

Review 17/18



thelowry.com

Café de Paris



Welcome

As The Lowry turns **18**, we stand today the most-visited cultural venue in Greater Manchester, one of the UK's leading combined arts organisations and at the heart of one of the most successful cultural regeneration projects in the world.

We have just marked this special anniversary during our biennial **'Week 53'** festival, which had a 'coming of age' theme.

In June 2017, Arts Council England reaffirmed their support for our artistic ambition with confirmation of funding for another four years, from 2018-22, as part of their National Portfolio. They also awarded us a separate 'uplift' grant to support our Artist Development Programme, which is worthy recognition of the great strides made by the creative team in this area of our work.

Our digital programme went from strength to strength, with both **'IRIS'** – a landmark commission from Marshmallow Laser Feast in our Lyric Theatre auditorium; and **'humansbeingdigital'** – an international collection of work that sought to provoke an emotional response from our visitors drawing critical acclaim.

'Who Cares', a play about young carers in Salford by The Lowry and co-produced by LUNG, went on a 27-venue national tour - sharing the work and its important message with some 4,000 young people - as well as MPs and peers, who took to Twitter in praise following a special performance at The House of Lords in Westminster.

Of course, 2017 also brought huge challenges for the sector in the form of an unprecedented increase in security following the horror of the Manchester Arena attack. In keeping with the spirit of Greater Manchester's response, and in the face of what was understandably a very upsetting and uneasy time, I'm very proud to say our staff and volunteers pulled together to ensure 'the show would go on'.

My thanks to each and every one of the artists, companies and communities we have worked with in the last twelve months. To our board of trustees, staff and volunteers, who work tirelessly to 'make things happen' in and around the building day after day; and to our audiences for their continued support and passion for our work.

Enjoy!

Julia Fawcett

Julia Fawcett OBE
Chief Executive



CONTEMPORARY THEATRE

The Lowry is committed to presenting and commissioning the very best in contemporary theatre, and this year's programme encompassed brilliant and challenging productions from across the spectrum.

In May, The Lowry was the only venue outside of London able to present James Thierrée's beautiful and mesmerising production **'The Toad Knew'**, which delighted audiences, and in January The Royal Shakespeare Company chose The Lowry to open its new touring production of **'Hamlet'**, with a quite extraordinary central performance from Paapa Essiedu.

Our collaboration with Paines Plough continued with their unique pop-up theatre **'Roundabout'** coming to Little Hulton in Salford in September. Over 1,400 people enjoyed a programme of professional drama, comedy and music curated by Paines Plough and The Lowry. Our partnership with the community enabled local people to also take over the Roundabout with their own performances, events and activities.

Some of the year's many other highlights included Kate O'Donnell's **'You've Changed'**, presented in association with Contact Theatre, Conor McPherson's **'The Weir'**, Sally Cookson's highly imaginative re-telling of Fellini's **'La Strada'**, Northern Broadsides' **'Cyrano'** and an incredible, immersive version of **'Trainspotting'** from The King's Head.

DANCE

The Lowry's dance programme has been exceptional, featuring Acosta Danza, the new contemporary company from Carlos Acosta, which we promoted in October as part of our leading role in The Movement, the dance producing partnership between The Lowry, Sadler's Wells and Birmingham Hippodrome. The second edition of **'Dance: Sampled'**, presented in February in association with Sadler's Wells, attracted over 2,600 people, who attended two performances in a single day and an exciting programme of participatory activity all over the building.

'Under Glass' from the Clod Ensemble exploited the flexibility of the Quays Theatre space to present a series of individual performances literally "under glass". The production in October marked the third year of a four year partnership with the company and was presented in association with the Manchester Science Festival, who also collaborated on our promotion of the extraordinary digital piece **'8 Minutes'** from Alexander Whiteley.

In March we also welcomed back our first Resident Dance Company, Company Chameleon, for their 10th anniversary production featuring **'Rites'**, the piece that launched male duet Kevin Edward Turner and Anthony Missen onto the dance scene a decade ago, alongside two new works.



Performing Arts



PARTNER COMPANIES

The Lowry continued its excellent partnership with the **National Theatre** with two outstanding productions, the regional premiere of Sally Cookson's new touring production of **'Jane Eyre'** in April and Ivo Van Hove's stunning new interpretation of **'Hedda Gabler'** in November.

