



Theatre Centre

Annual Review 2016



The UK's longest established touring theatre company.
Young people are at the heart of all we do.





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Welcome

Alexandra Perricone, Chair



I am delighted to have recently become the Chair of Theatre Centre's board and am proud of the company's 60+ year history. Throughout this time, Theatre Centre has produced exceptional work that has inspired and provided a means of expression to many thousands of young people across the country.

I want to ensure that more children and young adults have access to our work and feel empowered by new writing and live theatre that deals with issues that are relevant to them. This is why I am championing our fundraising efforts to ensure our exciting ambitions for the organisation's future can be met. Thank you for joining us in this new chapter.

Natalie Wilson, Artistic Director



2016 has been another outstanding year for us. As one of the leading producers of new plays for young audiences in the UK we bring high-quality theatre experiences to children and young people across the entire country. This year we visited 68 schools and theatres in 48 local authorities with our productions and projects reaching 10,000 young people.

We were delighted to work with award-winning writers Sabrina Mahfouz and Robert Alan Evans to create our productions exploring sexism and gender equality. We commissioned three original audio plays for our Switched On programme and partnered with UBS and Linklaters LLP to take Standpoint, our political speech-making programme, to students in London.

We are incredibly proud to have our work recognised by the industry. Both *Rise Up* by Lisa Evans and *What The Thunder Said* by Ed Harris took home 'Best Play for Young Audiences' at the Writers' Guild of Great Britain Awards, whilst *Layla's Room* by Sabrina Mahfouz has been nominated for the James Tait Black Prize.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us this year. Theatre Centre will strive to reach more children and young people, whatever their circumstances and wherever they live.

Layla's Room

By Sabrina Mahfouz



Collected from a national survey, award-winning poet Sabrina Mahfouz weaved together the voices of 1,000 teens trying to make sense of the realities, difficulties and absurdities of their lives in the UK today. *Layla's Room* sparked important conversations about sexual harassment in secondary schools.

"Mahfouz commendably paints almost all of the characters as flawed, but positive - she and Theatre Centre totally get that preaching to kids doesn't work."

Laura Kressly, The Play's the Thing

"I thought *Layla's Room* was an incredibly powerful and relevant piece of theatre for girls. They were riveted from start to finish."

Head of Drama, Gumley House Convent School

"Theatre Centre shows the importance of self-confidence as well as doing what's right, even if it means standing alone."

Year 10 student

Little Boxes

By Robert Alan Evans, Amelia Sears & the company



Little Boxes is a new interactive production developed through workshops with 9-11 year olds across the UK. The performance explores gender from a child's perspective. Can boys be sparkly? Can girls play football? What do we need to be our true selves?

"This performance was pitched perfectly at upper KS2. The show was just as enjoyable and informative to adults and extremely well performed. A very talented company!"

Andy, Year 5 teacher

"I will try new things now and I won't think about my gender and I won't listen to what they say to me!"

"I learnt that it doesn't matter who you are, it matters who you are inside!"

Year 5 students

"The show was both hilarious and beautifully moving."

Jenny, Mousetrap Theatre

Who saw us

10,000
people

11
theatres

4,556
miles travelled

96%
rated performances as
good or great

57
schools

1,000
workshop participants

35%
first time bookers

50%
of areas visited
have low arts engagement



REDBRIDGE DRAMA CENTRE • SOUTHBANK CENTRE • SHERMAN THEATRE CARDIFF
MARLOWE THEATRE CANTERBURY • YORK THEATRE ROYAL • THE DUKES LANCASTER
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TUNBRIDGE WELLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS • NEWHAM SIXTH FORM COLLEGE
ROBERT BLAKE SCIENCE COLLEGE • THE CASTLE SCHOOL • SCHOOL 21
THE COMPTON SCHOOL • ST BEDE'S INTER-CHURCH SCHOOL • QUEEN'S COLLEGE
CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL • NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL FOR BOYS
WYGGESTON & QUEEN ELIZABETH I COLLEGE • WILLOWBANK DAY SCHOOL
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REDRIFF PRIMARY SCHOOL • SAWSTON VILLAGE COLLEGE • CLAPTON GIRLS' ACADEMY
MANLEY PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL • THE SPIRES COLLEGE • YSGOL ABERCONWY
CUMBERLAND SCHOOL • NOWER HILL HIGH SCHOOL • SUNNYFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL
EMMANUEL SCHOOL • HUISH EPISCOPI ACADEMY • LEOPOLD PRIMARY SCHOOL
PENISTONE GRAMMAR SCHOOL • ST GODRIC'S RCVA PRIMARY • RUGBY SCHOOL
BEAUCHAMP COLLEGE • SOUTH STANLEY JUNIOR SCHOOL • PRESTWICH ARTS COLLEGE
DOG KENNEL HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL • ST MARY'S C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL
SOUTH HYLTON PRIMARY SCHOOL • OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

What next

Twist by Chino Odimba

A radical adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic novel brought into the modern day and framed by the global refugee crisis. This year's Brian Way Commission, *Twist* will be touring the UK in autumn 2017.

