

Lumière 20:20 review

Lumière scheme participants reflect on their experiences

After ten weeks, Lumière 20:20 and Team Lumière finished in November last year. The schemes were on a much bigger scale than what we had done before, and we really appreciate the support of all those who contributed to the brilliant experience and community it became. We had a great to start the new year with a social in January, well organised by Rick Fisher and Tamykha Patterson.

We are very proud to have offered this opportunity to 60 emerging lighting designers across the two schemes and have asked the Lumières themselves to tell us more about 2020's unique courses:

LUMIERE 20:20

Tom Lightbody (Colchester, Essex)

I had a great time on Lumière 20:20, getting to know my mentor and his approach as well as hearing from other designers talk about their work in the regular group sessions. I learned so much from Rick over the course of the ten weeks, and we have kept in touch subsequently. He's even agreed to have me on board for a show once the clouds have lifted. Getting to know some of my peers has been lovely

as well – there's been a wonderful sense of camaraderie, and shared insight and experience. 10/10; would recommend.

Catja Hamilton (London)

Being one of the Lumière 20:20 mentees was an invaluable experience. Declan was very knowledgeable and incredibly generous with his time. I learned so much over the course of the scheme, from the design process in unfamiliar genres to negotiating contracts and hire equipment. At a time when it had been months since I'd last seen the inside of a theatre, having an hour a week dedicated to discussing lighting was a source of great joy. I'm very grateful to everyone at the ALD who made it possible!

Kieron Johnson (Leeds)

Over the period of the pandemic, Lumière has provided a much-needed dose of inspiration and shown that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Being granted the opportunity to have one-on-one time with Adam Silverman has offered a unique view into the current state of the theatre industry, and I couldn't be more grateful for his time and expertise! Huge

thank you to everyone who helped create such an incredible platform, particularly at a time when morale was so low. Cheers to the Lumière class of 2020!

Jane Lalljee (Cardiff)

Being part of Lumière 20:20 was one of the best experiences of lockdown. I was paired with Lucy Carter, whose work I greatly admire. Her experience and outlook is very different to mine, and I learned a lot about large-scale work and her design approach, both of which were invaluable and insightful. My biggest take away was to focus on the core ideas through the process, rather than allowing the resources available to limit my creativity.

I have since completed a design with these principles in mind, which worked out extremely well. Thanks, Lucy and the ALD!

Gianni Bertoli (Milan, Italy)

When I applied for Lumière 20:20 I was looking for a different point of view about our world. I wanted to understand and discover why if we are part of the same world, yours is a million miles away. I had the pleasure to discuss and listen with Mark Jonathan, and I couldn't ask

for better. Marko became a mentor and also a friend. Our morning calls were definitely better than a teacher-student conversation and I can't thank him and the ALD enough for the huge opportunity they gave me.

Hannah Walker (Guildford)

I applied for the scheme to gain more knowledge and to learn from experienced professionals already working in the industry. I really enjoyed the informative group sessions and in particular my one-to-one sessions with my mentor, Zoe Spurr, who was very approachable and helpful. I put into practice some of the ideas gained from these sessions during the Yvonne Arnaud's Christmas production of *Snow Queen*, which I designed and programmed. I thoroughly enjoyed Lumière 20:20 and would recommend it to any upcoming lighting designers; the only downside was that due to the pandemic we couldn't meet in person!

Adam Archer (Nottinghamshire)

During lockdown I wanted to keep up my lighting design skills as well as use the time to attend as many courses and

talks by the ALD as possible. Following the Bootcamp, I realised that there is so much more to the assistant/associate role than I thought. I was very fortunate to be teamed up with Mike Robertson who took me under his wing, and we followed the topics as well as dedicating time to looking at a different artist each week, analysing their work, whether that be the techniques used or even what the painting was trying to tell through the use of suggested key light angles. Further to this, Mike asked me what I would be interested in learning more about, and we would look at these points in a little more detail. Mike and I hit it off from the start, there was a good vibe in all the chats and we had a great way of communicating and working together. I was then offered the role of associate lighting designer on A Christmas Carol at the Dominion Theatre, London. It was a privilege to be a part of Lumière 20:20.

Jess Addinall (Hull)

In what can only be described as a horrendous year, Lumière has given me a new-found drive to push forward and continue to pursue lighting design.

