

NATIONAL YOUTH MONOLOGUES

Where Young Talent Takes Centre Stage

A new competition for young people from
across the United Kingdom



A New Generation of Voices

Across the UK, young actors are stepping into the spotlight — but not all have the same chance to be seen.

Every year, thousands of young people discover a love for performance — in schools, youth theatres, or at home in their bedrooms.

But access to the arts is far from equal. Many talented young actors never get the chance to train, perform, or simply be noticed because of where they live, their financial situation, or the opportunities available to them.

The National Youth Monologues exists to change that.

We are building a platform where talent can be recognised on merit, not money — where the stage is open to everyone, regardless of postcode, background, or experience.

And we've already seen how transformative that can be.

“Having the privilege to perform Shakespeare on a West End stage is absolutley insane, and is not something I’m going to forget anytime soon.”

— Kader, Finalist (Sixth Form Classical)

Video Testimonial from Kader

Talent is everywhere. Opportunity is not.

Talent Should Have No Barriers. Too many young actors never get the chance to be seen.

In the UK, less than 10% of film and TV creatives are from working-class backgrounds.

Equity, the actors' union, has highlighted the issue, noting that working-class representation in the creative industries is at its lowest level in a decade.

“The opportunity is open to everyone, based on their skills and regardless of their social or economic status.”
— Jeni, Drama Teacher

Across the UK, a wealth of raw talent is going undiscovered.

Three key barriers are holding young performers back:

1. **Financial inequality** – Auditions, travel, and training often carry costs that many families cannot afford.
2. **Geography** – Living outside major cultural hubs limits access to high-quality opportunities.
3. **Lack of visibility** – Without a platform, even exceptional young actors can go unnoticed by industry professionals.

This means that ability and ambition are too often overshadowed by postcode and circumstance.

The result?

Untapped potential, missed opportunities, and a less diverse future for the performing arts.

In the UK, less than 10% of film and TV creatives are from working-class backgrounds. 35% of Bafta-nominated actors were alumni of private schools.





NATIONAL YOUTH
MONOLOGUES

The National Youth Monologues

The National Youth Monologues is a nationwide competition for young actors aged 9–19, designed to give every performer — regardless of background — the chance to be seen and celebrated.

Our Format:

- **Accessible Entry:** Participants submit a self-taped monologue in one of four categories — Contemporary, Classical, Screen, or Original Writing.
- **Four Age Groups:** Providing fair and age-appropriate competition.
- **No Barriers Policy:** Free entry for students on Free School Meals and travel bursaries for those reaching the live final.

Over 1,000 entries in our first year alone!

Our Reach:

- **1,000+ entries in our inaugural year** (2025) from schools, youth theatres, and individuals across all regions of the UK.
- An expected increase of **x10** entries for next year, with multiple schools already expressing interest.
- Final held at the **Ambassadors Theatre**, West End, in partnership with **ATG** and the **Federation of Drama Schools**.
- **Supported by** Get Into Theatre, National Youth Arts Trust, Creative Jelly, Italia Conti and the National Association of Youth Theatres.

We are more than a competition — we are a community – a platform for discovery, a launchpad for careers, and a movement for fairness in the arts.



Year One: A Standing Ovation Start

In our debut year, we proved the demand, the reach, and the transformative potential of the National Youth Monologues.

July 2025 marked the finale of our first-ever competition — launched only two months earlier – and the results exceeded expectations.

Our Reach:

- **1,000+** entries from across all regions of the UK.
- Participation from **schools, youth theatres**, and **individual entrants** nationwide.
- Submissions across **four age groups** and **four categories**.

Our Live Final:

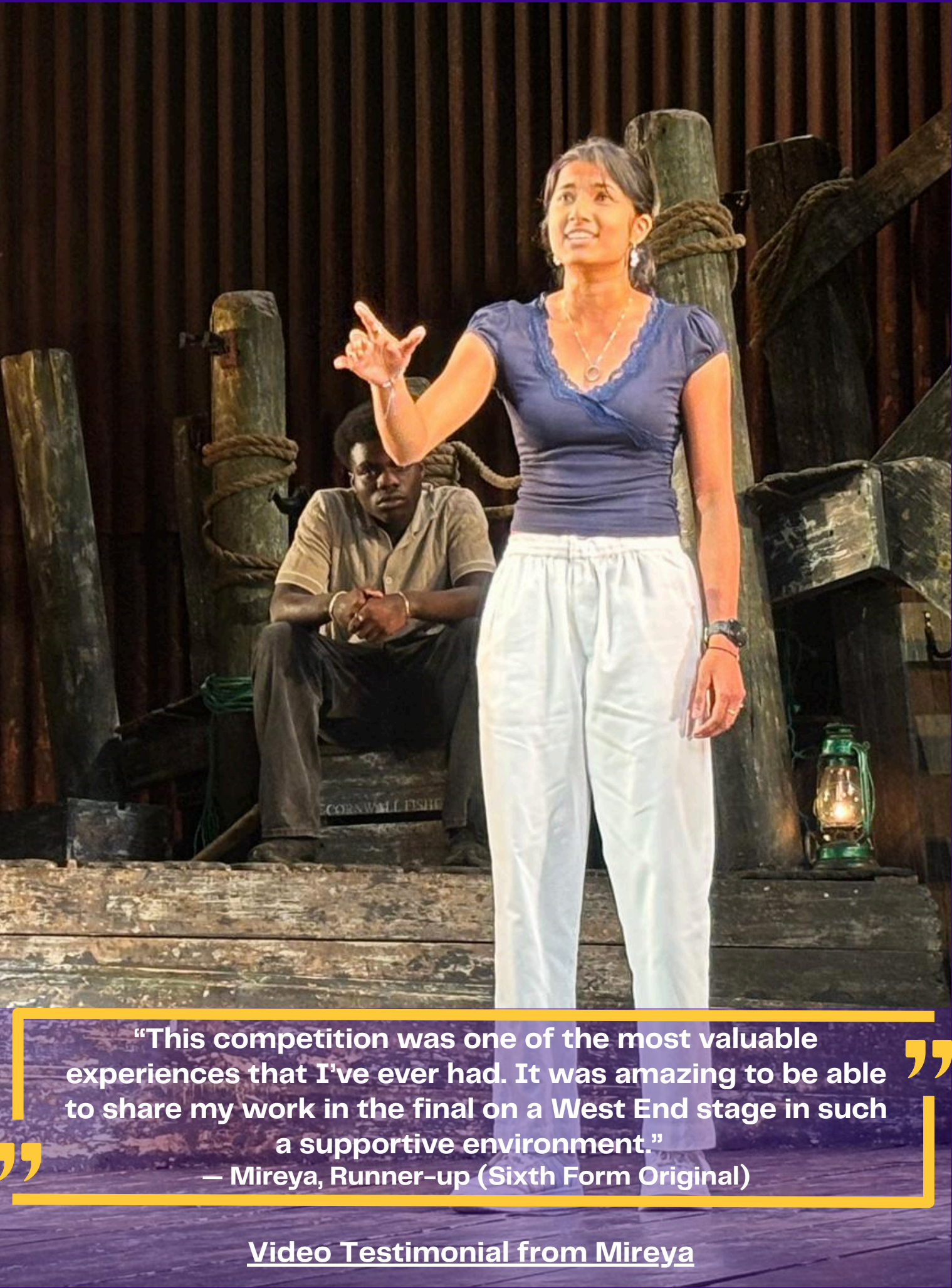
- Hosted at the **Ambassadors Theatre**, West End in partnership with **ATG**.
- Finalists performed in front of **industry professionals**.
- Attended by partners such as the **Federation of Drama Schools** and **Italia Conti**.

Our Accessibility Commitment in Action:

- Free entry for all students on **Free School Meals**.
- **Travel bursaries** provided to finalists in need.

Our Future Potential:

Year One has laid the foundation. The interest is there, the demand is growing — and with the right support, we can scale to reach even more young voices across the UK.



“This competition was one of the most valuable experiences that I’ve ever had. It was amazing to be able to share my work in the final on a West End stage in such a supportive environment.”

— Mireya, Runner-up (Sixth Form Original)

Video Testimonial from Mireya



Expanding the Stage – Our Vision for 2026

From one national stage to a truly nationwide presence.

2025 proved the demand – 2026 is about scale, accessibility, and opportunity.

