



BRITISH YOUTH MUSIC THEATRE



**THE
GUIDE**

020 8563 7725

 BRITISHYOUTHMUSICTHEATRE.ORG

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INTRODUCTION

WELCOME TO BYMT!

We know that your experience with us will be rewarding and that you'll have fun and learn from our experienced staff of directors, musical directors, writers and choreographers as you work with us to create and perform new musical theatre.

We've created this handbook to answer any questions that you or your parents/carers may have and to give you some helpful tips on how to raise the funds you'll need for your course fees. We hope you find this information useful. Signing the **Acceptance Form** means you've agreed to what is set out in this Guide – so it really is worth reading!

Thanks for joining us, and we look forward to meeting you.

MEET THE TEAM

JON BROMWICH
Executive Producer

TIM SANDFORD
Deputy Chief Executive

ALEX MASTIHI
Head of Development

CLARE RUSSELL
Finance Officer

HANNAH KIPLING
Programmes Administrator
(Young People & Parents)

JENNY WILKINSON
Assistant Producer

ALISON WOODWARD
Welfare Manager

NINA MCDONAGH
Marketing Manager

EUGÉNIE BACHER
Marketing Assistant

WE'RE HERE TO HELP SO PLEASE
CALL OR EMAIL US IF YOU HAVE
ANY QUESTIONS

PHONE 0208 563 7725

EMAIL mail@bymt.org

WEBSITE britishyouthmusictheatre.org

GUIDE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

LET'S GET STARTED!

Whether this is your first British Youth Music Theatre (or 'BYMT' for short) project, or you are an old hand, welcome to BYMT. You are now part of the country's biggest and most active music theatre company for young people. This handbook will take you through what you can expect from us and, of course, what we expect from you!

GET TALKING!

Check out BYMT's official Facebook groups to see how quickly firm friendships are made. You can use these groups to chat to other people on the course and make new friendships. We also have our own page on Facebook, British Youth Music Theatre (BYMT), 'like' us to receive our most recent news. Also you can follow us on twitter

For guidance on monitoring children online you can visit www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

IT'S ALL ABOUT RESPECT

The key to living and working with BYMT is mutual respect: respect for each other, respect for the staff and respect for the venue in which you are all working. Above all, you need to have respect for yourself – the more you put in, the more you get out.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

WHAT WILL I BE REQUIRED TO DO?

It is your responsibility to turn up to rehearsals (on time), as and when called by your director, and sing/dance/act your socks off! The artistic team will then, with your input, give you a music theatre experience you will never forget. As you will be working with a professional artistic team, you will be expected to behave in a professional manner at all times. All BYMT projects are very intense and you will be expected to work extremely hard over long hours. The results, however, make it worth every bit of effort.

WHAT WILL I NEED TO BRING?

Most of your time will be spent rehearsing, so make sure that you have clothes and shoes that you can sensibly work in, such as tracksuit bottoms, loose fitting tops and soft soled trainers or jazz shoes (no tight jeans). On most projects there is at least one social evening so you may want to pack something suitable.

Directors will require you to have a notebook and pen/pencil. Any specific requests from directors will be detailed in the **Information Sheet** about your project – you will receive this about four weeks before rehearsals start. The venue will usually supply bedding (unless you are informed otherwise) but don't forget to pack a towel! If you play a musical instrument, bring it! We encourage people to bring musical instruments for both the project and for social music making. Please check that your instrument is covered by your own insurance – see the **GUIDE FOR PARENTS & CARERS** (section 2) for information about insurance.

HOW MUCH CASH SHOULD I BRING?

We recommend not bringing too much. Remember all your food and accommodation is covered by the course fee so any cash is just for extra snacks you think you will need and (on longer projects) for your day off – about £40 or £50 should be plenty. However much you choose to bring, it can be looked after by the chaperones but your cash, like other valuables, is not covered by BYMT's insurance.

IS THERE ANY INSURANCE FOR MY BELONGINGS?

BYMT does not provide insurance for your personal items (including mobile phones). With this in mind, it's probably worth leaving anything of great value to you at home.

Phones, money, musical instruments, train tickets and so on may be handed to a member of the pastoral team for safe keeping.

In a nutshell, if you won't need it – don't bring it. You will not be allowed to wear jewellery in any dance/movement based rehearsal for safety reasons, so save the worry and leave it at home. See the **GUIDE FOR PARENTS & CARERS** section for information about insurance.

WHO WILL RUN THE PROJECT?

