

# Can you help?

Half Moon is a charity, and we fundraise to keep the cost of our activities affordable to all. Thanks to our generous funders, our Youth Theatre parents only pay **37%** of the cost of the sessions. Our small and dedicated team fundraises the remaining **63%** to ensure that young people in our community have access to affordable and inclusive drama activities. This funding pays for our experienced drama tutors, session resources and access workers so we can support young people with additional needs to be included in all the work we do.

If you are in a position to offer your continued support by **making a donation today**, adding a donation when you pay your Youth Theatre fees, or setting up monthly donations, it makes all the difference to us and the young people we support.

**Please, help us to continue the valuable work we do with your young people by speaking to a member of staff about how you can make a donation.**

## Thank you to our donors:

CMS Social Impact Fund	Jack Petchey Foundation
Coop Local Community Fund	National Lottery Community Fund
The Derek Shuttleworth Educational Trust	St James's Place Charitable Foundation
The Fitton Trust	Tesco Community Grant
Garfield Weston Foundation	...and all individual donors

For any questions about Youth Theatre contact:

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Registered Charity 1010192.

## Youth Theatre Newsletter

Autumn 2023

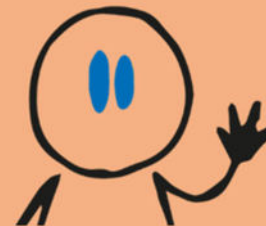
### Hot Orange nominated for 2 Offie Awards



*Hot Orange* is an immersive coming of age story that follows Amina and Tandeki as they navigate what it takes to sustain love and friendship beyond childhood idealism. Written by Amal Khalidi & Tatenda Naomi Matsvai, *Hot Orange* was developed as part of Half Moon's 2021 Art Form Development Programme.

After two years in development, Half Moon's new production for teenagers opened on the 9th November ahead of a national tour. *Hot Orange* has been nominated for two Offie Awards, in the categories TYA Performance (Tatenda Naomi Matsvai and Yasmin Twomey) and TYA Writing (Amal Khalidi & Tatenda Naomi Matsvai). "The characters are reflections of our younger selves, brought up in very culturally specific contexts in religious households, navigating who we are outside of those spaces in relation to our queerness," Tatenda told us. "We had to learn to take space, to love ourselves, to forgive each other and to understand that we have nothing to prove. I think our characters got there in the end."

*Hot Orange* visited venues in Norwich, Oxford, Exeter, Luton, Bedford, Winchester and Manchester, receiving multiple four-star reviews along the way. The Guardian described the play as an "impressive writing debut for young audiences.... a closeup masterclass in acting.... A bittersweet gem about the ache to continue a kiss."



Every Saturday during term time, Half Moon becomes a vibrant and welcoming venue, showing theatre for audiences of all ages. All our tickets cost just £7! Book to see a show at Half Moon today by visiting [www.halfmoon.org.uk/whats-on/](http://www.halfmoon.org.uk/whats-on/)



### Say hello to Saja, our Pastoral Support Worker!

Thanks to funding from the National Lottery Community Fund we have recently welcomed Saja to the team, to support all our Youth Theatre groups .

### How did you start working at Half Moon?

I saw this position listed on a graduates job opportunity group chat in the summer before my graduation. I heard about Half Moon earlier in the year whilst studying at Queen Mary so I felt confident applying for the role.

### What do you enjoy most about working with us?

I absolutely love the community that Half Moon has built. Whenever I chat to people based in East London, I see a smile emerge when I tell them I work at Half Moon. The staff, friends, and participants are down-to-earth, caring people and their genuine nature mirrors Half Moon’s ethos.

### When you are not at Half Moon, what are your favourite things to do?

I am a dramatist at heart and when I’m not working at Half Moon I love creating pieces of drama and I particularly love collaborating with other creatives.

## Spring Term Dates 2024

	First Session	Half Term (No Session)	Final Session and Sharing
<b>Comets, Sunbeams &amp; Moonbeams</b>	Sat 13 January	Sat 17 February	Sat 23 March
<b>Solar</b>	Mon 8 January	Mon 12 February	Mon 18 March
<b>Eclipse &amp; Lunar</b>	Tue 9 January	Tue 13 February	Tue 19 March
<b>Equinox &amp; Orbit</b>	Wed 10 January	Wed 14 February	Wed 20 March

Half Moon term dates are easily accessible on our website. You can find them by visiting [www.halfmoon.org.uk/youth-theatre](http://www.halfmoon.org.uk/youth-theatre).

We will always send the term dates to all parents and carers in an email at the start and end of term. We suggest you bookmark the website page, save the email, or keep this newsletter somewhere safe, so you always have the dates to hand.

# Celebrating Achievement

Each term we hold our **Youth Forum**, where members are voted by their peers to represent their views. Thanks to all the members who gave their opinions! This term our reps were: **Greta & Varlam (Comets)**, **Adyan & Niyah (Sunbeams)**, **Emily & Zidan (Moonbeams)** **Jeho’ash & Precious (Eclipse)**, **Grace & Rodrigo (Equinox)**, **Emma & Izzah (Lunar)**, **Aurora & Bezawit (Orbit)**. One of our trustees also attends the meeting.

We also celebrate the positive contributions of two people from each Youth Theatre, as voted for by members of each group. This includes Jack Petchey Achievement Awards given to the members of our older groups.

This term we are celebrating:

- Comets**                    **Christina**, for doing great facial expressions and being confident.  
**Florence**, for being expressive and doing great poses.
- Sunbeams**                **Sydney**, for being expressive and taking good care of Frances Mouse.  
**Shiloh**, for doing excellent listening and supporting her peers.
- Moonbeams**            **Alicia**, for being calm and a great role model.  
**Mark**, for having a great sense of humour and always giving 100%.
- Eclipse**                    **Alice**, for being friendly and creative.  
**Callie**, for being a good friend and helping others.
- Equinox**                  **Harry**, for being a good listener and having original ideas.  
**Svetlana**, for brilliant acting skills and contributions.
- Lunar**                      **Angel (Jack Petchey Achievement Award)**, for growing his confidence and showing great leadership skills.  
**Katy**, for being a passionate and creative contributor.
- Orbit**                        **Grazia (Jack Petchey Achievement Award)**, for being enthusiastic and collaborative, and contributing positively.  
**Dillon**, for strengthening his voice and contributing thoughtful ideas.
- Solar**                        **Tiffany (Jack Petchey Achievement Award)**, for being friendly, creative and brave.

**A huge well done to all our Youth Theatre members for their hard work, energy and enthusiasm this term!**