Key Developments Planned:

- **Regional Rounds** – Introducing live regional semi-finals in key regions (North, Midlands, South, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland).
- **Longer Entry Window** – An extended time period meaning more entries and flexibility for schools and youth theatres.
- **Increased Bursary Support** – More funding for travel, accommodation, and entry support for those in financial need.
- **Digital Access** – Expanded online workshops, masterclasses, and Q&A sessions with industry professionals.
- **Industry Engagement** – More casting directors, agents, producers and drama schools actively scouting at each stage.
- **Partnership Growth** – Building on relationships with ATG, Federation of Drama Schools, Get Into Theatre and youth arts organisations to reach thousands more young performers in our community.

Our 2026 Goals:

- Expanded participation to 5,000 – 10,000+ entries.
- Larger press coverage.
- Host four to six regional finals plus the national final in London.
- Guarantee financial accessibility for every selected finalist.
- Provide industry exposure for all finalists through agent and casting director engagement.

With the right support, 2026 will see the National Youth Monologues become the UK's most accessible, high-profile platform for young acting talent.

“The sort of inspiration that we can already
tell will be game-changing for them and
will last a lifetime.”

— Emma, Parent of KS2 Winner

Your Brand in the Spotlight

Partnership with purpose – make a real difference and be part of the UK's most exciting youth arts platform.

The National Youth Monologues offers a unique opportunity for sponsors to align with a movement that combines talent, opportunity, and social impact.

Impact You Can See

“A great initiative and accessible to all. Thank you.”
— Serena, KS2 Parent

Reasons to Partner:

- 1. Nationwide Reach & Visibility** – Access a growing community of young performers, their families, schools, youth theatres, and arts audiences across the UK.
- 2. Positive Brand Association** – Support diversity, accessibility, and fair access to the arts, reinforcing your CSR values.
- 3. Engagement Across Multiple Channels** –
 - Live events (regional and national finals)
 - Self-tape submission platform
 - Marketing materials and programmes
 - Press coverage and social media campaigns
- 4. Industry Recognition** – Align with respected partners like ATG, the Federation of Drama Schools, Get Into Theatre and the National Youth Arts Trust.
- 5. Direct Community Impact** – Brand support contributes towards removing barriers for talented young actors — travel bursaries, free entries, and outreach to underrepresented areas.

Our Promise:

We work closely with our sponsors to create tailored partnership packages that maximise value — from branding and hospitality opportunities to unique content collaborations and employee engagement projects.

Together, we can create a lasting legacy for the next generation of UK theatre talent.





Partnership Packages – Be Part of the Story

From headline sponsorship to targeted support, we have opportunities for brands of every size to make an impact.

We offer flexible sponsorship tiers to suit your goals, budget, and brand priorities. Each package can be tailored to ensure maximum visibility and meaningful engagement with our audience and community.

1. Headline Partner – “Presented by...” (£25,000+)

- Brand name in official title: The National Youth Monologues 2026 – Presented by [Your Brand]
- Prominent logo placement on all event materials, digital platforms, and stage backdrops
- Inclusion in all press releases, interviews, and promotional content
- Full-page feature in printed and digital programmes
- Hospitality package for live events (VIP seating, meet & greet with finalists)
- Opportunity to present awards at the national final.

2. Regional Final Partner (£10,000–£15,000)

- Naming rights for one regional final (e.g., The Northern Regional Final sponsored by [Brand])
- Logo featured on event signage, regional press releases, and social media promotions
- Quarter-page feature in national programme
- Opportunity to present awards for your regional event.

3. Category Partner (£5,000–£8,000)

- Naming rights for a category (e.g., The Classical Monologue Award sponsored by [Brand])
- Logo on all category-related materials and website pages
- Mention in winner announcements and relevant press
- Opportunity to present award in your category.

All sponsors receive: logo placement on website, social media recognition, and priority invitations to live events.

Partnership Packages – Be Part of the Story

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4. Accessibility Champion (£3,000–£5,000)

- Directly fund free entries and travel bursaries for young people from low-income households
- Recognition as an Accessibility Champion in all relevant communications
- Social media spotlight showing the impact of your support.

5. In-Kind Partnership (Varies)

- Provide products, services, or experiences for finalists, (e.g., travel, accommodation, equipment, workshops), and schools/youth theatres who are entering.
- Recognition in relevant marketing and event materials.

