



Annual Report 2017-18



OUR GOALS

CREATE | ENGAGE | DEVELOP

To create excellent, ground-breaking and inspirational theatre.

To engage young people's creativity and imagination and nurture the next generation of artists and leaders.

To develop a resilient and sustainable organisation to deliver our charitable aims.



Youth Theatre Flash Mob at Barton Hill Festival

Chair's Introduction

I am delighted to become The Chair of Trustees for Travelling Light and thank my predecessor Ian Reid for his dedication to the role before me.

2017/2018 was a year of excitement and change for Travelling Light. Our many highlights included bouncing to the other side of the world with our award-winning show BOING! touring to China and growing our participation programme to inspire even more children and young people.

We were delighted to host Barton Hill Festival in collaboration with local partners. The day was packed with free creative activities and celebrated the diverse and vibrant community of Barton Hill, bringing together over 1,000 people. Its success was a testament to the hard work of all involved – especially the young people from our Youth Theatre, Youth Board and our Louder Than Words group who all contributed to the day.

We bid a fond farewell to the indomitable Jude Merrill who has been pivotal to Travelling Light's success for the last 30 years. Jude dedicated her life to sparking the imagination of children and young people and leaves a huge legacy for the company. Thank you Jude!

Taking on the mantle is Heidi Vaughan, who we are delighted to welcome as our new Artistic Producer. Heidi brings with her an abundance of experience, new ideas and enthusiasm and is setting out the course for new artistic wonders for future generations.

Travelling Light couldn't do any of this without the support and generosity of our many collaborators, supporters, funders and donors. We remain ever thankful for your continued support.

Layla Barron
Chair of Trustees

CREATE: Productions

2017-18 saw new artistic leadership for Travelling Light and our shows reaching global audiences:

26,153

Children and families saw our shows in the UK

2,832

Children and families saw our productions internationally

In June 2017 we welcomed Heidi Vaughan as Travelling Light's new Artistic Producer, enabling new conversations, fresh partnerships and paving the way for exciting new artistic developments.

We also shared our expertise as sector leaders in the field of Theatre for Young Audiences by providing training and support for artists.

20

TYA artists informally mentored

50

International delegates experienced Travelling Light & Kazzum's Inclusive Practice Workshop at ASSITEJ, Cape Town

10

Emerging practitioners took part in our facilitator training

BOING!

Our award winning dance theatre show was remounted for the seventh time for a five week run at The Unicorn, London, where it played to packed houses reaching audiences of 7,395 people.



"Travelling Light's lovely evocation of the tingling delirium of Christmas Eve"

- *The Guardian*



"Another fabulous production that had my usually rambunctious toddler silent and spellbound - magical!"

- *Audience Member*



The show then travelled to A.S.K Shanghai, our first tour to China, where it was enjoyed by sell-out audiences of schools and families.

SAMMY AND THE SNOW LEOPARD

Our interactive collaboration with New Zealand artist Brad McCormick continued its national tour in spring, delighting audiences aged 5+, and reaching 1,620 people



“Fantastic! We regularly come to the theatre and this is definitely one of the best we have seen.”

- Audience Member

SNOW MOUSE



Our much loved co-production with the egg for our youngest audiences toured to venues nationally, including Warwick Arts Centre, Z-Arts and Barbican.

The show reached audiences of 11,516 some as young as three months old.

‘Idyllic, meditative and classy theatre for babies’

- The Stage

THE UGLY DUCKLING

“Sleek, smooth and beautifully constructed”

- Children’s Theatre Reviews

“It was so beautiful, inventive and artistic. Thank you.”

- Audience member

In collaboration with Tobacco Factory Theatres we remounted THE UGLY DUCKLING for 2-5 year olds at Christmas. The show remained a favourite with families and was enjoyed by 5,622 people.





Three Kings 2018 Tour

CREATE: Future Plans

In 2018-19 we will develop new international connections and three brand new shows:

Boing! tours to New York and Beijing.

Igloo, our latest vibrant, devised show for the very young, will premiere at our co-producers, Bristol Old Vic's newly refurbished Coopers' Loft.

I Wish I Was A Mountain, our co-production with the egg, created by local poet Toby Thompson, tours to local schools and national venues.

