



Impact report

2022–23



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.

Productions

Inspiring imaginations
through theatre



Vixen – national tour

Following a successful schools tour in 2021, our show *Vixen* for ages 7+ toured nationally, with 36 performances in 6 venues, 7 schools and 2 libraries, reaching 2032 children and their families.

“ I loved it so much that I
started doing fox noises!! ”

Child

“ Full to the brim with warmth,
creativity and heart, it's wonderful
to see Travelling Light do what
they do best with *Vixen* – allowing
youngsters and us young at heart
to be inspired by the power
of theatre. ”

review – Wheelie Stagey

Belle and Sebastien

We were delighted to share *Belle and Sebastien*, our co-production with Bristol Old Vic, with children and families.

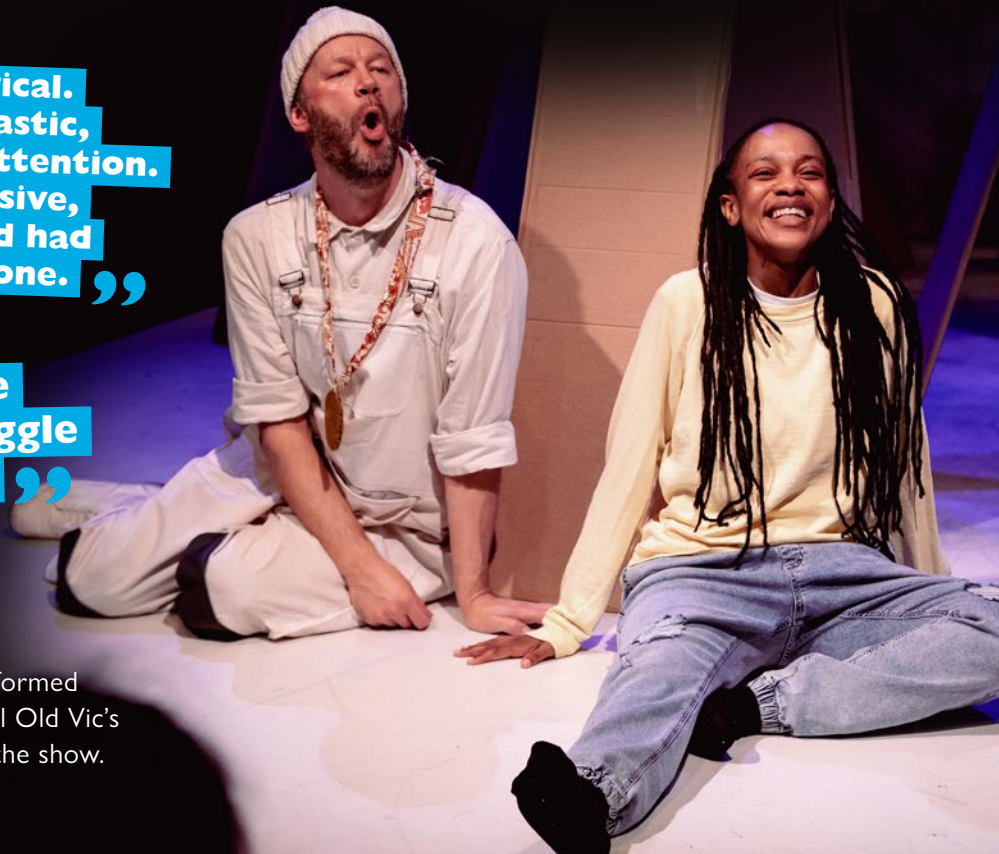
“ This was simply magical. The actors were fantastic, engaging and held your attention. The show was immersive, the perfect length and had something for everyone. ”

Parent

“ I liked it when the dog did the funny wiggle bum dance - 5★. ”

Child, aged 5

The story of love and friendship was performed 43 times to family audiences in the Bristol Old Vic's Weston Studio with 5476 people seeing the show.



Belle and Sebastien – community trip

In December 2022 we organised a free trip for families from our local community in Barton Hill to see *Belle and Sebastien* at Bristol Old Vic.

“ I was ecstatic, and it was amazing! ”

Child

“ The first time I have ever been to the theatre and I loved it. ”

Parent

The trip provided a joyful experience for 132 children and their families to share together, with transport provided, for families who may not have otherwise been able to access theatre. For many, it was their first experience of going to the theatre. This was made possible through the generous support of donors to our Big Give Christmas Challenge campaign.



Creative Learning

Light Up School Learning

Our 2-year Light Up School Learning project continued, supporting teachers to use drama in the classroom to support pupil's confidence, oracy and wellbeing.

