



STAGE ONE & COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY EXCHANGE

Stage One are pleased to announce our sixth exchange programme with Columbia University. After a successful inaugural programme in 2019-2020, we have integrated the exchange as one of Stage One's core development programmes. Stage One and Columbia University are thrilled to be working together again and offering this opportunity to a new cohort of producers.

On 11th May 2026, 12 producers taking part in the MFA Theatre Producing Course at Columbia University are coming to the West End for a weeklong intensive series of workshops on how to produce in London and the UK.

In September 2026 Stage One will take 12 producers (who have previously taken part in a Stage One programme) to New York for one week to learn everything about how to produce on Broadway.

Applications will open on Friday 20th February for the 12 UK-based producers wanting to take part in the programme, connect with the New York cohort, and visit the US in September!

Deadline: Monday 16th March, 5 pm

Chair Deborah Lincoln
Chief Executive Joseph Smith

Council

Rebecca Barber / Richard Darbourne / Beth Shouler / Eleanor Lloyd / Lisa Popham / Janet Powell / Chris Stafford / Rachael Twumasi-Corson / Mark Twum-Ampofo / Sarah Verghese / William Village

Who is eligible to apply?

The course is designed for Stage One producers who have **a clear ambition to produce on or off Broadway, including taking work to New York that has originated in the UK.**

Applicants will need to:

- have attended the Stage One West End workshop, or willing/able to before travelling to New York (3-day workshop)
- have a clear track record of lead producing off West End and mid-scale theatre in the UK, and/or associate or office experience on the West End
- be eligible to travel to the USA

With the small number of places and intensity of the course it's essential that applicants understand the collaborative nature of the course and are fully committed to attending every session and fully participating.

Successful applicants will need to be able to attend the week-long workshop from **14th – 18th September** in New York, and also be available to attend an evening drinks reception to meet with the American cohort on the afternoon **14th May 2026** followed by a drinks event (final date and details TBC).

Grant

Stage One will offer a training grant of **£3,750** to each of the 12 Stage One producers to support the expenses incurred as part of the exchange (can include but not limited to travel, accommodation, daily costs). If accepted onto the exchange this will be paid in full up front, and it is your responsibility to make and manage all bookings.

We understand there are many potential reasons why producers may not be able to or may not feel confident in applying to the New York Exchange programme. If you have any questions about barriers – of any kind – to apply to this programme, we very much welcome you to get in touch for an informal conversation. Get in touch via enquiries@stageone.uk.com or 020 7557 6737.

“Stage One is thrilled to be hosting our sixth Producer Exchange in partnership with Columbia University. You can expect a week full of sessions that give insight into the world of Broadway and Off-Broadway, offering an unparalleled opportunity to be in the room with industry leaders willing to share expertise and advise to Stage One producers. Creative teams in the US and the UK have a great history of collaboration and we hope this programme continues to inspire these collaborative partnerships and future commercial projects.”

-Joseph Smith, Chief Executive, Stage One

“The New York Exchange is a genuine professional development highlight. It gives emerging and established producers alike the chance to connect with the heart of the US theatre industry - with top industry leaders at the table not as spectators but as peers and sharing a wealth of knowledge. The access, conversations, and insight you gain over one week in New York are unlike anything else; it's an experience that fundamentally shifts how you think about producing internationally.”

-James Steel, Producer, James Steel Productions

Chair Deborah Lincoln
Chief Executive Joseph Smith

Council

Rebecca Barber / Richard Darbourne / Beth Shouler / Eleanor Lloyd / Lisa Popham / Janet Powell / Chris Stafford / Rachael Twumasi-Corson / Mark Twum-Ampofo / Sarah Verghese / William Village

How will it work?

Once the producers have been chosen and the grants awarded, it is then up to producers to book their flights, accommodation, and arrange necessary visas/ESTA.

There will be time for you to meet and get to know the other UK Producers. You may find it useful and most cost effective to book accommodation together.

The sessions in New York will start on the Monday morning so producers need to book flights to arrive over the weekend before it begins. The programme will finish on the Friday evening, return flights can be booked for the weekend. The schedule will be available to producers well in advance so shows and meetings can be booked in around the seminars. If producers wish to arrive earlier or stay later this is at the cost of the producer.

(Please see an example schedule of the week in New York in Appendix A)

Will I need to attend all the sessions in New York and London?

The Stage One producers are expected to attend all the training & development sessions in September in New York which may include some evenings. We have factored in plenty of opportunities for individuals to see shows and to network.

When the Columbia students are in the UK in May 2026, the Stage One producers are required to attend on the afternoon and evening of 14th May [TBC] to meet the US cohort.

Access, Wellbeing & Safety

We understand there are many reasons someone may wish to take part in this programme, but may not feel able to, or may not feel confident in doing so. We want to do all we can to ensure that everyone feels safe, comfortable, and excited to undertake their place on this exchange.

After confirming your place on the Exchange, we will ask producers to provide us with an Access Rider to start a conversation around how we can help you get the most out of your experience. Please note we will likely need to share these (with your permission) with the Columbia University team who will be hosting you. Together, we will do all we can to meet your access needs.

At least one member of the Stage One team will be with you in New York, and on hand to answer any questions or concerns you may have. There will also be plenty of time for you to get to know your fellow UK producers before departure. You may find it useful, as well as most cost-effective, to book your accommodation together or close by. If you need any advice on where to stay in New York, you're welcome to get in touch with Stage One.

If you have any questions about access, wellbeing or safety regarding the New York Exchange, we're very happy to have an informal conversation. Get in touch via enquiries@stageone.uk.com or 020 7557 6737.

This project & the training bursaries for producers are graciously supported by the [John Gore Organization](#).

JOHN GORE
ORGANIZATION

Appendix A: Example NY Schedule (TBC)

Chair **Chief Executive**
Deborah Lincoln Joseph Smith

Council

Rebecca Barber / Richard Darbourne / Beth Shouler / Eleanor Lloyd / Lisa Popham / Janet Powell / Chris Stafford / Rachael Twumasi-Corson / Mark Twum-Ampofo / Sarah Verghese / William Village

Monday	
10am	Welcome & Introduction to the week
10.15am	Overview of Theatre Categories/Business Classification; Budgets and Royalties; US Labor Law and Unions; Theatre License Agreements
12.30pm	Lunch
1.30pm	US Fundraising – Front Money, Developmental, LLCs, Co-Producer Entitlements and Operating Agreements
4pm	End
Tuesday	
10am	US Copyright Law; Author and Creative Team Agreements
12.00pm	Lunch
1.00pm	US Fundraising - Financial and Tax Considerations
2.30pm	Not-for-Profit Theatres and Service Organizations
4pm	End
8pm	Networking drinks
Wednesday	
11am	Introduction to the Broadway League (Labor & Government Relations, Research, etc.)
12.00pm	The Role of the Press Agent; Developing Projects in the USA
1.00pm	End
8pm	Show
Thursday	
9:30am	The Shubert Organization; Theatre Owners and Theatre Booking
11am	Ticketing: Ticket Sales, Secondary Ticket Market, Dynamic Pricing, Inventory Management
1.00pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Not-For-Profit Co-Production and Enhancement
4pm	End
Friday	
9:30am	Marketing Strategy and Budget
11am	Touring
12.30pm	End of Exchange
7pm	Optional show

Chair Deborah Lincoln **Chief Executive** Joseph Smith

Council

Rebecca Barber / Richard Darbourne / Beth Shouler / Eleanor Lloyd / Lisa Popham / Janet Powell / Chris Stafford / Rachael Twumasi-Corson / Mark Twum-Ampofo / Sarah Verghese / William Village