

Review 18/19



THE LOWRY

thelowry.com



Welcome

No twelve months at The Lowry are ever the same - and 2018/19 lived up to that and more.

From realising a long-held ambition to curate an exhibition of Lowry's favourite Pre-Raphaelite work and securing a West End transfer for the Week 53 commission, 'Toast'; to putting our Christmas Appeal fund to work developing a support service for homeless young people and taking Pier Eight Restaurant to (literally) new heights with a rooftop herb garden - every department has done us proud.

Week 53, The Lowry's biennial festival, presented 100 artists and 70 performances over 12 extraordinary days in May 2018. In the year that we turned 18, our festival of incredible, international work returned to challenge convention and celebrate the 'coming of age', taking over our theatre, gallery and public spaces.

We've taken part in the national celebrations to mark the Royal Academy's 250th birthday, joined forces with colleagues at Leicester Curve and Bristol Old Vic's Ferment on the Naseem Khan Commissions - an initiative to support artists of colour - and led our own search for new work in the fields of contemporary circus and family dance through our 'Developed With' programme.

The Artist Development Programme celebrated its 10th birthday and re-launched with a new structure and firm mandate: to open doors, create opportunities and support artists. We also contributed to Arts Council England's 'Shaping The Next 10 Years' strategy consultation - ensuring The Lowry's voice was heard in this important, national discussion about the future of our sector.

And I have to mention the fact we ended the financial year with the incredible news that Salford was chosen by DCMS as the first Youth Performance Partnership for the North. Thanks to a £1million investment, The Lowry will get to work with partners across Salford to engage more than 10,000 5-18 year-olds in a programme encompassing theatre skills, rap, performance and creative writing. Needless to say, you'll be hearing much more about that from us in the coming months!

My thanks to all the funding organisations, artists, theatre companies and patrons reading this review. Your continued support helps make the ambitions we have for culture in Salford a reality. We really couldn't do it without you!



Julia Fawcett.

Julia Fawcett OBE
Chief Executive

Performing Arts

A woman in a purple top and white pants is performing a circus act on a rope structure. She is holding onto a horizontal bar with both hands, and her body is suspended in the air. The background is dark with some green and yellow lights, suggesting a stage or arena setting.

CONTEMPORARY THEATRE

Continuing our commitment to presenting and commissioning the very best in contemporary theatre, The Lowry's programme encompassed artistic excellence and challenging productions from the widest range of viewpoints and artforms.

Highlights included Red Ladder's adaptation of **'The Damned United'** and Jess Thom's much-anticipated take on Samuel Beckett's **'Not I'**, while Dante or Die took their production **'Take On Me'** into Broughton Leisure Centre as part of Arts Council England's Strategic Touring Programme. Award-winning interactive theatre company ZU:UK guided strangers through first dates via headphones in 'Binaural Dinner Date' and turned audiences into participants by controlling them around a strange and sinister game in the Lowry-commissioned **'Missing'**.

Award-winning **'Old Stock: A Refugee Love Story'**, Canadian 2b theatre company's Klezmer-folk music-theatre hybrid, was inspired by the true stories of two Jewish Romanian refugees immigrating to Canada in 1908 while, in stark contrast, Told By An Idiot told us that **'All You Need Is LSD'**.

Our circus programme reached new heights (literally) with **'The Exploded Circus'** by female-led contemporary company Mimbire and **'Now or Never'** from France's Cirque Tsuica, in which a group of international acrobats and musicians shared their amazing spectacle with audiences under a big top on the Lowry Plaza. Other circus highlights included **'Attrape Moi'** from Canadian company Flip FabriQue, Scarabeus Aerial Theatre's **'Depths of My Mind'**, Ellie Dubois' **'No Show'** and Catalan company Eia bringing their award winning acrobatic theatre piece **'inTarsi'** to the UK for the first time. Natalie Reckert's **'Inside Out'** was the first circus-focused production from our Artist Development Programme's 'Developed With' strand.

Performing Arts



DANCE

It has been another incredibly strong year for Dance at The Lowry, with highlights including the return of Clod Ensemble with their Lowry-commissioned production **'Placebo'**, Northern Ballet's interpretation of **'Jane Eyre'**, Lost Dog's **'Juliet and Romeo'** and Michael Keegan Dolan's **'Swan Lake / Loch na hEala'**, part of the Week 53 festival. The Lowry co-commissioned **'#JeSuis'**, about individuals trying to find a voice to stand against oppression, with Aakash Odedra company – the piece also won the 2017 Amnesty International Freedom of Expression Award.

Ballet Black, the neo-classical ballet company highlighting dancers of black & Asian descent, presented a double bill, **'Dream Within A Dream'**, while BalletLORENT's **'Rumpelstiltskin'** was an

original adaptation of the beloved Grimm Brothers tale, directed by Liv Lorent and retold by Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy. Our strategic partners Matthew Bourne's New Adventures presented the stunning spectacle of **'Swan Lake'** for two full weeks for the first time at The Lowry.

Our international dance programme brought to The Lowry one of the world's most celebrated flamenco dancers, Granada's Manuel Liñán, who enthralled audiences with **'Flamenco'**, and Dublin's CoisCéim told children and their families the story of **'The Wolf and Peter'** with contemporary dance and live music through the eyes of the wolf, while Mark Morris' **'Pepperland'** gave a new twist to The Beatles' timeless classic album.

Ballet Black - 'Dream Within a Dream' (Mon 19 November 2018)

Performing Arts

PARTNER COMPANIES

The Lowry's four official Partner Companies once again presented work of the highest calibre to our audiences over the year.

