

Annual Report

2016-17

Our mission is to create outstanding theatre for and with young people that inspires their thinking, engages their emotions and fires their imaginations.

CHAIR'S WELCOME

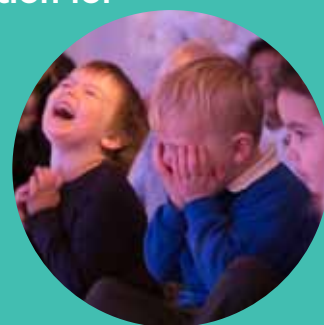


It is my pleasure to present this year's annual report, another truly jammed packed year for Travelling Light!

The company has delivered a veritable feast of top quality theatre and projects throughout the year. Our first ever libraries tour of **THE MYSTERIOUS VANISHMENT OF POBBY AND DINGAN** delighted new audiences, while the wonderfully received Dahl Project provided a dynamic experimental platform for young story makers and artists alike.

Once again all this has been made possible by the dedication and huge commitment given in abundance by the Travelling Light staff especially recognised this year with **BOING!** receiving an Off West End Award (OFFIE) for Best Production for Young People 0-7.

As with a theatre production Travelling Light benefits from the collaboration of many talented people and generous organisations such as our partners, funders and friends, to whom we are ever thankful for their continued support.



Ian Reid

Chair

CREATE

We create excellent, ground-breaking and inspirational theatre

ENGAGE

Anyone and everyone can engage in theatre making

DEVELOP

To develop a resilient and sustainable organisation for the future

CREATE

INTO THE WEST

We continued our tour of INTO THE WEST this year to celebrate the 20th anniversary of our most successful show to date. The original creative team came together again for a four-month national tour from March - July

Total Performances: 76
Total audiences: 7,401



"First class, exactly what theatre is all about - my 6-year old was entranced throughout. So inventive, witty and sharp and with a real emotional punch."

THE MYSTERIOUS VANISHMENT OF POBBY & DINGAN



"It was just like a movie, start to end it made me think I was in that story"

We partnered with Libraries West to stage free performances in libraries throughout the South West. This show, originally created 4 years earlier, was re-written to adapt it for audiences of older children and adults within a library setting. We additionally toured the production to rural venues and schools.

Total Performances: 70
Total audiences: 3,384

BOING!

BOING! had two remounts this year: in July we recreated the show to perform at the On The Edge international festival in Birmingham, where it was one of two shows chosen to represent England. In November the show had a 5-week run at the Unicorn Theatre in London and won the Off West End Award (OFFIE) for Best Production for Young People 0-7.

Total Performances: 50
Total audiences: 6,883



"Carefully thought-through and always light on its feet, Boing! has a sense of accomplishment and dramaturgical coherence that is rarely found even in grown up theatre"

☆☆☆☆ The Stage

CREATE

CINDERELLA: A FAIRYTALE

We were thrilled to work with Tobacco Factory Theatres again to bring CINDERELLA back for another Christmas run. The show had a rapturous welcome back from Bristol audiences and rave reviews in the press.

Total Performances: 67
Total audiences: 17,248



"One of those incredibly rare examples of where every cog in the creative process is perfect, creating the best piece of theatre."

Chopsy Baby



"It was lovely seeing my little one light up and laugh his head off."

SAMMY AND THE SNOW LEOPARD

Following a pilot tour of SAMMY AND THE SNOW LEOPARD in spring 2015 we continued to develop the script with writer/actor Brad McCormick, and this spring brought Brad back to Bristol to work on a new version, which we felt really did his story justice.

Total Performances: 27
Total audiences: 2,045

THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SNOW MOUSE

Last year's show SNOW MOUSE was our first co-production last year with the egg, Theatre Royal Bath. Building on that experience we came together again to produce a new version of the show that worked for even younger audiences from 0 – 3 years.

Total Performances: 90
Total audiences: 3,702



"Hugely entertaining, engaging, fun, and loved the message re endangered animals."

ENGAGE

YOUTH THEATRE

Our Youth Theatre for 4-19 year olds has continued to thrive. Young people describe the youth theatre as a 'second home' where they are able to make friends and develop their skills and confidence within a safe environment. During 2016-17 our Youth Theatre worked with professional theatre makers to produce three triple-bill sharing performances at external venues: All Hallows Hall, Hamilton House and The Wardrobe Theatre.

Total Sessions: 132

Total Participant Experiences: 1,489



"Travelling Light is fun, I like coming here, getting involved. You can't be wrong here."

Youth theatre member



"(before Travelling Light) He'd never been part of a group that had been able to accommodate his needs, and include him in any meaningful way. Now, I watch him create characters on stage, learn lines, complete voice work, and build relationships with peers. It's given him the skills and confidence he needed to access other activities."

