



A conference for schools  
exploring gender equality

# Welcome to our Partnership of Equals conference, 2018

**This conference is designed by students and staff within the Mulberry Schools Trust. It celebrates the power of student voice and places positive action for social change at the heart of our work within the Trust. Young people are powerful agents of change yet they often lack a platform for their voices and, if overlooked, alienation can follow.**

Our conference provides a space for student voice and visibility. It is also an ideal way to bring young people together with diverse role models to consider important issues. The mentoring of younger people by those with more experience is enriching for both mentor and mentee. Stories of success and struggle are exchanged with youthful passion and innovation, empowering those who have yet to make their way in the world.

Today's conference follows from a body of work exploring gender equality amongst students in the partner schools represented here today. We have worked together over 18 months to consider the effects of gender inequality on both women and men. Students have raised many issues: the gender pay gap; the 'He for She' and 'Me Too' campaigns; toxic ideas of masculinity; the suicide of men under 50; and the rise in anorexia amongst boys. Worldwide, the issues considered have covered female infanticide, the denial of education to girls and sexual exploitation.

Work presented by schools within the conference today includes performance poetry, dance and the performance of Shakespeare. We have taken the lens of the creative arts through which to explore gender inequality. How we imagine ourselves as individuals and our place within society is governed strongly by a mediated experience of the world through literature, theatre, film, TV, dance and visual image. The way women and men are choreographed, dressed, directed, characterized in literature and painted or photographed all influence our sense of self.

I would like to thank sincerely the speakers today who have given their time voluntarily to the conference. Thanks must also go to the Trustees of the Mulberry Schools Trust and the Green Spring Education Trust who have supported this work. The conference was funded through partnership work between the two, celebrating their schools. I would like to thank the conference planning team for all they have done. Most importantly, however, the credit for today goes to all the students who have been involved – and who continue to be inspiring.

**Dr V. J. Ogden**

CEO of the Mulberry Schools Trust

# Conference Aims

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- 1** To raise awareness of issues of inequality facing girls and boys with regard to gender.
- 2** To explore these issues through the arts and find creative solutions to inequality.
- 3** To bring together young people and diverse role models to engage with and learn from each other.
- 4** To enable young people to become leaders and advocates in creating a more equal world.



# Programme

8:30am	Registration
9:00am	Opening Ceremony
9:15am	In Conversation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jude Kelly, Founder, WOW Festival</li> <li>• Grayson Perry, Artist</li> </ul>
9:45am	Dance Introduction
10:00am	Dialogue Mats
10:30am	Break
10:50am	Panel Discussion: Dance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair: Shobana Jeyasingh, Artistic Director, Shobana Jeyasingh Dance</li> <li>• Delia Barker, Programmes Director, Roundhouse</li> <li>• Julie Cunningham, Choreographer</li> <li>• Matthew Bourne, Choreographer and Director</li> </ul>
11:50am	Group Activity
12:00pm	Dance Performance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heston Community School</li> <li>• Mulberry School for Girls</li> </ul>
12:15pm	Keynote <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Edwina Dunn, Founder, Female Lead</li> </ul>
12:40pm	Spoken Word Performance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dave Neita, Director, Elect</li> <li>• 'Letters to Our Daughters' competition winners</li> </ul>
1:00pm	Lunch
1:45pm	Shakespeare Introduction
2:00pm	Dialogue Mats
2:30pm	Open Rehearsal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carrie Cracknell, Director</li> </ul>
3:00pm	Panel Discussion: Shakespeare <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair: David Lan, Theatre Director</li> <li>• Jade Anouka, Actor</li> <li>• Justin Audibert, Artistic Director, Unicorn Theatre</li> <li>• Carrie Cracknell, Director</li> </ul>
3:50pm	Break
4:00pm	Shakespeare Performance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mulberry Academy Shoreditch</li> </ul>
4:15pm	Reflection Activity
4:30pm	Closing Speech <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shami Chakrabarti, Shadow Attorney General, Labour Party</li> </ul>

# Participating Schools

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All Saints Catholic College  
Ansford Academy  
Bonus Pastor  
Bow School  
Central Foundation Girls' School  
Chingford Foundation School  
Coombe Girls' School  
Forest Hill School  
Frances Bardsley Academy For Girls

Heston Community School  
Mulberry Academy Shoreditch  
Mulberry School For Girls  
Mulberry UTC  
Plumstead Manor  
Redbridge School  
Ursuline Catholic High School For Girls  
Wimbledon College  
Wycombe High School



# Speakers

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## Jade Anouka

**Actor**

Jade recently completed filming a series regular role in ITV project *Cleaning Up* opposite Sheridan Smith. She also recently starred in ITV drama *Trauma* opposite Adrian Lester, and was seen in the Old Vic two-hander *Cover My Tracks*. Jade starred in the Donmar Warehouse all-female Shakespeare Trilogy, playing the roles of Ariel in *The Tempest*, Mark Anthony in *Julius Caesar* and Hotspur in *Henry IV* - directed by Phyllida Lloyd. Jade was winner of The Stage Award for Acting Excellence for performance in *CHEF* at Edinburgh Fringe 2014 and received Ian Charleson Award Commendations for performances in *Julius Caesar* at The Donmar Warehouse and *Hamlet* at Shakespeare's Globe. Jade recently did a Ted Talk on the subject of 'Being Black, being a Woman, being 'Other'.



