

ONEOFF Award



The lockdown has been an extraordinary time for theatre, presenting challenges and threats to existing ways of working – to which creative practitioners and managers have responded with innovation and resilience. OffWestEnd is pleased to announce the **ONEOFF** special award to recognise the achievements of independent, fringe & alternative venues, companies, festivals and other initiatives in these difficult times.

ONEOFF winners are listed below and further **ONEOFF** awards will be announced from time to time.

Anyone can make a nomination for a ONEOFF award: all you need to do is email info@offwestend.com explaining why this nominee (venue, show, individual or other initiative) deserves an award. The email should include any relevant weblinks or images or other supporting material, and details of at least two other people (not directly linked to the nominee) who can be contacted regarding the nomination.

Information on our other awards can be found by clicking on [Offies](#) / [OffComm](#) / [OnComm](#).

WINNERS 2021



Lou Stein

Lou Stein is stepping down as **Artistic Director** of **Chickenshed** after 5 years at the helm.

Chickenshed brings together people of all ages and from all backgrounds to produce wonderful theatre and to celebrate diversity. During Lou's time as Artistic Director, he has overseen a wide range of exciting and innovative productions with a particular focus on encouraging and developing new writing. He has overseen children's and youth theatre projects and activities which have involved over 800 young people annually, as well as a number of community outreach projects. In addition, he has developed professional partnerships for touring and media activity, which has enhanced the profile and impact of the organisation.

Lou's shows at Chickenshed have received many 4* and 5* reviews over the years, including from **The Stage** and **Time Out**. They have also had many OffWestEnd nominations over the years – **Offies** nominations for their live shows and **OnComms** for their online work. They have won **Offies** for “**Don't Stop Thinking About Tomorrow**” (Best Production for Children 13+, 2019) and “**Snow White**” (Best Production for Children 8+, 2020).

One of our Offies assessors has said of his visits to Chickenshed: *“I have trudged my way to the end of the Piccadilly line and always found, even on the darkest winter evenings, a welcoming atmosphere – a real community spirit, engaging all ages, all abilities and disabilities, all demographics where the creative talents are nurtured and encouraged, a true beacon at the end of the Piccadilly line!”*

Lou will be developing personal projects and engaging more with the professional theatre community, as well as focusing work on helping young people who have learning disabilities develop the skills to be successful in the workplace, using music and theatre techniques, and we wish him well in these future endeavours.

In the last 5 years, Chickenshed has enhanced its reputation and status as **an exciting and dynamic part of Greater London's independent theatre ecology**, effectively encouraging diversity amongst its participants and its work, and particularly encouraging the involvement of young people, and we are very pleased **to present our latest OneOff award to Lou Stein.**