Home

Home is a project working with 13-16 year olds in Newham, Hackney and Tower Hamlets to explore their experiences of multicultural London, looking at identity, culture, home and belonging.

Switched On

A dynamic and interactive resource for teaching the Personal, Social, Health and Economic education curriculum in schools. We commission will new audio dramas exploring live and urgent issues facing young people.

Standpoint

Delivered with our corporate partners, Standpoint is Theatre Centre's speech-making programme for secondary schools.

Creative Roots

Intensive workshops for 13-19 year olds to learn new drama skills, build confidence and open doors to a creative career. Participants will form a youth advisory board bringing their voices to the centre of our organisation.

Little Boxes

We intend to revive our production *Little Boxes* and reach even more children by touring to festivals and family arts events as well as many more primary schools.

Writers' Fellowship

A three year programme of learning, the Writers' Fellowship offers rising talents the opportunity to learn more about the craft of writing for young audiences.



Finance

2015/16 was the first year of Theatre Centre's new business plan to develop income streams and strengthen the financial resilience of the company.

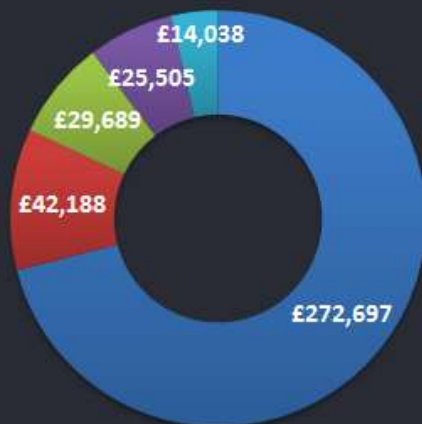
We are pleased to report that this year Theatre Centre made a successful application to Arts Council England's Catalyst: Evolve programme, a strategic investment to support philanthropic giving in the arts and cultural sector. This means any gift from our donors over the next 3 years will be match funded.

Income



- Arts Council England NPO Grant
- Fundraising
- Income from performances and workshops
- Investments & other income

Expenditure



- Production Costs
- Overheads
- Fundraising & finance costs
- Transfers to reserves
- Governance



Get closer

Theatre Centre needs to raise **£150,000** a year. Your support could give a child a transformative experience through the power of live theatre whilst also enabling you to get closer to the work we produce and the artists we collaborate with.



A **£10 donation** pays for a child to experience a live theatre performance, often for the very first time.

A **£20 donation** pays for 4 children to take part in a drama workshop with professional actors.

A **£50 donation** pays for 10 young people to engage in a vital discussion about issues affecting their lives through our Switched On programme.

A **£100 donation** pays for 20 young people to participate in a session to gain skills and confidence in public speaking through our Standpoint programme.

A **£250 donation** pays for a class to experience a live theatre production.

Get closer

There are many ways you can engage with us. Your support will go a long way to helping us deliver our ambitious plans for the future.

Benefactor (donating £3,000+)

- Acknowledgement on website, in annual report and marketing
- Invitation to opening night event including comp tickets & meet the cast
- Invitation to annual season launch event
- Invitation to dress rehearsal of new productions
- Lunch with Chair and Artistic Director
- Quarterly e-newsletter
- Copy of annual report

Patron (donating £1,000+)

- Acknowledgement on website and in annual report
- Invitation to opening night event including comp ticket & meet the cast
- Invitation to annual season launch event
- Invitation to dress rehearsal of new production
- Quarterly e-newsletter
- Copy of annual report

Supporters' Circle (donating £10+)

- Acknowledgement on website
- Invite to annual season launch event
- Quarterly e-newsletter
- Copy of annual report



www.mydonate.bt.com/charities/theatrecentre

You can make a single donation, a monthly donation or fundraise for us via our BT My Donate platform.

To find out more about how you can support us please call Emily on 020 7729 3066 or email emily@theatre-centre.co.uk

Our supporters

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City Bridge Trust
Derwent London Community Fund
John Lyon's Charity
The Leche Trust
Garfield Weston Foundation
Santander Foundation
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The Charlotte Bonham-Carter Charitable Trust

Public Funding

Arts Council England
Arts Council England Catalyst: Evolve
Discover Young Hackney, Hackney Council
Tower Hamlets Council

The Brian Way Commission is generously supported by Amanda Way.

Staff

Artistic Director **Natalie Wilson**
Executive Director **Helen Jeffreys**
Associate Producer **Marigold Hughes**
Programme and Admin Manager **Angela Wachner**
Marketing and Development Officer **Emily Groves**
Finance Manager **Hilary Walls**
Programme Co-ordinator **Max May**
Development Consultant **Helen Bowdur**

Board

Chair
Alexandra Perricone

Kemi Amondi
Jennifer Ball
Katrina Ellis
Christopher Hogg
Dawn Ingleson
David Luff
Alistair Melville-Smith
Beverley Russell
Lynn Sear
Tanya Sharma
Roy Williams

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