In September we welcomed back **Birmingham Royal Ballet** with their charming production of **'Aladdin'** and, in March, for a very successful week with **'The Sleeping Beauty'**, which included an open class on the Lyric stage and a 'First Steps' interactive show for young children.

Rambert showcased its staggering range in a triple bill in September including the return of Christopher Bruce's **'Ghost Dances'** to the repertoire for the first time in 13 years, Greek choreographer Andonis Foniadakis' first work for Rambert, and Kim Brandstrup's National Dance Award-winning dramatic love story **'Transfigured Night'**. The company also worked with us on a choreographic project in the Studio which saw Mark Baldwin and dancers from the company working with two emerging choreographers.

Opera North visited in November with a genuinely innovative week of one act operas which they described as **'Little Greats'**, and in March with **'Don Giovanni'** and **'Madama Butterfly'**.

POPULIST AND FAMILY PROGRAMMING

As ever, we presented a diverse and exciting programme for families. Our Christmas programme provided magic for children and grown-ups alike, with over 110,000 people attending our four festive theatre shows. **'Elf - The Musical'** was a hugely popular Christmas cracker, while the spellbinding production of **'Around The World In 80 Days'** delighted all who saw it. Tall Stories brought **'The Gruffalo'** to life and we commissioned Salford-based theatre company Colour The Clouds to complete their first year as Associate Artists by premiering **'The Extraordinary Tale of Holly Christmas'** in The Aldridge Studio.

We were very pleased to welcome back Mathew Bourne's New Adventures' sumptuous production of **'The Red Shoes'**, and the company also charmed audiences with its 1940s interpretation of **'Cinderella'**.

As always, our Summer programme featured a range of family productions, including **'The Railway Children'**, **'Fantastic Mr Fox'** and **'Room on the Broom'**.

Other popular productions included **'The Addams Family'**, Leicester Curve's new version of **'George's Marvellous Medicine'** and Rufus Norris's production of **'Cabaret'** starring Will Young and Louise Redknapp.

Over the last 4 years we have become the leading incubator for the development of emerging artists and their work. The **Studio Member Scheme** supported over 500 local practitioners, offering a programme of creative masterclasses, seminars, scratch opportunities and free rehearsal space.

The flagship **Developed With The Lowry** programme provided 12-month packages of support for eight emerging companies enabling them to take a leap forward in their practice through the investment of cash and resources to enable the creation new small-scale touring work alongside a highly bespoke professional development programme.

This year contemporary dance company **Igor and Moreno** and theatremaker **Chanje Kunde** completed their time with us and we commenced working with storyteller **Sam Brady**, **Theatre Temoin**, theatre/installation artist **Rachael Young**, spoken word artist **Fat Roland** and a collaboration between world class handbalancer **Natalie Reckert** and digital artist **Mark Moreau**.

SPOTLIGHT ON: IGOR AND MORENO

Igor and Moreno created **'Andante'**, a highly experimental piece in which the

performance space was filled with a thick wall of theatrical smoke through which the dancers appeared and disappeared, with percussion and plainsong creating a meditative soundscape suggesting movement that couldn't be seen. The interplay between the smoke and the dancers' bodies was further enhanced through a collaboration with Alessandro Gualtieri, a legendary Italian perfumer best known for creating scents inspired by outrageous or shocking sources. The production went on to be performed in London, Bilbao, Ljubljana, Rotterdam, Bologna and Cambridge, with further performances planned in the UK and Europe over 2018.

Through our Associate Artists programme, The Lowry develops deep and long term relationships with a small number of locally-based companies with outstanding potential. With core funding, commissioning opportunities and highly specialized bespoke support, it is a privilege to support artists as they establish themselves on the national stage.

This year we supported Associate Artists **Kill The Beast**, **LUNG**, **Art With Heart** and **Colour The Clouds**.

SPOTLIGHT ON: COLOUR THE CLOUDS

Salford-based theatre company Colour The Clouds joined the Associate Artist programme in 2017 after the success of **'Aleena's Garden'**, a sensory production for 0-3 year olds made through Developed With The Lowry. We commissioned them to produce our Studio Christmas show, **'The Extraordinary Tale of Holly Christmas'**, an original festive adventure jam packed with songs, music, puppetry and lots of Christmas magic for the whole family.