All sponsors receive: logo placement on website, social media recognition, and priority invitations to live events.

6. Spotlight Supporters (£500–£2,500)

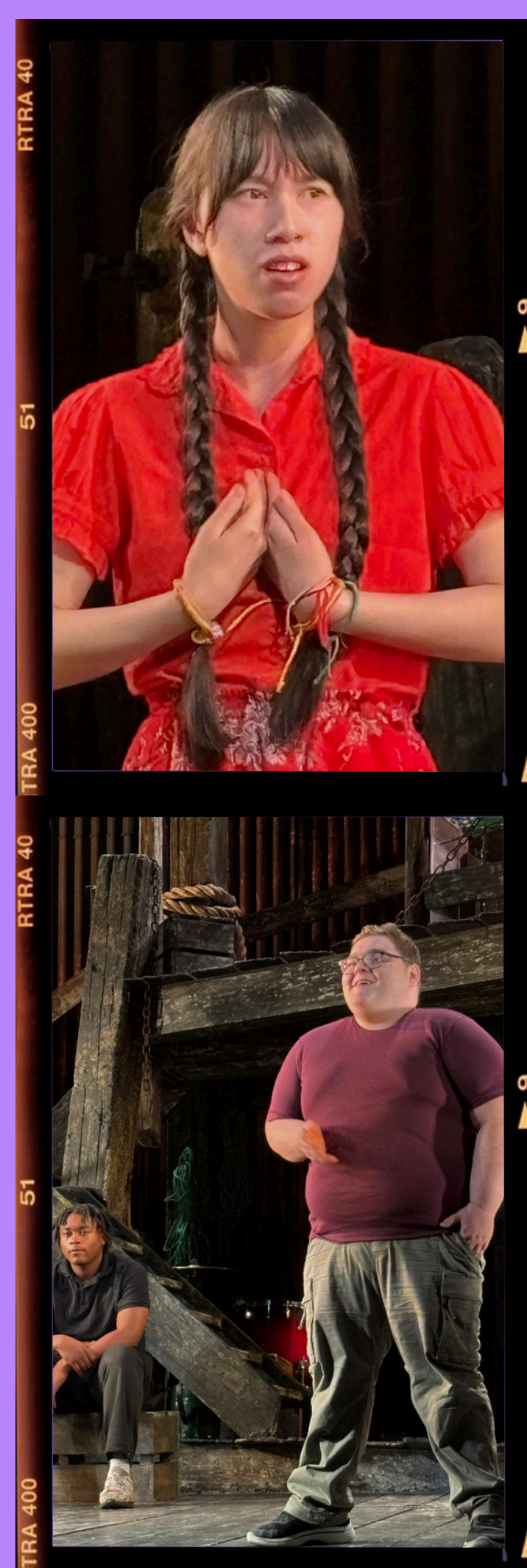
- Logo placement on NYM website supporters page.
- Mention in regional and final event programmes.
- Group social media thank-you post pre- and post-event.
- Opportunity to display at regional rounds.

7. The Applause List (£5–£500)

- Name listed on **The Applause List** page on the NYM website.
- Collective recognition in the event programme.
- Digital “Proud Supporter of NYM” badge for personal or business social media.
- Exclusive NYM updates.

Tailored Packages:

- We work with sponsors to create bespoke packages that align with your CSR goals, marketing objectives, and target demographics.



Co-Creation with Impact

Multi-channel visibility before, during, and after the competition.

The National Youth Monologues offers unmatched exposure across a diverse audience of young people, parents, educators, arts professionals, and the general public.

2025 Reach Highlights:

- 1,000+ entries from across the UK in year one
- Representation from 100+ schools and youth theatres
- Live national final in London's West End with capacity audience
- Engagement from leading drama schools and industry professionals

Media & Marketing Channels:

- Press Coverage – National & regional arts & education media, theatre press, community newspapers.
- Social Media – Campaigns across Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, X (Twitter), and LinkedIn.
- Website – Dedicated sponsor pages, event updates, and promotional videos.
- Email Marketing – Regular newsletters to a growing database of schools, youth theatres, & supporters.
- Partner Networks – Visibility through ATG, Federation of Drama Schools, & other partner organisations.
- Event Branding – Stage signage, programmes, finalist certificates, and merchandise.