Parent

LOUDER THAN WORDS

Thanks to support from Children in Need, John James Foundation and Quartet Community Foundation our Louder Than Words youth theatre group for young people with additional needs has continued to strengthen, with 10 young people regularly accessing the group. Over the year participants were supported to produce their second film and their first live performance. The film was shown publicly at Millennium Square as part of Diverse City's Doing Things Differently. The live performances took place in Travelling Light's studio for an audience of family and friends. We also ran outreach sessions within two Bristol Special Educational Needs schools.

Total Sessions: 31

Total Participant Experiences: 239

ENGAGE

YOUTH BOARD



We have had another year of working with a dynamic and committed Youth Board this year made up of 7 representatives from our 7-19 Youth Theatre groups. They met quarterly and worked alongside the trustees at our company away day to help shape the vision of the company. Over the year in post they have supported our marketing, business plan, interviewed on local radio, represented the voices of other young people in the Youth Theatre and raised over £2000 through interactive online fundraising campaigns.

Total Sessions: 4

Total Participant Experiences: 24

EMPLOYABILITY

Within our Creative Learning programme, Employability continues to play a big part. We had a total of 7 students join us for Work Experience; 6 completing their Bronze Arts Award over a week and 1 student joining us for 3 days on a placement from a special school. We also had 4 students on their annual Industry Placement from University of Bristol. They created a new piece of theatre for young audiences that was performed to over 400 children across two primary schools and our youth theatre.



Total Sessions: 83

Total Participant Experiences: 15

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Our Professional Development offers have remained strong, working with BBTEC to deliver a Teachers Network event for 20 teachers and an Industry Day for 40 pupils. A new partnership with Tobacco Factory Theatres (TFT) has enabled us to offer two Facilitator Training weekends, providing practical experience and strategies for 30 adults developing careers as Freelance Drama Facilitators. We also ran a Playabout session for emerging practitioners to share practice and learn new games.

Total Sessions: 10

Total Participant Experiences: 90

ENGAGE



THE DAHL PROJECT

THE WEIRD AND WONDERFUL WORLD OF BAKARKINGTON ACADEMY was the culmination of the Dahl Project, a partnership project with Tobacco Factory Theatres. The project engaged with 62 young people over two phases. The process was experimental and encouraged youth collaboration between different groups and age ranges including primary age story makers, teenage devisers and young artists aged 16-25. The final performance was well received by audiences with excellent feedback *"This was the best young people's production I've ever seen"*.

Total Sessions: 22

Total Participant Experiences: 82

ARTS DAYS

Our Arts Days were a new Creative Learning offer, delivered in partnership with Ashley Down Federation. Across two days we worked with 690 primary school pupils exploring a theme through dance and drama. The project has proven to have a positive impact on writing outcomes.

Total sessions: 4

Total participant experiences 690



T-LIGHTS

In 2016-17 we established weekly after-school drama sessions T-Lights at Whitehall Primary School, Bristol.

Total sessions: 23

Total participant experiences 32

FAMILY THEATRE

From April – October we continued our popular monthly Family Theatre sessions in Barton Hill for 0-4s and their families, delivered in partnership with DragonBird Theatre, Barton Hill Family Centre and Cashmore Early Years Centre.

Total sessions: 18

Total participant experiences 483

BARTON CAMP

We have continued working with Bristol Children's Help Society, delivering summer workshops at Barton Camp, a summer holiday camp for children from Bristol's most deprived wards.

Total sessions: 6

Total participant experiences 45



TO SUM UP...



6
Professional
shows

Record-breaking
audiences
at Tobacco
Factory Theatres

An OFFIE
Award for Best
Young People's
Production
(0-7 years)