In a change to the convention of recent visits to The Lowry, Rambert performed its first full length narrative dance work for over 30 years. **'Life Is A Dream'**, a spectacular new show from the Olivier Award-winning choreographer Kim Brandstrup, combined dramatic, lyrical dancing from Rambert's brilliant ensemble with imagery from legendary filmmakers the Quay Brothers and a live orchestra playing the rich music of Witold Lutosławski to create an otherworldly atmosphere in which to frame a contemporary re-imagining of Calderón's classic play.

Our partnership with the National Theatre continued with two high-profile shows, **'War Horse'**, which has now been seen by an incredible 230,389 people during its three runs at The Lowry, and a dark, apocalyptic interpretation of **'Macbeth'**.

Birmingham Royal Ballet also brought two wonderful productions, the funny, sunny, **'La Fille mal gardée'** and the storybook fantasy of **'Beauty and the Beast'**, and the always eagerly anticipated Opera North presented sold out performances of **'Tosca'**, **'The Merry Widow'** and **'The Magic Flute'** alongside more challenging productions such as **'Katya Kabanova'**, **'The Rite of Spring'** and **'Gianni Schicchi'**.

Performing Arts

LARGE SCALE AND FAMILY PROGRAMMING

Our Christmas programme comprising **'Dr Dolittle'**, **'Stick Man'** and **'An Evening of Eric and Ern at Christmas'** brought a touch of festive cheer to people aged 1 to 100, while **'SIX'** took audiences by storm and takes its history lesson from the wives of Henry XIII to the West End next before returning to The Lowry for Christmas 2019, picking up five Olivier Award nominations along the way.

Lia Williams and Juliet Stevenson swapped lead roles on the spin of a coin in **'Mary Stuart'** and **'This House'** brought the House of Commons to the Lyric stage. David Yelland and Matthew Kelly in Alan Bennett's **'The Habit of Art'** and Sting's **'The Last Ship'**

brought star quality and audiences were captivated by two very different fact-based musicals, **'Dusty'** and **'Titanic'**.

Popular family shows included **'Billionaire Boy'**, **'The Jungle Book'** and **'In the Night Garden'** while young-at-heart grown-ups enjoyed **'The Band'** and **'Calendar Girls'**. But it was the hilarious **'Early Doors'** that stole the show and broke all records, selling out first in the Quays Theatre, then a run in the Lyric Theatre before an arena tour and landing back in The Lowry one more time in summer 2019.

Artist Development



The Lowry's Artist Development Programme nurtures new and upcoming artists at different stages of their practice, through four separate strands.

Artist Network is a drop-in scheme where members are offered workshops, training, advice surgeries, ticket discounts and the opportunity to meet other people aspiring to work creatively within the arts.

Class Of is a structured learning process for selected artists and companies, who are offered a series of bespoke training sessions in arts production.

Developed With is a year-long relationship with a range of exciting artists or companies during which time they receive mentoring and support in order to develop and present brand new work and take a step forward in their practice.

Associate Artists is a longstanding relationship between The Lowry and selected artists and companies to increase their national and international profile and build sustainable careers in the arts.

2019 marks the tenth anniversary of The Lowry's Artist Development Programme. During the last decade, a total of 52 bold, dynamic and innovative productions from a wide variety of artists and companies have been commissioned as part of the programme - from comic Sophie Willan's first stand up hour '**On Record**' to Theatre Ad Infinitum's '**Ballad of the Burning Star**', a blistering drag cabaret journey into the core of a conflicted Jewish state.

Artists we worked with this year included Natalie Reckert, Rachael Young with '**Nightclubbing**', Fat Roland, whose '**Seven Inch**' was commissioned by The Lowry as part of Week 53, and Theatre Temoin, with '**Feed**'.

ASSOCIATE ARTISTS

Our **Associate Artist** programme continues to demonstrate the benefits of offering exciting artists and companies long term, bespoke support that looks beyond any single production they may be making.

We supported Kill The Beast to explore adapting their work for podcasting and release their own independent podcast, **'Eglantine Whitechapel: Supernatural Detective'**. They have now been commissioned by Fremantle, a globally significant TV, radio and production organisation, to adapt their Lowry-supported

production **'Director's Cut'** as a serial podcast that will launch Fremantle's first ever scripted comedy podcasting label, Storyglass.

We supported Art with Heart to develop their business plan, establish a wider range of partnerships and diversify their income streams. After a second national tour of their Lowry-supported production **'Declaration'** and its accompanying wellbeing project **'space'**, Art with Heart have now been invited to join the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Culture and Social Impact Fund Portfolio, which provides them with a prestigious and secure foundation for their work.

Week 53, The Lowry's biennial festival for the compulsively curious, presented 100 artists and 70 performances over 12 extraordinary days in May 2018. In the year that The Lowry turned 18, our festival of incredible, international work returned to challenge convention and celebrate the 'coming of age'.

In keeping with this theme, The Lowry commissioned and produced **'Toast'**, Henry Filloux-Bennett's stage adaptation of Nigel Slater's best-selling memoir, which was both critically acclaimed and loved by audiences. Following its world premiere at The Lowry and a sold-out run at as part of Traverse Festival 2018 at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, we are delighted that 'Toast' is to receive a London transfer, opening at The Other Palace in April 2019 before touring nationally in the autumn - including a return to The Lowry.

