

## For Immediate release

### Tap into your imagination this summer and help raise funds for childhood creativity in Bristol and beyond

Travelling Light Theatre Company are calling the people of Bristol to join them as they launch their Yes Let's Appeal to raise £50,000 to invest in childhood and opportunities for children from all backgrounds to play and imagine.

Travelling Light Theatre Company are based in Barton Hill, an area that has both the highest number of children aged 0-15 of any ward in Bristol and some of the highest levels of child poverty anywhere in the city.

"Opportunities for play and creativity are few and far between in a landscape of uncertainty. The few spaces that remain more often than not fall to those who have the resources to seek them out and to access them" says Georgina Densley, Participation Director of Travelling Light.

"With children increasingly facing issues such as poverty, hunger and housing it is easy to forget that in addition to their basic needs, children also deserve to play, create and imagine - these things are also crucial to their wellbeing. Our Yes Let's Appeal aims to raise £50,000 to invest in childhood, and the opportunity for children to make, be part of and experience great stories, putting the creativity back in to childhood in Barton Hill, across Bristol and beyond".

"Our campaign will run From 1 May – 31 August" continues Georgina, "during this time every £1 raised will be matched £1 for £1 in money from Arts Council England's Catalyst Fund. Giving us the potential to double our target and raise an amazing £100,000"

"Each year we work with over 28,000 children and their families in Bristol and across the UK through workshops, performances and festivals – our Yes Let's Appeal will enable us to ensure that these families can continue to benefit from exciting creative experiences. Even more key though is that funds raised by the appeal will enable more resources to be invested in providing space to play, create and share stories for children with the least opportunity to seek them".

"We are asking the public to join us in our Appeal – raising funds whilst having fun. From running a cake sale, watching a film or taking part in our Yes Let's Day (18<sup>th</sup> July), Yes Let's Picnic week (12<sup>th</sup> Aug – 18<sup>th</sup> Aug), or just donating directly to the appeal – every contribution counts!"

The public can find out more about the Yes Let's Appeal, including how to help and run a fundraising event by visiting <http://www.travellinglighttheatre.org.uk/support-us/campaigns/yes-lets-appeal/> or by searching for Travelling Light on Facebook. You can also donate £3 to the appeal by texting PLAY002 to 70331.

**END**

### More information:

#### Take part in the #Childhood Challenge for Travelling Light's Yes Let's Appeal (Embargoed until 1 June)

Remember what it was like to be a child? Perhaps you spent hours pretending to be Robin Hood, or maybe you made a fortress from cardboard.

This June Travelling Light Theatre Company are calling on you to celebrate your childhood in the #ChildhoodChallenge to raise funds for their Yes Let's Appeal – that aims to raise £50,000 to invest in childhood in Barton Hill, Bristol and, beyond.

To take part in the Childhood Challenge share a photo of yourself as a child on your Instagram, Facebook or Twitter using the hashtag #YesLets and screen grab your donation. Tell us your age, your likes and dislikes (at

the time that the photo was taken) then challenge your friends and family to do the same and finally - don't forget to donate £3 to the appeal by texting PLAY002 to 70331!

The childhood challenge will take part from 1 June 2019 to 30 June 2019 with all proceeds going directly towards Travelling Lights Yes lets Appeal.

### **18th July – Yes Let's Day**

'Yes Let's Day' is a day to celebrate being playful and having fun while raising money for the appeal. Schools and office across Bristol wear a work funny / silly / cool /quirky hat for the appeal.

Schools are also taking part in a 10 minute multi- school game of Yes Let's at a pre-decided time on the day, played simultaneously with other schools across the city!

The game Yes Let's is a well-known drama game that children play at Youth Theatre. It involves one person announcing an activity eg: 'Let's be Butterflies' and everyone replying 'Yes! Let's!' and taking their lead. The activity can be switched at any point when another player over rides them with the phrase 'Let's stop' and following with another suggestion 'Yes Let's dance'. The game ends when 'Yes Let's Finish The Game'.

If multiple schools took part we could have the world's biggest game of Yes Let's!

### **Yes Let's Picnic 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> Aug**

Download our Yes Let's Picnic pack and take part in the Yes let's Picnic Week!

Invite your friends and family, choose a great location, make some jam sandwiches, cook some cup-cakes and raise funds for the Yes Let's Appeal – but don't forget your grown up.

**For further information, interviews or images please contact:**

**Contact:** Sarah Bentley

**Email:** [sarah.bentley@travellinglighttheatre.org.uk](mailto:sarah.bentley@travellinglighttheatre.org.uk)

### **About Travelling Light**

Travelling Light creates outstanding theatre for and with young people that inspires their thinking, engages their emotions and fires their imaginations.

Over the last 34 years we have sparked the creative journey of over one million young people in our locality of Barton Hill, throughout Bristol and beyond.

We believe that all children and young people are entitled to engage in the highest quality cultural experiences and our core values are Quality, Imagination and Feeling.

**Website:** <http://www.travellinglighttheatre.org.uk/support-us/campaigns/yes-lets-appeal/>

**Facebook** @travellinglighttheatre

**Twitter** @tl\_theatre

**Instagram** Yes\_Let's\_Appeal

### **About Arts Council England**

Arts Council England's Catalyst Evolve programme supports cultural organisations to enable them to attract more private giving. This includes providing £1 for £1 funding on funds raised.

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/catalyst-evolve>