We reached
audiences of
40,663
people

Our 1st
Libraries
tour



One major
youth theatre
collaboration

1 new Arts
Day offer for
Key Stage 2

Total
participatory
experiences

3,189

Total number of
sessions

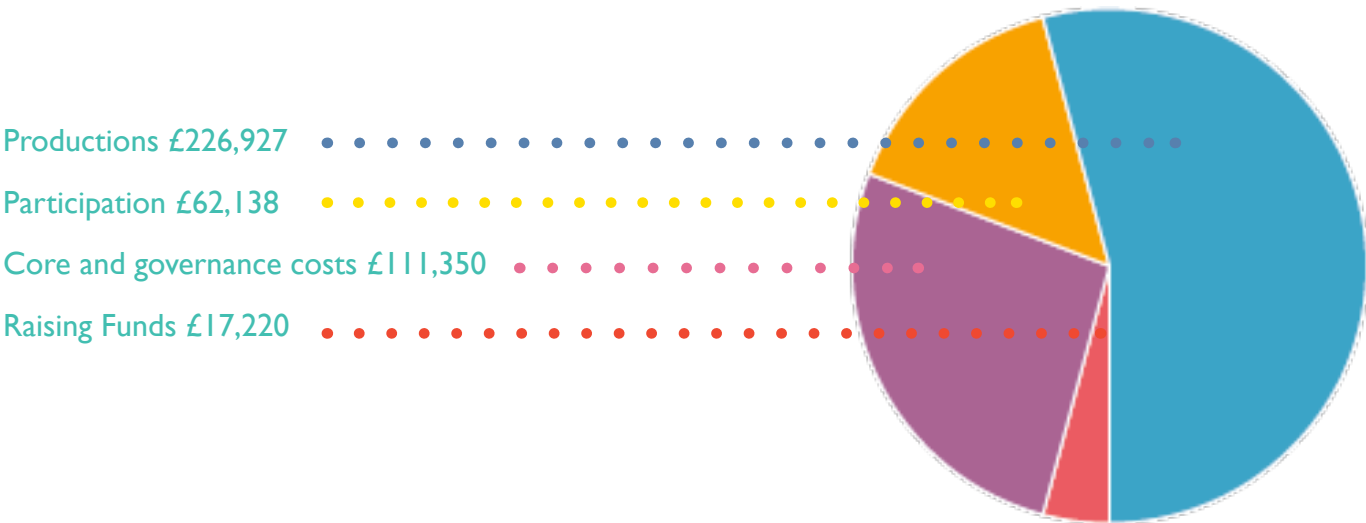
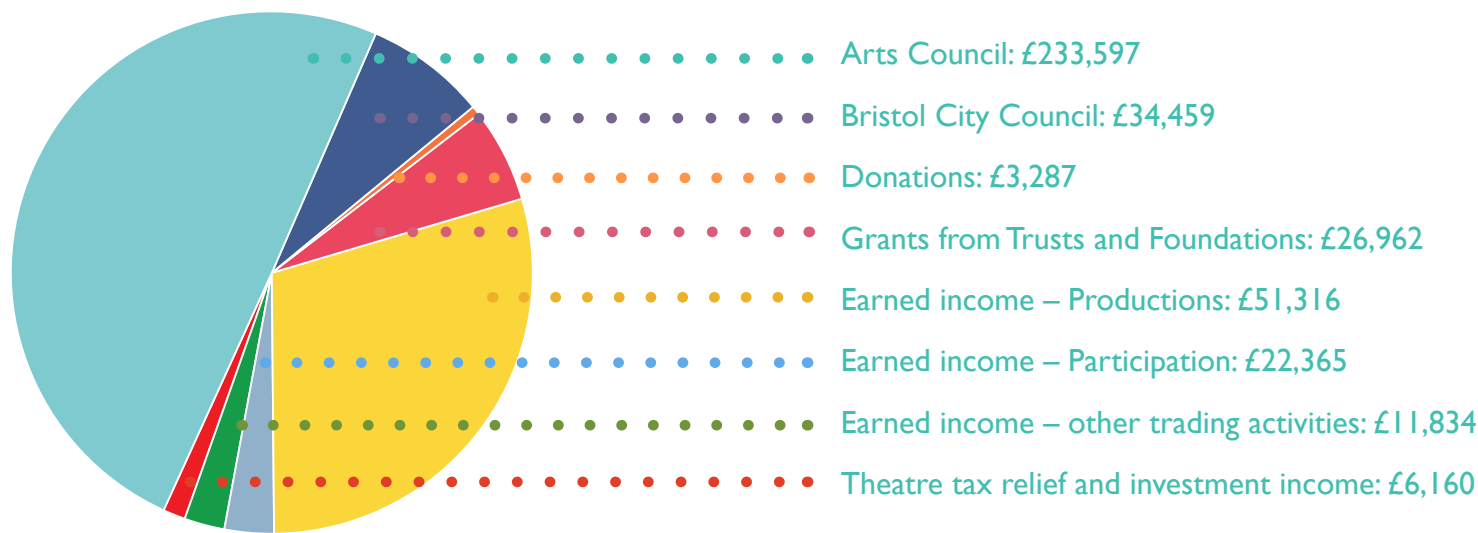
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DEVELOP

2016-17 saw a step change in Travelling Light’s Business Development. We were successful in our application to Arts Council England’s Catalyst Evolve programme and we implemented year one of our new fundraising strategy. This has enabled us to develop fundraising capacity throughout the company through investment in staff training and infrastructure. We are mid-way through three year funding agreements with Arts Council England (National Portfolio Organisation) and Bristol City Council (Key Arts Provider). We also received continued support from the Tudor Trust to fund our Participation Director’s post for two years. During the year we successfully applied for Youth Investment Funding which will fund several projects for young people aged 10-19 years starting in 2017 for three years.

