

THEATRE IS...

It's Our Theatre Slam Night

On Thursday (29 October), 26 young people who want to put on their own events and create a brand new piece of Hip Hop theatre performed on stage at a Slam Night at the Thameside Theatre.

The event was part of the hunt for 20 most talented young people in Thurrock in the It's Our Theatre project.

The acts performed a mixture of creative as well as impressive beatboxing, dance, rap, music and the Throwdown UK crew, the leading hip hop group who coached the participants, shared some performances of their own.

In the past two months since the It's Our Theatre project kicked off, 440 young people applied to take part, 2,000 have been part of the roadshows and 150 were chosen to join in the workshops.

A team of young people from the Creative & Media Diploma are working with filmmaker Paul Carpenter to document the project and a team of young volunteers are working as external evaluators.

Cllr Sue MacPherson, Thurrock Council's portfolio holder for 14-19 & integrated youth services, said: "This is a great way to engage young people in Thurrock and to discover untapped talent.

"What's good about the project is that the crew working with the young people will be with them at every stage of the project, teaching and guiding them until they are able to put on their own shows.

She added: "Well done to everyone who has made this a huge success so far and I want to encourage our Thurrock youngsters to continue to work hard in order to come out with excellent shows that could lead to a future career."

Stewart Mullins, Creative Director, THEATRE IS... said: "The project has been phenomenal and the whole of Thurrock has helped to make it happen.

"Our special thanks go to Thurrock Council for funding it."

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Notes for editors

It's Our Theatre is a project managed by THEATRE IS... Commissioned by Thurrock Council and the Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation, the project empowers young people to lead and produce their own cultural events (for example, theatre, dance and music shows) and to develop and own the local arts infrastructure.

THEATRE IS... inspires and ignites the artistic leadership of the 21st Century developing young people's artistic talent and ideas.

Throwdown UK, sponsored by Eastpak, runs monthly dance battle events in London, hosts the National Breakdance Championships and regularly tours Europe with the Eastpak Throwdown crew.

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