BYMT will have two adult teams of people looking after you:

- The artistic team usually consists of a director and a musical director, plus at least one other, such as a choreographer. They are responsible for all things creative in the project.
- The pastoral team is made up of adults who work with young people, like youth-workers or teachers. They are responsible for your welfare whilst on the course and are led by the Pastoral Manager.

Although their roles are very different, both teams work closely together to make your stay as enjoyable as possible. The pastoral team will make you aware of meal times/breaks etc. during the introductory session. Just to be warned though, the usual BYMT rehearsal time is 9am – 9pm, with two one-hour meal breaks during the day, as well as other shorter breaks.

WHO ARE THE PASTORAL TEAM?

The pastoral team come from all walks of life and are experienced in working with young people. They act in loco parentis to all company members. In case your Latin isn't up to scratch, this means that they will have the same rights as your parents whilst you are under the care of BYMT. Licensing law requires chaperoning for under 16s, but all company members are considered to be under the care of the BYMT pastoral team. You will find the pastoral team friendly and approachable so work with them to help keep you safe.

Whatever the problem, be it personal, medical or emotional, they are the people to talk to. They are there to ensure that your time with the company is as carefree as possible. A member of the pastoral team will oversee the rehearsals during the day, checking up on your welfare and, more importantly, have the first aid kit at the ready for those blistered feet caused by too much dancing! They will also be on hand throughout the break-times and evenings and on any days off during a longer project.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I ARRIVE?

You will be met and registered by pastoral staff, who will show you to your bedroom/dorm, make you familiar with the venue, and show you all the relevant rooms, including social areas. You will also be given the procedures to follow in the event of an emergency evacuation. You will usually be required to share a bedroom with other company members. After being checked in, when everybody else has arrived, you will be introduced to the full pastoral and artistic teams. In most cases projects start by 2pm; exact details will be on your **Information Sheet**, which you will receive nearer the time.

WHAT TIME DO I HAVE TO GO TO BED?

Company members will be expected to adhere to different lights-out times according to their age. Don't forget that your primary reason for being with BYMT is to rehearse and perform and late nights can affect your ability to do this.

IN ROOM BY AND LIGHTS-OUT BY:

Age	In Room By	Lights Out By
11 – 13	10pm	10.30pm
14 – 16	10.30pm	11pm
17+	11pm	11.30pm

These times should be considered part of the normal BYMT routine but can be relaxed at the discretion of the pastoral team providing

that the performance of company members is not affected by late nights. If the artistic or pastoral team feel that the project is suffering from too many people being tired, a curfew may be imposed on the whole company. This curfew can be called at any time and will cancel any previously agreed extension.

Those aged 18+ are free to have an early night but are also expected to show consideration to those who may already be asleep. Social areas are often cleared at 11.30pm to enable all buildings to be secured and for the venue to be considered 'quiet' by midnight. Liaise with your Pastoral Manager about this who will do their best to treat you as the young adults you are and accommodate you. However, do remember why you are there, be mindful that the pastoral team also need a good night's sleep and are only trying to make sure every company member is fit and healthy for the next day.

CAN I LEAVE THE VENUE AT ANY TIME?

Under 16s will not be allowed off-site unless they are with their parents or a member of the pastoral team.

If you are 16 or 17 you will need to inform the pastoral team if you intend to go off-site and it is expected you will stay in a group. You will also be expected to inform them who you are going with, what time you expect to return and how you intend to travel. 16–17 year old company members may be allowed a late night extension off-site at the discretion of the Pastoral Manager.

Those aged 18+ can sign out in the evenings but must make specific arrangements with the pastoral team if they intend being out late, as they may need access to a secure building on their return.

A signing-out book is held by the pastoral team and must be completed by any young person leaving the venue/site. We expect you to report back to the pastoral team upon your return. Those who are 18+ are also expected to pay the pastoral team the same courtesy. This system must be adhered to for your own safety and is also a requirement of the venues we stay in.

CAN I SMOKE?

BYMT strongly advocates not smoking. Remember, you must be 18 before someone can legally sell you cigarettes, including allowing you to use a vending machine on their premises. If necessary, an outside smoking area will be allocated but you must never smoke in the company of younger BYMT members and you must only smoke in the agreed area. Ask the pastoral team about this area. No- one under 16 can smoke under any circumstances.

No smoking is allowed in costume or whilst

wearing your BYMT T-shirt. It is illegal to smoke inside any building used by the public.

CAN I DRINK ALCOHOL?

