

FRINGE THEATRE *Awards*

**Award Ceremony
2025/26**

**THE CLAPHAM
GRAND**

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AN EXHIBITION AND THEATRE INSTALLATION CELEBRATING ART FROM THE LEVANT

vibology

/vybe'o-l-o-jee/

noun
COMMUNICATION
1. the study and practice of emotional communication
see: energy-based



HOLD THE LIGHT

ART INSPIRED THEATRE

Written and Directed by
Mira Awad

Cast:
Lola Fishbein
Helen Rose-Hampton
Adam Hasyim
Julie Yara-Atz

Costumes:
Yuliya Y Krylova

Music:
Mira Awad and Nitai Schendar

11th - 15th
Doors 1830
Performance 1930
Q&A 2030

Tickets:
Eventbrite

Curated by **Dina Dabbas Rifai**
An exhibition, live performance and Q&A
exploring emotional communication

11 - 15 May
Show runs daily 1100 - 1800
Free Entry

Location: Studio 17, Excelsior Studios
17-19 Sunbeam Road
London NW10 6JP
Central Line – North Acton (11 min walk)

Ahmad Turki, Hani Alqam, Leen Jamil
Tamara El Ali, Arda Aslanian
Mohammad Tamimi
Mattar Odeh, Karma Bint Abbas
Aya Adel, Hamza Jaber
Abdallah Abu Jaber, Wedad Al Nasser
Waaed Qwayder, Noor Nematt, Juman Nimri
Zaina Al Said, Rama Al Farekh, Sondos Adas
Haya Halaw, and Jude Samman

www.musetheatre.london



Award Ceremony 2025/26

Welcome to the Fringe Theatre Awards!



Launched on 1 April 2025, the aim of the Fringe Theatre Awards is to celebrate, encourage and recognise the talent, dedication and creativity of those working in live fringe theatre.

- **76** accredited **reviewer-assessors**
- **981** **nominations** for outstanding fringe theatre
- **155** **People's Vote nominations** for favourite venues
- **115** **EFFTA awards** presented at the Edinburgh Festival
- **12** **Special Awards** to theatremakers who have made a real difference

Mark your diaries! The event of 2027 will be the **FTA Award Ceremony**, here at the Clapham Grand on **Sunday 9 May**.

Production Team

Director **Richard Lambert**
Musical Director **Aaron Clingham**
Video & Graphic Designer **Steve Caplin**
Stage Manager & Casting Director **Daniel Lobo**
Photographers **Peter Davies & Nick Brittain**
Production Assistant **Angie Lawrence**
Producer **LAMBCO Productions**

Exec Team 2025/26

Richard Lambert Caroline Friedman
Elaine Chapman Steve Caplin
John Farndon Andrew Harmer
Josephine Buchan

Acknowledgements

Ally Wolf, Samuel Swannell and the staff at The Clapham Grand and Society of Independent Theatre (SIT).

Act One: Design, Writing & Direction

Design – Costume

Carla Joy Evans
The Truth About Blayds
Finborough Theatre

Tomas Palmer
Radiant Boy
Southwark Playhouse (Elephant)

Zara Kattan
The Magic of Christmas
Brick Lane Music Hall

Design – Lighting

Lucia Sanchez Roldan
Radiant Boy
Southwark Playhouse (Borough)

Samuel Button-Bell
Two Come Home
The Cockpit

Jessie Addinall
Children of the Night
Southwark Playhouse (Borough)

Design – Set

Andrew Caddies
The Washing Line
Chickenshed

Tomas Palmer
Radiant Boy
Southwark Playhouse (Borough)

Ethan Cheek
The Code
Southwark Playhouse (Elephant)

Design – Sound

Tom Bedworth
The Mad Ones
The Other Palace (Studio)

Kay Brattan
Witch Girl Summer
The Lion and Unicorn Theatre

Will Pickering
Othello
The Nutshell (Winchester)

