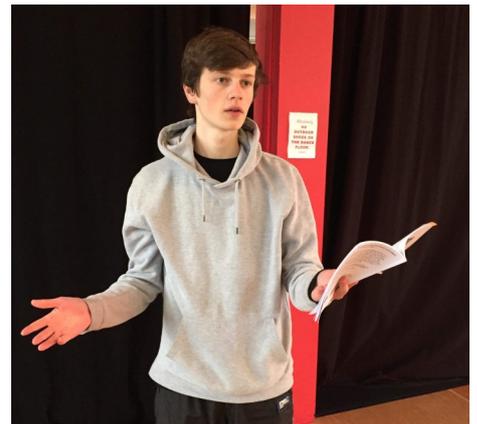


## Come You Giants Bursary Scheme

Next Stage Theatre Company's Come You Giant's Bursary Scheme (CYG) has been helping young performers further their training in the arts since 2012. To date, CYG has helped 15 young people - known as CYGnets - by assisting with funding for training, degrees, foundation courses, LAMDA exams, Youth Theatre fees, Summer Schools and other activities in which the recipients have improved and furthered their performing skills and experiences. Following are the stories from previous talented CYGnet awardees.

Hugo Worrall used the money to help pay for his course at The Actors Workshop in Bristol, a school which aims to get its students into Drama school. Last year they got 29 out of 31 people into Drama-school including previous CYG winner and ex-NSYouther, Ben Armstrong.

Hugo says *"On Saturdays there are masterclasses which help bring people out of their comfort zone. So far I have been to a masterclass on how to perform Shakespeare which is useful as you have to give at least two Shakespeare monologues for the drama school audition process. I have also have taken part in a masterclass about ensemble, the person who gave it is also the director of Insane Root which is a professional theatre group based in Bristol. We explored what you can do with the power of an ensemble and the stories you can create, this helped my ability to perform as a group. I also have done a slapstick master class which has helped with my comedic timing and physical theatre. To conclude I am really enjoying this course and I am learning amazing skills that are helping my development as an actor. "*



Esther Bennett used the CYG bursary to help pay her Next Stage Youth fees. Esther says *"I am so grateful for the Come You Giant funding I received, it has allowed me to have an amazing year with the company, making some great memories and helping me to develop my skills as an actor. I was a part of the youth production "The Railway Children" in October half term which I really enjoyed and enabled me to work with talented youthers as well as some amazing adults. The show was a great success. We are now working on short scripts for the Mid Somerset Festival next year. Next Stage has given me some amazing opportunities that I would never have been given otherwise, thank you so much!"*



Freddie Stockton used the money to fund private acting lessons with Kim Gilbert. Freddie says ***“I would like to thank Next Stage for giving me money from the Come You Giants bursary. I have used the money to have one-to-one lessons from Kim Gilbert. I really love having my one-to-ones with Kim, she instills so much confidence in me. She has helped to develop my acting skills that has benefitted me in my classes at Next Stage. I am truly grateful for the bursary.”***



Lily Stiles used her bursary to pay for full time training, preparing for her drama school auditions, meeting each week with a director to work on her pieces, to help fine-tune her performance. Lily says ***“For a drama school audition, you have you prepare two speeches, a classical speech, and a speech from a contemporary play. For my contemporary speech, I am working on a section of “Fleabag” by Phoebe Waller-Bridge, and for my classical I am doing Tamora from “Titus Andronicus”. Both pieces are going well, and I am aiming to have a second classical speech under my belt before Christmas. The Bulk of my auditions will be in the new year, but my first is scheduled for the 17th of December- The Oxford School of Speech And Drama. I have booked in for some extra sessions before this, so I can really nail my speeches.”***



Katerina Petmezas used the money awarded to her last year to help fund her position on the 2017 TRB Summer School. Katerina says ***“I’m very grateful for the support I received from the Come You Giants bursary to give me the opportunity to spend my summer surrounding myself in the world of theatre. At the Summer school I learned valuable skills in workshops focusing on movement, voice and characterisation increasing my confidence and developing my skills as an actor. The end of the course was followed by six shows where I played Madam Van Tassel in The Legend of Sleepy Hollow and this increased my passion for performing and gave me an exciting and memorable experience of creating a production in such an intensive short period of time. I believe the experience as a whole has strengthened my understanding of what it is like to work in theatre and opened many doors for me in the future. I can’t thank Next Stage enough for making it possible for me to do this.”***



Jenny McGlynn used the money awarded to in 2015 to help her fund a theatre trip to Canada with ITV West Television Workshop. Once there she played Don Jon in *Much Ado About Nothing* at the Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan Festival in Saskatoon. Jenny says ***“The whole experience was a truly unforgettable one, and one of the highlights for me was experiencing first hand just how timeless yet still relevant Shakespeare’s work is across the world. In addition, I relished the challenge of exploring and gaining a fuller understanding of the Shakespearian language. It was an invaluable opportunity, igniting my love for acting even further, and would not have been possible without the help of Ann Ellison and the Come You Giants bursary fund from Next Stage. So, from the bottom of my heart, thank you.”***