During a project those old enough to drink alcohol (18+) are not permitted to drink alcohol in any venue being used by BYMT unless given permission by the Pastoral Manager in specific circumstances. This applies to any school venue or public rehearsal/performance space, such as a theatre.

Anybody under 18 is breaking the law if they buy or attempt to buy alcohol in a pub, off-licence or shop. This law extends to people under 18 drinking wine, beer or cider in a public place.

Children under 16 are allowed to enter pubs and other licensed premises that do not have age restricted entertainment (either over 18s only or over 21s only are the usual restrictions) as long as they are being supervised by a member of the pastoral team. No other adult (18+) can perform this role. Obviously, they are not allowed to have any alcohol.

If your project is abroad you will be made aware of the licensing laws of the country before the start of the project.

CAN I USE MY MOBILE PHONE?

You will be required to turn off your mobile in all rehearsals. Any exceptions to this have to be negotiated with the artistic team prior to the start of a rehearsal. You will be given an emergency contact number before the start of the project should your family need to contact you urgently. See your **Information Sheet** or ask one of the pastorals for this number. Save it to your phone as this number will be answered 24hrs a day. (Emergencies only during the night as the pastorals need their sleep too!)

CAN I BRING A CAMERA?

Yes, but remember to check if people don't mind you taking pictures of them; your new friends may not be too keen on photos of them with bed-hair appearing on social media sites. You are not permitted to take pictures of actual performances.

CAN I GO INTO OTHER PEOPLES' ROOMS?

Only if you are invited and it is before 'in own room' time! Remember that you will probably be sharing a room with other people. Therefore, if they want to go to bed early, it's no good inviting everyone else in to chat. Communal areas are usually available for socialising. Have respect for other people's privacy and always knock before entering a room.

CAN I HAVE SEX?

Easy one this. You are not allowed to engage in any form of sexual activity – whatever your age.

CAN I USE DRUGS?

As easy as the last one. Possession and/or supply of drugs is a criminal offence and anyone engaged in such activities will be asked to leave the project and the Police will be notified.

HOW DO I GET THERE?

We expect everyone to make their own travel arrangements and we will meet you at the venue of your project. If you are travelling alone we may be able to put you in touch with other young people travelling from your area so make sure you return your travel forms promptly. If your parents/carers are driving, there is normally parking available at the venue.

CAN I USE MY CAR/MOTORBIKE?

You can, but please inform the office if you intend to bring a car as some venues require advance notification of required parking. If you do bring your car you will not be allowed to give lifts to people under 18 during the course unless you have prior permission from their parents/carers and adequate insurance. BYMT will provide transport for any travel required during the course.

WHEN SHOULD I BE PICKED UP?

Check your **Information Sheet** for exactly where and when the project finishes. There may be parking at the school or performance venue. If parking is limited we aim to let you know in advance.

WHAT IF I'M BEING BULLIED?

BYMT has a rigorous Child Protection Policy and discrimination in any form will not be tolerated.

If you feel that you are being subjected to any form of bullying, please speak to a member of the pastoral team immediately. If there is an issue you feel you cannot talk to your pastoral team about then contact the Associate Producer on

0208 563 7725.

WHAT IF I'M FEELING HOMESICK?

This may be your first time away from home and it is perfectly normal to miss family and friends. If you feel homesick, speak to a member of the pastoral team or talk to other young people for support.

You will find that you very quickly make friends and those feelings should soon disappear. You can support others too; if you are aware that someone else is very quiet, try to include them at break and meal times.

WHAT IF PROPERTY GETS DAMAGED?

Accidents do happen, but it will come as no surprise to learn that deliberate damage to property is considered by BYMT to be very serious. You can expect consequences and your parents/carers may well be billed for the cost of the repair.

WHAT IF I MISBEHAVE?

Remember that you are ambassadors for BYMT and should act accordingly. Should a situation arise where the pastoral team consider your behavior to be inappropriate, action will be taken. Action can range from a polite reminder to being sent home but you will always be made aware of the options you have and the consequences of them. The pastoral team will always listen to you and talk about a situation so even if you have done something you regret it is best to be honest so a situation can be dealt with calmly and swiftly. The best advice is to make the right choices in order to make the most of this wonderful opportunity!