Design – Video

Liam Alexandru
Be More Chill
Old Joint Stock (Birmingham)

Matt Powell
Overshare
Greenwich Studio Theatre

Joshua Pharo
It Walks Around the House at Night
Southwark Playhouse (Borough)

Design – WHAM

Abbie Farnell
HOT ICE XS
The Arena (Blackpool)

River Medway
The Diana Mixtape
HERE at Outernet

Josh Bamling
The Code
Southwark Playhouse (Elephant)

Direction – Choreography/Movement

Georgia Polly-Taylor
The Liminoid
The Cockpit

Liz Kent (Intimacy Director)
Late, A Cowboy Song
Hen and Chickens Theatre

Emily Kilkenny Roddy
The Last Incel
Pleasance Theatre (London)

Kay Brattan
Witch Girl Summer
Lion & Unicorn Theatre

Director – Musicals

James Edge
Be More Chill
Old Joint Stock (Birmingham)

Joseph Pitcher
My Fair Lady
The Mill at Sonning

Ellie Coote
Hot Mess
Southwark Playhouse (Elephant)

Director – Play

Josephine Burton
The Reckoning
Arcola Theatre (Studio)

Anna Blackburn
Julius Caesar
Hen and Chickens Theatre

Moisés Kaufman &
Amanda Cronich
Here There Are Blueberries
Stratford East

Bronagh Lagan
Brixton Calling
Southwark Playhouse (Borough)

Musical Director

Aaron Clingham
Supersonic Man
Southwark Playhouse (Borough)

Rob Gathercole
Scouts! The Musical
Hope Mill Theatre (Manchester)

Issie Osborne &
Joe Beighton
Hot Mess
Southwark Playhouse (Elephant)

Callum Thompson
The Mad Ones
The Other Palace (Studio)

Writing – New Music

Carleigh McRitchie &
Bella Wright
The Gardening Club
New Wimbledon Theatre (Studio)

Levi Kreis
Already Perfect
King's Head Theatre

Finn Anderson
Ballad Lines
Southwark Playhouse (Elephant)

Writing – New Musical (Book)

Carleigh McRitchie &
Bella Wright
The Gardening Club
New Wimbledon Theatre (Studio)

Levi Kreis with Dave Solomon
Already Perfect
King's Head Theatre

Ellie Coote
Hot Mess
Southwark Playhouse (Elephant)

Writing – New Musical (Lyrics)

Mathew Wilder
Stiletto
Charing Cross Theatre

Lady Aria Grey
Ancient Grease
The Vaults

Levi Kreis
Already Perfect
King's Head Theatre

Writing – New Play

Megan Marszal
I Love You Michael, Love Nadine
Old Red Lion Theatre

Joel Tan
Scenes from a Repatriation
Jerwood Studio

Elias Matar
A Grain of Sand
Arcola Theatre (Studio)

Joe Eason
Two Come Home
The Cockpit

Tim Foley
It Walks Around the House at Night
Southwark Playhouse (Borough)

Act Two: Specialisms & Miscellaneous

Access

CRIPtic Arts
Liberty Festival
Battersea Arts Centre

Dan Daw Creative Projects
EXXY
Battersea Arts Centre

Deafinitely Theatre
Barrier(s)
Camden People's Theatre

Casting

Nadine Rennie CDG
Slippery
Omnibus Theatre

Pearson Casting CDG
Hot Mess
Southwark Playhouse (Elephant)

Daniel Lobo
Savage
White Bear Theatre

Musical Contribution

Daniel Gouly &
Josh Middleton
Bubble Schmeisis
Soho Theatre

Konnie Kendall
Late, A Cowboy Song
Hen and Chickens Theatre

Tendai Humphrey Sitima
Brixton Calling
Southwark Playhouse (Borough)

Newcomer

Alfie Blackwell
My Fair Lady
The Mill at Sonning

Jack Carr
Be More Chill
Old Joint Stock (Birmingham)