“ I am proud of providing opportunities for children to gain self-confidence. One child in my class is like a new person and much more confident. ”

Teacher

“ I realise drama isn't something to be squeezed in – it's a skill I can use in lessons – that's a huge shift in my thinking. ”

Teacher

In total, we worked with 35 teachers, and over 1700 pupils participated in at least one element. We are grateful to Paul Hamlyn Foundation's Teacher Development Fund for supporting this project, which has had a significant impact on both pupils and teachers in the schools involved.



10 years of Play In A Week

In March 2023 we celebrated 10 years of organising a Play In A Week at Victoria Park Primary School in South Bristol.

“ Play In A Week made me feel more confident on stage, made me feel happy and I looked forward to going to school! ”

Pupil

“ This is more than just enrichment; the opportunity to write, collaborate, rehearse and perform builds determination and confidence. ”

Headteacher

Each year, a whole year group pitch their ideas for a play to a writer, work with a brand-new script, and spend a week working with our artists to produce a play, developing their skills as actors, musicians, dancers and designers.

The project has supported the cultural entitlement of thousands of children in the school, with the Headteacher describing it as a “rite of passage” for every pupil.

As part of our Creative Learning programme, a further 970 children took part in creative workshops and Arts Days in schools during the year.



Youth Theatre

For young people aged 7–19

Our youth theatre groups met weekly during term time, offering a safe space for children and young people aged 7–19 to express themselves, have fun and learn new skills in drama and storytelling.

“ I really love the people you meet [at youth theatre]. Also being able to have your own freedom to devise and create theatre. You don't really get that kind of freedom in school or anywhere else so it's really nice to be able to come somewhere where you get to do that every week. ”

Youth Theatre participant



Louder Than Words

“ It's a nice break from everyday life. It really helps a lot with dealing with life and school and the workload I get. It's fun just to act. ”

Participant

“ Bristol really needs this – it's so hard to find something that works for your child. Louder Than Words has got a unique something about it, and I am so grateful. ”

Parent

Our Louder Than Words youth theatre group continued to provide an accessible space for children and young people with additional needs to enjoy drama and music activities, make new friends and express themselves in a welcoming environment. The group celebrated its 10th birthday in 2023.





Creative holiday workshops

Sparking children's creativity

We continued our partnership with food charity St Luke's Lunch in Barton Hill, tackling food poverty and a lack of affordable activities locally in the school holidays.

“ All children are able to connect with Travelling Light. My child doesn't normally join in with other activities or working with other children but with Travelling Light he will always sit and join in. He feels safe. ”

Parent

The sessions provided healthy meals along with creative activities for children, such as crafts, storytelling, and play. 14 drop-in sessions provided 271 creative experiences along with healthy lunches for families and children.

In 2022–23
we were
proud that:

7,508

children, young
people and their
families enjoyed our
two productions.

2,206

children learned new skills and explored
creative ideas through workshops in school.

35

teachers developed their practice
through our Light Up School
Learning project.

91

children and young people found
a creative outlet through our
regular youth theatre groups.

We offered **476** creative experiences
for Barton Hill children working with our local
food charity and community partners including
over 200 healthy meals in the school holidays.

7

children who took part in our
holiday activities went on to join
our youth theatre.

We provided employment for **56** freelance artists and facilitators, and approximately **647** days of paid work.

**YOU can help spark
children's creativity and
inspire their imaginations.**

Become a Travelling Light Friend 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.

To become a Travelling Light Friend or to make a one-off donation,
visit travellinglighttheatre.org.uk/donate