HOWEVER, BYMT DOES NOT TOLERATE THE FOLLOWING:

- Bullying or aggressive behaviour
- Offensive or discriminatory behaviour of any kind including racism, sexism, homophobia and rudeness
- Unauthorised smoking
- Drunkenness or encouraging under age people to drink
- Possession, use and/or supply of drugs
- Engaging in sexual activity
- Damaging premises or property
- Theft of property
- Arriving at rehearsals/workshops late, overtired or hungover
- Failure to observe the house rules set down at each venue
- Failure to comply with specific artistic or pastoral team requests
- Deliberately setting off fire alarms and using fire escapes, other than in the case of an emergency

Any of these offences could lead to disciplinary action. Normal steps in any disciplinary procedure are:

- 1 Informal reminder of BYMT rules you have agreed to.
- 2 Formal verbal warning from the Pastoral Manager, who will inform all pastoral/artistic staff on the project. If an informal reminder does not make you reconsider your behavior choices, a formal verbal warning will be given. A record will be kept of all formal warnings.
- 3 Formal written warning and contract from the Pastoral Manager, who will again inform all necessary staff members on the project, along with the Associate Producer. Things are getting serious if your Pastoral Manager feels this is necessary because your behavior has not improved after verbal warnings. You will be given a written contract you must sign to remain on a project. Your parents/carers will also be notified at this stage. This remains on your record for 12 months.
- 4 Dismissal from the company and all future BYMT projects is a possibility if you break the written contract. If you are involved in a very serious incident, BYMT also reserves the right to move straight to the dismissal stage without warning. In cases involving committing a possible criminal offence (use of illegal drugs, serious assault, etc) BYMT will also be obliged to inform the Police.

The above steps are very rarely needed but the procedure has been made clear to you so that everyone can be treated fairly and consistently. In reality, the pastoral and artistic teams would much rather enjoy your company, attain the same goal as you and praise you for your hard work, your positive attitude and for helping them keep yourself and others safe and happy.

GUIDE FOR PARENTS & CARERS

We are delighted that you are encouraging your child to take part in a BYMT project. Our aim is to provide young people with the opportunity to experience all aspects of musical theatre. We are committed to ensuring that young people are able to do this in an environment where their safety and welfare are our primary concern. We hope you will find the information in this manual useful in addressing some of the questions you may have. Please read it carefully and do contact us if anything is unclear.

HOW WILL I KNOW MY CHILD IS SAFE?

BYMT has a robust Child Protection Policy, developed in conjunction with one of our Trustees. If you would like to read it in full, request a copy by post. Pastoral staff are all experienced in working with young people. Many are licensed to act as chaperones, and all have undergone Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks (CRB) in England and Wales, and similar checks have been made by Disclosure Scotland and Access NI in Northern Ireland. The same is true for all artistic staff. The pastoral team act in loco parentis and are expected to exercise the same care and control as a responsible parent would with a view to securing your child's health, comfort and kind treatment.

WHAT IF MY CHILD NEEDS A SPECIAL DIET?

BYMT will cater for special diets on the basis of medical and religious need or lifestyle choice. This must be clearly indicated on the **Medical Form**. Please return these well in advance as venues request this information from us several weeks before the start of any project.

WHAT IF MY CHILD IS UNWELL?

It is your duty as a parent or guardian to fully complete and submit a **Medical Form**. Please make a full disclosure of any information relevant to us. This form also gives us permission to have 24 hour duty of care for the young person as failing to do so may hinder our ability to offer full support. Contact the office if you are not sure what to include.

In addition, on the **Medical Form** you are requested to give consent enabling chaperones to agree to medical treatment on your behalf in the event of an emergency.

You should also indicate if you give consent for pastoral staff to administer paracetamol or ibuprofen. No other routine medication would ever be provided by a member of the pastoral team without further consent from a parent/

guardian. If your child takes prescribed medication, the pastoral team is happy to take responsibility for this if you supply them with clear instructions. The pastoral staff are on call 24 hours a day to provide practical and emotional support in the event of any issues and you will be kept suitably informed.

WHAT DOES THE BYMT INSURANCE COVER?

BYMT has Employers' and Public Liability Insurance through Zurich Insurance. The company cannot cover insurance of personal items and assumes no responsibility for damage, loss or theft of personal property on any BYMT premises. It is advisable to ensure that musical instruments or any other items of value, including mobile phones, are covered by your household insurance policy. Expensive jewellery, cameras etc. are better left at home! See below for further information.

WHAT IF MY CHILD HAS TO CANCEL OR WITHDRAW FROM THE PROJECT?

BYMT does not offer a refund in the event that you cancel or withdraw from the project once you have signed and returned the **Acceptance Form** (Terms and Conditions are explained in full on the reverse of the form).

