



# Annual Report

2018-19







# Our Mission:

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



# Chair's Welcome

This year we shared three wonderful new stories – taking audiences on a journey with us to ask if mountains feel, sharing tales of kings under star filled skies, and visiting wintry worlds filled with warmth and impossibly long scarves. Meanwhile we flew our familiar bouncy tale to new corners of the world. Seeing how creative experiences can captivate young audiences and engage children before they can even walk or talk has been truly magical for me.

Working with young people is at our heart; developing creativity and imagination, and helping our participants' confidence and ability shine. Our *Louder Than Words* group celebrated its 5th Birthday, and hearing from the young people about their journey was a testament to how transformative creative experiences can be.

The report celebrates the dedication of everyone who works for and with Travelling Light, and our work wouldn't be possible without the support and generosity of our many collaborators, supporters, funders and donors – thank you.

Finally I am pleased to welcome our incoming Chair John Middleton, who will support the company's journey into the next exciting year.

Layla Barron, Chair

# 2018/19 at a glance



16,428 people  
saw our shows



1,681 young people were  
inspired by our activities



100% of youth theatre members  
said they made new friends



33 schools  
and 22 venues  
hosted our work



We made  
3 brand new  
productions

82 artists and creative  
practitioners were employed



We travelled to  
New York and Beijing

# Productions

During the year we were excited to produce four shows with great stories at their heart, including three brand new productions.

We developed our audiences locally, nationally and internationally, bringing inspirational theatre to 16,428 children and their families.



Our much loved show **Boing!** continued its global travels, delighting audiences of 5,755 children and families in New York and Beijing.



**I Wish I Was a Mountain**, our co-production with the egg created by poet Toby Thompson, toured across the UK receiving outstanding reviews from audiences and critics alike

*“stunning... few shows  
have been so entrancing”*

The Guardian

**Three Kings**, a new devised show, brought an inventive twist to a classic tale, telling diverse stories with a global perspective.

The tour reached audiences in local housing associations, care homes, schools and respected venues.

*“It’s a Russian doll of stories,  
beautifully told and performed”*

Audience Member







*Igloo*, our Christmas co-production with Bristol Old Vic entranced 0-3 year olds and their families.

The show played to packed audiences with overwhelmingly positive feedback.

***“5 stars. An enchanting performance that enthralled the children and adults. Delightful.”***

Audience Member

# Artist and Idea Development

Throughout the year we supported emerging artists and opened the doors to new creative talent. We collaborated with children, young people and our community to find the best stories which speak to the world of the child today.



40 artists came to our  
**Artist Open Doors** event

Our **Artistic Director** held 21  
individual meetings with artists



Our **Playtime** weekend and  
**Kitchen Circus R&D** brought  
artists, families and young people  
together to explore ideas

Young Critics and industry delegates  
enjoyed a varied artistic programme  
at our **Playfull Cities** weekend



*“I think it’s a really good opportunity  
to meet new people and do new things....  
it’s not just drama, it’s expressing your ideas”*

Young Critic



# Young People's Programme

We continued to offer inclusive opportunities for young people to develop their creativity and imaginations.

**100** young people shared stories in our Youth Theatre

**169** young people tried theatre through our outreach workshops

**33** young people with disabilities took part in our ActionSpeak and Louder than Words groups

**35** young critics saw shows across Bristol and Bath

**21** local young people enjoyed our free summer school

**4,866** people saw online films by ActionSpeak and Louder than Words

Louder than Words celebrated their **5th** birthday

This work was thanks to support from the Youth Investment Fund, the Dan Hickey Memorial Fund and John James Bristol Foundation.

*“Drama and theatre can be anything,  
there aren’t any boundaries, you can be really  
expressive. It’s a creative outlet”*

Youth Theatre member

*“He comes home and says “Amazing, I was amazing”*

ActionSpeak parent



*“I really like using my imagination and learning how to share things with others”*

Participant



*“The workshops were superb and very well planned”*

Teacher

# Creative Learning Programme

Our Creative Learning programme offered quality theatre making experiences to schools across Bristol and supported young people to learn about careers in theatre.