## Justin Audibert

**Artistic Director, Unicorn Theatre**

Justin Audibert is Artistic Director of the Unicorn Theatre. The Unicorn is the UK's leading theatre for young audiences, producing an eclectic and surprising programme of work year-round for children aged 6 months to 18 years. Based in their purpose-built home at London Bridge, they aim to connect artists and audiences through a broad range of work that is honest, refreshing and international in outlook, across a range of disciplines. They present and tour around twenty shows each year, at home and abroad, to around 90,000 children and their parents and carers, and work extensively with schools and in the community to invite children from all cultures into a conversation about art and the world we live in.



## Delia Barker

### Programmes Director, Roundhouse

Delia is Programmes Director at the Roundhouse, an incredible live music and performance space which is also a charity using creativity and the chance to engage with the arts to change the lives of young people aged 11 to 25. Her previous role was Director of English National Ballet School, a world leading specialist training centre for highly talented ballet dancers aged 16 to 19, continuously rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. Delia is also Chair of the Board for Studio Wayne McGregor (SWM) a world-leading, multi-faceted dance and creative organisation. SWM is part of Arts Council England's National Portfolio and last year opened a world-class arts space at Here East in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Stratford. Delia is a dance specialist and held the post of Senior Officer, Dance for Arts Council England for seven years, leading nationally on South Asian, African Peoples' and Disability-led dance practice before managing a portfolio of diverse cultural organisations receiving £9.1 million of public investment. She has delivered business and organisation development as a consultant to Drake Music, StopGap Dance, Boy Blue Entertainment and Avant Garde Dance and she regularly mentors. Delia qualified in organisational development with the NTL Institute, is experienced in executive leadership and management and trained in Action Learning Set and Virtual ALS facilitation with Action Learning Associates.



## Matthew Bourne

### Choreographer and Director

Sir Matthew Bourne OBE is widely hailed as the UK's most popular and successful choreographer and director. For thirty years he has been creating and directing dance for musicals, opera, theatre and film as well as his own highly successful, award-winning companies. Matthew is the creator of the world's longest running ballet production, and has been recognised by numerous international awards. He was knighted in the Queen's New Year Honours 2016 for services to dance, and awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Award – one of the most coveted honours in the world of dance – in recognition of his outstanding services to the art of ballet.



## Shami Chakrabarti

### Shadow Attorney General, Labour Party

Shami Chakrabarti is the Shadow Attorney General and a member of the House of Lords. A lawyer, she is Honorary Professor of Law at the University of Manchester, Honorary Fellow of Mansfield College, Oxford and a Master of the Bench of Middle Temple. She was previously Chancellor of both Oxford Brookes University and the University of Essex. Baroness Chakrabarti was Director of Liberty, the National Council for Civil Liberties from 2003 to 2016, and a member of the Leveson Inquiry, the judicial review into UK phone hacking in 2011. Called to the bar in 1994 she worked as a lawyer in the Home Office from 1996 until 2001 for Governments of both persuasions. Shami's first book, *On Liberty*, is published by Penguin. Her second, *Of Women*, was published in 2017.



## Carrie Cracknell

### Director

Carrie Cracknell was Artistic Director at the Gate from 2007 to 2012 and Associate Director at the Young Vic from 2012 to 2013 and the Royal Court from 2013 to 2014. Her theatre work includes *The Deep Blue Sea*, *Medea*, *Blurred Lines* and *Julie* at the National; *Oil* at the Almeida; *Macbeth* for HOME at the Young Vic and Birmingham Repertory; *Birdland*, *Searched* and *Pigeons* at the Royal Court; *A Doll's House* (nominated for Evening Standard Best Director Award) at the Young Vic, in the West End and at the Brooklyn Academy of Music; *Elektra* for Headlong at the Young Vic; *Electra* (also at the Young Vic), *Breathing Irregular*, *Hedda*, *I am Falling* (also at Sadler's Wells; nominated for a South Bank Show Award for Dance), *Armageddon* and *The Sexual Neuroses of our Parents* at the Gate; and *Dolls* (also at National Theatre of Scotland) Opera includes *Wozzeck* (Olivier nomination for Best New Opera Production) for the English National Opera. Film includes *Britain Isn't Eating* (short) and *Nora* (short).