Also commissioned by The Lowry for Week 53 was **'Everything I See I Swallow'**, the debut show by Shasha & Taylor Productions, which fused theatre and aerial work with shibari, the erotic art of Japanese rope bondage to explore shifting attitudes to empowerment, feminism and sexuality across a generational divide. Having been exceptionally well-received at Week 53, the production went on to the 2019 Edinburgh Fringe Festival and will return to The Lowry as part of an autumn 2019 tour.

Tamsin Shasha and Maisy Taylor - 'Everything I See I Swallow'
A Week 53 Commission (Thu 24 - Sat 26 May 2018)



WEEK 53

THE FESTIVAL FOR
THE COMPULSIVELY CURIOUS



Not content with showcasing new, innovative work in our theatres and galleries, Week 53 also took over the whole of The Lowry building. Tom Dekyvere's stunning installation **'Nervous'** transformed the foyer into the physicalisation of the human nervous system through lights, electronics and ropes. Week 53 festival revellers experienced hidden parts of The Lowry in David Shearing's immersive late-night re-design of our backstage areas, which he called **'Enough of the Theatrics'**.

Tom Dekyvere - 'Nervous'
A Week 53 Commission (Thu 17 May - September 2018)

Week 53's international strand brought an eclectic mix of performance to the programme, from robots sharing the stage with children in a zero gravity dance of rhythm and fury to a searing new take on the most beloved of classical ballets.

From one of Ireland's foremost dance and theatre makers, Michael Keegan Dolan, and his new company Teac Damsa, came **'Swan Lake / Loch na hEala'**, a magical adaptation of one of the most famous of all story ballets, creating a world of magical realism, powerful imagery and potent storytelling where ancient Irish mythology and modern Ireland meet. The Dublin based band Slow Moving Clouds created a new score combining Nordic and Irish traditional music with minimalist and experimental influences.

In **'School of Moon'**, by Eric Ming Cuongh Castaing's company Shonen, children and a grown-up couple engaged in a zero-gravity slow moving dance on a luminous stage while small skeletal robots joined in. The performance featured young performers from Danceworks Ballet and Theatre School in Eccles and Christ The King RC Primary School, Walkden.

Week 53 also saw the English language premiere of **'Hikikomori'**, a play by Joris Mathieu about the 500,000 reclusive young Japanese adults who have withdrawn from social life. Audiences used headphones to experience the story through the eyes of one of the three main characters. The Haut et Court Collective's innovative and visually striking production reminded us that there are as many ways to understand our existence as there are ways to exist.

Italian artists fuse* brought their digital performance piece, **'Dökk'**, consisting of a projection on a holographic screen and a rear projection on the back of the stage. Real-time landscapes and 3D objects were then mapped on the two projective surfaces, enabling the audience to view both digital content and the emerging figure of a dancer, while the video and audio landscapes changed according to the analysed sentiments of trending tweets of that precise moment.

'School of Moon' and **'Hikikomori'** were supported by Institut Francais and **'Dökk'** was supported by the Italian Institute.

WEEK 53

THE FESTIVAL FOR
THE COMPULSIVELY CURIOUS



Week 53 brought Access All Areas theatre company's production, **'MADHOUSE re:exit'**, to Barton Arcade in Manchester city centre. There, inspired by a refusal to be silent and a history of being ignored, five learning disabled artists took audiences on a fantastical, immersive tour of a maze-like institution to express what it feels like to have a learning disability in today's world.

16 Young Carers and Looked After Children from our targeted Learning and Engagement projects took part in a professional production called **'Teentalitarianism'** as part of Week 53 with internationally renowned artists Mammalian Diving Reflex, in which they developed a performance that explored personal truths, discussed social taboos and challenged power relationships with the adults in their lives. The project culminated with a series of live performances, events and debates with the young people front and centre of discussions about the topics they wanted to highlight.

Michael Keegan Dolan & Teac Damsa
'Swan Lake/Loch na hEala' (Fri 18 & Sat 19 May)

Access All Areas - 'MadHouse re:exit'
(Thu 17 May - Sat 26 May 2018)

**WEEK
53**



CHANTAL JOFFE: PERSONAL FEELING IS THE MAIN THING

Chantal Joffe is regarded as one of the most distinctive figurative artists working today. Her uncompromising portraits of women and girls exploring relationships, life milestones and the human body positioned her perfectly within Week 53's theme of 'Coming of Age'.

Walking a line between bold aesthetics and tender emotion, the exhibition and the accompanying publication featured portraits of Chantal's daughter, her mother, friends and family as well as a number of self-portraits, which challenged notions of traditional portraiture and composition whilst offering a unique take on universal ideas around beauty and intimacy.

The exhibition's title was taken from the diaries of Paula Modersohn-Becker (1876 – 1907) who, like Joffe, created bold imagery of the bonds between mother and child. To reflect and explore the enduring influence of Modersohn-Becker on Joffe, the exhibition included a number of works by the German artist, who is recognised as the first Western woman artist to paint herself naked – a sense of boldness and confidence that was reflected throughout the exhibition.

EDIT.03: HOMEBIRD

Our Edit. series of experimental exhibitions gives creatives the space, time and resources to develop new work and test both themselves and us.

The third instalment of this series saw Manchester legend DJ Paulette take over one of our galleries by turning it into an immersive mood board of personal objects, film, music and poetry. Taking the form of a maze, this installation allowed visitors to step into Paulette's world and the influences that shaped her as a person and a performer.

Addressing race, sexuality, gender, art and music, DJ Paulette's installation provided a new lens through which to view the world and orientate our own lives, in the centre of which was music and its power - both personal and universal.