Since April 2023

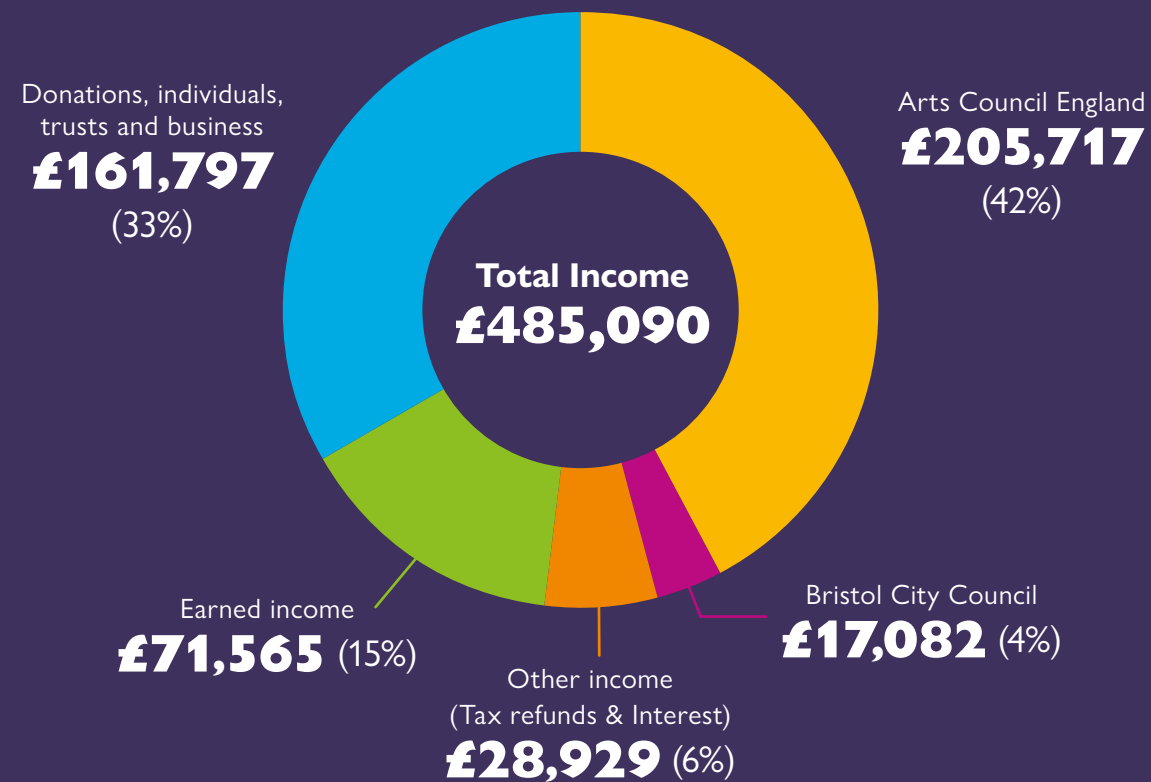
We have continued to spark children's creativity and inspire imaginations through theatre.

- *When The Birds Sang*, a new co-production with Theatre Hullabaloo for ages 4+, opened in Darlington in May 2023. A tour to Bristol schools and community settings followed in June 2023, with 11 performances in 6 primary schools, reaching 781 children.
- We continue to develop our schools' partnerships and our creative learning offer – supporting the cultural entitlement of 100's of school children each year.
- We completed our 2-year Light Up School Learning project in July 2023 and are sharing the learning locally and nationally, alongside resources to support teachers.
- *Igloo*, our show for the very youngest theatre goers, will tour to early years and community settings in January-February 2024 – offering performance, stay and play and ideas exchange between artists and early years practitioners – reaching children who wouldn't otherwise be able to experience theatre.
- We continue to deepen community connections in our locality of Barton Hill, working with charities and community partners to reach families in need in the school holidays.