Colour the Clouds - 'Aleena's Garden'
(Sat 14 October 2017)



Digital Art

As a leader in cultural experiences we have embedded world class **Digital Art** within our artistic commissioning and presentations. Digital is the new industrial revolution for the 21st century, with Salford Quays as one of the UK's primary influencers for media, art and wider culture. Our long term commitment to digital art has led to our commissions touring internationally, winning awards and enabling us to bring the best artists in this field to The Lowry. We are proud to be part of a shared ambition and to embrace world-class new artistic practice alongside our city, regional, UK and international partners, audiences and artists.

IRIS

Throughout the summer of 2017, audiences experienced **'IRIS'**, a unique digital art installation which brought a visual art experience into a traditional performance space.

The Lyric Theatre was taken over by a visually stunning feast of light, sound, colour and robotics technology created by internationally acclaimed UK artists Marshmallow Laser Feast. The artwork was developed using 40 robotically controlled laser beams that moved with seamless choreography to redraw the auditorium's vast, dark spaces.

'IRIS' was a significant contribution to The Lowry's ambitious digital programme, and a Week 53 Commission.

Marshmallow Laser Feast - 'IRIS'
(Fri 26 May - Sun 16 July 2017)

Digital Art

We hosted multiple performances by acclaimed UK and international digital artists, setting the bar high in terms of artistic quality, international reach and developing new audiences for this work within our artistic programme.

Franck Vigroux (music) & Kurt d'Haeseleer (video) performed **'Centaure'**, a live audio & video performance in October, a post-digital road trip to a dystopic future. In January, multidisciplinary artist Michela Pelusio created **'Space Time Helix'**, a kinetic sculpture that bent light, matter and sound into a hypnotic experience using a mesmerising giant vertical wave spiralling above the Quays Theatre stage.

Also in January, in the Aldridge Studio, award winning artist and composer Mira Calix presented **'The Aleph Project'**, which accompanied her own compositions inspired by the notion of colour with a video work. And UK artist Scanner, hailed by critics as innovative and inspirational works of contemporary electronic music, presented a unique body of work on screen, scored live.

Franck Vigroux & Kurt d'Haeseleer - 'Centaure'
(Sat 14 October)





Max Dovey - 'A Hipster Bar'

In the Andrew and Zöe Law Galleries, **'humansbeingdigital'** was a major digital art exhibition featuring nine international artists whose work is designed to encourage a range of emotional and physical reactions, exploring links between humans, machines and technology.

Exhibits included **'Black Hole Horizon'**, a large and playful installation by German artist Thom Kubli, featuring enormous soap bubbles; **'A Hipster Bar'**, by UK artist Max Dovey, that only allowed entry based on 'hipster' algorithms via facial recognition technology; **'Machine with Hair Caught In It'**, by South Korean duo U_Joo+Limhee-Young; and Nye Thompson's work, **'Backdoored'**, which highlighted



Thom Kubli - 'Black Hole Horizon'

the unsecure nature of millions of security cameras across the world by displaying 'open' feeds on the gallery wall.

The exhibition challenged the notion that digital art is by its nature objective and neutral; and instead aimed to demonstrate that digital artists can provoke as emotional a response with their work as artists working in other media.

This collection of digital exhibits provided an important opportunity for The Lowry to connect new and existing audiences and communities to MediaCityUK in accessible and engaging ways, and to make good use of the resources within MediaCityUK itself.

Visual Art



Our **Edit.** series gives artists and performers time and space to work in our galleries and develop new work through regular, shorter residencies, workshops and projects.

'Edit. 02 > Thread { }' featured new work by a Salford-based collective, called > Thread { }. Cheryl O'Meara, Sally Gilford and Vicky Clark work out of Salford's Islington Mill and were commissioned to make a new digital textile work with participants drawn from The Lowry's Youth Employability Skills (YES) Project. A small group of young people spent a

richly rewarding week at Islington Mill, working with the artists on concepts and designs for the new artwork. They developed new skills around the creative use of technology, with their individual coding (drawn via bio data and numbers that have strong significance in their lives) generating unique digital patterns that were incorporated into the designs. These digital designs were then printed using a combination of digital and analogue practice and the resulting artwork shown as part of an installation in the Galleries, alongside digital projections and a soundscape.