Projected 2026 Growth:

- +400% increase in entries expected with regional finals
- Expanded press coverage including national TV and radio
- Regional engagement boosting local press and grassroots awareness

Your Impact:

As a partner, your brand will be consistently visible in all key campaign stages:

1. Pre-Event Buzz – Self-tape launch, calls for entries, social media teasers.
2. Regional Excitement – Coverage from multiple cities, each with a spotlight on sponsors.
3. National Celebration – West End final, high-profile judges, media attendance.
4. Post-Event Legacy – Winner showcases, year-round content, and continuing recognition.



“Having the chance to perform in a West End theatre was a dream come true — a moment I will never forget.”

— Zachary, Winner (KS4 Contemporary)



Who You'll Reach

A highly engaged, diverse, and growing national audience.

Age Groups:

- Participants: Ages 9–19, split across four competitive categories.
- Parents & Guardians: Typically 30–55, highly engaged in educational and cultural opportunities for their children.
- Educators & Industry: Drama teachers, youth theatre leaders, casting directors, agents, and arts administrators.

Geographic Reach:

- Entrants from all UK nations – England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland.
- Year one saw particularly strong engagement from London, Manchester, Birmingham, Cardiff, Glasgow, and Belfast.
- Planned 2026 expansion into regional finals will deepen community connections across the UK.

Engaged. Diverse. National.

Socio-Economic Diversity:

- A significant proportion of participants from low-income households, supported through free entry and travel bursaries.
- Inclusive entry process enabling schools, youth theatres, and individuals to participate without financial barriers.

Engagement Level:

- Participants invest significant preparation time (learning, rehearsing, filming monologues).
- Families, schools, and peers actively follow competition updates and share content online.
- Industry figures contribute as judges, mentors, and event speakers, amplifying credibility.

Audience Touchpoints for Sponsors:

- Live audiences at regional and national finals.
- Digital audiences through social media campaigns and live-streamed segments.
- Print and digital programme readers.
- Newsletter subscribers and partner mailing lists.

Real Change, Real Stories

It is young people from more challenging backgrounds who will grow up and have the most valid things to say. Therefore, it is our responsibility to ensure they are given equal opportunities. The National Youth Monologue competition is aiming to do this.

– Ms Law, Drama Teacher

It's definitely inspired me to continue with drama.

– Roberta, KS3 Finalist

It has really inspired me to keep acting and to keep learning how to express the deepest and most complex human emotions in as real a way as possible.

– Scarlett, KS3 Runner-up

My daughter loved every second of being on stage and performing. She made friends with the other children and it's an experience we will cherish.

– Janne-Marie, Parent of KS2 Winner

All too often there are 'opportunities' for children to perform in the West End, but this involves a lot of cost to parents, and the only benefit is for the child to be able to boast to others at school who couldn't finance such a trip. This is NOT the case with the NY Monologues.

– Mr Spring, Drama Teacher

Of the four students of mine who entered: One is a second-generation immigrant, one is from a very low-income, single-parent family (the NYM funding offered enabled her to take part), one has struggled with major social anxiety since the events of 2020, one has a parent who has life-limiting cancer – so every opportunity to make a memory is crucial.

– Jeni, Speech & Drama Teacher

It was a highlight for me as a parent to see how she responded to such high-quality production values. I could physically see her transform and rise to the challenge.

– Serena, Parent of Key Stage 2 Finalist

The competition was an amazing opportunity and an incredible experience and taught us so many valuable skills for being an actor.

– Nancy, Sixth Form Finalist

It was an unforgettable day, and I'd love to experience it all over again in the years to come.

– Millicent, KS3 Finalist

Delivering my monologue on stage at the Ambassadors theatre was electrifying and a moment I will never forget.

– Zacary, Key Stage 4 Finalist

Every single child who took part in the finals felt validated.

– Ms Bradley, Teacher of KS4 Finalist

NATIONAL YOUTH MONOLOGUES

Join Us on This Journey

Become a catalyst for change in youth theatre and help shape the future of performing arts.

We invite you to partner with the National Youth Monologues and make a lasting impact on young talent across the UK.

Next Steps:

- Connect with us to discuss tailored partnership opportunities that align with your brand values and objectives.
- Join a community of visionary organisations committed to nurturing the UK's future stars.

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