Louis Edwards
Peter Pan
Greenwich Theatre

Panto (Creative)

Tarik Frimpong
**Dick Whittington and his
Catford Cat**
Broadway Theatre (Catford)

Anthony Spargo
**Peter Pan: A Pantomime
Adventure**
Greenwich Theatre

David Shields (Set)
**Beauty and the Beast: A Horny
Love Story**
Charing Cross Theatre

Panto (Performance)

Conor Luke Drury
**Dick Whittington and his
Catford Cat**
Broadway Theatre (Catford)

Ellie Seaton
Mama Goose
Stratford East

Ada Campe
**Growled - Beauty and the
Beast Continues**
Royal Vauxhall Tavern

Cabaret and Circus

NX5 Theatrical LLC
The Empire Strips Back
Riverside Studios

Strut & Fret and Menier
Chocolate Factory
Sabrage
Lafayette

Gifford's Circus
Giffords
Touring

Opera (Music)

Laurence Panter
Lucia di Lammemoor
Arcola Theatre (Studio)

Beth Fitzpatrick
Don Giovanni
Arcola Theatre (Studio)

David Eaton
Patience
Wilton's Music Hall

Opera (Performance)

Brenton Spiteri
Testament
Arcola Theatre (Studio)

Matthew Kellett &
Catrine Kirkman
Patience
Wilton's Music Hall

Philip Smith & Beren Fidan
Lucia di Lammemoor
Arcola Theatre (Studio)

Opera (Production)

Charles Court Opera
Patience
Wilton's Music Hall

Barefoot Opera
Lucia di Lammemoor
Arcola Theatre (Studio)

Ensemble Orquesta
Don Giovanni
Arcola Theatre (Studio)

Puppetry Contribution

Aya Nakamura
Prayers for a Hungry Ghost
Barbican Pit

Joseph Martin
The Fit Prince
King's Head Theatre

Laura Bacon
An Evening with Patsy May
Phoenix Arts Club

Solo Stories

Gerel Falconer
Tones: A Hip-Hop Opera
Brixton House

Kaitlyn Kelly
I Didn't Know I Was Polish
The Hope Theatre

Eleanor Hill
Overshare
Greenwich Studio Theatre

Ollie Maddigan
The Olive Boy
Southwark Playhouse (Borough)

TYA (Design)

Peter Morton
Tiny Planet
Half Moon Theatre

David Treanor
Squirrel
Unicorn Theatre

Stan Middleton,
Shannon Topliss,
Lyndie Wright
Captain Sandy & The Sea Monster
Puppet Theatre Barge

TYA (Music)

Avi Simmons, Suitman Jungle,
Darcey O'Rourke
Tiny Planet
Half Moon Theatre

Michael Betteridge
The Vanishing Forest
Polka Theatre

Josh Middleton
Captain Sandy & The Sea Monster
Puppet Theatre Barge

TYA (Performance)

Finlay McGuigan
Counting Sheeps
Polka Theatre

Robbie Synge
The Show for Young Men
Southbank Centre

Tom Storey, Amy Blake
Dweeb-a-Mania
Polka Theatre

TYA (Production)

Puppet Theatre Barge
Captain Sandy & the Sea Monster
Puppet Theatre Barge

Guest House Projects
The Show for Young Men
Southbank Centre

Hopeful Monsters
Hopeful Monsters
The Well Walk Theatre

TYA (Writing/Devising)

Ensemble (Daryl Beeton,
Ben Miles, Leon Wander)
The Three Bears
Half Moon Theatre

Nancy Hirst
**The Snow Queen - A Woodland
Adventure**
The Albany (Deptford)

Sarah Middleton
Dweeb-a-Mania
Polka Theatre

Cabaret (Choreography & Dance)

Luke Earl & Ce Ce D'Vyne
Funny Girls Summer Celebration
Funny Girls (Blackpool)

Bayley Graham
Emerald Storm
Emerald Theatre

Robbie O'Reilly
Boys in the Buff
Golden Goose Theatre

Finalists



Act Three: Performance & Production

Supporting Performance (Play)