Three Kings, our latest devised show for ages 5+ tours to schools and venues in autumn 2018.

Playtime will bring together established, emerging and young artists for a weekend of creativity, exploring what it means to be a child.

Playfull Cities will showcase children's theatre in Bristol and the surrounding area, bringing together professional programmers and young critics to review work.



CREATE: Barton Hill Festival

In October 2017 we hosted BARTON HILL FESTIVAL a free intergenerational arts event, celebrating our diverse and vibrant community of Barton Hill.

We collaborated with partners Barton Hill Settlement and Up Our Street and with 23 local organisations to create a day of celebration for and with local people.

The event brought together over 1,000 people, 78% from our local area, to experience free creative activities including theatre performances, craft workshops, music, poetry and a spectacular lantern parade around Barton Hill.

In the lead up to the festival we delivered workshops in schools and community groups, creating 429 experiences for community members of all ages.

“Today **changed my perceptions** of the area and its people”

“A real sense of **community spirit**”

“**Excellent festival for all the different cultures** of the community, couldn’t be better”

Festival visitors



Barton Hill Festival Finalé

Young people's voices were at the heart of Barton Hill Festival, with Travelling Light's Youth Theatre, Youth Board and Louder Than Words groups all contributing to the day.

A particular highlight was the intergenerational project Hillstories, created in partnership with Wyldwood Arts and supported by the Youth Social Action Fund.

Young people from our summer school and Youth Theatre groups shared stories and memories with members of the local bingo club, creating a moving performance that was showcased at the festival.

“They were interested and they wanted to hear more and more and more about what we did, our jobs, where we lived, where we went.

Gradually, they're helping the older generation remember what it was to be young”

Sue, bingo player



ENGAGE: Young People's Programme

Our Participation Programme continued to use theatre to make a positive difference to the lives of young people across Bristol.

Our Young People's Programme was shaped by the ideas of our 6 elected youth board representatives and provided:

2,229

for

275

Participatory
experiences

Young
people



“You have a process of creating a play that is all about our ideas and what we think about society and other things.

That’s my favourite thing about it.”

Youth Theatre Member

Hillstories performance at Barton Hill Festival

Youth Theatre

Our Youth Theatre continued to provide a safe and welcoming space for young people aged 4-19 to create theatre.

This year support from the Youth Investment Fund enabled us to focus on artistic quality. We invited guest practitioners to facilitate the young people's creative process and supported the groups to perform in a range of venues.



107

Young people took part throughout the year



11

Guest artists took part in Youth Theatre workshops



61%

Of participants were from our local area



27%

Of Youth Theatre members provided bursaries or fully funded places

Louder Than Words



"[they have developed an] interest in making new friends for the first time in a long time."

- Louder Than Words Parent



Our youth theatre group for young people aged 7 - 16 with additional needs continued to help young people develop their confidence, social skills and friendships.

The group worked with professional film-makers to create their own films and share them with an audience, overcoming barriers to live performance.

We provided 242 creative experiences for 12 young people.



228

People watched Louder Than Words' film 'Colours' in the sensory tent at Barton Hill Festival.

New Projects for 2017-18

We expanded our Young People's Programme to include three new projects, reaching young people with barriers to accessing the arts. This activity was made possible by the Youth Investment Fund.



ActionSpeak - a new theatre programme for young people aged 16-25 with disabilities, created in partnership with WECIL.

Outreach Sessions - a new programme of taster workshops for young people aged 11-19 in partnership with youth and community organisations.

Young Critics - monthly free theatre trips for young people aged 11-19.

46

Young people went on free theatre trips

77

Young people took part in taster workshops

16

Young people enjoyed ActionSpeak sessions

"They actually see him, what he's really like, not the list of problems and troubles that he's had"

ActionSpeak Parent.



ActionSpeak Rehearsal

ENGAGE: Creative Learning

1,642

Young people engaged in our Creative Learning Programme

Our Creative Learning Programme grew from strength to strength, with new schools relationships helping us to reach 1,642 young people compared with 986 in 16-17:

T- Lights after school theatre sessions at Whitehall Primary provided 289 creative experiences for 18 young people.

We delivered a year of **Louder Than Words Outreach** sessions for 22 young people with additional needs at Woodstock School, thanks to funding from the Society of Merchant Venturers.