HOME1947

As part of this year's Manchester International Festival (MIF), **'HOME1947'** was produced by MIF and The Lowry. Comprising new films made by award-winning filmmaker Sharmeen Obaid-Chino, this immersive exhibition was mounted in all three studio spaces. The exhibition reflected on the largest mass migration ever witnessed

when, in 1947, more than 10 million people were displaced as two new independent states, India and Pakistan, were created. As such, these new films made a significant contribution to an international conversation about the partition of India and the ongoing migrant crisis.



Clive Arrowsmith

LS LOWRY COLLECTION

'Lowry at Home: Salford 1966' was an exhibition of previously unseen photographs by the international fashion and portrait photographer, Clive Arrowsmith. Commissioned by Nova magazine, Arrowsmith visited Lowry in his home and took a remarkable series of photographs of the artist and of the Salford streets nearby. Alongside the exhibition was an extensive programme of free family activities in the galleries as part of the annual **Lowry Non-Stop** offer.

We continue to develop the permanent displays of LS Lowry's work with recent additions to the displays. These include the loan from the University of Salford of **'Narcia fitting out on the Tyne (1968)'**, inspired by the Swan Hunter shipyard at Wallsend, the subject of Sting's critically acclaimed musical **'The Last Ship'**, which will visit The Lowry in July 2018.

A member of LS Lowry's extended family bequeathed

three works of art by his famous 'Uncle Laurie' to The Lowry Collection; and the oil painting **'Glasgow Docks 1947'** which has always been privately owned is now on loan to The Lowry and on display in Salford for the first time.

The Copley Prize, our annual art competition for 4-11 year olds was won by Amelia, 5, from Bolton who's own Lowry-inspired masterpiece hangs next to the works of the man himself.

QUAYS CULTURE




Quays Culture is a programme of large-scale outdoor art events developed and delivered from within The Lowry, the founding partner of the Quays Partnership at Salford Quays – home to MediaCityUK. All events are free to the public.

For five years Quays Culture has created new digital artistic adventures and delivered exciting free art experiences for visitors, with many more to come. This includes new commissions which

have gone on to tour internationally, and commissioning of UK and international talent.

'Unnatural Borders', a Quays Culture commission by the Dutch artistic laboratory Sober Industries, created sculptures of endangered species to inhabit the metropolis of MediaCityUK. By day the sculptures towered over the public on four large plinths, while by night they were illuminated with stunning visual projections.

A bee, polar bear, red squirrel and blue whale explored the interaction and impact between human civilisation and the animal kingdom. These large sculptures questioned our responsibility to these beautiful creatures, and our own understanding of natural and man-made borders and boundaries in these changing modern times.



Each winter, Quays Culture hosts **'Lightwaves'**, the UK's premier digital light art commissioning festival. Lightwaves 2017 ran for 10 days across Salford Quays' outdoor spaces, free for visitors to enjoy. Two new art commissions took centre stage. **'I FORGOT'**, by international novelist, Chancellor of the University of Salford and Scotland's national poet Jackie Kay, played on the phrase, "I FORGOT TO SAY." Salford-based Soup Collective collaborated to make the words interactive, the illumination of the words changing when people telephoned the artwork to leave their stories of what they forgot to say.

The second major commission, **'Hydrozome'**, created by Belgian artist Tom Dekyvere, was a site-responsive web-like sculpture with sound and interactivity that responded to the people and water movement around the Quays.

Tom Dekyvere - 'Hydrozome'
(Fri 8 - Sun 17 December 2017)

Our Learning & Engagement Team offers a range of exciting cross arts programmes to give everyone the opportunity to be creative. With a focus on young people, we support some of the most disadvantaged young people in the city, using the arts to encourage and support self-expression, learn new skills, gain qualifications and develop positive, long term relationships.

We continue to provide leadership across the sector in the field of socially engaged arts practice. We co-produced and hosted **'Uncommon Ground'**, a symposium for socially engaged arts, and shared our work at a DfE conference to shape national policy around Young Carers.

ARTS AS A TOOL FOR SOCIAL ACTION

Looked After Children

The Lowry offers year-round creative opportunities for Looked After Children and care leavers from Salford and Greater Manchester to work alongside professional artists and specialist practitioners to support

personal development and wellbeing. This year, playing with exciting and interesting art forms including spoken word, physical theatre, hip hop, comedy and verbatim theatre, young people created and performed their own production titled **'Discernment'**, which blew the roof off our Quays Theatre, for an audience of 300 people.