**1,350** young people had **2,444** creative experiences

**13** work experience students joined us to learn about touring theatre

We offered tailor made workshops and projects to **12** Bristol schools

Our University of Bristol placement students created their own schools tour, reaching **300** young people

**15** young people gained their Arts Awards

**5** schools and nurseries took part in research and development for our shows

# Development

We continued to build our financial resilience, with a particular focus on developing individual giving



20 people joined our Travelling Light Friends, supporting our work all year round

Our Christmas fundraising campaign paid for a free trip for our local families to see Igloo at Bristol Old Vic



We received our first corporate donation

In 2018 we welcomed our new Youth and Community Officer Lou Betts to our staff team, bringing a wealth of experience in inclusive practice



# 2018-19 Income



- Arts Council £210,465 (49%)
- Bristol City Council £17,000 (4%)
- Youth Investment Fund £57,837 (14%)
- Donations: individuals, trusts and business £17,094 (4%)
- Earned income: productions £87,467 (20%)
- Earned income: participation £15,510 (4%)
- Earned income: other trading activities £9,466 (2%)
- Theatre tax relief and bank interest £12,333 (3%)

Total Income **£427,172**

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# 2018-19 Expenditure



- Productions £203,124 (46%)
- Participation £130,622 (29%)
- Core and governance £95,277 (21%)
- Raising funds £16,815 (4%)

Total Expenditure **£445,838**

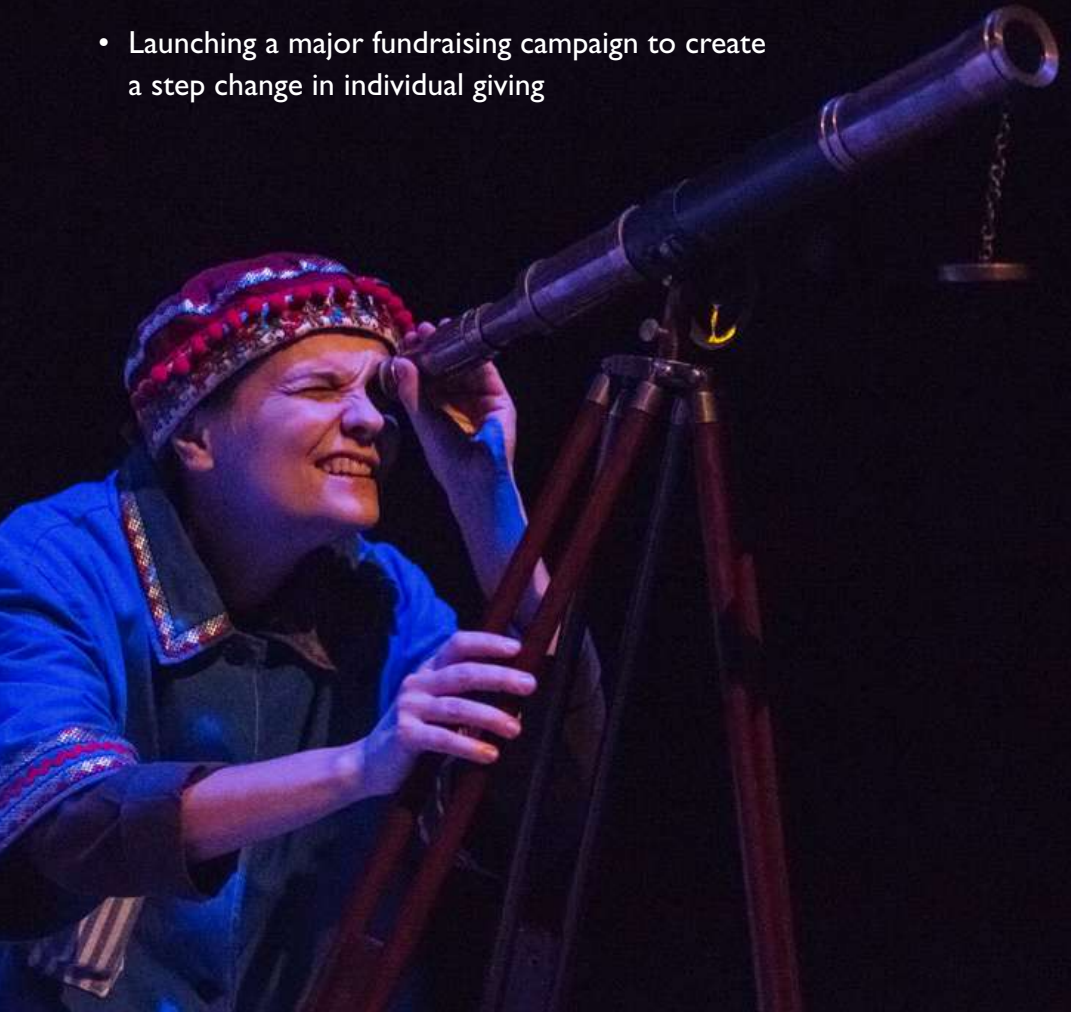
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Full copies of our end of year accounts are available on request