Howard was a fantastic mentor and having an hour each week to get insight into the larger world of lighting was invaluable. I've learnt so much about the ways I think and approach design as well as wonderful ways to improve it. The scheme has opened doors to parts of the industry I previously thought were out of reach, and I look forward to putting the things I've learnt into practice.

Will Monks (London)

"Affirmation" is the best word I can use to describe my experience on the Lumière Scheme. One of the many moments that sticks out is at one of our first chats: Lizzie reassured me that I don't have to second-guess myself by toning down my excitement to appear professional. I've not been afraid to bring all of myself to projects since. It was emboldening to have that encouragement from someone I could see myself being in years to come. Our conversations slipped seamlessly between rehearsals, tech, politics, family and devices for baking potatoes, and I've treasured every moment.

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Lucía Sánchez Roldán (London)

The scheme was such a wonderful opportunity. In the past year, I have had few opportunities to be in a theatre, and having this weekly space to talk about the process and reflect on how we work felt miraculous. I really enjoyed discussing and talking about lighting and discovering how intrinsically different designers' processes are. What was even more incredible is that not only we were able to have these conversations with our individual mentors, we also had access to the invaluable interviews that Rory was conducting, which allowed us to listen to a multitude of designers candidly answering all the questions we had and being honest about work and the industry.

Adam Foley (Hull)

The Lumière video chats were a weekly treat that kept me connected to my craft through a time when it was very easy to think it was just going to be admin work and Covid risk assessments forevermore. My mentor, David Howe, was brilliant, informative and generous; he has given me loads to think on about my designs and a good deal of wisdom for

a designer's career. My current job will all but disappear in April, giving me a sink-or-swim moment for my design career that would be terrifying if it weren't for the Lumière scheme, as it happens I couldn't be more excited.

Chris Gantner (Warsaw, Poland)

I am very grateful for being part of Lumière 20:20. It let me meet some amazing designers, who were very open and eager to share their knowledge and experience with young, aspiring designers. Weekly conversations with Bruno Poet, whose works I've been admiring for years, were a true privilege and really boosted my confidence. Through the Lumière scheme I confirmed to myself that lighting design is a truly fascinating profession, full of fantastic people, and a community I really want to be a part of.

Sherry Coenen (London)

When Lumière 20:20 was announced I wasn't sure I quite fit the bill. I'm not really young or new enough to class as "emerging" but I am still working at a fringe level so thought I could at least apply and be turned down... but if I

didn't apply I'd never have a shot. I am so glad I took the leap as the programme was wonderful. I learned so much from both my mentor and my mentee as we all approach both the design and the business sides of the industry in different ways, and it was great to hear about the other possibilities of workflow/creative process. There is still a gap in my week where those sessions used to go, and I have very much enjoyed staying in touch with the rest of the mentees through the WhatsApp group, be it for work questions or just to share snaps of great lighting in nature.

Adam Murdoch (North West)

Lumière 20:20 was an excellent opportunity for me. It was great to be able to hear from a vast selection of designers, gaining insight to their history with tips and tricks within the industry. My mentor, Rob Sinclair, was brilliant – we spoke about everything from coffee to budgets and transport. It was such a great way to gain insight about large arena shows and being a visual designer on a production, responsible for the whole creative design of a show and not just lighting. I was

lucky enough to get the opportunity to be involved in a Kylie Minogue live-streamed concert, which was incredible!

Lumière 20:20 were: *Sophie Bailey, Gianni Bertolli, Adam Archet, Michael Brenkley, Adam Murdoch, Fee Dalglish, Holly Ellis, Hazuki Mogan, Cara Hood, Catja Hamilton, Charlotte McAdam, Sam Osbourne, Euan Davis, Fadzil Hanafi, Alan Mooney, Hannah Walker, Max Colbran, Callum Macdonald, Jane Lalljee, Nina Field, Jen Roxburgh, Jess Addinall, Will Monks, Krzysztof Gantner, Alex Fernandes, Adam Foley, Lucia Sánchez Roldán, Ruth Green, Eleni Thomaidou, Jev Laverick, Seb Blaber, Sherry Coenen, Aiden Bromley, Tamykha Patterson, Tom Lightbody, Kieron Johnson, William Hayman and Simi Majekodunmi.*

Thank you to our mentors: Richard Howell, Mark Jonathan, Mike Robertson, Daniella Beattie, Rob Sinclair, Lee Curran, Aideen Malone, Jessica Hung Han Yun, Matt Haskins, Declan Randall, Charlie Morgan Jones, Sherry Coenen, Malcolm Rippeth, Paul Lim, Charles Balfour, Zoe Spurr, Jason Addison, Mark Jonathan, Lucy Carter, Kathy Perkins, Mike Le Fevre, Howard Hudson, Lizzie

Powell, Bruno Poet, Natasha Chivers, David Howe, Nic Farman, Elanor Higgins, Simon Wilkinson, Ric Mountjoy, Jon Clark, Nick Schlieper, Ken Billington, Rick Fisher, Adam Silverman and Ben Cracknell.