Visual Art

LOWRY & THE PRE-RAPHAELITES

The Lowry is committed to furthering public and academic understanding and appreciation of LS Lowry's art and ideas, and challenging perceptions of him as a regional, single-subject artist. Lowry and the Pre-Raphaelites provided us with an important opportunity to explore his wider cultural reference points and describe how his work could reflect the style and ambitions of other art movements.

'**Lowry and The Pre-Raphaelites**' (Sat 10 November 2018 - Sun 24 February 2019) was the first exhibition in over 40 years to explore LS Lowry's role as a collector of Pre-Raphaelite art. Loans from public and private collections across the country -

including from the V&A, Manchester Art Gallery, the National Trust and rarely seen private collections - told the story of how Lowry became fascinated by the work of the Pre-Raphaelites. Among them were works which Lowry knew and admired greatly in public collections, alongside some of the finest works in his own collection by Edward Burne-Jones and his two lifelong favourite artists - Ford Madox Brown and Dante Gabriel Rossetti.

Sponsored by Sotheby's, the exhibition attracted 32,500 visitors, including the busiest December in the Galleries for ten years.

LS LOWRY

The exhibition, **'LS Lowry RA: Salford's Royal Academician'**, (8 December 2018 – 3 March 2019) formed part of the programme of exhibitions and events across the country to mark the 250th anniversary of the Royal Academy. Although famously sceptical about official honours, turning down offers of an OBE, CBE and a Knighthood, Lowry was proud to be part of the Royal Academy, to which he was elected to full membership in 1962.

On display were all six paintings by Lowry now in the Royal Academy's collection (including his Diploma work, *Station Approach*, presented by the artist on his election) alongside archival material and images of the 1976 retrospective held at the Academy after Lowry's death. The exhibition also enabled The Lowry to collaborate with Salford Museum & Art Gallery on our respective RA250-related exhibitions, raising awareness of the anniversary and Lowry's connection to it across Salford.

The Lowry loaned *The Funeral Party* 1953 and *Peel Park, Salford* 1927 to Salford Museum & Art Gallery's 'Royal Academy Takeover: The Exhibition'. Also loaned out in 2018 were *Self Portrait* 1925 and *Head of a Man* 1938 to Rugby Art Gallery and Museum's 'About Face' exhibition, which examined artists' self-portraits from Rugby's own collection of modern British art alongside key loans from institutions including The Lowry and the National Portrait Gallery.

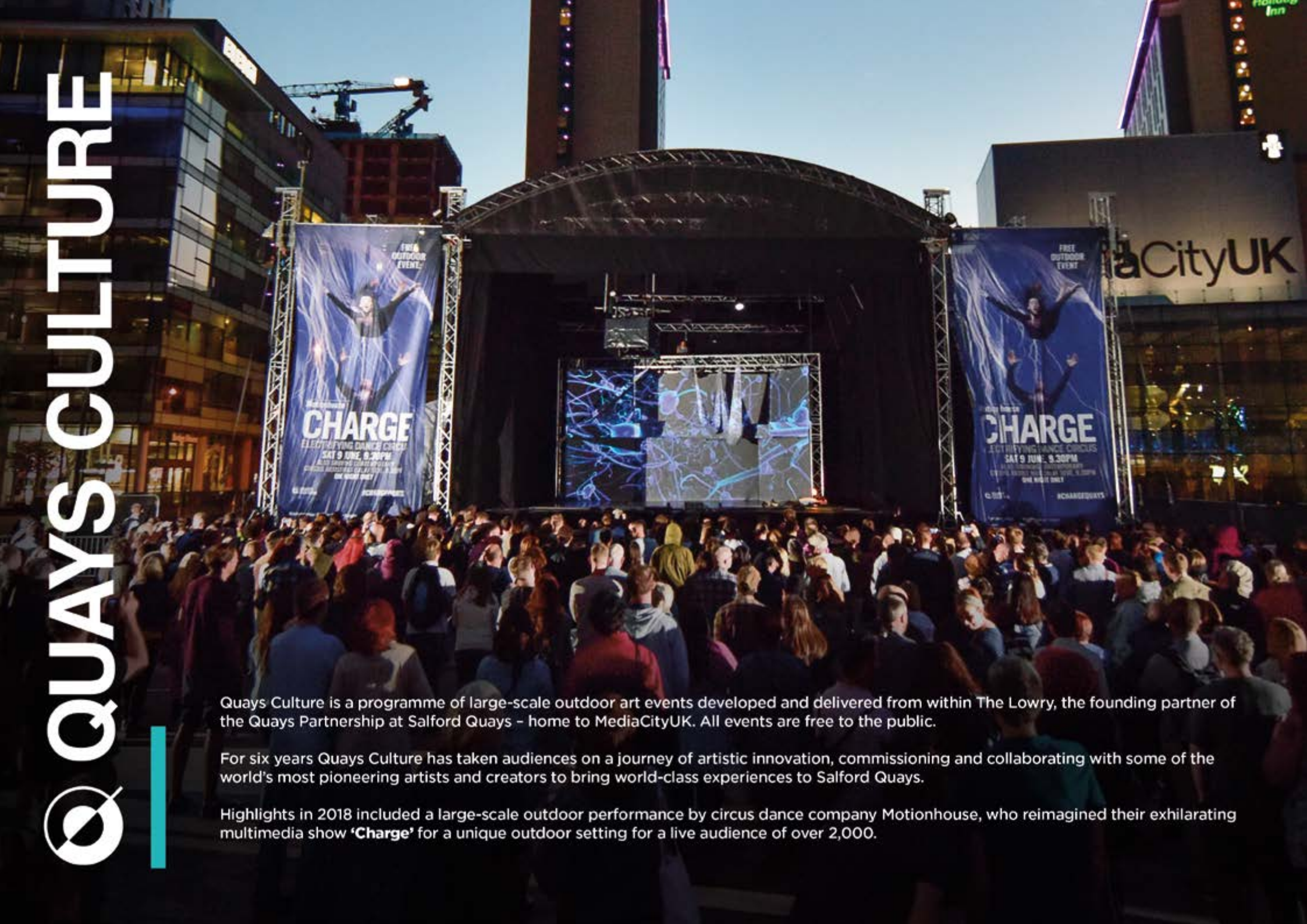
A bequest of three works was received in 2018 from the estate of Arnold Monk: *Hartshead Pike, Ashton* 1931 and two further drawings of animals.

