

**FINDINGS**

**The venues we looked at:**

132 venues in total  
 40 west end  
 38 off-west end/fringe  
 53 regional  
 1 National Theatre - all 3 venues included

**How we qualified the theatres and spaces we looked at:**

We are researching sustainability for career artists, therefore shows qualified due to the following -  
 Main stages  
 200+ capacity - therefore some theatres had large enough second studio spaces we also looked at  
 Runs of 2 weeks or more

**WRITERS/LIBRETTISTS**

LONDON					NATIONAL THEATRE					END & FRINGE					LONDON								
WEST END TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY		TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY		TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY		TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY					
108	83	23	2		17	5	12	0		226	155	67	4		351	243	102	6					
PERCENTAGE	77%	21%	2%		PERCENTAGE	29%	71%	0%		PERCENTAGE	68%	30%	2%		PERCENTAGE	69%	29%	2%					
UK					UK TOTAL					FORM					OPERA								
REGIONAL TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY		TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY		PLAYS TOTAL (incl PLAYS WITH SONG AND PANTO)	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY		TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY					
300	207	91	2		651	450	193	8		460	312	147	1		162	105	51	6					
PERCENTAGE	69%	30%	1%		PERCENTAGE	69%	30%	1%		PERCENTAGE	68%	32%	0%		PERCENTAGE	65%	31%	4%		PERCENTAGE	100%	0%	0%

**SARAH'S WRITER/LIBRETTIST FINDINGS:**

**NATIONWIDE:** Across the entire country, there were 651 writers (inclusive of librettists, playwrights, adapters and writers of source material) credited for 'Main Stage' shows across plays, musicals, panto, dance and opera. Of these composers, 69% were male, 30% were female, 1% were non-binary.  
**LONDON:** Across London (inclusive of West End, National Theatre and larger fringe venues), there were 351 writers (inclusive of librettists, playwrights, adapters and writers of source material) credited for 'Main Stage' shows across plays, musicals, panto, dance and opera. Of these composers, 68% were male, 29% were female, 2% were non-binary.  
**WEST END:** Of a total of 108 writers (inclusive of librettists, playwrights, adapters and writers of source material) with West End credits, 77% were male, 21% were female, 2% were non-binary.  
**NATIONAL THEATRE:** The National Theatre programmed the highest percentage of female writers of any theatre in the West End, with a whopping 71% vs 29% of male writers. However, 0 non-binary writers were programmed.  
**OFF-WEST END/FRINGE:** Of a total of 226 writers (inclusive of librettists, playwrights, adapters and writers of source material) with Off-West End/Larger Fringe Venue credits, 68% were male, 30% were female and 2% were non-binary.  
**REGIONAL:** Across the entire country, there were 300 writers (inclusive of librettists, playwrights, adapters and writers of source material) credited for 'Main Stage' shows across plays, musicals, panto, dance and opera. Of these composers, 69% were male, 30% were female, 1% were non-binary.

Positive findings included:  
 The Kiln programming an entire season of work written by female writers.  
 Dundee Rep programming 75% female-written shows including 2 musicals.

**COMPOSERS**

LONDON						NATIONAL THEATRE						END & FRINGE						LONDON					
WEST END TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY	FEMALE POP STARS		TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY	FEMALE POP STARS		TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY	FEMALE POP STARS		TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY	FEMALE POP STARS	
74	67	6	1	2		15	13	2	0	0		138	116	20	2	1		227	196	28	3	3	
PERCENTAGE	91%	8%	1%		PERCENTAGE	86%	13%	0%		PERCENTAGE	84%	14%	1%		PERCENTAGE	87%	12%	1%					
UK						UK TOTAL						FORM						OPERA					
REGIONAL TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY	FEMALE POP STARS		TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY	FEMALE POP STARS		PLAYS TOTAL (incl PLAYS WITH SONG & PANTO)	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY		TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY			
143	98	41	4	1		370	254	69	7	6		202	149	49	4		116	96	17	3			
PERCENTAGE	68%	29%	3%		PERCENTAGE	80%	18%	2%		PERCENTAGE	74%	24%	2%		PERCENTAGE	83%	15%	3%		PERCENTAGE	100%	0%	0%

**KATE'S COMPOSER FINDINGS:**

**NATIONWIDE:** Across the entire country, there were 370 composers credited for 'Main Stage' shows across plays, musicals, panto, dance and opera. Of these composers, 80% were male, 19% were female, 2% were non-binary.  
**LONDON:** Across London, there were 227 composers credited for 'Main Stage' shows across plays, musicals, panto, dance and opera. Of these composers, 87% were male, 12% were female, 1% were non-binary.  
**WEST END:** Of a total of 74 composers with West End credits, 91% were male, 8% were female, 1% were non-binary. Pop stars accounted for 29% of the total female and non-binary composers.  
**NATIONAL THEATRE:** The National Theatre programmed 15 shows with composer credits: 86% were male composers, 13% were female composers. No non-binary composers featured.  
**OFF-WEST END/FRINGE:** Of a total of 138 composers with Off-West End or Larger Fringe Venue credits in London, 84% were male, 14% were female, 1% were non-binary.

REGIONAL: Across regional theatres, there were 143 composers credited for 'Main Stage' shows across plays, musicals, panto, dance and opera. Of these composers, 68% were male, 29% were female, 3% were non-binary. Regional theatres showed over double the gender diversity for composers than London theatres combined.

Of all plays that credited a composer 74% were male, 24% were female and 2% were non-binary. Of all musicals that credited a composer, 83% were male, 15% female and 3% non-binary. In dance and opera, all credited composers were male.