TEAM LUMIÈRE

Ellen Butterworth-Evans (Stafford)

I feel so lucky to have been chosen to join Team Lumière, learning so much from the ten weeks of case studies, interviews and group discussions. I particularly valued that, despite our varied backgrounds and experience, there was a great group dynamic. I felt I could ask questions freely and discuss anything without judgement because of this. From this experience I have gained a deeper understanding of the theatre industry and the interwoven jobs within the lighting department, which I feel will help me in my career moving forward.

Fred Rayment (Bedfordshire)

I very much enjoyed being part of Team Lumière. It was extremely interesting hearing from the lighting practitioners, and they gave great insights into the work and processes of a professional lighting

designer. I've been a professional theatre and lighting technician most of my adult life, with lighting design being more of a hobby with occasional paid work. Team Lumière has reminded me what fascinated me about lighting and why I chose this as a job. It has inspired me to once again pursue lighting design as a career. In these difficult times it was also great to be part of a team again. Thanks to Rory, Charlotte, Katherine and all the practitioners who took part.

Sam Ohlsson (London)

Team Lumière was very beneficial for me. The interaction with designers and other professionals, along with the sharing of real experiences and knowledge was so valuable. The weekly themes proved to be a really effective method of delivery. Every professional was happy to discuss and answer questions, from designers reviewing design choices through to enquiries about a work-life balance. Rory was an amazing host for the team and each session was interesting, engaging and informative. I gained valuable knowledge, contacts and information. The ALD created an outstanding and useful opportunity during a time of uncertainty.

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Team Lumière were: *Bethany Gupwell, Dan Heesem, Iain Young, Joseph Ed Thomas, Lauren Flynn, Lewis Hannaby, Lucy Adams, Matt Whale, Nathan Storm, Noah Jones, Ellen Butterworth-Evans, Gabriel Finn, Zoe Beeny, Matthew Lofting, Amy Cadwallader, Jack Wills, Jon Stacey, Tom Boase, Sam Ohlsson, Layla Bradbeer, Ethan Kent and Fred Rayment.*

Thank you to Rory Beaton and our guest speakers: Simon Wilkinson, Lucy Carter, Jessica Hung Han Yun, Bruno Poet, Johanna Town, Prema Mehta, Declan Randall, Tim Mitchell, Malcolm Rippeth, Lee Curran, Mark Jonathan, James Farncombe, Howard Hudson, Tom Mulliner, Dale Driscoll, Rob Sinclair, Patrick Woodroffe, Nic Farman, Kate Bonney, Simon Hayes, Pete Lambert, Martin Chisnall, Neil Austin, Lizzie Powell, Aideen Malone, Ben Ormerod, Anthony Arblaster, Victoria Brennan, Ben Cracknell, Charlotte Burton, Sarah Brown, Max Narula, Kathy Perkins, Joshua Pharo and Paule Constable.

COMING SOON – Lumière: Production
www.ald.org.uk/lumiere

We are very excited to announce that we will be launching the Lumière: Production scheme in 2021!

This scheme will focus on the production electrician and programmer roles, providing a pathway into the industry of live performance lighting.

There is going to be a virtual pilot scheme this year. Please check our website and social media for further details in the coming months.

Our aim for 2022 is to run both the Lumière: Production and Lumière: Design six-month schemes in person as a paid position providing the opportunity to work on a range of productions.

A Light Walk
20–24 September 2021

From Stratford-upon-Avon to the Southbank: a Lumière scheme and Backup sponsored walk!

To raise funds for the Lumière Design and Production schemes to run in 2022 and to support the much-needed work of Backup we will be doing a sponsored walk from the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-Upon-Avon to the National Theatre in London.

Do you want to join us and take on this challenge?

You can join us for one, some, or the whole five days. You can also take part remotely by completing the same distance in your local area during the month of September.

Further details and sponsorship information will be released soon.

If you would like to register your interest, email us: lumiere@ald.org.uk. 🍷