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## AMERICAN THEATRE WING ANNOUNCES THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER INITIATIVE

**LLOYD WEBBER EXTENDS HIS PHILANTHROPY TO THE U.S. WITH  
\$1.3 MILLION GRANT  
TO FUND THEATRE EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR THE UNDERSERVED FROM COAST-TO-COAST**

### **PARTNERSHIP UNDERSCORES AND EXPANDS WING'S CORE MISSION**

**New York, NY** (June 12, 2016) – The **American Theatre Wing** (Heather Hitchens, President and CEO) earlier this evening announced, via the live telecast of the Tony Awards on CBS, its new **Andrew Lloyd Webber Initiative**. This major new national initiative, which is being funded with a \$1.3 million, three-year grant from **Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber**, will support theatre education opportunities for underserved young people and under-resourced public schools around the United States. This project is an extension of the work that the multi-Tony Award winning composer and producer has been doing for years overseas, using his foundation to promote and fund arts education in the United Kingdom. It serves to both strengthen and expand the Wing's core mission of nurturing the next generation of theatre makers and patrons.

The Andrew Lloyd Webber Initiative consists of three separate components:

- 1) **Classroom Resources:** Through a grant-giving program, funding will be provided directly to under-resourced public schools to provide instruments, dance floors, lighting grids, and other necessary materials to help create new and enhance existing theatre programs.
- 2) **Extracurricular Training Scholarships:** Funding will go towards covering the costs associated with sending select students to summer study and after school training programs.
- 3) **4-Year Partial University Scholarships:** Financial support will be provided to select students to pursue theatre studies at the University level.

"Tonight we celebrated a remarkably diverse and exciting season on Broadway," Ms. Hitchens said in a statement. "Our partnership with Andrew on this initiative will help us ensure that the long term ecology of the theatre remains healthy, accessible, and inclusive."

"Arts education has long been a driving passion for me," Lord Lloyd Webber said, "and delving into the world of School of Rock reminds me daily of the singular power of giving children the gift of inspiration. The American Theatre Wing has been at this for a hundred years, and we are going to work together to make sure these resources get in the hands of those who will benefit from them the most."

### **BOILERPLATE ON ALW FOUNDATION**

The **American Theatre Wing** (Heather Hitchens, President and CEO) is dedicated to advancing artistic excellence and nurturing theatre's next generation: on the stage, behind the scenes, and in the audience. For nearly a century, the Wing has

pursued this mission with programs that span the nation to invest in the growth and evolution of American Theatre. Traditionally, the Wing has encouraged members of the theatre community to share their off-stage time and talent directly with the theatre audience at large--whether it was singing for the troops in the Stage Door Canteen of the 1940s, or sharing their stories on a podcast today. As the founders of The Tony Awards®, the American Theatre Wing has developed the foremost national platform for the recognition of theatrical achievement on Broadway. Yet the Wing's reach extends beyond Broadway and beyond New York. The Wing develops the next generation of theatre professionals through the SpringboardNYC and Theatre Intern Network programs, incubates innovative theatre across the country through the National Theatre Company Grants, fosters the song of American theatre through the Jonathan Larson Grants, honors the best in New York theatrical design with the Henry Hewes Design Award, and illuminates the creative process through the "Working in the Theatre" program and media archive. Beginning last season, the American Theatre Wing has entered into a long-term partnership with *The Village Voice* to co-present The Obie Awards, Off Broadway's Highest Honor. Visitors to [AmericanTheatreWing.org](http://AmericanTheatreWing.org) can gain inspiration and insight into the artistic process through the Wing's extensive media collection, and learn more about its programming for students, aspiring and working professionals, and audiences.

Follow the Wing on [Facebook.com/TheAmericanTheatreWing](https://Facebook.com/TheAmericanTheatreWing) and [Twitter.com/TheWing](https://Twitter.com/TheWing).

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