation and building new skills.

Another long-standing partnership is the collaboration with not-for-profit yoga organisation, the Lumi Foundation. Whether it's in-person yoga at Riverside Studios or Zoom yoga, these weekly classes are a guaranteed space for people to relax and unwind, and they help overcome financial barriers to mental wellbeing thanks to the low ticket prices. Yoga has reached the highest amount of people over the past year, with 900 tickets sold for in-person yoga, and 1,405 free tickets on Zoom.

Working closely with theatre producers, we were also able to offer a number of free or discounted shows over the past year for Dive In Members. One highlight was offering complimentary tickets to our immersive theatre show in Studio 2, CAGES, which we gained overwhelmingly positive feedback from Dive In Members:

"No production has ever activated such emotions. Theatre will never be the same again! Truly a game changer."

In 2022 we also hosted Year 10 students from state schools in Hammersmith and Fulham for week-long work experience placements. Working with the career advisors from Fulham Cross Girls School, William Morris School and West London Free School, two students were selected from each school who were interested in forging a career in the arts.

We formed a new partnership with West London's only school for students with learning difficulties, Burlington House, devising a bespoke membership package which hugely benefits their students. From theatre workshops, open rehearsals to work experience, we are thrilled with this fruitful partnership which will continue throughout 2023.



IMAGE: RIVERSESSIONS



IMAGE: ILLUSTRATION WORKSHOP



OUR BUILDING

In 2022 we not only returned to full operations, post COVID, but we also found ourselves working at full speed and capacity for the first time since re-opening.

During 2022 we have not only 'stress tested' the new building with, on regular occasions, over 1,000 visitors coming together under our roof at one time, but we also took the time to ensure that everything that we were doing was to the highest possible standards.

Health and Safety and Fire procedures were independently audited and assessed. A new Operations Help Desk was put in place. We installed new wayfinding and refreshed the fabric of various parts of the building after effectively 3 years of 'wear and tear' (albeit it with lockdown interruptions). We looked at alarms and security and worked on a full rewrite of the Technical Specifications of our studios. We put plans in place for the new 'Martin's Law' and we reviewed all our spaces and operations to ensure that we are a safe and welcoming venue for everyone.

SAVING GRACE provided us with some terrific new ideas around how we operate in Studio 3 and helped produce work that we would have never thought possible in that space.

We seconded two members from our Visitor Experience Team, in our ongoing drive to encourage and develop internal talent, and we trained up two additional members of Front of House staff in both technical and projection skills.

We worked closely with our friends at RTVS and Sam's to ensure the spaces and services that we share are smooth and efficient in their operations and we worked with the residents living above the Studios to ensure that we're as good friends and neighbours as we can possibly be.

We, unsurprisingly, looked at energy consumption in granular detail, focussing on how we ensure the building runs to maximum efficiency and with minimum environmental impact, but also to be sure that we're putting as much of our money into our artistic output as possible

We worked with all our contractors – from cleaning, to security, to building maintenance to plumbing – to ensure that we're getting the best service and best value for money for our charity and to be sure we're working in a way that is collegiate and collaborative.



IMAGE: RIVERSIDE STUDIOS ATRIUM

OUR PEOPLE AND FINANCES

In Human Resources, we introduced an Employee of the Month scheme which has encouraged team spirit and is well supported by staff. In 2023 we will be implementing Staffology, which will allow for more efficient working for Finance and HR as all employee information will be centralised in one place. It will also make it more useful for employees who will have easy access to their own records such as holiday allowances. Over the past year, we have improved the monitoring and implementation of staff annual appraisals and probationary reviews, updating the format and structure of the relevant meetings.

We introduced a staff survey every 6 months, so that all team members can help ensure Riverside is moving in the right direction and which encourages a collaborative, cross-departmental way of working.

Over Christmas, we brought in a fun Advent Calendar initiative where staff members picked a date and won a goody bag. We also introduced more staff events such as the September party and Christmas drinks which has been another successful way of bringing the teams together after all the incredible hard work that has been put into running Riverside.