Venues that stood out for positive gender balance amongst credited composers were, in no particular order, Donmar Warehouse (London), Park Theatre (London), Shakespeare's Globe (London), Polka Theatre (Wimbledon), Dundee Rep (Dundee), Northern Stage (Newcastle), Leeds Playhouse (Leeds), Sherman Theatre (Cardiff), Bolton Octagon (Bolton), Royal Exchange (Manchester), Royal Lyceum (Edinburgh) and Theatre By The Lake (Keswick).

## LYRICISTS

LONDON					NATIONAL THEATRE					END & FRINGE					LONDON TOTAL														
WEST END TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY		TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY		TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY		TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY											
59	53	4	2		3	3	0	0		78	59	16	1		140	115	22	3											
PERCENTAGE	90.00%	7.00%	3.00%		PERCENTAGE	100%	0%	0%		PERCENTAGE	76.00%	24.00%	1.00%		PERCENTAGE	82%	16%	2%											
UK					UK TOTAL					FORM					OPERA														
REGIONAL TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY		TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY		PLAYS TOTAL (incl PLAYS WITH SONG & PANTO)	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY		MUSICALS TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY		DANCE TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY		TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	NON-BINARY	
87	61	24	2		227	176	46	5		60	39	21	0		129	101	23	5		7	3	0	0		22	23	0	0	
PERCENTAGE	70.00%	28.00%	2.00%		PERCENTAGE	78.00%	20%	2%		PERCENTAGE	65.00%	35.00%	0.00%		PERCENTAGE	78.00%	18.00%	4.00%		PERCENTAGE	100%	0%	0%		PERCENTAGE	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

### MEG'S LYRICIST FINDINGS:

NATIONWIDE: Across the entire country, there were 227 lyricists credited for 'Main Stage' shows across plays, musicals, panto, dance and opera. Of these lyricists, 78% were male, 20% were female, 2% were non-binary.  
 LONDON: Across London, there were 140 lyricists credited for 'Main Stage' shows across plays, musicals, panto, dance and opera. Of these lyricists, 82% were male, 16% were female, 2% were non-binary.  
 WEST END: Of a total of 59 composers with West End credits, 90% were male, 7% were female, 3% were non-binary.  
 NATIONAL THEATRE: The National Theatre programmed 3 shows with lyricists credits: 100% were male lyricists. No female lyricists or non-binary lyricists featured. In fact in two of these shows the artistic director, Rufus Norris, wrote the lyrics.  
 OFF-WEST END/FRINGE: Of a total of 78 lyricists with Off-West End or Larger Fringe Venue credits in London, 76% were male, 23% were female, 1% were non-binary.  
 REGIONAL: Across regional theatres, there were 87 lyricists credited for 'Main Stage' shows across plays, musicals, panto, dance and opera. Of these lyricists, 70% were male, 28% were female, 2% were non-binary.

All 22 Opera's that qualified for this research had male lyricists.  
 Northern Stage and Octagon Bolton jointly had the most female lyricists programmed with three across their whole season all working on separate projects.

## OTHER FINDINGS

### MEG'S BEST ARCHIVES

Websites	Links
1. Regent Park's Open Air Theatre	<a href="https://openairtheatre.com/past-productions/whats-on/">https://openairtheatre.com/past-productions/whats-on/</a>
2. Almedia	<a href="https://almedia.co.uk/?option=com_production&amp;view=production_archive">https://almedia.co.uk/?option=com_production&amp;view=production_archive</a>
3. Young Vic	<a href="https://www.youngvic.org/whats-on/archive">https://www.youngvic.org/whats-on/archive</a>
4. Wilton's	<a href="https://wiltons.org.uk/whats-on/archives">https://wiltons.org.uk/whats-on/archives</a>
5. Whats On Stage	<a href="https://www.whatsonstage.com/venues/west-end-theatre/the-london-palldo">https://www.whatsonstage.com/venues/west-end-theatre/the-london-palldo</a>
6. Musicals On Tour	<a href="https://musicalsontour.co.uk/">https://musicalsontour.co.uk/</a>
7. Royal Court	<a href="https://royalcourttheatre.com/past-productions/">https://royalcourttheatre.com/past-productions/</a>
8. Royal Lyceum Theatre Edin	<a href="https://lyceum.org.uk/whats-on/past-productions/">https://lyceum.org.uk/whats-on/past-productions/</a>
9. Stratford East	<a href="https://www.stratfordeast.com/whats-on/past-shows/">https://www.stratfordeast.com/whats-on/past-shows/</a>
10. Shoreditch Town Hall	<a href="https://shoreditchtownhall.com/previous-productions.html">https://shoreditchtownhall.com/previous-productions.html</a>

These websites were selected based on how easy they were to find online, their well formatted and easy to search sites, how much information they provided around creative teams, and how important they were to our research (e.g. Whats On Stage and Musicals On Tour made our research around venues with poor archives easier). We would encourage other theatres to reflect on how their own websites archive past shows and look at those listed for inspiration.

### FUN FACTS

500 shows In Total Researched

187 Shows Based Off Original Ideas

197 Shows Which Were Transfers or Revivals

91 Shows Which Were New But Based Off Existing Ideas / IP (including titles which are adapted from books but not generic fairytales)

25 Unclassified

27 Shakespeare Shows

13 Christmas Carols

4 Andrew Lloyd Webber Shows

3 Stephen Sondheim Shows

3 Elton John Shows

There were more composers named either Ben (19), Stephen (11), Paul (10) or Michael (9), than non-binary composers (7) combined across the UK.

Overall 24 female and 3 non-binary musical theatre writers were commissioned to make **brand new shows**. 60 male musical theatre writers were commissioned to make **brand new shows**.