Portrait of Ann 1957 in The Lowry Collection



Visual Art

LS LOWRY 1957



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 six years Quays Culture has taken audiences on a journey of artistic innovation, commissioning and collaborating with some of the world's most pioneering artists and creators to bring world-class experiences to Salford Quays.

Highlights in 2018 included a large-scale outdoor performance by circus dance company Motionhouse, who reimagined their exhilarating multimedia show '**Charge**' for a unique outdoor setting for a live audience of over 2,000.

LIGHTWAVES

Each winter, Quays Culture presents Lightwaves, a 10-day interactive light festival featuring digital art installations across Salford Quays. Highlights from 2018 included two large-scale new commissions that engaged visitors of all ages in playful interactions - **'Hooded Youth'** from internationally recognised and renowned London-based artist Stanza, and **'SPECTRUM'** from Montreal based collaborative HUB, a co-commission and part of an exciting international collaboration with Montreal's Quartier des Spectacles.

Over the course of 10 days 380,000 people visited Lightwaves. Over half of the attendees that were surveyed said that they did not regularly attend arts events.



Digital Art

Our digital art programme continues to present leading talent in performance and visual art with a rich programme of experimenters leading in their field. We were excited to welcome the internationally acclaimed composer and turntablist **Shiva Feshareki**, fresh from her success at BBC Proms, to perform her experimental compositions live on stage at The Lowry. Fusing sonic sampling, contemporary club, dance and classical, her solo turntable performance with visuals created deeply experimental sonic manipulations.

As part of our Pay What You Decide programme, Welsh artist **Petwo Evans** presented a constantly evolving audio visual performance made in collaboration with digital video artists Louis Mustill and Will Young. Together the artists create audio recordings using found objects (tumble dryer, water bottle, broken piano and stone) that are looped into rhythms, then processed and combined with electronic machines and digital turntable techniques to create music that reflects the Welsh landscape.

Established local talent featured in **'DRIFT'** - a collaboration between Test Card, VAM and Meraki Collective, formed to support and showcase artists creating work that combines art with music, technology and performance. The audience was treated to a wide range of performance and visual art collaborations in electronic music, generative digital visuals, improvised dance and spoken word, which celebrated Manchester's legendary forward looking underground arts scene.



Shiva Feshareki (Sun 24 March 2019)

TARGETED ENGAGEMENT

Every year The Lowry works with groups of some of the most vulnerable young people across Salford, who all face multiple challenges. It is fundamental to our mission to walk side by side with, provide a platform for, and amplify the voice of young people through Arts and Culture.

Looked After Children created a team of community journalists, devised and performed in a piece of live theatre entitled **'Lost & Found'** and created a visual arts display called **'Thread'** which was displayed in The Lowry's professional galleries as part of our Edit series of exhibitions.

Young Carers co-devised a piece of physical theatre with professional arts practitioners The Knotted Project called **'Time to Bloom'**, a response to the real-life situations that many of the participants face. They also developed an outreach programme to be delivered in primary schools to raise awareness of young carers.

Thanks to the generosity of our visitors and supporters, our 2018 Christmas Appeal raised £30,500 towards a new project working with young parents and their families in Salford. This story-telling and creative play-based project will support young parents and their children to fall in love with storytelling, music and visual arts, improving their confidence and encouraging positive relationships.

2018 saw the implementation of the project working with young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Greater Manchester that was funded by our 2017 Christmas Appeal. **'Put Big Light On'**, a travelling installation that will engage young people in their local area in arts activity as well as providing vital support, signposting and resources, will launch in May 2019.

Highly Commended – Children & Young People Young Carers Award 2018 (Who Cares Tour)

Winners – Diana Award 2018 (Young Carers)

Finalist – North West Cultural Education Awards Arts & Education Partnership Award 2018 (with Aldridge Academies, Who Cares Tour)



Learning & Engagement

Learning & Engagement



Small informational text block next to the painting.

The Lowry's **Youth Employability & Skills (YES) Programme** uses the dynamic and creative environment of The Lowry to inspire young people who are NEET (not in education, employment or training) to get back into education or employment. This year we have engaged 1,238 young people through the project, with a total of 3,795 participating over the last three years. 100% of participants on long-term placements this year successfully returned to education or progressed onto further training or employment after taking part in the programme.

'One of the things I do notice when we introduce young people to the YES Project, I notice when they are walking out their heads are up, their shoulders are back. Because they have kind of been interviewed and the YES Project have said, you are worth something to us.'

Nicky Hill, Pastoral Manager, Designated Safeguarding Lead - UTC

'I feel about my future very positive, I've really enjoyed it here because I have met wonderful people at The Lowry and I feel very welcome here. Because it's my lifetime opportunity of experience and how to cope with real life situations.'