INCOME



EXPENDITURE

LOOKING FORWARD: PLANS FOR 2017-18

DEVELOP



- Delivering year two of our fundraising strategy and the Catalyst Evolve programme. Launching our Friends scheme and individual giving campaign.
- Developing a four year Business Plan for 2018-22, with incorporated plans for Audience Development, Equality and Diversity, and Environmental sustainability.
- Handing over to our new Artistic Producer and saying a fond farewell to our outgoing Artistic Producer, after 30 years with the company.



CREATE

- Producing **THE UGLY DUCKLING** for a Christmas run at Tobacco Factory Theatres. This much-loved Travelling Light show, back for the third time, is the venues early years offer, running in tandem with their 6+ family production.
- Following our awards success in 2016, **BOING!** returns to the Unicorn Theatre London for a month-long run over Christmas 2017, followed by a tour to Shanghai China in January 2018.
- Partnering again with the egg, Theatre Royal Bath, on two touring versions of our popular show for little ones, **SNOW MOUSE**.
- Continuing our support for new and emerging artists through R&D for two potential new productions: **BALLET CAT** and **SIMP**.

ENGAGE

- Producing the **BARTON HILL FESTIVAL** with partners Up Our Street and Barton Hill Settlement. The Festival is a family friendly community arts celebration programmed by and for the people of Barton Hill Bristol, where the company is based. Many community projects are leading into the Festival including **HILLSTORIES**, an intergenerational theatre project with members of our **YOUTH THEATRE** and elders from the communities lunch and bingo clubs and a sensory room installation and film created by our **LOUDER THAN WORDS** group.

- Delivering year one of Youth Investment funded projects including:

Our two older **YOUTH THEATRE** groups for 11-19s, expanding performance opportunities;

LOUDER THAN WORDS, our youth theatre group for young people with additional needs.

ACTIONSPEAK, our new follow-on group from Louder Than Words for young people aged 16-25, delivered with partners **WECIL** (West of England Centre for Inclusive Living);

YOUNG CRITICS, a monthly programme of theatre trips and talks for young people from our local community.

OUTREACH, free monthly drama sessions delivered in local community settings

- Continuing to deliver regular subsidised youth theatre provision for young people aged 4-10.

- Further developing Louder Than Words outreach sessions in special schools.

- Offering high quality theatre making experiences to schools across Bristol through our **SCHOOLS MENU** and continuing to engage with our local schools in Barton Hill.

- Offering high quality **CAREER DEVELOPMENT** experiences for young people through work experience, student placements and supporting young emerging theatre makers aged 19-25.



PEOPLE

We are indebted to the staff, associates and volunteers who made everything possible in 2016-17

STAFF



Dienka Hines
General Manager



Jude Merrill
Artistic Producer



Georgina Densley
Participation Director



Jo Woodcock
Production Manager



Lizzy Cummins
Creative Learning Officer



Alison Sully
Office Manager
(General Manager Maternity Cover)



Giulia Bianchini
Youth Theatre Coordinator



Gwen Hanauer
Administrator



Lydia Woolley
Marketing and Participation Assistant

ASSOCIATES

Adam Carpenter
Aimee Davies
Alice Nicholas
Bing Lyle
Bob Yates Tily
Brad McCormick
Bryn Thomas
Camilla Adams
Charlotte Wright
Chloe Masterton
Craig Edwards

Debs Machin
Emma Williams
Ethan Duffy
Grace Swordy
Helen Ripper
Ian Holder
Jenny Jope
Joe Hall
Joël Daniel
Juliette Taylor
John East

Katie Storer
Katie Sykes
Kerry Russell
Leah Holmes
Liz Hague/Felton
Liz Hart
Lotte Norgaard
Lydia Higginson
Lydia Keating
Mark Tucker
Matt Mulligan

Nina Logue
Peta Maurice
Philippa Thomas
Roisin Linton
Ron Phelan
Rosie Gailor
Sally Cookson
Sara Snook
Sarah Moody
Sophie Turner
Stevie Thompson

Stu McLoughlin
Tilly Langdon
Tilly May
Toby Hulse
Tom Johnson
Tom Jordan
Vashti Waite
Victoria Willmott
Will Pegna
Victoria Hole
Wilkie Branson

TRUSTEES

Ian Reid
Layla Barron
Morag Massey
John Middleton
Angela Nansera
Tom Rowe
Susan Thomas

PATRONS

Philippa Lowthorpe
Richard Pendlebury
Vanessa Stephenson
Sir Nick Williams

AUDITORS

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PHOTOS

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COMPANY INFORMATION

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Charity Number	1065012
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Facebook/YouTube	Search 'Travelling Light Theatre'



With thanks to our funders:



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Foundation**



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Basil Brown Charitable Trust &
The Ann Rylands Charitable Trust



Just bring your imagination...