## Julie Cunningham

### Choreographer

Julie Cunningham launched her newly formed company in 2017. Julie Cunningham & Company made its debut at the Barbican with an expressive double bill about gender and identity. From then, new works have been presented at the Victoria & Albert Museum, the Southbank Centre and Dance Base in the context of the British Council Showcase at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Julie Cunningham is the Leverhulme Choreography fellow at Rambert.



## Edwina Dunn

### Founder, Female Lead

The Female Lead was founded by Edwina Dunn as a non-profit initiative. Edwina is a data science entrepreneur who has always been fascinated by people's stories and motivations. As the co-founder of worldwide loyalty programmes like Tesco's Clubcard, Edwina knows first-hand what it feels like to work in a male-dominated industry, and how women's lack of confidence so often holds them back. Edwina created The Female Lead to be a platform that celebrates women's stories, and showcases the lesser-known successes of women, in order to support and encourage the next generation.



## Shobana Jeyasingh

### Artistic Director, Shobana Jeyasingh Dance

Shobana Jeyasingh has been creating dynamic, fearless and enigmatic dance works for 30 years. Born in Chennai, India, she currently lives and works in London. Her acclaimed, highly individual work has been witnessed in all kinds of venues, including theatres, outdoor and indoor sites and on film. Her work taps into both the intellectual and physical power of dance, and is rooted in her particular vision of culture and society.



## Jude Kelly

### Founder, Women of the World (WOW) Festival

Jude Kelly CBE is a successful theatre director. Jude founded the acclaimed West Yorkshire Playhouse and sat on the National Advisory Committee for Culture, Creativity and Education, which drove forward significant government investment in young people's creative and cultural education. She was Artistic Director of Southbank Centre from 2005 to 2018, and founded the Women of the World (WOW) Festival in 2010. Now a significant global brand, WOW Festival celebrates the lives and achievements of women and girls all over the world, bringing together artists, performers and speakers from a huge range of disciplines and backgrounds to spotlight women's lives, their successes, and the obstacles against which they continue to struggle.



## David Lan

### Theatre Director

David Lan was Artistic Director of the Young Vic from 2000 to 2017, where he produced more than 150 shows and directed, amongst others, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Doctor Faustus*, *The Daughter-in-Law*, *The Skin of Our Teeth*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* and *Blackta*, as well as *As You Like It* in the West End. He led the campaign to rebuild the theatre, which reopened to acclaim in 2006. He was writer in residence at the Royal Court theatre from 1995 to 1997. In addition to many plays, libretti and TV films, he is the author of an anthropological study *Guns and Rain: Guerrillas & Spirit Mediums in Zimbabwe*. He chairs the Belarus Free Theatre and is co-director of World Stages. He is also Consulting Artistic Director of the soon to be built Performing Arts Centre at the World Trade Centre in New York. He has received the John Whiting Award, the George Orwell Award, an Olivier Award, an Honorary Doctorate from London South Bank University and a CBE.



