



# Impact report

2021-22



# Our mission

**To create outstanding theatre for and with young people that inspires their thinking, engages their emotions and fires their imaginations.**

Our work is underpinned by the belief that all children and young people are entitled to creativity, imagination and the moments of shared joy brought about by experiencing great stories.



# Our context

**Children and young people have been hugely affected by the coronavirus pandemic and our work continued to play a vital role in supporting wellbeing, creativity and connection.**

In 2021 we returned to in-person activity, building on partnerships and learning developed during the pandemic.

Hundreds of children in the audiences of our schools tour of *Vixen* experienced live theatre for the first time and our participatory work helped children to explore their creativity and imaginations in and out of school.

# 17 and the Squeak Gobbler

**“ The children were so engaged and were so excited when they realised what 17 and the Squeak Gobbler were! The children loved how it was set in a familiar setting. ”**

Teacher

**17 & the Squeak Gobbler**, a series of digital stories inspired by our local community and produced during lockdown, was shared with schools nationwide in May 2021. The stories reached **28,000 school children** and another **512 people** through wider sharing in summer 2021.

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# Vixen – Schools tour

“ I loved it... it was the best thing ever. ”

Comment from a Year 4 child with additional needs

“ I felt several emotions... I felt sad, I felt happy, and I felt I was going to explode (laughs) because I hadn't seen anything like it before. ”

Comment from a Year 4 child who had not experienced theatre previously

Our new show **Vixen** travelled to **13 schools** in autumn 2021, with **25 performances** and **2,484 school children** enjoying the production. Feedback from teachers demonstrated that it was many children's first experience of theatre, especially with children in years 3 and 4 having missed out due to the pandemic. An external evaluation showed that the performance had a significant impact on children's emotional wellbeing, both immediately and over time.

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# Vixen – Community performances

“ I think that the show was beautiful, had a strong meaning and was really inspiring. I will always remember this show. ”

Audience member at the community shows

Reaching audiences who may not otherwise be able to experience theatre remained a key part of our programme. We hosted **8 community performances** of **Vixen**, with **188 people attending**. It provided an opportunity to bring families and communities together for an enjoyable and accessible experience.

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# Creative holiday activities

A photograph of a woman with short white hair and glasses, wearing a light blue t-shirt, smiling and holding a blue object. She is interacting with a young girl wearing a blue hijab and a plaid shirt. The background is a bright, indoor setting with wooden trim.

“ I enjoy the space, that we can all come together as a community...you can hear the children in the background are having such a great time. I’m just so grateful that it’s in the local area. ”

Parent

**264 local children** enjoyed creative workshops in the school holidays alongside a free meal and the chance to learn about healthy cooking.

We continued working closely with local food charity St Luke’s Lunch (a partnership that started through our pandemic response) to provide a series of holiday activities and workshops in response to local need.

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# Light Up School Learning



“ There has been a huge difference and change in whole class culture – particularly due to the improved confidence in many. ”

Teacher

“ I would describe it... really fun! Like, that is the best session I’ve ever done. ”

Pupil

In September 2021 we launched **Light Up School Learning**, our two-year teacher development project funded by Paul Hamlyn Foundation. Travelling Light artists worked in depth with **10 teachers in 5 partner schools**, exploring how drama can support pupil’s speech and language, emotional literacy and wellbeing.

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# Creative learning

“Our staff and children really enjoyed last Wednesday. A huge thank you to all your team. All the facilitators were amazing and were really supportive to staff.”

Assistant Head Teacher, Henleaze Infant School

Over the course of **10 sessions** with artist Mike Akers, pre-school children at Caerleon Child Care explored creativity and collaboration through storytelling. We also ran an Arts Day with Henleaze Infant School, providing creative learning workshops for **270 children**.



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# Youth Theatre

A young boy with dark hair, wearing a bright blue zip-up jacket and brown pants, is captured in a dynamic dance pose. He has his arms extended horizontally to the sides and is smiling broadly, showing his teeth. The background is a bright, modern studio with large windows and other people in the distance, some of whom are also in motion. The overall atmosphere is energetic and joyful.

**“ Even though it’s youth theatre, it’s not just about creating theatre. It’s about making friends, growing as a person with your confidence and having fun and learning new skills. ”**

Youth Theatre member

Our youth theatre groups were delighted to return to face-to-face sessions in the Travelling Light Studio, developing friendships and increasing confidence.

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# ActionSpeak and Louder Than Words



“ I feel like with **expressing myself** I can get a lot out of my head that has just been there for weeks and months and **it's nice and relaxing.** It just gets a lot of things off my chest. ”

Louder Than Words member

Our Louder Than Words and ActionSpeak groups for young disabled people and young people with additional needs returned to the studio after regular online sessions during the coronavirus lockdowns. Feedback from the members highlighted how the online and in-person sessions supported their mental health and wellbeing.

