

**WEST
END**
Calling

Contestant Brochure

INTRODUCTION

West End Calling is a musical theatre competition for young people aged 7-21 in the UK. After an individual audition in front of our West End panel, contestants progress through the competition, performing in our live heats, culminating in the Grand Final in the West End!

At each stage in the competition, contestants receive feedback from our panels of West End performers, and are able to take part in workshops to develop their skills.



WHAT WE DO

We audition all over the country bringing our competition to regional cities that don't always have access to these kinds of opportunities. Our aim is to discover and nurture musical theatre talent and provide a platform to showcase it.

The competition is split into 4 rounds:

- ★ The Audition ★
- ★ The Regional Heats ★
- ★ The Semi-Finals ★
- ★ The Grand Final ★

The Grand Final is held in a prestigious theatre in London's West End.



WHERE DO WE AUDITION?

This year, we are auditioning in 16 cities across the UK. We will then revisit each city for the Regional Heats and the Semi-Finals will be in London and Manchester.

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| ★ London | ★ Brighton |
| ★ Manchester | ★ Leicester |
| ★ Birmingham | ★ Sheffield |
| ★ Edinburgh | ★ Newcastle |
| ★ Exeter | ★ Belfast |
| ★ Bristol | ★ Norwich |
| ★ Cardiff | ★ Glasgow |
| ★ Jersey | ★ Southampton |





KEY BENEFITS

★ Performance opportunities ★

Experience singing solos in front of live audiences

★ Building confidence ★

Challenge and overcome nerves that come alongside performing

★ Make connections ★


Meet other young performers as well as forming industry connections

★ Feedback and workshops ★

Take part in workshops to develop and learn new skills

★ Videos and photos ★

Showcase your talent with our professional video footage as well as receiving industry standard headshots



"West End Calling has been the most incredible experience. At every stage, I have met new people who I will stay in contact with. I have felt at ease and able to perform at my best because of the support and encouragement I have received."

Alfie Flynn, 2024 Contestant

Connor Keetley took part in the competition in 2016 and has since obtained a degree from Arts Ed - one of the top drama schools in the UK.

"West End Calling played a massive part in getting me where I am today. The opportunity to perform in a variety of London theatres, and receiving advice and guidance from working professionals is so valuable, especially when truly considering going into the industry. The whole West End Calling process instilled me with a much stronger confidence when performing, one which I am certain was a key aspect in successfully getting a place at drama school."



"No matter what stage you get to, there is still so much to take away from the experience. It is also just a great opportunity to perform and have fun!"

Louisa Roberts, 2019-2024 Contestant

THE AUDITION

For many contestants, the audition round is their first experience of a professional audition. Our panel give detailed, in-the-room feedback, as well as written feedback on how they can improve. Our panels are always supportive and encouraging, helping the contestants to gain confidence in their craft.

Our audition round is not only a chance for us to assess the contestant's skills, but it's a valuable experience for anyone wanting to audition for drama school or enter the performing arts industry.

On the day of your audition, you'll also have the opportunity to take part in an Audition Workshop and to have your headshots taken!



LIVE ROUNDS

The Regional Heats and the Semi-Finals give contestants a chance to perform in our showcases to friends, family and our West End Judges. Each show is split into age categories and live streamed on our Facebook page!





GRAND FINAL

The Grand Final takes place in London's West End and features the best young talent from all over the country. We have a Junior Final and a Senior Final with various awards in each show.





All of our prizes give further opportunities to the recipients and in the past have included performing at events such as *West End Live*, *West End Does: Christmas* or *Roles We'll Never Play* in the West End. Winners have also taken home Summer School places, workshops with casting directors, headshot sessions and theatre tickets as part of their prize.



FEES

As a charity, we aim to keep these opportunities as affordable as possible for the participants. We charge a **£20** membership fee which is the only mandatory fee to take part. Optional additional costs include workshops, headshots, performance videos and tickets to the shows.

BURSARIES

We also have bursaries available to young people from low income households who otherwise might not have access to these kinds of opportunities. Please visit our website for more information.



WEST END PANELS

Our panels are made up of experienced West End performers who give expert feedback and industry insight. In each round, contestants will perform to a different set of judges, whose job it is to decide who progresses through to the next round. Here are a couple of testimonials from previous judges:



"I wish I'd had the opportunity as a young performer to experience something like West End Calling. It would have really helped me prepare for auditions in later life, and given me much needed advice from current working professionals to help further my training. It's an experience like no other!"

LAUREN SAMUELS

(Wicked, We Will Rock You, Bend It Like Beckham)



"I LOVE West End Calling. It's such an incredible opportunity for young performers wanting a career in musical theatre. It was a complete joy being a judge and I can't wait to see some of their faces in the West End in the near future!"

SCOTT PAIGE

(Nativity, Great British Bake Off, The Addams Family)

INCLUSION

West End Calling is an inclusive organisation where young people from all backgrounds are offered the same opportunity and support needed to attend and participate, whether for education, personal development, pleasure or vocation/career.

We recognise that as a charity working with young people, it is our **responsibility** to be inclusive and to not only **welcome diversity** in our contestants, but to **actively seek it out**. We do this by visiting regional cities for our auditions and by contacting local schools and community groups to encourage more sign ups. Our **bursary scheme** means that anyone can take part, no matter their financial situation.

We welcome all young people, regardless of social, political, religious and cultural background, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity.

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westendcalling.co.uk