For better communications, this year, we began circulating the weekly Team Meeting notes to all staff via email and on our software, Deputy, to help ensure everyone is kept in the loop.

2022 was, inevitably, a year that focussed on our finances. As life returned to 'normal' but as Covid Relief Funding started to come to an end, the challenges on our finances, and therefore our Finance Team, were arguably second to none.

The Team worked with Moore Kingston Smith on our audit in May and that saw us being given a clean bill of health in that respect. We moved from a 'Covid model' into our first full financial year under a new business plan. The team worked with Trustees, Executives and department heads on regular cycles of scrutiny and reporting, providing information, training and support as necessary.

The finance team took an intern and a secondee from the Front of House and Food & Beverage teams to ensure both smooth operations as well as continuing our commitment to professional development.



IMAGE: THE SEVEN AGES OF US



IMAGE: CREATIVE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising, as a charity, is at the heart of everything that we do. Our financial stability and our ability to plan for the future with confidence is reliant upon the support and generosity of our visitors, volunteers, donors and sponsors.

During 2022 we relaunched our proposition for Patrons, Name a Seat Donors and Corporate Members. We expanded the offering for Dive In and Film Club Members, to integrate them into all aspects of Riverside life, and we refreshed our Corporate Membership Scheme, alongside our involvement in the Riverfront Business Group.

In November, we launched RALLY FOR RIVERSIDE, a fundraising campaign designed to provide vital financial support for Riverside whilst celebrating our forthcoming anniversary as both an arts centre and charity. “We Need Cash Now” was the strapline for our last major campaign in the 80s and it is more relevant now than ever. We introduced ‘Tap to Donate’ in our foyers, added a ‘charity premium’ to our fries and mounted another Winter Auction which included prizes from a

personalised message from Gyles Brandreth to free cinema tickets for the whole year on the rosta.

Fundraising will be more of a focus than ever in 2023 and 2022 put all of the vital foundations in place.

Riverside Studios is a charity that depends upon the generosity and involvement of its supporters and audiences so that it can develop and deliver its artistic programme, community outreach activities and keep its iconic building available and affordable to the widest possible audience.

As we continue to emerge from the impact of the pandemic, we aim to continue to increase our turnover and to generate all of that income from the activity in our studios, cinemas, restaurants and bars whilst increasing fundraising to £1.5m p.a. Only then will we be able to truly become the independent home for new, innovative and international work, for an audience rooted in our local West London community and accessible to everyone, everywhere.



IMAGE: DRAMA WORKSHOP



CONCLUSION

As we reflect upon the success as well as the challenges of 2022 and as we look to the year ahead, we are focussed on this vision more than ever before.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our friends, neighbours, audiences, visitors, stakeholders, donors, sponsors and staff as well as everyone who holds the life and work of Riverside Studios in as much esteem as we do, for their encouragement and support. We are driven by the belief in the power of creativity to bring people together, unlock potential and spark positive change in the world.

For over 45 years, Riverside Studios has been the home of an extraordinary mix of new and innovative theatre, film, comedy, art, dance, music and television. A cultural hub that has attracted some of the world's best creative talent including Samuel Beckett, David Bowie, Benjamin Zephaniah, Amy Winehouse, Yoko Ono, Lenny Henry and Michael Clark.

Now, in our glorious new building, we are beginning our next creative chapter. We are ambitious, curious and audacious, we are for our community, our artists and our audiences. We're brand new, again.



**RIVERSIDE STUDIOS
101 QUEEN CAROLINE STREET
HAMMERSMITH, LONDON, W6 9BN**



RiversideStudiosLondon



RiversideStudiosLondon



RiversideLondon

**WWW.RIVERSIDESTUDIOS.CO.UK
PHONE: 020 8237 1000
BOX OFFICE: 020 8237 1010**