[Click to learn more](#)

# In 2021-22 we were proud that:

Our work  
reached

# 33,158

children and  
young people

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# 1,385

children took part in creative  
workshops in school through  
our creative learning activities

# 331

children participated in  
our regular youth theatre  
groups and holiday activities

# 31,442

children, young people and families  
enjoyed our two productions  
(online and in person)

# 47

We provided employment for  
freelance artists  
and facilitators

# 2,484

children experienced our performances of *Vixen*  
in school – many teachers reported that, for many,  
it was their first experience of theatre

# Be part of our story, become a Friend or donate today.

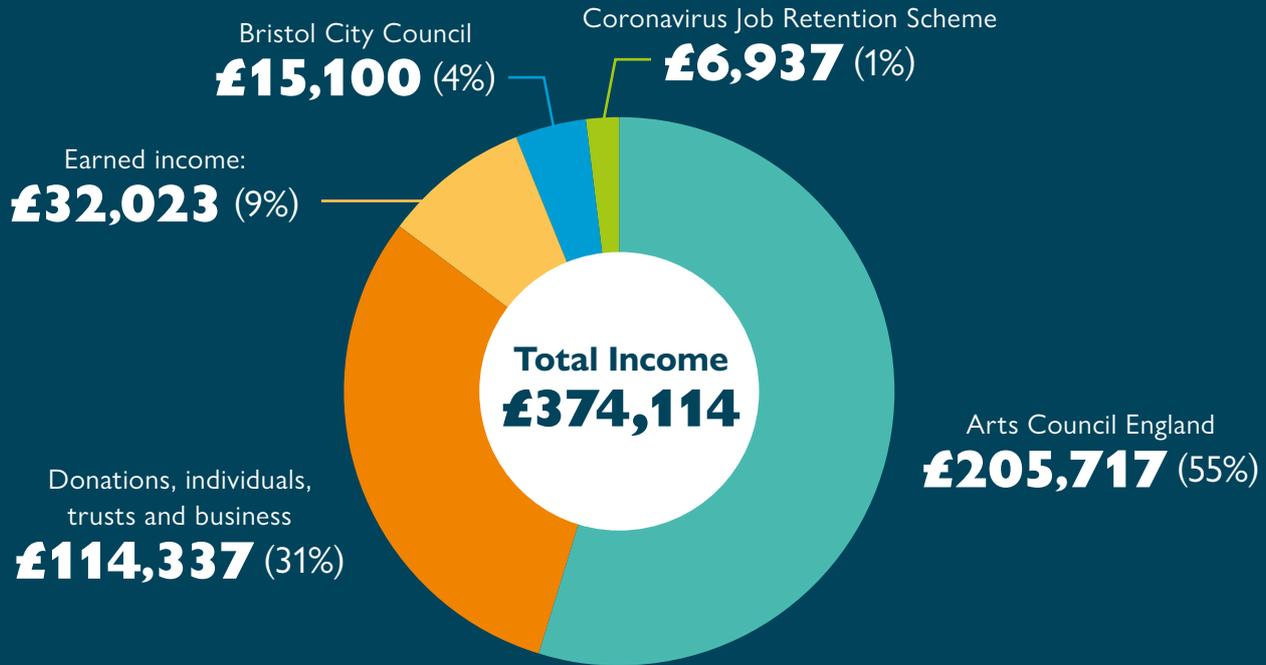
Our Friends are our most valued supporters, making regular donations which enable us to plan for the future and invest in creative opportunities for children and young people all year round.

You can help us continue to spark children and young people's creative journeys.

To become a Travelling Light Friend or to make a one-off donation, visit [travellinglighttheatre.org.uk/donate](https://travellinglighttheatre.org.uk/donate)