Our new **Arts Days** and **Bespoke Workshop** activities engaged 1,210 students at schools and colleges around Bristol.

While the popular **Play in a Week** continued at Victoria Park Primary School, reaching 237 young people.

“It’s such a special and enriching week, for all the children but particularly those who struggle to access the curriculum day to day in school”

- Teacher, Victoria Park Primary



“It has been a pleasure to see all the children flourish in their confidence, imagination and team working skills”

- Class Teacher, Woodstock School

We continued our best practice **Work Experience** for 11 young people, including young people from our local school City Academy Bristol, 6 young people gained their Arts Awards.

We welcomed 5 local schools to our new **Partner Schools** programme, helping them to instill creativity within the school year.

We hosted **Industry Placements** for 10 students from local schools, colleges and universities, who gained a hands on insight into careers in Theatre for Young Audiences.

We strengthened our **partnership with Bristol University**, and provided lectures on best practice and creative learning for their Theatre and Performance Studies BA.

We worked with Bristol Children’s Help Society to provide theatre activities for 134 young people from Bristol’s most deprived wards at **Barton Camp**.



ENGAGE: Future Plans

Continue to deliver our Young People's Programme providing opportunities for even more young people aged 4-25 to experience high quality theatre activities.

Develop our Creative Learning offer and deepen our partnerships with schools and universities.



Offer free theatre trips through Young Critics enabling young people to experience the best theatre and share views with industry professionals.

Collaborate with youth and community partners to offer creative opportunities for young people who are new to theatre.

Provide much needed holiday activity for our local young people through a Barton Hill based free summer school.



DEVELOP

In June 2017, we were delighted to welcome Heidi Vaughan as Travelling Light's new Artistic Producer, bringing a wealth of experience in Theatre for Young Audiences and a specialism in inclusive practice.

We also bid a fond farewell to Jude Merrill, who retired after 30 years at Travelling Light and was recognised with an Action for Children's Arts Members' Award in recognition of her contribution to Theatre for Young Audiences.

We continued to support the sector by employing:



Following a successful application, we were delighted to become part of Arts Council England's National Portfolio for another four years, recognising our contribution to the arts sector nationally.

We were pleased to be successful in our application to Bristol City Council's Openness fund, recognising our significant contribution to the cultural life of Bristol.