Young Parents

Young parents aged 16-21 worked closely with The Lowry this year to use creativity to explore and develop confidence in parenting skills through play. Based in local Sure Start Centres in Salford, artists shared techniques in storytelling, sensory play and music, to develop confidence in reading and play to celebrate positive relationships and to raise aspirations of parents and children.

"This project has been a life line to me, I was lonely and worried before. I was worried about money and felt like I wasn't a good mum. I feel more positive and have made new friends."

A Young Parent, Salford

Young Carers

The Lowry's award-winning work with Young Carers is nationally recognised in its success to allow young people to speak truth to power and provoke political and social change through creativity.

'Who Cares', a powerful verbatim play based on the lives of Young Carers in Salford, toured nationally to 26 schools and youth settings across the country. 'Who Cares' reached over 4,000 people with wraparound support for teachers and youth workers to help identify and support 'hidden' young carers. 'Who Cares' began in Salford and culminated at The House of Lords, Westminster, where young carers themselves presented their ideas to an audience of political decision-makers and guests.

EMPLOYABILITY & SKILLS

Our Youth Employability and Skills (YES) Programme uses the dynamic and creative environment of The Lowry to inspire young people aged 14-19 who are NEET (not in education, employment or training) to get back into education or employment. This year we worked with **1,295 young people**. 80% of participants on long-term placements have successfully returned to education or progressed onto further education, apprenticeships or employment after taking part in the programme.

SPOTLIGHT ON: SAM

Sam was referred to the YES Programme from our Looked After Children project. Sam had recently dropped out of college and was living in semi-independent accommodation as a care leaver. He struggled with commitment and with remaining engaged with education but due to his positive experience with The Lowry Sam undertook a placement and training in our catering department. Sam worked with professionals from The Lowry, other young people and artistic practitioners to reflect on and build his personal strengths, confidence, communication skills and

self-esteem. After initially struggling with his attendance and commitment, over the duration of the programme his confidence, punctuality and enthusiasm improved greatly.

Having undertaken CV writing and mock interview training, towards the end of the programme he applied successfully to be a Catering Assistant at The Lowry, his first ever job. After working at The Lowry for several months, we are delighted that Sam is now in full-time employment in another organisation.

LEARNING & PARTICIPATION

We are passionate about ensuring that people of any age or experience are given the opportunity to be creative.

This year over **10,000 school children** worked with professional artists to support their curriculum learning across the North West of England and beyond.

This year over **13,000** people took part in our free and subsidised activities for families and communities, ranging from early years arts to life drawing and an in-house choir.

We were also pleased to run **The Lowry School Appeal** which funded a programme of free workshops in schools in areas of deprivation to create submissions for **The Copley Prize** drawing competition.



TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Young people bursting with ideas, talent and potential have taken over our stages and galleries to bring their own creative ideas to life.

Connections is the UK largest nationwide youth theatre festival, produced by the National Theatre in partnership with The Lowry. This year we produced an exciting festival for over 12 companies across the North West, with The Lowry's Company of Young Theatre Makers opening the festival with a vibrant and colourful performance of **'The Changing Room'** by Chris Bush.

This year we celebrated 10 years of **U.Dance NW**, our regional youth dance festival. Young people from all over the country returned as choreographers, group leaders, volunteers & team members as the building came to life with dance.

We continue to deliver our annual programme of intensive training in dance for North West students aged 11-18 through our **Centre for Advanced Training (CAT)** with 65 new students; this year the CAT worked with **Akram Khan Company** to produce a new work which premiered at The Lowry.



The Lowry remains committed to reaching new audiences and removing barriers preventing people from accessing and enjoying our events and activities.

Membership of the **Under 26** scheme, offering free and discounted tickets to young people, grew from 2,258 in April 2017 to **over 4,000** by March 2018. Over the course of the year, 676 members booked 1,297 tickets to 53 different productions, the most popular being **'Elf - The Musical'**, **'Hamlet'** and **'The Addams Family'**.

We continue to encourage audiences from Salford through the **Our Lowry** scheme, which offers free and low-cost tickets to local residents. Membership of the scheme stands at **22,600** and in 2017/18 we offered Our Lowry tickets to 87 productions. **'Ghost'**, **'Shirley Valentine'** and **'Elf - The Musical'** were the most popular, with a total of **16,652 tickets snapped up by 6,600 individuals**.