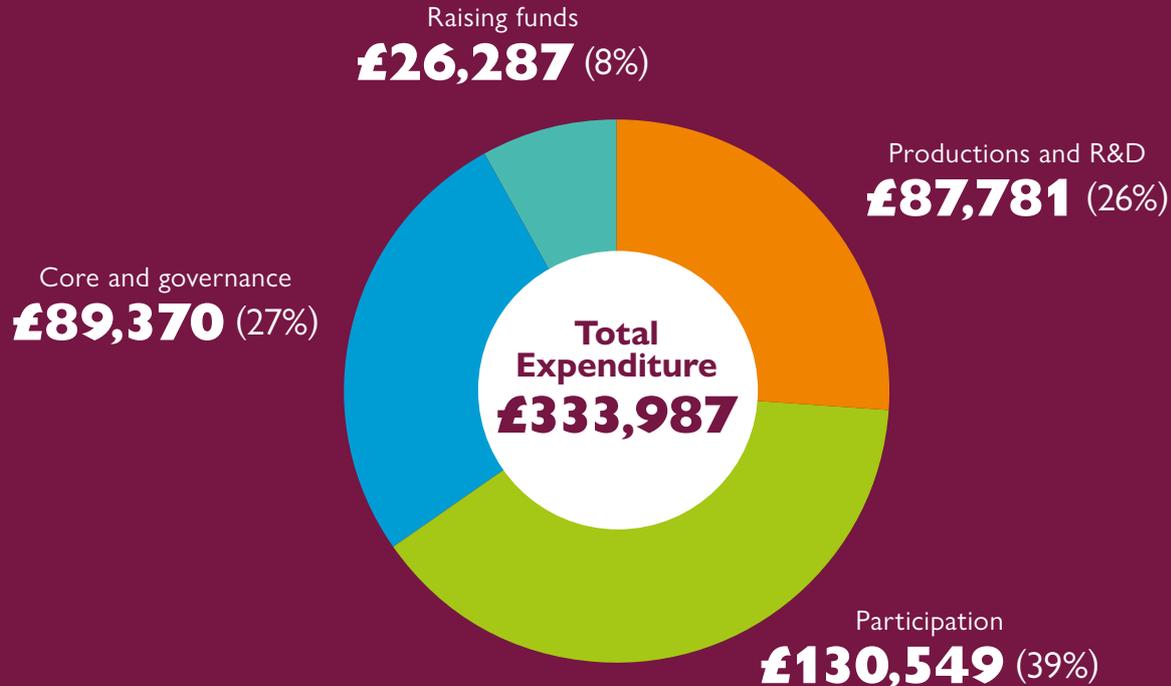
# Financial information

## 2021-22 Income



Full copies of our end of year accounts are available on request.

# 2021-22 Expenditure



Full copies of our end of year accounts are available on request.



# Thank you!

## Staff

Lou Betts (Youth & Community Officer)  
Jamie Harber (Marketing & Communications Manager)  
Dienka Hines (Executive Director)  
Lizzy Stephens (Creative Learning Officer)  
Ali Sully (General Manager)  
Heidi Vaughan (Artistic Director)  
Becky Vowles (Production Manager – from Jul 2021)

## Trustees

Jennifer Blackwood (Vice Chair)  
Joanna Cross  
Polly Derbyshire  
Jenny Farmer (since Oct 2022)  
Marc Leverton  
John Middleton (until Mar 2022)  
Meera Pandya (since Oct 2022)  
Tom Rowe (until Jul 2022)  
Ian Stickland (Chair)  
Matimba Swana (since Jul 2022)

## Artists and Organisations

Adam Peck, Alex Vann, Alice Lamb, Amy Iles, Angie Athay-Hunt, Annie Mackenzie, Bradley Greening, Bryn Thomas, Bruno Chavez, Camilla Adams, Camilla Evans, Carlota Matos, Casey Lloyd, Chris Woodward, Clare Greenhalgh, Edwina Bridgeman, Elaine Faull, Emeline Beroud, Emma Williams, Felix Hayes, Florence Espeut-Nickless, Gill Simmons, Hannah Broadway, Heidi Niemi, Jenny Jope, Jessica Jones, Joël Daniel, John O'Hara, John Pfumojena, Kate Pasco, Katie Sykes, Kerrie Burke-Avery, Kerry Russell, Kirsty Milne, Laura Street, Liz Felton, Lizzie Wiggs, Luke Turner, Maisie Newman, May Kindred Boothby, Matt Grinter, Megan Vaughan-Thomas, Mike Akers, Nick Fogerty, Nigel Bayliss, Raphael Clarkson, Rebecca Braccialarghe, Richard Worsnop, Sally Cookson, Sophie Marshall, Stevie Thompson, Toby Thompson, Willow Vidal Hall, Xahnaa Adlam, Ashcombe Primary, Ashley Down Primary, Baileys Court Primary, Barton Hill Primary Academy, Begbrook Primary, Bishop Road Primary, Bridge Learning Campus, Bristol Grammar School, Bristol Old Vic, Brunel Field Primary, Caerleon Child Care, Cheddar Grove Primary, City Academy Bristol, Compass Point Primary, Cotham Garden Primary, Finlay Community School, Frome Vale Academy, Greenway Centre Southmead, Hannah More Primary, Hareclive E-Act Academy, Henleaze Infants, Hillcrest Primary, Kings Oak Academy, Merchants Academy Primary, Playful Bristol, Redfield Educate Together, Sefton Park Primary, Shoscombe Primary, South Bristol Youth, St Luke's Lunch, St Mary Redcliffe Primary, St Mary's CoE Primary Timsbury, St Julian's Primary, Strike A Light, Theatre Hullabaloo, Trinity Henleaze URC, University Of Bristol, Victoria Park Primary, Vital Spark, WECIL, Wellspring Family Centre.

## Photography

Camilla Adams, Louise Betts

## Auditors

Godfrey Wilson Ltd

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Friends, donors and funders:



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Coutts  
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Holiday Activities  
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programme



# Travelling Light

Just bring your imagination

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