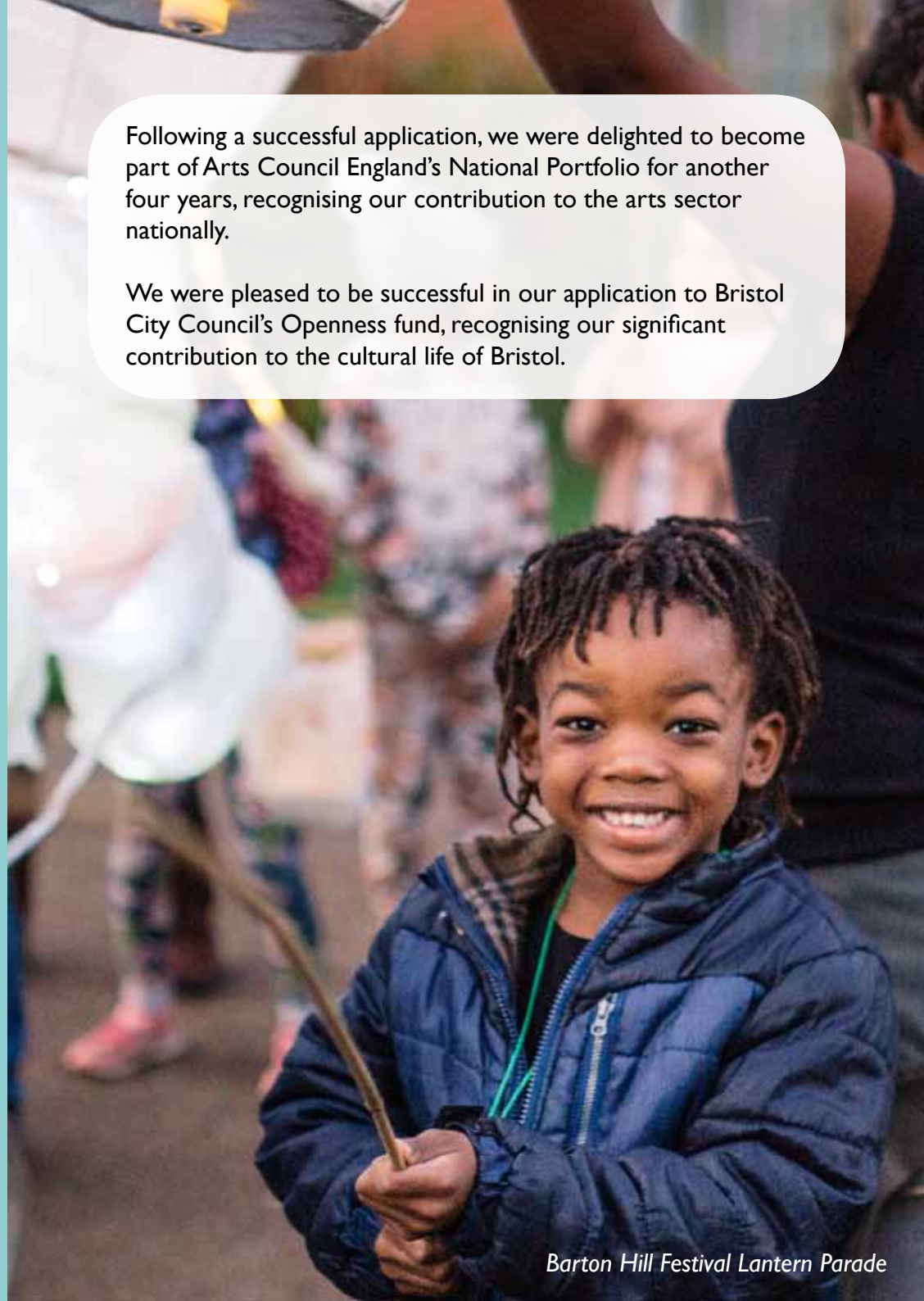
54

freelance artists



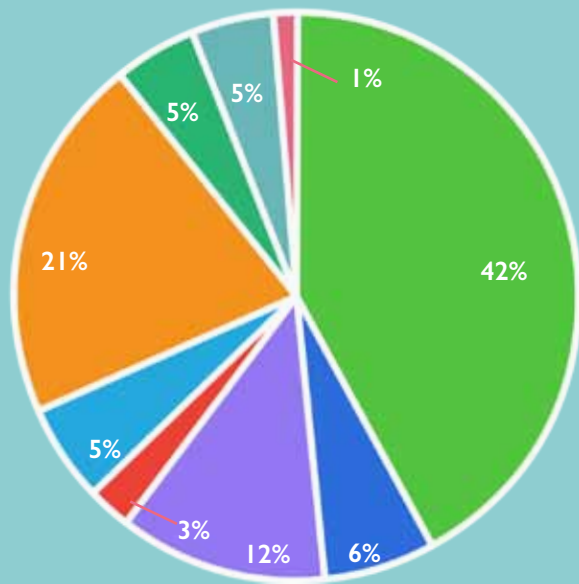
33

casual participation staff



Barton Hill Festival Lantern Parade

2017-18 Income



- Arts Council
£206,942
- Bristol City Council
£31,488
- Youth Investment Fund
£58,289
- Donations
£12,825
- Income from Trusts and Foundations
£27,025
- Earned Income: Productions
£102,855
- Earned Income: Participation
£23,210
- Earned Income: Other Trading Activities
£23,035
- Theatre Tax Relief and Bank Interest
£6,433

DEVELOP: Future Plans

Develop our Board and Youth Board, bringing in new skills and ensuring effective governance.