Andi Bickers
Dick
Drayton Arms Theatre

Charlotte Brown & Gareth Radcliffe
Children of the Night
Southwark Playhouse (Borough)

Rupert Wickham
The Truth About Blayds
Finborough Theatre

Ensemble Performance (Play)

Cast of *David Copperfield*
Jermyn Street Theatre

Cast of *Cockfosters*
Southwark Playhouse (Borough)

Cast of
Here There Are Blueberries
Stratford East

Solo Performance (Play)

Tommy Sim'aan
Insane Asylum Seekers
Bush Theatre (Studio)

Georgia Polly-Taylor
Hot Mess
Lion & Unicorn

Sarah Agha
A Grain of Sand
Arcola Theatre (Studio)

Duo Performance (Play)

Kellie Shirley & Peter Caulfield
Two
Greenwich Theatre

Mabli Gwynne & Liam Holmes
Mr Jones
Finborough Theatre

Gwithian Evans & Geebs Marie Williams
Bobby and Amy
Oso Arts Centre

Lead Performance (Play)

Joe Eason
Two Come Home
Cockpit Theatre

Wallis Currie-Wood
Our American Queen
Bridewell Theatre

Clare Stenning
Brief Play About Rage
The Cockpit

Production (Plays)

Tectonic Theatre
Here There Are Blueberries
Stratford East

Annlouise Butt for Chromolume Productions
Dr Freud Will See You Now, Mrs Hitler
Upstairs at the Gatehouse

Next to Nothing Productions
Dick
Drayton Arms Theatre

Supporting Performance (Musicals)

Lucinda Lawrence
The Diana MixTape
HERE at Outernet

Thea Jo Wolfe
The Mad Ones
The Other Palace (Studio)

Yiftach 'Iffy' Mizrahi
Already Perfect
King's Head Theatre

Ensemble Performance (Musicals)

Cast of *Ballad Lines*
Southwark Playhouse (Elephant)

Cast of *Gwenda's Garage*
Southwark Playhouse (Borough)

Cast of *My Fair Lady*
The Mill at Sonning

Lead Performance (Musicals)

Simbi Akande & Nadim Naaman
My Fair Lady
The Mill at Sonning

Dora Gee
The Mad Ones
The Other Palace (Studio)

Tom Dickerson
Be More Chill
Old Joint Stock (Birmingham)

Production (Musicals)

Sally Hughes
My Fair Lady
The Mill at Sonning

Electric Press Productions
The Mad Ones
The Other Palace (Studio)

Gigglemug Theatre
Scouts! The Musical
Hope Mill Theatre (Manchester)

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CONSULTING

Congratulations to all the amazing finalists

CNC are theatre PR experts. We have nearly two decades' experience looking after the PR for a range of brilliant and award-winning shows. We love working with amazing talent and building relationships.

Get in touch to begin a conversation about how we can help you reach more people and take your show further.

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CHARLES COURT OPERA



People's Vote

FRINGE
THEATRE
Awards

The People's
Vote Awards are
proposed by
theatre-goers to
celebrate the best
fringe venues.

Accessibility

The Front Room
(Weston-super-Mare)

Brick Lane Music Hall

Libra Theatre Café

Food & Drink

Brick Lane Music Hall

The Glitch

The Front Room
(Weston-super-Mare)

Most Welcoming

The Glitch

Libra Theatre Café

The Front Room
(Weston-super-Mare)

Facilities

The Front Room
(Weston-super-Mare)

Brick Lane Music Hall

Libra Theatre Café



Special Awards

Recognising outstanding contributions to fringe theatre



Chris Elwell & Jackie Eley

For 27 years of making the **Half Moon Theatre** one of the most transformative participatory theatres in the UK.



Esther Baker

Artistic Director of the **Synergy Theatre Project**, for spearheading life-changing theatre concerning the criminal justice system.



