

# News Release



17<sup>th</sup> December 2009

## **FREE THEATRE TICKETS FOR LEEDS**

The Carriageworks is giving away free tickets to young people in Leeds in bid to attract a new generation of theatre-goers.

Young people between 18 and 26 will be able to take advantage of the free tickets for mid-week theatrical performances, starting in February half-term 2009.

The scheme – called The Free Theatre Initiative – has been funded by a £10,000 grant from The Arts Council, with tickets set to be available on a first-come first-served basis for at least one performance on the same day each week.

The Free Theatre Initiative will run for two years and is designed at encouraging young people who may be unfamiliar with theatre to give it a try.

### **Executive Member for Leisure, Cllr John Procter, said:**

“Theatre has the power to change lives, it can give people new insights, it can broaden their minds and help them achieve their potential. But some young people feel it is not for them.

“We are delighted that The Carriageworks has secured funding to develop new theatrical audiences in Leeds, and hope that local young people take the opportunity to experience this exhilarating and exciting form of the arts.”

The Free Theatre Initiative builds on successful cheap ticket schemes such as the National's Travelex season and the Royal Shakespeare Company's £5 tickets for young people.

Several high-profile theatres already offer pay-what-you-can evenings, while young person discounts are a familiar part of many theatres' ticket offering.

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**Ivor Davies, Director of Performing Arts, Arts Council England, Yorkshire, said:**

“We are delighted that so many theatres in our region will be part of the Free Theatre initiative. With 11 venues across Yorkshire taking part, wherever a young person lives there should be a venue near to them offering the free tickets.”

The Carriageworks, on Millennium Square, celebrated its third birthday in November and is well known for its cutting edge new writing, comedy, drama and dance.

For more information on the Free Theatre Initiative, and to check out the upcoming shows at The Carriageworks in 2009, visit [www.carriageworkstheatre.org.uk](http://www.carriageworkstheatre.org.uk).

**Notes to editors:**

1. **The Free Theatre Initiative** is being funded by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and is managed through the Arts Council England. For more information visit [www.culture.gov.uk](http://www.culture.gov.uk)
2. **The Carriageworks**, Leeds City Council’s theatre, is situated on Millennium Square within the Electric Press Development. It provides a range of entertainment to local audiences as well as acting as an important performance space for local performing groups and companies.

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