It is strongly recommended that full insurance be taken out, which includes cover against the loss of deposit or cancellation charges. Activity Holiday Insurance can be obtained from a variety of companies. Check with your own Travel/Home insurance providers to see if your current policy covers you already. Alternatively, you may wish to visit the following websites to seek a suitable quotation:

www.postoffice.co.uk/travel-insurance/children

www.essentialtravel.co.uk/travelinsurance/children-travel-insurance

www.comparethemarket.com/travel-insurance/content/under-18s

www.gocompare.com/travel-insurance/under-18s

WHAT IF MY CHILD MISBEHAVES?

All young people involved in BYMT are ambassadors for the company and are expected to act accordingly. A list of unacceptable behaviour and how this is addressed is detailed in the **GUIDE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE** in Section 2.

Experienced staff are on hand to provide support and will offer clear, consistent boundaries. Where behaviour endangers the safety and welfare of the young person or that of others they may be asked to leave the project. Where behaviour is potentially criminal the police will be notified. Beyond a verbal warning, you will

be kept fully informed by telephone during any disciplinary process.

WHAT IF I NEED TO CONTACT MY CHILD?

You will be given an emergency contact number to use for the duration of the project, shown on the Information Sheet. This mobile phone is staffed by a member of the pastoral team 24 hours a day. Your child will not be allowed to have their mobile phone switched on in the rehearsal room. On arrival at the venue young people are informed of break/meal/finish times, which they can pass onto you. We would request that you do not call their personal mobiles during rehearsal times. Pastoral phones will be switched on one week in advance of the start of the course.

WHAT IF I HAVE A COMPLAINT/COMPLIMENT?

We welcome your feedback as this enables us to constantly review and improve the services that we provide to young people.

During the project, you should contact the Pastoral Manager using the mobile number provided. After the project has ended, you can contact our Head Office **0208 563 7725**.

I HAVE ANOTHER QUESTION WHICH IS NOT ANSWERED HERE

Please give us a call on **0208 563 7725** and we'll direct you to the most relevant member of our team for advice.

GUIDE FOR FUNDRAISING

We are aware that the fees of BYMT courses can seem expensive. We fundraise all year round to keep the course fees as low as possible, and the course fee represents only about half of the cost of taking part in a production. We expect you might need to think about fundraising for some or all of your course fee.

THE GOOD NEWS

BYMT members are brilliant fundraisers! In 2015, they raised nearly £20,000 amongst them towards their course fees, ranging from those who raised the whole lot to those who managed to fundraise just the few hundred pounds they needed to make up to afford the course.

We have produced a step-by-step guide, which should help you to be successful in your fundraising. You will find it here:

britishyouthmusictheatre.org/about/parents/fundraising

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING

If you are having trouble with your course fee, or even if you suspect that you might have trouble at some point in the future, please get in touch!

For those on productions BYMT operates a **Bursary Scheme**. This scheme is for young people who fall into the criteria referred to in your offer letter. More information about the scheme can also be found at:

britishyouthmusictheatre.org/about/parents/bursary-scheme

HERE ARE OUR 9 POINTERS TO SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISING:

- 1 CHECK IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR BYMT'S BURSARY SCHEME**
- 2 START EARLY FUNDRAISING TAKES TIME**
- 3 MAKE A BUDGET**
This really helps to give you a clear idea of how much money you really need to fundraise.
- 4 MAKE A PLAN**
Be realistic about how long it will take to get things done.
- 5 PAY ATTENTION!**
The closer you fit a charity's guidelines, the more likely they are to consider your application.
- 6 MAKE YOURSELF UNFORGETTABLE!**
- 7 BE PROFESSIONAL**
- 8 GET HELP**
- 9 NEVER, EVER, EVER GIVE UP!**

The BYMT Facebook pages are a great place if you would like help with what to do next or have a great idea that you want to share. Follow BYMT on Facebook and Twitter and then perhaps we'll mention your ideas next year!

GOOD LUCK – and remember, we're here to help!

BYMT

MOUNTVIEW

120 PECKHAM HILL STREET

LONDON SE15 5JT

W britishyouthmusictheatre.org

T **0208 563 7725**

E mail@bymt.org

BRITISH YOUTH MUSIC THEATRE
REGISTERED IN ENGLAND 04985332
REGISTERED CHARITY 1103076
(ENGLAND & WALES)
SC039863 (SCOTLAND)