Oliver Hymans

For services to puppetry at the **Little Angel Theatre**, making an exceptional contribution to the puppetry world as an advocate, artisan, designer and mentor.



Sally Hughes

Recognised for her outstanding leadership as Managing Director and Artistic Director of **The Mill at Sonning**, the UK's only dinner theatre.



Charles Court Opera

John Savournin and **David Eaton** have a reputation for championing innovative and high-quality small-scale opera in intimate fringe spaces.



Angie Lawrence

A perfectionist with punctuation and a passionate and dedicated showbiz enthusiast, Angie is the beating heart of fringe theatre.



Geoffrey Brown

A visionary leader devoting over 45 years to the arts, most recently transforming **OffWestEnd** during his seven years as Director.



Oily Carte

Pioneering inclusive theatre, making exceptional and leading edge work for babies, young people, families and people with disabilities.



Anda Winters

Her bold programming at the **Coronet Theatre** favours an eclectic and often provocative work, flying the flag for esoteric international performances.



Penny Horner

Co-founder of **Jermyn Street Theatre**, Penny works tirelessly to make sure everything runs smoothly at every performance.



Conrad Murray

Founder of **BAC Beatbox Academy** and Artistic Director of **Beats and Elements**, for empowering a new and atypical generations of artists.



Sue Buckmaster

Theatre-Rites celebrates thirty years of pioneering, multidisciplinary, immersive theatre for young audiences, with a unique artistic approach.



◀ Michael Twaits

Michael Twaits is a London-based drag act, actor, author and producer. A prolific performer, he brings over twenty years of experience to stages of all kinds – from intimate clubs to major Pride events, theatres, embassies, and even trains.

As a cabaret performer, he has worked across the UK and internationally and can regularly

be found at his West End residency every Saturday at the legendary Phoenix Arts Club, performing two shows a night.

Michael was the host of *Pride In London* for a decade, where he hosted Trafalgar Square on the day and programmed the cabaret stage and produced their annual *Pride's Got Talent* contest, taking an array of new talent to the West End and beyond.

As an actor, he has worked extensively on the Fringe, while also producing his own shows,

including *Confessions of a Dancewhore* (Trafalgar Studios, Ovalhouse and Tour), *Icons* (Soho Theatre and Tour) and *The Libertine Has Left the Building* (Mimetic Best Theatre Award winner).

Blending actor, drag and cabaret performance, Michael has appeared in film and television, including Ridley Scott's *Napoleon*, NBC's *Dracula* and numerous appearances as a talking head on drag, cabaret and *Pride* culture. He is the creator

and facilitator of *The Art of Drag* course at the Royal Vauxhall Tavern, which has been running for over a decade and has helped launch more than 200 drag acts.

Drawing on his experience as both a performer and teacher, he published his first book in 2025, *The Art of Drag: A Practical Performer's Handbook*.

He is delighted to be hosting the inaugural Fringe Theatre Awards and to be sharing the evening with so many venues, companies and performers.

▶ Bayley Graham

Bayley Graham is redefining what it means to be a tap dancer in the modern era. Born and raised in New Zealand, he has captivated audiences worldwide with his exhilarating speed, intricate musicality and magnetic stage presence.

His career has taken him to some of the world's most prestigious stages, including reaching the Semi-Finals of *America's Got Talent* and winning the first-ever season of New Zealand's *60 Seconds*. Now one of the most followed tap dancers globally, Bayley's videos have amassed millions of views, earning recognition from international celebrities and major television networks.

He has performed on Italian television in Rome, toured

internationally with Postmodern Jukebox, and tapped nightly at the Sydney Opera House in *Gatsby at the Green Light*. In Europe, he has appeared at Apollo Variété, one of the continent's leading variety theatres. He made his UK debut in *La Clique* at the Edinburgh Fringe and in London's West End, and most recently starred in *Emerald Storm*.

