

# Everyman Youth Theatre Report

Everyman Youth Theatre meets each Sunday of the Playhouse Season, between 6.30pm and 8.30pm, in the Everyman Common Room. The group's Co-ordinator and Director is Sarah Bawler.

With a company of twenty-four members, between the ages of eleven and eighteen, EYT began the season with a Comedy Night at Chapter Arts Centre. This successful venture, which Chapter supported with a reduced rate for room hire, helped build confidence and integrate new members.

The next production was Theatre for One at the Mansion House, which will be followed up with a similar production this season.

Christmas 2023 brought an original piece, written by Sarah Bawler, and performed at Chapter, again with the support previously afforded by the organisation. This piece centred on a mix of Twelfth Night and Dragons' Den and was performed script in hand.

Sunday evening sessions continued to build skills and provide a fun outlet for young members.

In the New Year, the group began to explore Romeo and Juliet, along with learning specific skills, including stage fighting, fencing using wooden spoons, and how to fall properly.

Romeo and Juliet was gradually cast, in readiness for the Summer Festival production, with all group members successfully finding their roles through an organic process.

The EYT production of Romeo and Juliet was a huge success at the Summer Festival, with both evenings almost selling out and excellent written feedback collected from audience members

The following week, the company took the production to the Willow Globe for a further successful performance, where they also met up with a similar Youth Theatre group from the USA.

Everyman Youth Theatre is an extremely important arm of Everyman Theatre, as well as being highly successful and popular with audiences. Recent enquiries with Chapter seem to indicate that they are no longer willing to offer the support they previously provided for EYT in terms of reduced rates for room hire.

This is very disappointing and concerning and is something the Everyman Board should address in the coming year.

The excellent work of the Everyman Youth Theatre will continue into the new season and will be further explored by Sarah Bawler in her presentation at the upcoming AGM.

**Catherine Roberts**

**Everyman Board Member**

**Board Link for EYT**