214 families from across Salford joined the **Our First Lowry** scheme, for families with children under 5 who have never been to The Lowry before. Each family was offered free or low-cost tickets to three productions, **'Room on the Broom'**, **'The Gruffalo'** and **'Tiddler'**. 2017/18 was the most successful year of the scheme to date, with the highest numbers of families recruited.

The Booth Charity Family Scheme offered families in Salford with children with disabilities or additional needs, who may have found it difficult to visit and experience live theatre the opportunity to come to see three performances at The Lowry for free.

We hosted **5 Relaxed Performances**, including **'Contained'**, a show primarily aimed at adults, in 2017/18 for a total of 284 people - and we were excited to host our second **Dementia Friendly** performance, **'Brief Encounter'**, which also featured a pre-show singing workshop.

We have introduced **'Pay What You Decide'** on a number of productions, encouraging audiences to engage with new events and removing financial barriers, particularly through our regular **'Hush Hush'** and **'WTF Wednesday'** shows.

LOWRY OPEN DAY

In August, The Lowry threw open its doors to over **7,000 people** with a jam-packed day of backstage tours, talks, workshops and performances, activities and exhibitions, live music, outdoor games, a design-your-own dessert competition and open air circus – all supported by our friends at the National Theatre, Matthew Bourne's New Adventures, Birmingham Royal Ballet, Rambert and Opera North.

The Lowry Open Day
(Sat 12 August 2017)

Looking Ahead

PERFORMING ARTS

Our theatres programme offers a fantastic and exciting range of new and challenging productions, including the return of the National Theatre with **'Macbeth'** and, with **'Life Is A Dream'**, Rambert will perform its first full length narrative dance work for over 30 years, a spectacular production combining vivid dance story-telling, live symphonic music and the stunning visual imagination of filmmakers the Quay Brothers.

Spectacular classical ballet combines with slick comedy, a clog-dancing dame and live music from the Royal Ballet Sinfonia in Birmingham Royal Ballet's **'La Fille mal gardée'** in October, while in November Opera

North bring **'The Merry Widow'** and Matthew Bourne's legendary **'Swan Lake'** returns.

We also welcome **'The Last Ship'**, Sting's personal and passionate musical inspired by his own childhood in a community facing the demise of the shipbuilding industry, and **'Dusty'**, the world premiere of a landmark new musical about the life of Dusty Springfield. We are also delighted to present Alan Bennett's **'The Habit Of Art'**, directed by Philip Franks.

Our circus programme continues with **'The Exploded Circus'**, a breathtaking mix of acrobatics, aerial feats and juggling from

female-led contemporary company Mimbire and **'Now Or Never'** from Circa Tsuica, in which a vibrant band of international acrobats and musicians invite you to share in their circus spectacle under a star studded big top on the Lowry Plaza.

All of this is supported by our commercial programme, particularly at Christmas, which this year will delight families with **'Doctor Dolittle'** and Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's **'Stick Man'**, alongside popular hits including **'The Band'** and **'Calendar Girls'**.

WEEK 53

The Lowry's flagship cross-arts festival, Week 53, returned in May 2018 with a programme of incredible and international contemporary art, dance, drama and interactive installations for the contemporary-minded and compulsively curious. Week 53 challenged convention and celebrated creativity through over 70 performances by 100 artists exploring 'the coming of age'.

Among the festival's many highlights were the first ever stage adaptation of Nigel Slater's award-winning book, **'Toast'**; a new production

of Graham Greene's classic thriller **'Brighton Rock'** by Pilot Theatre; **'Everything I See I Swallow'**, a major Lowry commission using aerial circus, theatre and the ancient Japanese art of Shibari; **'Madhouse re:exit'**, an immersive performance by Access All Areas examining the institutionalisation of people with learning disabilities; and Canadian company Mammalian Diving Reflex's **'Teentalitarianism'**, a series of events where teenagers took control.

VISUAL ARTS

One of the highlights of 2018's Week 53 festival is **'Personal Feeling is the Main Thing'**, a new exhibition of the work of painter **Chantal Joffe** and her first in the North. Regarded as one of the most distinctive and uncompromising figurative artists working today, Joffe's fearless paintings of women and girls often share glimpses of her own relationship with her daughter, while exploring transitions into adolescence and motherhood.