Beyond performing, Bayley is the creator and star of his award-winning show, *Rhythm is My Business*, which has enjoyed sell-out seasons across New Zealand. A true one-man creative force, he continues to push tap dance forward while honouring its rich history – reminding audiences everywhere that rhythm is, indeed, his business.



Performers

FRINGE
THEATRE
Awards

I Made You A Mixtape

A 90s-set, movement-led theatre experience where nine women navigate friendship and identity through music.

Created by the UK's first Meisner-based movement company, each performance unfolds in real time; raw, playful and completely unrepeatable.

Performances are coming up at The Cockpit, 12 - 14 June 2026 and then at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe (Triplex, theSpace).

Choreographer
Christie Lee Manning
for Response Theatre



Abbey Devoy



Alexa Stevens



Amy Punter



Clair Gleave



Jennifer Kehoe



Katrina Lopes



Lauren O'Sullivan



Maggie Trepanier



Tatiana Ivanova

The FTA Boys

Choreographer Robbie O'Reilly



Paul MacDonald



Adam Norton



Nick Brittain



Kane Verrall



About the FTA

The Fringe Theatre Awards is an independent organisation devoted to recognising and celebrating fringe theatre across the UK.

- The FTA awards are free to enter.
- The FTA does not ask for free theatre tickets.
- The FTA does not charge any subscription or membership fees.
- Because our assessors are also reviewers, award nominations can be made very quickly. This enables productions to share and publicise them early in their run.
- FTA awards nominations solely on the recommendation of reputable and approved theatre reviewers.
- All nominations are rigorously assessed, and reviewers who are involved in a production in any way are excluded from the decision-making process.

When we say fringe theatre, we *mean* fringe theatre. We don't include shows that are eligible for mainstream awards such as the Oliviers, and we don't include large venues affiliated to the Society of London Theatres. Our goal is to recognise the innovation and creativity of often low-budget but high-achieving shows, often in the UK's smaller venues.

Our website includes a calendar of fringe shows, so theatregoers can see exactly what's on each day in the smaller stages across the UK. We give a free listing to any show that wants to be included.

Increased costs, lack of funding and diminished audiences are huge challenges for smaller theatre companies. The FTA helps to publicise fringe shows and bring them to public attention.

Festivals

In 2025/26 we launched the EFFTAs, the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Theatre Awards. Because of the difficulty in aggregating reviews from a small pool of accredited assessors, we instead use a points system:

Bronze award: two four star reviews from accredited review sites

Silver award: one four star and one five star review from accredited review sites

Gold award: two five star reviews from accredited review sites

Producers are notified of their award after successfully completing a form on our website. This year, we will be making physical medallions available for a small fee.

In 2026/27 we will be rolling out the same system to other fringe festivals throughout the UK.

Don't miss the 2026/27 FTA Award Ceremony, here at the Clapham Grand on Sunday 9 May!



Book, Music and Lyrics by
ERIK RANSOM

Directed & Choreographed by
WILLIAM SPENCER



THE OPERA!
THE UNAUTHORISED PARODY

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18TH JUNE - 19TH JULY

OLD REP THEATRE BIRMINGHAM
28TH JULY - 2ND AUGUST

53TWO MANCHESTER
5TH - 29TH AUGUST

UNITY THEATRE LIVERPOOL
1ST - 5TH SEPTEMBER

NOTTINGHAM ARTS THEATRE
10TH - 12TH SEPTEMBER

★★★★★
"Witty and Amusing"
Box Office Radio

★★★★★
"Packed with Great Songs"
London Theatre 1

★★★★★
"Provocative and Promises a
Good Time"
London Living Large

★★★★★
"A Top-Quality Production"
UK Theatre Web

★★★★★
"A F***ing Good Night Out!"
Attitude Magazine



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Congratulations to all nominees and winners
of this year's Fringe Theatre Awards!

The Manningtree Witches, LD: Lucía Sánchez Roldán, Photography: Pamela Raith

Contact our team to support your
next lighting production.