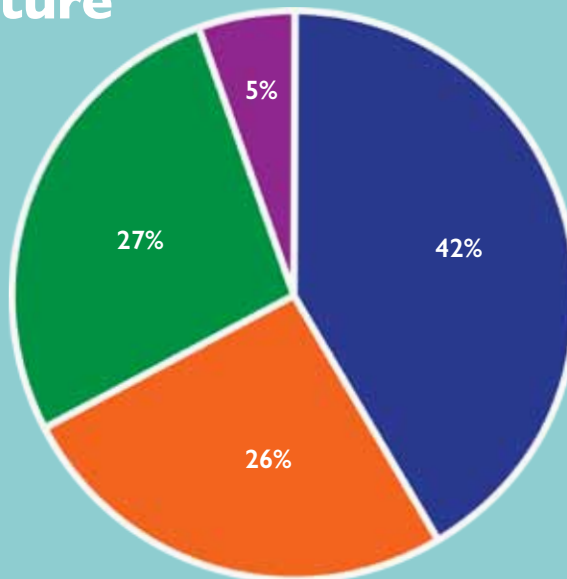
Invest in organisational development, reviewing our mission, vision and ways of working.

Continue to develop our individual giving and grow our Friends scheme.



2017-18 Expenditure

- Productions (inc. Barton Hill Festival)
£179,051
- Participation
£110,658
- Core and Governance
£117,803
- Raising Funds
£22,915



Turnover: £492,102

Total expenditure: £430,427

Copies of the full accounts are available on request.



STAFF

Dienka Hines	General Manager
Heidi Vaughan	Artistic Producer (from June 2016)
Jude Merrill	Artistic Producer (until September 2016)
Georgina Densley	Participation Director
Helen Edwards	Participation Director (Maternity Cover)
Jo Woodcock	Production Manager
Alison Sully	General Manager (Maternity Cover) and Office Manager
Lizzy Cummins	Creative Learning Officer
Giulia Bianchini	Youth Theatre Coordinator
Gwen Hanauer	Administrator and Marketing and Development Assistant

ASSOCIATES

Camilla Adams	Mary Drummond	Lydia Keating	Chris Ollett	Katie Sykes
Saikat Ahamed	Annie Duggan	Jason King	Corina Ollett	Bryn Thomas
Mike Akers	Craig Edwards	Kirby	Simon Panrucker	Stevie Thompson
Sam Amos	Liz Felton	Marietta Kirkbride	Marc Parrett	Jeremy Toombs
Angela Athay Hunt	Dominique Fester	Vic Llewellyn	Aaron Parsons	Lucy Tuck
Jason Barnes	Richard Fox	Michelle Luckes	Ed Patrick	Mark Tucker
Benji Bower	Adam Fuller	Daniel Martin	Adam Peck	Sophie Turner
Izaak Brandt	Rosie Giarratana	Rosie Mason	Will Pegna	Alex Vann
Wilkie Branson	Natasha Gooden	Chloe Masterton	Nic Prior	John Ward
Edwina Bridgeman	James Gow	Brad McCormick	Ben Pryor	Nick White
Luke Brinsford	Marie Hamilton	Ali McDowall	Kerry Russell	Polly Wilde
Cecilia Bruzzone	Brian Hargreaves	Jude Merrill	Gill Simmons	Emma Williams
Dan Canham	Ashley Hodgson	Ella Mesma	Rob Skilton	Heather Williams
Bruno Chavez	Josie Hunt	Dee Moxon	Emily May Smith	Charlotte Wright
Ella Cumber	Amy Hydes	Sarah Moody	Sara Snook	Bob Yates Tily
Joël Daniel	Rachel Isaacs	Linzi Na Nakorn	Katie Storer	
Dik Downey	Jenny Jope	Alice Nicholas	Laura Street	
Jack Drewry	Pete Judge	Heidi Niemi	Grace Swordy	

Travelling Light would like to thank all our fantastic volunteers who helped with our creative programmes.

TRUSTEES

Layla Barron
Polly Derbyshire
Aimee Louise Malcol
Morag Massey
John Middleton
Angela Nansera
Ian Reid
Tom Rowe
Susan Thomas

PATRONS

Philippa Lowthorpe
Richard Pendlebury
Vanessa Stephenson
Sir Nick Williams

AUDITORS

Godfrey Wilson Ltd
Chartered Accountants &
Registered Auditors,
5th Floor,
Mariner House,
62 Prince Street
Bristol, BS1 4QD

PHOTOS

Benjamin Pryor | Camilla Adams | Hide The Shark | Helen Murray | Nick Spratling | Mark Dawson
Nick Hynan | Dan Martin | Ed Felton

COMPANY INFORMATION

Company Number	02539087
Charity Number	1065012
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TESCO

Bags of Help

Just bring your imagination...