Chantal Joffe - 'Poppy, Esme, Oleanna, Gracie and Kate'

November 2018 will see a major exhibition titled **'LS Lowry and the Pre-Raphaelites'**. Lowry admired and collected work by the Victorian Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, notably Dante Gabriel Rossetti. This will be the first exhibition for over 40 years that brings together as much of his collection as possible, alongside key works that he admired and to some extent were to influence his own approach to portraiture.

This year the **Royal Academy** celebrates its 250th anniversary and museums and galleries across the country are displaying work by Royal Academicians. LS Lowry turned down most honours, including a knighthood, but took pride in his election to the Academy and regarded it as an important landmark in his career. In December The Lowry will celebrate Lowry's relationship with the RA with a special display in our permanent galleries, and visitors will have the chance to see all of the works by Lowry from the Royal Academy's collection for the first time.

DIGITAL ART AND QUAYS CULTURE

The year ahead promises a rich digital offer in our theatre and outdoor spaces, and exciting partnerships with UK and international cultural organisations to commission and present new art.

Quays Culture are co-commissioning a new artwork with Canadian partners Quartier Des Spectacles. UK artists Average Associates won the open call for a new artwork co-commission titled **'Row'** that will be shown at Salford Quays and Montreal before being made available to hire for other international light festivals. Average Associates is a Manchester-based creator lab lead by Callum Brown, previously senior designer at Random International of London, in partnership with Lucio Sgrigna.

We will partner with four other UK light festivals to produce a further four new artworks by emerging artistic talent from the UK. As a founder member of the **Lighting up the North** network we continue to work closely with partners and other organisations to add value to our events and artistic vision.

The Week 53 festival will feature digital art performances from Italian innovators fuse and Seb Lee Delisle, and the wonderful interactive installation **'Nervous'** suspended across the entire foyer of The Lowry by Belgian artist Tom Dekyvere. And of course we will have a rich programme of theatre performances from electronic audio and vision to showcasing the best work from international digital art festivals.



fuse - 'Dökk'
(Sun 27 May 2018)



Tom Dekyvere - 'Nervous'
(Thu 17 May - Thu 12 July 2018)

Looking Ahead

LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT

2018 will see us launch a new programme with young people aged 16-24 **experiencing homelessness** to improve their quality of life, employability skills and life chances.

We will also launch **Young Theatre Makers**, a new scheme providing training and opportunities for young creatives interested in all aspects of making theatre - from performance to design, producing to technical theatre, dramaturgy to directing. Young Theatre Makers will connect young people to The Lowry's contemporary arts programme and artist development scheme to explore new and exciting ways to make work.

In Numbers

5.5% funding from public funding

We welcomed thousands...

812,099

Total Building Visitor Numbers

496,542

Theatre Attendees

77,435

Galleries Visitors

948

Free Public Gallery Tours

9

Free Accessible Gallery Tours

11

World Premieres

7

New Exhibitions

44

Accessible Performances

5

Relaxed Performances

28

Post-show Talks

13,716

Young People Engaged

And we supported the local economy...