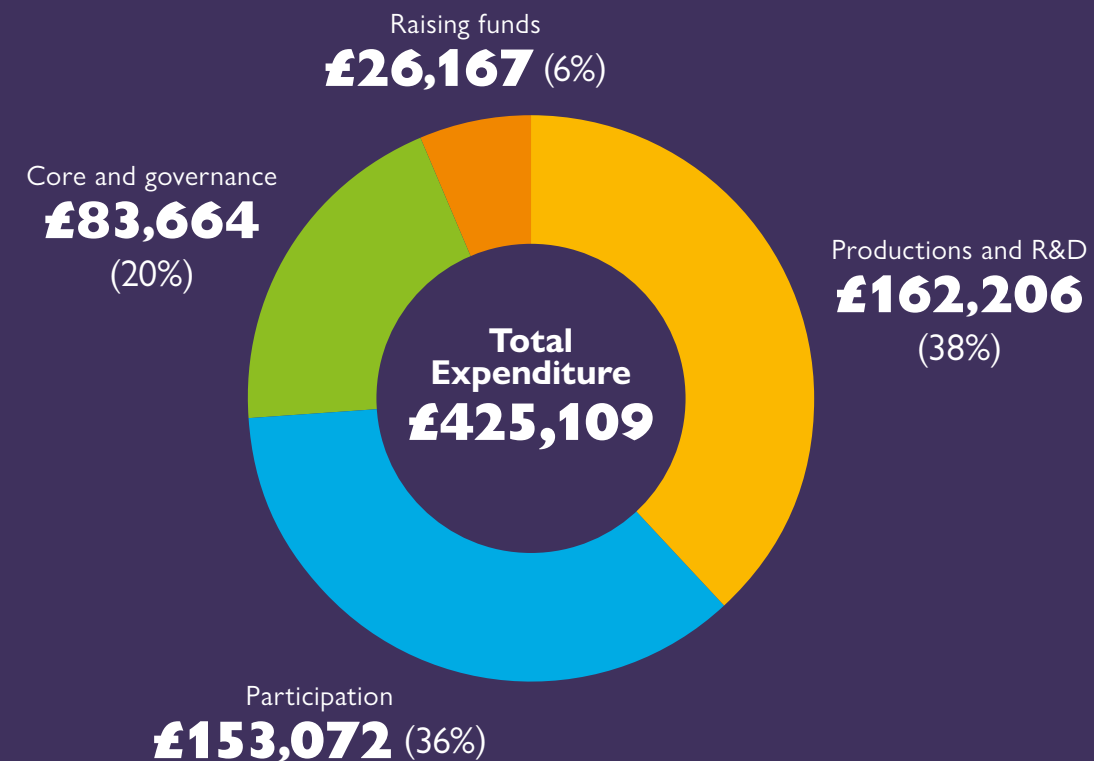


Financial information

2022-23 Income



2022-23 Expenditure



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

Thank you!

Staff

Ali Sully General Manager

Becky Vowles Production Manager

Dienka Hines Executive Director and CEO

Heidi Vaughan Artistic Director – until Dec 2022

Jamie Harber Marketing & Communications Manager

Lizzy Stephens Artistic Director – from Mar 2023

Lou Betts Youth & Community Project Manager

Rachel Millet Creative Learning Project Manager – from May 2023

Sian Weeding Artistic Producer (maternity cover) – from Jun 2023

Trustees

Ian Stickland Chair

Jennifer Blackwood Vice Chair – until Jul 2023

Jenny Farmer

Joanna Cross

Marc Leverton until Mar 2023

Matimba Swana

Meera Pandya

Polly Derbyshire until Mar 2023

Tom Rowe until Jul 2022

Yoma Smith from Jan 2023

Creatives and Organisations

Adam Peck, Alice Lamb, Amy Iles, Angie Athay-Hunt, Annie Mackenzie, Barton Hill Academy, Begbrook Primary, Bishop Road Primary, Bristol Grammar School, Bristol Old Vic, Brunel Field Primary, Bruno Chavez, Bryn Thomas, Camilla Adams, Camilla Evans, Carleon Childcare, Carlota Matos, Casey Lloyd, Cheddar Grove Primary, Chris Woodward, City Academy, Claire Greenhalgh, Cotham Garden Primary, Dan Canham, Dundry C of E Primary, Ed Patrick, Edwina Bridgeman, Elaine Faull, Ella Ritchie-Purdie, Elmfield Primary, Emma Williams, Felix Hayes, Felix Road Adventure Playground, Finlay Community School, Fishponds C of E Primary, Gill Simmons, Hannah Broadway, Hannah More Primary, Hawkesbury Primary, Henleaze Infants, Hillcrest Primary, Imogen Senter, Jess Jones, Joe Cusack, Joël Daniel, Kate Pasco, Katherina Radeva, Katie Sykes, Kerry Russell, Kirsty Milne, Laura Street, Lauren Filer, Learning Partnerships West,

Liga Orlovskas, Liz Felton, Maisie Newman, Matt Graham, Matt Grinter, May Park Primary, Megan Vaughan-Thomas, Merchants Academy, Mike Akers, Mogali Masuku, Natalia Chan, Nick Fogerty, Nick Sutton, Rangeworthy Primary, Raph Clarkson, Rebecca Braccialarghe, Redfield Educate Together, Richard Worsnop, Rosanna Smith, Rosanna Turner, Ruby Brown, Seamas Carey, Sefton Park Primary, SGS College, Shoscombe Primary, Sian Weeding, Sinibaldo De Rosa, Sophie Marshall, South Bristol Youth, Southville Primary, St John the Evangelist Primary, St Lukes Lunches, St Nicholas of Tolentine, Stevie Thompson, Theatre Alibi, Thornbury Central United Church, University of Bristol, Vic Llewellyn, Victoria Park Primary, Vital Spark, WECIL, Wellspring Family Centre, Willow Vidal-Hall, Xahnaa Adlam.

Photography

Camilla Adams, Mark Savage Photography

Auditors

Godfrey Wilson Ltd





**With special thanks to our
Friends, donors and funders:**



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



The
Courtts
Foundation



Joyce Fletcher
Charitable Trust

The
Nisbet Trust

Holiday
Activities and Food
programme



Travelling Light

Just bring your imagination

🖱 travellinglighttheatre.org.uk

f [travellinglighttheatre](https://www.facebook.com/travellinglighttheatre)

📷 ✂ [tl_theatre](https://www.instagram.com/tl_theatre)

The
Coutts
Foundation



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

Registered Charity Number: 1065012