Derai O'Brien, Former YES participant/Current Lowry Hospitality staff member

The project offers real work-based placements with an element of creative learning embedded, for example, using acting skills to learn and improve interview techniques. Each participant has the opportunity to gain qualifications at the end of their placement, such as an NVQ or Arts Award. Our person-centred approach to training, mentoring and pastoral care was recognised when the YES Programme won the Youth Work Award at the Children & Young People Now Awards in November 2018.

CREATIVE LEARNING (SCHOOLS)

This year we have worked with 12,878 pupils from schools as close as Ordsall to as far as Frankfurt. 586 hours of delivery have taken place at The Lowry via our creative learning programme and 295 sessions in schools.

In addition, 25 outreach sessions with a total of 750 children were delivered to schools across the region. For most of the schools this has been their first engagement with The Lowry. Our schools outreach scheme, supported by Noel and Alison Copley and our Lowry School Appeal of March 2018, took arts workshops led by a professional artist and based on the work of LS Lowry to 716 pupils in ten primary schools across Salford which would otherwise not be able to afford the opportunity to participate in high quality workshops with professional artists. Each school was supported to roll out the workshop techniques to other classes and receive art materials for their pupils, and all participating pupils submitted an entry to The Copley Prize competition.

In November The Lowry worked in partnership with the National Theatre and high schools in Salford, Rochdale, Stockport and Wigan to receive a touring production of **'The Curious Incident of a Dog in the Night Time'**, watched by a total of over 3,000 young people.

We continue to work in partnership with North West Drama Services and their delivery of The Children's Shakespeare Festival with primary schools. The scheme works towards a final performance by the children in the Quays Theatre, in which over 350 children take part each year.

CREATIVE COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

Throughout the year The Lowry offers a wide range of art courses and workshops, including Dance for Under 5s, Musical Theatre for Young People and Visual Arts for Adults. This year we have engaged 1,093 adults, 49 young people aged 11-17 and 1,551 families and under 5's through 248 sessions.



Learning & Engagement

Learning & Engagement



TALENT DEVELOPMENT (DANCE)

The Centre for Advanced Training in Dance (CAT) is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. During that time it has trained 245 individual students, many of whom have gone on to further training in dance and to join high profile professional dance companies and are now coming back home as young professionals – for example, six dancers who have come through the CAT will appear in 'Romeo and Juliet' on the Lyric stage this summer as part of Matthew Bourne's New Adventures company.

Isaac Bowry was a member of the CAT's second cohort, from 2010-2012. A full grant holder from Wythenshawe, Isaac dreamed of following a classical ballet route, a route rarely followed by many students but his determination and passion saw him through. He progressed from the CAT to study at Ballet West and Elmhurst Ballet School and then to perform with ballet & contemporary dance companies. Most notably, Isaac was the first Lowry CAT student to perform in a large-scale dance company and we had the added joy of welcoming him back to The Lowry in November, performing in Matthew Bourne's 'Swan Lake', a dream role for Isaac.

"I came from a background where, what I'm achieving now I didn't think was possible yet here I am, in one of the UK's major companies, performing on the Lyric Stage and able to represent CAT. I will always be thankful for my training and all the support." – Isaac Bowry

U.Dance North West, the Regional Youth Dance Festival, saw 26 groups from across the region selected by a panel of artists and young people performing on our Quays Theatre stage. Our U.Dance programme provides performance opportunities across the country, at local, county, regional and national levels, offering access to dance for children and young people in and outside of schools.

TALENT DEVELOPMENT (THEATRE)