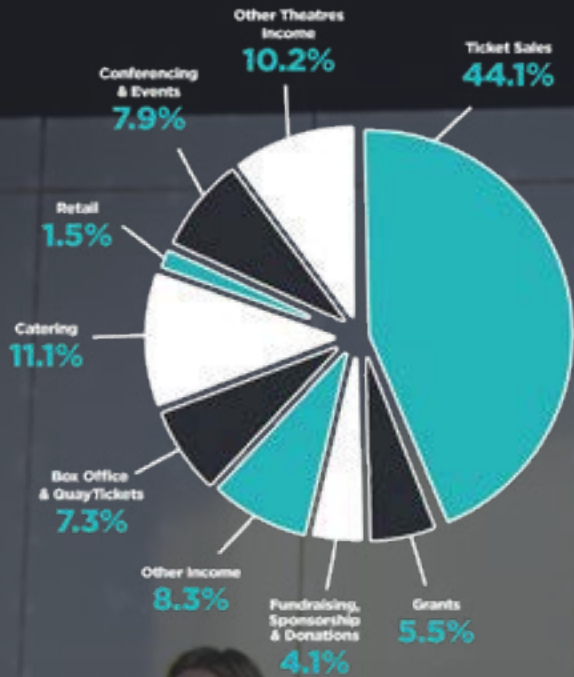
495

Total number of jobs supported by The Lowry

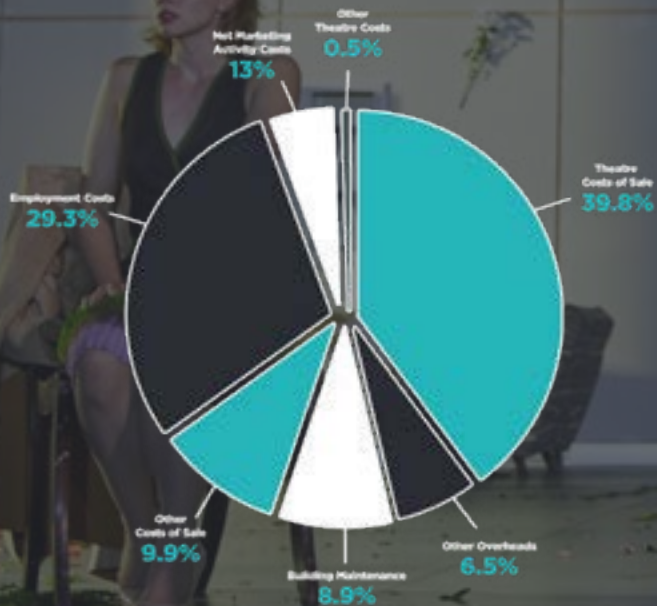
27,207

Volunteer Hours Worked

Income 2017/2018



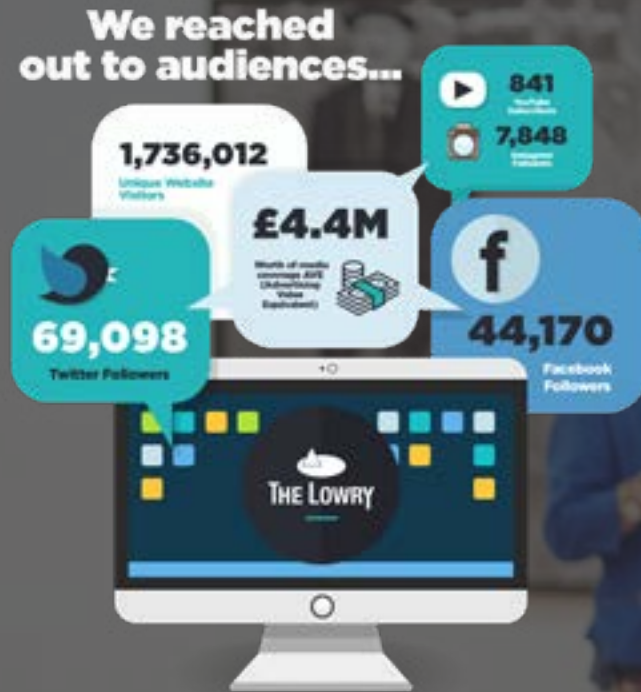
Expenditure 2017/2018



In Numbers



We ran our own ticketing agency, **Quaytickets...**



Audiences enjoyed...



Every penny spent at The Lowry is ploughed back into the organisation to support the work in our theatres and galleries and our Learning & Engagement activity.

THANK YOU to all our supporters

Funders

Arts Council England
Salford City Council
Greater Manchester
Combined Authority

Principal Sponsor

Manchester Airports
Group

2020 Capital Supporters

Sir Rod and Lady
Aldridge
Arts Council Major
Capital Grants
Biffa Award
Fidelity UK Foundation
The Law Family
Foundation
Viridor Credits
Garfield Weston
Foundation
The Wolfson Foundation

Theatres Supporters

Irwin Mitchell Solicitors
Kuoni
Eranda Rothschild
Foundation
Esmée Fairbairn
Foundation
Selfridges & Co
Unity Theatre Trust

Who Cares Tour 2017 Supporters

Curious Minds
The Oglesby Charitable
Trust

Galleries Supporters

Alison and Noel Copley

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Jonathan Sherlock
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'The Addams Family'
(Tue 29 August -
Sat 9 September 2017)



Front: Clod Ensemble - 'Under Glass' (Wed 18 - Sat 21 October 2017)

Back: Almeida West End - 'Mary Stuart' (Tue 17 - Sat 21 April 2018)

The Lowry Centre Trust is a registered charity (no. 1053962).

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