## Dave Neita

### Director, Elect

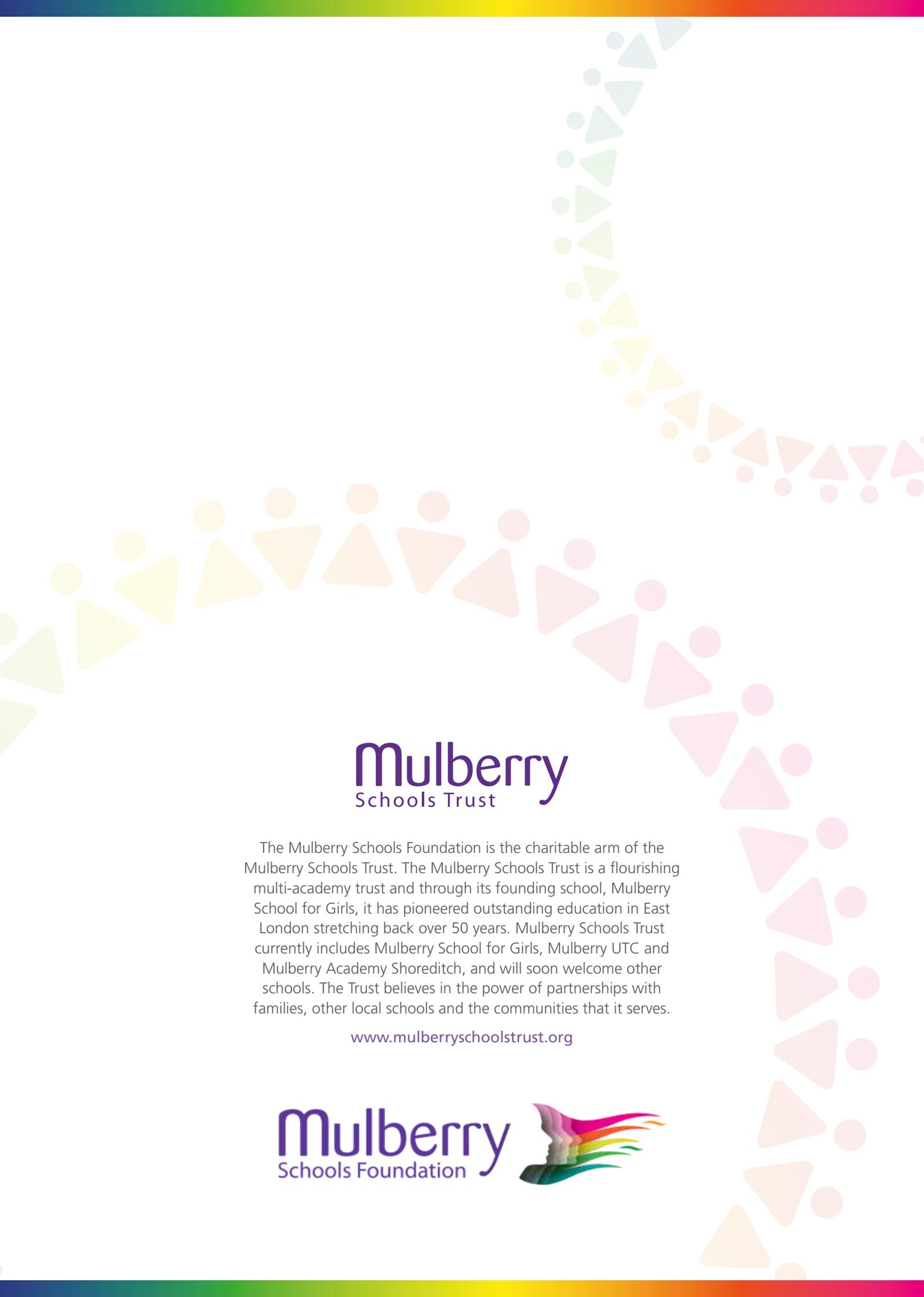
Dave Neita is a lawyer, a published poet, and public speaker specialising in diversity, inclusion and mental wellbeing. He is a commentator on race, politics, mental health and the arts. An advocate for human rights and an expert in organisational development and mental health, Dave has worked with a schools, mental health organisations, and legal entities and he delivers speeches on a range of subjects both in Britain and abroad. He has an MA in Cultural Leadership, volunteers his time in the community and served as the UK ambassador for the European Year of Equal Opportunity for All: Face of the Year Campaign. In 2012 Dave was included in Black Enterprise's list of the Top 10 most powerful black men in Britain and was selected by the BBC to provide perspective and comment on the fiftieth anniversary of the March on Washington. Dave is a fellow of the King's fund who has spoken at the House of Commons. Dave is also involved in NASA's programme to encourage the next generation of students into science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). He has completed a stint co-leading a training programme for young people in the UK.



## Grayson Perry

### Artist

Winner of the 2003 Turner prize, Grayson Perry is one of Britain's best-known contemporary artists. He works with traditional media; ceramics, cast iron, bronze, printmaking and tapestry and has exhibited nationally and internationally. His works reference his own childhood and life as a transvestite while also engaging with wider social issues from class and politics, sex and religion, as well as contemporary issues such as Brexit and divided Britain. Perry was elected a Royal Academician in 2012, awarded a CBE in 2013 and in 2015 was appointed Trustee of the British Museum and Chancellor of the University of the Arts, London. In 2013 he delivered BBC Radio 4's The Reith Lectures, to widespread acclaim and published *Playing to the Gallery*. The artist's *A House for Essex*, a building designed in collaboration with FAT Architecture, was constructed in the Essex countryside in 2015. He is a multi-award-winning television presenter working on series on class, identity and masculinity for Channel 4. The series *All Man*, which considered masculinity, with its related book *The Descent of Man*, was broadcast in 2016. In the series *Rites of Passage*, he explored rituals around birth, coming of age, marriage and death and suggested ways of reinventing them for our modern, secular age. A major exhibition of his work, *The Greatest Art Exhibition Ever!* was held at the Serpentine Gallery in the summer of 2017.



# Mulberry

Schools Trust

The Mulberry Schools Foundation is the charitable arm of the Mulberry Schools Trust. The Mulberry Schools Trust is a flourishing multi-academy trust and through its founding school, Mulberry School for Girls, it has pioneered outstanding education in East London stretching back over 50 years. Mulberry Schools Trust currently includes Mulberry School for Girls, Mulberry UTC and Mulberry Academy Shoreditch, and will soon welcome other schools. The Trust believes in the power of partnerships with families, other local schools and the communities that it serves.

[www.mulberryschoolstrust.org](http://www.mulberryschoolstrust.org)

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