

HAMMERSMITH AND PROUD

David Edwards

At the entrance to the Lyric, Hammersmith, a two-storey white wall has been painted, multi-coloured graffiti-style, with quotes from its audience. 'Off the cuff but on the button' was my favourite, but others such as 'The Lyric has helped me realise I have a future worth looking forward to' are a clear testament to how the theatre has touched the lives of young people in West London.

Executive Director, Jessica Hepburn admits that she lives and breathes the Lyric. She says that she loves creating a sense of home at the theatre, and describes a recent day at the Lyric as a paradigm of what the theatre is offering: 'In the morning we had the read through for *Comedians*, with its great cast of established actors (Keith Allen, Mark Benton, Billy Carter, David Dawson, Michael Dylan, Kulvinder Ghir, Matthew Kelly, Simon Kuntz, Paul Rider and Reece Shearsmith), then in the afternoon our cast of brilliant newcomers from the current show, *Punk Rock*, arrived; we had a kids show in the Studio, the Young Company doing a workshop, the buzz of the audience arriving for the evening performance – all at home, mingling in the café and on the roof garden.'

To read this article and others in full, please subscribe to the TMA's *Prompt* magazine.