



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

PRESS RELEASE

21 MARCH 2017

Breaking Tradition

Hip Hop Workshops at Royal Opera House Thurrock Trailblazer school, Hathaway Academy

Royal Opera House Thurrock Trailblazer school Hathaway Academy welcomed award-winning and critically acclaimed hip hop organisation, Breakin' Convention recently to explore words and emotions with Year 8 students.

Breakin' Convention ran a hip hop lyric writing workshop with a class of year 8 music students at The Hathaway Academy. They created raps in groups, supported by hip hop artist **Genesis Elijah**, who taught them about rhyme, flow, delivery and contents.

Student **Kenan Sirt** enjoyed the workshops and said 'The lyrics make me feel like everyone started from somewhere and everyone has somewhere that they can go.'

English teacher Sophie Ashkuri is full of praise for Breakin' Convention: "The workshop was a wonderful outlet for the students to express what has been on their minds. The young people involved had a very enjoyable and worthwhile morning, exploring language, emotions, and rhythms, and this will have had a positive impact on their understanding and appreciation of song lyrics and poetry in general."

Working with the most respected, innovative and inspirational artists, Breakin' Convention's aim is to position hip hop dance alongside older, more established art forms, through international festivals, professional development, youth projects and its educational programme.

Breakin' Convention came to Thurrock through the Royal Opera House Thurrock Trailblazer programme. Trailblazer is an innovative programme that boost creative learning in schools and accelerate pupils' development. To find out more about Royal Opera House Thurrock Trailblazer, please go to www.roh.org.uk/trailblazer.

END

Press Office contact:

Jules Easlea
Julie.easlea@roh.org.uk
Tel: 07941 502577

Notes for Editors

Royal Opera House Learning and Participation in Thurrock

Royal Opera House Learning and Participation in Thurrock has been offering innovative and creative projects and programmes in schools, colleges and across communities in the Thames Gateway since 2006.

Since then, more than 60,000 people have participated in activities ranging from schools' projects to teacher training, from work-based learning to fully-staged community operas. People in Thurrock have both been able to watch special performances at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden and gain a very special insight into the behind-the-scenes process.

The Learning and Participation team runs the Royal Opera House Thurrock Community Chorus which currently has over 140 members of all ages and regularly performs across Thurrock and at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden. For further information, please go to: www.roh.org.uk/learning/learning-in-thurrock/community-chorus. Details of future performances and taster session for the Community Chorus can be obtained by emailing getinvolved@roh.org.uk or calling 01708 891200.

Regular public tours of the state-of-the-art Bob and Tamar Manoukian Production Workshop where the sets and scenery for the Royal Opera House stage in Covent Garden are built, and the Bob and Tamar Manoukian Costume Centre, which opened in October 2015, are now available. Please go to www.roh.org.uk/visit/tours/thurrock-tours for further details.

In April 2012, the Royal Opera House agreed to become a [Bridge](#) organisation, working to connect children and young people to great art and culture across Essex, North Kent, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.

The Learning and Participation team is based at the High House Production Park in Purfleet which is supported by a unique partnership including Arts Council England, Creative & Cultural Skills, the Royal Opera House and Thurrock Council: www.hhpp.org.uk