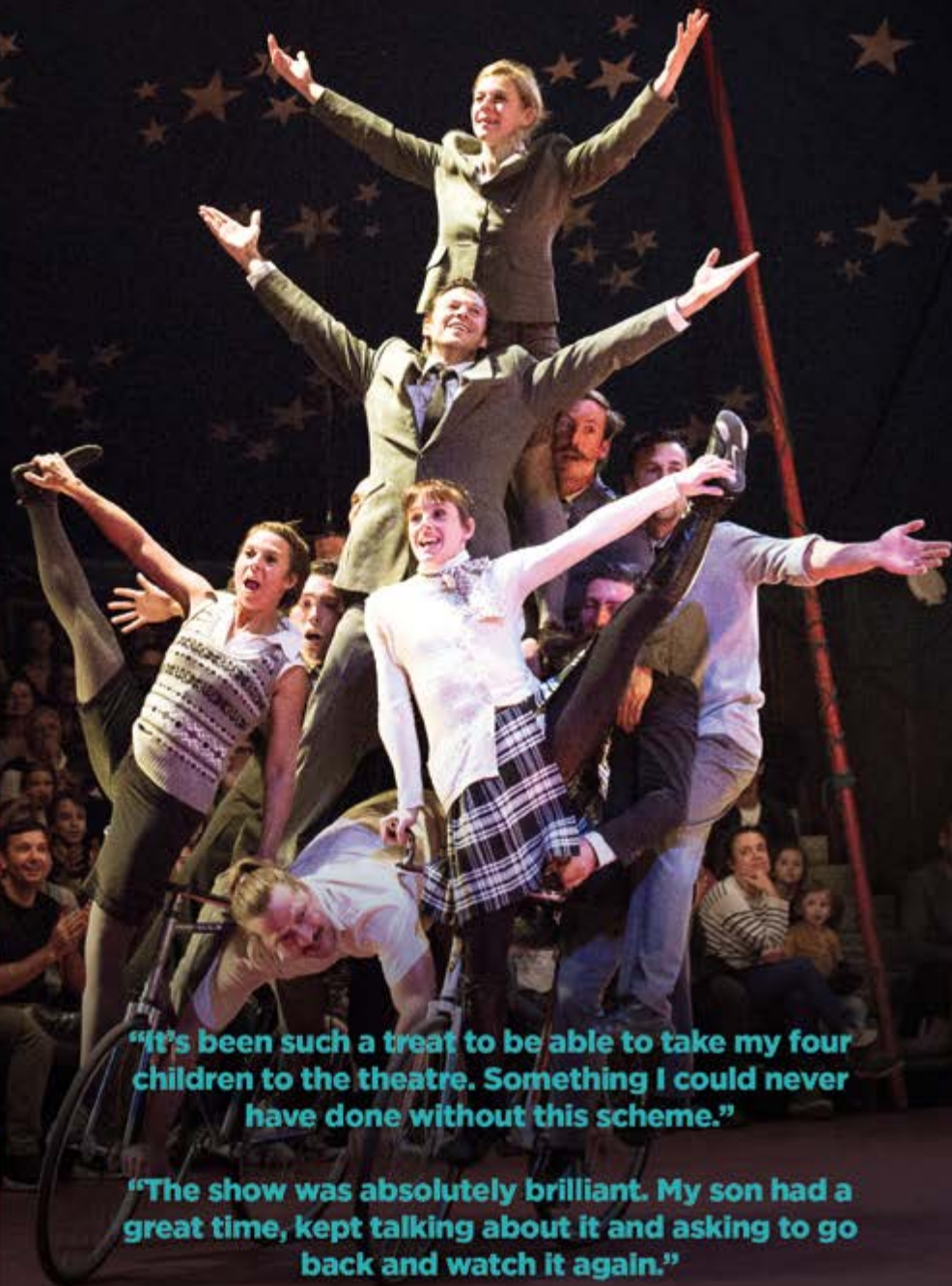
National Theatre Connections is one of the UK's largest celebrations of youth theatre. Plays are commissioned for and about young people from some of the best contemporary playwrights, and performed by schools and youth theatres all over the UK and Ireland. Young people have the opportunity to get involved in all aspects of creating and staging the play both on and offstage, from set design to costume, lighting and stage management. The Lowry's Connections Young Company presented **'Ageless'**, a new play commissioned for NT Connections 2019.

In Summer 2018 we launched **Young Theatre Makers**, a new youth arts pathway at The Lowry, where bold, brave and creative young artists come together to form new contemporary theatre-making ensembles to make innovative, unusual and risk-taking theatre which turns traditional youth theatre practice on its head. Young Theatre Makers is designed to inspire, develop and support a diverse company of young people aged 13-19 each year to produce ambitious new site-specific work motivated by our unique artistic programme. Working closely alongside our existing Artist Development and Learning & Engagement programmes and The Lowry's Programming Team, the company is a new, free provision and provides a bridge into industry for young artists. The first cohort of 20 participants have worked with Dante or Die to create a new site-specific performance shared in an off-site location in May 2019.



Learning & Engagement

Audience Engagement



"It's been such a treat to be able to take my four children to the theatre. Something I could never have done without this scheme."

"The show was absolutely brilliant. My son had a great time, kept talking about it and asking to go back and watch it again."

- Feedback from Our First Lowry participants

Engaging new audiences and deepening relationships with our existing audiences remains very important to The Lowry, and we continue to look for ways to break down barriers – whether social, financial or practical – people may have to visiting The Lowry and accessing what we have to offer.

Continuing our commitment to **accessibility**, in early 2019 we launched our access register, which for the first time allows people with additional access requirements to book tickets online if they prefer, as well as enabling us to tailor communications more appropriately.

We offered a diverse programme of accessible performances throughout the year, with 879 people attending one of these events, including the first relaxed performance of **'War Horse'** in the north of England and our first BSL signed stand-up comedy show with Lost Voice Guy. We also hosted **'Sensory Circus'**, a show for children and young people with ASD and PMLD, and commenced our programme of dementia friendly theatre performances.

Membership of our **Under 26** scheme has grown to over 5,000, with 1,500 tickets issued over the year to members of the scheme. We also launched an Under 26 Ambassadors programme, offering two young people paid employment working on the running and future development of the scheme.

Over 20,000 discounted tickets were sold to Salford residents via the **Our Lowry** scheme. Recruitment activity for the scheme was focussed on five Salford postcodes which to date have had the lowest levels of engagement with The Lowry and with the arts more broadly.

133 Salford families participated in **Our First Lowry** and were offered free or heavily discounted tickets for three theatre experiences. None of these families had ever been to a children's show before and we had some great feedback. Around 10% of families who participated in the scheme booked another show within 12 months.

Additionally, 128 people enjoyed a theatre performance as part of **The Booths Charities Family Scheme**, which makes free tickets and supported visits available for families with children with disabilities.

Circa Tsuica - 'Now or Never' (Thu 30 August - Sat 1 September 2018)

Through our continuing collaboration with Paines Plough, **Roundabout 2018** visited Ordsall, Salford, an area of historically very low engagement, despite being geographically close to The Lowry. Over 4 days in September, 1,500 people engaged with a play, comedy show, family show or community event at Roundabout, our highest ever attendance. 42% of audiences were first-time engagers with The Lowry, and by forming a community steering group in the run-up to Roundabout huge strides were made in starting what we hope will be a long-term relationship with the area.