Issy Jacob used her award from the Bursary to fund a year's membership of Next Stage Youth Theatre Company 2015-2016. Issy says of her time with Next Stage Youth ***"I am so grateful for the funding I received from Come You Giants towards my Next Stage Youth fees. It has enabled me to have a fun and exciting year with the company, as well as helping me to develop my skills as an actor. The experience with the mentors and other 'Youthers' provides a fresh environment that I cannot access through school or other drama groups, and I have found that the variety of different platforms in which I have worked, have all fed into each other."***



Abi Harvey was awarded funding from the CYG Bursary to go towards paying for LAMDA tuition in 2015 and 2016, with the view to completing her Grade 6 Acting qualification. Abi says ***"I am delighted to have received such a generous amount of money to help me fund my LAMDA tuition in 2015 and 2016. I have just completed my Acting Grade 6 exam and am now waiting to find out my result. I am also looking forward to taking part in Great Expectations with Next Stage Youth, in which I play the role of young Estella. Thank you again for supporting my acting - it means so much to me."***

Kris Rose, a member of Next Stage Youth for two years before he joined the adult company in 2015, took part in two Acting Summer Schools, both of which were part-funded by the CYG Bursary fund. In June, Kris joined a group of American students taking part in the Advanced Studies in England Theatre Summer School, and spent five weeks working on various aspects of theatre and performance, including trips to London and Stratford and all culminating in a show at the beginning of July in which Kris explored restoration and modern drama. Kris's over-riding ambition is to be an actor so he was thrilled when a considerable CYG grant in June 2016 also helped him to take up a place on a RADA Contemporary Summer School in London in August.

Kris says ***"I don't believe without these courses I would have the level of confidence and the amount of ideas in my head on how to tackle different characters and different plays. Attendance would not have been possible for me without the CYG bursary and I am eternally grateful to Next Stage Theatre Company for allowing me this opportunity. The skills I have learnt and the confidence I have gained have opened up a lot of doors to me that would have otherwise been firmly shut. This whole experience***



***has given me the extra push of motivation, inspiration and self-belief to convince to audition for a place as a full-time RADA student. The two courses have in many ways been more than just 'training', because I now have many friends all over the world from whom I have learned huge amounts."***

Ben Armstrong was awarded significant funding from the Come You Giants Bursary in June 2016 to help him with his tuition fees on the Birmingham Acting Foundation Course which he is currently attending. Ben has been with Next Stage Youth since 2011 and in that time has been an outstanding member of the company, winning the Bridget Casse Trophy for Excellence in Youth Theatre in 2014. Ben has performed leading roles in both our adult and Youth shows, including having the exciting experience of performing at the Minack Theatre in Cornwall when Next Stage toured *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* to this prestigious venue. Ben played Peter in the production.

Ben says ***“I am very grateful for the support that Come You Giants has given me for my Foundation Course this year. I have just finished the course and I have got a lot out of it. I received classes in Voice, Acting Technique, Acting Tutorial, Improvisation, Project Work, Singing, Dance and Stage Combat. I have improved in all of these areas, in particular my spontaneity through improvisation and my ability to create believable characters in Acting Technique. I know that I wouldn’t be in this position if I didn’t have access to the funding from Come You Giants that has enabled me to do this course. Come You Giants is a brilliant initiative which I am sure will benefit many other Next Stage Youthers as it has done for me. I am looking forward to starting work on Birdsong with Next Stage where I am excited to use what I have learnt at Birmingham and put it into Next Stage productions.”***



Artistic Director Ann Ellison BEM said of the CYG recipients ***“Next Stage Theatre Company has always celebrated the talents of its younger members. Every week, over forty 11-18 year olds meet at The Mission Theatre on a Sunday and work on theatre skills and production techniques. What they learn during each session gives them self-confidence, extends their acting range, teaches them a variety of staging options and helps them with their interpretation of often demanding roles. But above all, NSY gives so many young people in Bath and beyond life-long friendships. Since 1994 thousands of NSYouthers have enjoyed the fun and comradeship of the weekly NSY sessions and strong teamwork and loyalties are evidenced in all their activities. The Come You Giants Bursary was set up specifically to provide financial support for any of our young members who aspire to further artistic training and the recipients in the last two years have all been outstanding. It is truly life-affirming to work with and amongst so much young talent and to see how confidently our Youthers progress into the adult world. A number stay in touch and indeed some come back after training and work alongside me helping to train the next generation of Next Stage Youthers. I should like to congratulate them all on their achievements and wish them every good luck as they pursue their dreams to work in theatre.”***