# Future plans 2019-20

Plans for the year ahead include

- Bringing **Boing!** back to its home at Bristol Old Vic for Christmas
- A national tour of **Igloo**
- A schools tour of **I Wish I Was a Mountain**
- Research and development to find inspirational stories for our next shows.
- Continuing to offer opportunities for young people to participate, be creative and share their stories.
- Launching a major fundraising campaign to create a step change in individual giving



## Staff

Dienka Hines (Executive Director)  
Heidi Vaughan (Artistic Director)  
Georgina Densley (Participation Director)  
Helen Edwards (Participation Director – maternity cover until September 2018)  
Jo Woodcock (Production Manager)  
Ali Sully (General Manager)  
Lizzy Cummins (Creative Learning Officer)  
Giulia Bianchini (Youth Theatre Coordinator – until July 2018)  
Lou Betts (Youth & Community Officer – from September 2018)  
Gwen Hanauer (Marketing and Development Assistant)

## Associates

Camilla Adams	Lottie Donovan	Stephanie Kempson	Imogen Senter
Saikat Ahamed	Jack Drewry	Marietta Kirkbride	Madeline Shann
Mike Akers	Annie Duggan	Vic Llewellyn	Deeprah Singh
Angie Athay Hunt	Craig Edwards	Alex Lupo	Emily May Smith
Nigel Baylis	Florence Espeut-Nickless	Daniel Martin	Sara Snook
Sarah Bentley	Nell Farrally	Jeff Mitchell	Amy Spencer
Rebecca Braccialarghe	Liz Felton	Linzy Na Nakorn	Zoe Squire
Wilkie Branson	Dominique Fester	Heidi Niemi	David Straun
Edwina Bridgeman	Adam Fuller	Aaron Parsons	Katie Sykes
Luke Brinsford	Craig Fuller	Ed Patrick	Stevie Thompson
Hannah Broadway	Rosie Giarratana	Adam Peck	Will Tippett
Megan Brooks	Jess Gibbs	Will Pegna	Sophie Turner
Romilly Browne	Kyla Goodey	Ruby Portus	Alex Yann
Ellie Buckingham	Jean Goubert	Nic Prior	Corinne Walker
Seamas Carey	Matt Graham	Ben Pryor	Emma Williams
Bruno Chavez	Clare Greenhalgh	Ellen Pye	Richard Worsnop
Sally Cookson	Ashley Hodgson	Anna Rathbone	Charlotte Wright
S J Cooper-White	Josie Hunt	Sidney Robb	Bob Yates Tily
Ella Cumber	Jenny Jope	Simon Roberts	
Rebecca Curtis	Howl Juan	Kerry Russell	
Joël Daniel	Lydia Keating	Sid Sagar	

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

## Trustees

Layla Barron (Chair)	Aimee-Louise Malcolm	Nick Murphy
John Middleton (Vice Chair)	Morag Massey	Angela Nansera
Polly Derbyshire	Tom Rowe	(resigned 27.04.18)

## Photography

Camilla Adams, Craig Fuller, Hide the Shark, Jack Offord, Benjamin Pryor

## Auditors

Godfrey Wilson Ltd

With special thanks to our Friends, donors and funders:



the Tudor trust



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



Just bring your imagination...

## Company information

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🔍 Search 'Travelling Light Theatre'

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