Also engaging people beyond The Lowry building were two off-site performances. **'The Political History of Smack and Crack'** was performed at Mustard Tree in Ancoats, Manchester, as part of the With One Voice International Arts and Homelessness Summit & Festival in November 2018 and **'Cinderella: A Wicked Mother of a Night Out'**, an outrageous show inspired by the traditional British panto, came to The Welcome Inn in Ordsall, Salford, in December.

Our annual **Open Day** in August saw over 8,000 people enjoy a fantastic programme of circus performances featuring the D & F Brothers Grand Indian Circus in The Lowry Plaza, backstage and galleries tours and workshops in lighting, sound, dance, painting and drawing, puppet making, comic book creating and stand-up comedy – and cocktails and cupcakes – all supported by our friends at Birmingham Royal Ballet, Matthew Bourne's New Adventures and Rambert.

Paines Plough - 'How to Spot an Alien' (Thu 6 - Sun 9 September 2018)

Audience Engagement



In Numbers

874

Performances

17

World premieres

48

Accessible performances

27

Post-show talks

534

Jobs supported by The Lowry

514,676

Theatre attendees

11

Relaxed performances

18,067

Young people engaged

23,847

Volunteer hours worked

846,694

total visitors

We ran our own ticketing agency, Quaytickets...

551,147

Tickets for events at The Lowry sold to the value of £10.3M

THE LOWRY

34,437

Car park tickets sold

63,066

Calls answered

5,485

Catering options sold

6,934

People donated

1.7M

Unique website visitors

£4.6M

Worth of media coverage AVE (Advertising Value Equivalent)

1,144

YouTube subscribers

11,800

Instagram followers

72,880

Twitter followers

50,960

Facebook followers

THE LOWRY



3,313 Christmas Party Guests
272 Conferences, Meetings and Events

We hosted events...

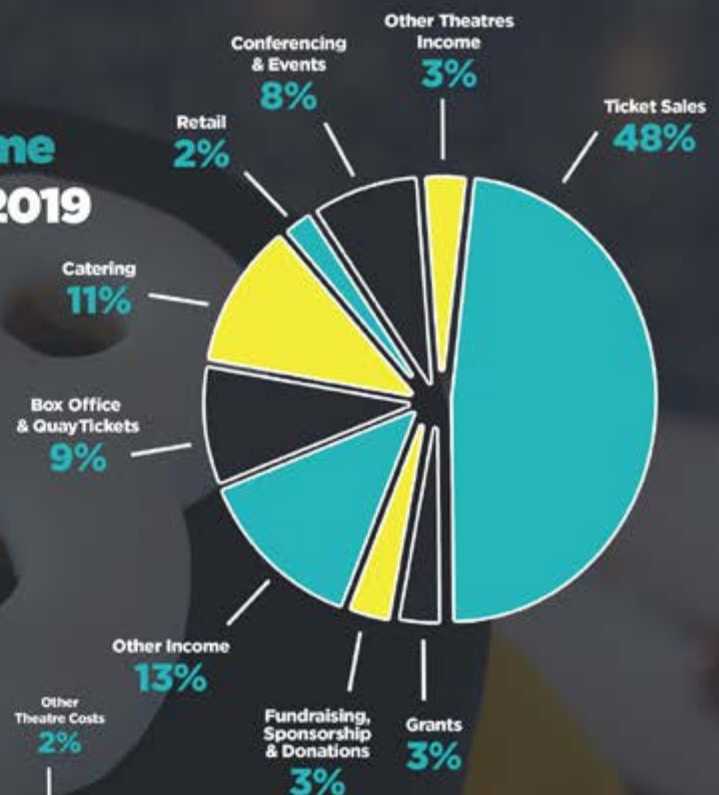
51 Weddings and Special Events
£46,325 Income raised from Fundraising Galas

Audiences enjoyed...

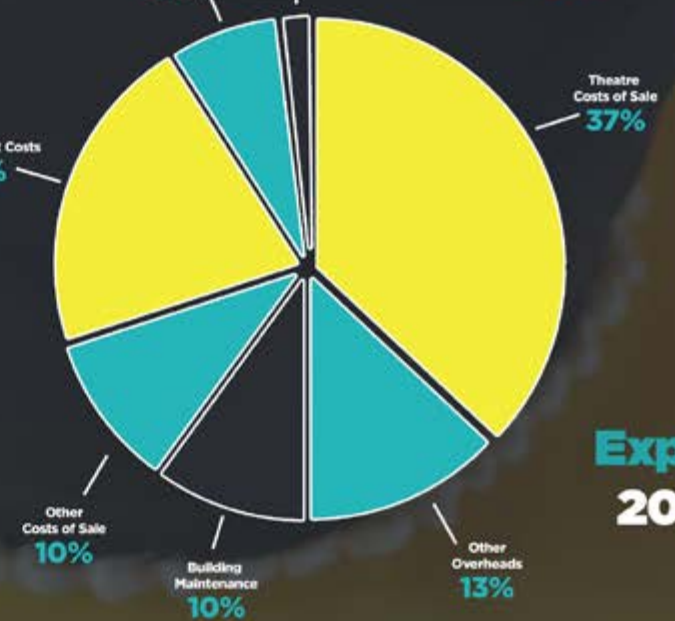
22,004 Restaurant Covers	24,595 Gin and Tonics
111,994 Teas and Coffees	22,004 Ice Creams

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.

Income 2018/2019



Expenditure 2018/2019



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS

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Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake (Tue 20 November - Sat 1 December 2018)



Salford City Council



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

Front: 'SIX'
(Tue 4 November- Sun 16 December 2018)

Back: 'The Exploded Circus'
(Sat 16 & Sun 17 June 2018)