

James Mackenzie-Blackman
Biographies
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James grew up in Plymouth and South Devon. After concluding his education, he spent two years working overseas in Nepal, Europe and North America.

After University in Liverpool James spent fourteen years working in London at Greenwich Theatre; the Lyric Hammersmith; as Executive Director of the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain and then as Executive Director of Sir Matthew Bourne's award-winning dance company New Adventures. During his time at the company James oversaw substantial growth in participation, audiences and turnover.

James was appointed Chief Executive of Eden Court, Scotland's largest single-site arts venue, in 2017 and during his tenure steered the company through a period of significant growth and change.

James is regularly invited to speak at conferences and events in the UK and overseas, he is a trustee of the Compass Partnership of Schools.

James took up post as Chief Executive of the Theatre Royal Plymouth in January 2022.

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James Mackenzie-Blackman is an award-winning theatre producer, arts advocate and venue manager.

James grew up in Plymouth and South Devon and was a proud member of the Theatre Royal Plymouth Young Company.

After concluding his formal education James spent two years working overseas in Nepal and then in Europe and North America.

After University in Liverpool James started his career at Greenwich Theatre. In 2004 James commenced six years at the Lyric Theatre Hammersmith culminating in raising £20m for a major capital project at the Lyric to build the world's first teaching theatre so that young people could train for careers on; off and backstage in a professional performing arts venue. During his time at the Lyric James bought the Broadway production of *Spring Awakening* to London that went on to win four Olivier Awards.

Following his time at the Lyric James was Executive Director of the National Theatre of Great Britain during a time when the company were heavily involved in the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

After his time at NYT James was Executive Director of Sir Matthew Bourne's award-winning dance company New Adventures. Matthew is one of the world's most well-known choreographers and theatre makers who has changed the landscape of dance forever. James regularly toured the UK; North America, Asia and Australia and during his time at the company James oversaw substantial growth in participation, audiences and turnover.

In 2017 James was appointed Chief Executive of Eden Court, Scotland's largest single-site arts venue. During his tenure James steered the company through a period of significant change and growth.

James is regularly invited to speak at conferences and events in the UK and overseas, he is a trustee of the Compass Partnership of Schools in South East London.

James took up post as Chief Executive of the UK's largest and best attended regional theatres, the Theatre Royal Plymouth in January 2022.

He is married with two sons and lives on The Hoe in Plymouth city centre a few hundred yards from Stage Door.