



**THE LOWRY**



# **ANNUAL REVIEW**

**2022-23**



This year has felt like a real return for The Lowry, as we saw our audiences and visitors flocking back to our building, clearly embracing the opportunities to come together and experience culture together, at long last. It has been a year of formidable partnerships, exciting commissions and new audiences for

old favourites. We were delighted to be awarded National Portfolio Organisation status by Arts Council England, as part of their 2023-26 Investment Programme and this ongoing recognition and support of our work is not only a real source of pride for us, but also key in enabling us to deliver our ambitious plans over the next three years.

I couldn't write this without highlighting the triumphant 'coming home' of L.S. Lowry's iconic masterpiece painting 'Going to the Match'. It was so important to us, and to the City of Salford, that an artwork which speaks so directly to the people of the North was brought permanently back to where it belongs, to be enjoyed by generations for years to come. This would not have been possible without the generosity of The Law Family Charitable Foundation, to whom we are extremely grateful. Celebrating this fantastic occasion in our Compass Room with representatives of communities across Salford, along with Badly Drawn Boy and The Lightning Seeds was arguably one of the most joyous moments of the year, and a touching reminder to acknowledge and reflect upon the artist who gave us our name. We are now working with other galleries across the North to ensure that the painting can be enjoyed by the largest possible audiences and communities - so watch this space!

Continuing in this vein, community outreach and taking our programme beyond The Lowry has played a major part in our work over the last 12 months. Our Show Selectors and Galleries Steering Group, supported by our Community Collaborators has seen us break down barriers to engagement, commission bespoke performance work, introduce new audiences to art and culture, and adapt our own practices in response to what communities want and need from us.

It has been a year of exciting new projects and commissions, not least the new Creative Writing Challenge for schoolchildren across the region and our co-production with Rambert Dance, Peaky Blinders: The Redemption of Thomas Shelby.

We hope that you will enjoy looking through this year's review, which is once again a testament to the dedication, hard work, passion and talent of everyone at The Lowry who plays their part in our success. We couldn't do it without our Trustees, staff, supporters, volunteers and freelancers.

With much more to come, we look forward to seeing you in the year ahead.

*Julia Fawcett.*

**Julia Fawcett OBE**  
Chief Executive



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# THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

**31,903**

Ice-creams sold

**785**

5\* reviews for  
Pier Eight Restaurant

**16**

new artistic  
commissions

**34**

Weddings and  
special occasion  
events delivered

**7**

We introduced an  
LS Lowry branded beer,  
in conjunction with  
Seven Brothers

**662**

hours of rehearsal space  
provided for R&D

**348**

companies and artists  
engaged through  
Artist Development

**4,450**

workshops for Children and  
Young People delivered

**19,000**

Children, Young People and  
Families engaged in creative  
workshops and projects

**859,333**

Total visitors

**88,000**

Hot beverages  
served

**26,671**

Lowry visitors and  
16,814 Bolton Art Gallery  
visitors to see LS Lowry's  
'Going to the Match'

**535**

free creative activities  
for families delivered

**4**

We introduced an LS  
Lowry branded gin, in  
conjunction with  
Four Sisters

# PERFORMING ARTS



**This was the year audiences truly reignited their relationship with live theatre. From October through to March we have seen sell-out performances every week right across our programme from contemporary to commercial and everything in between.**

## CONTEMPORARY AND COMMISSIONING

Through our commitment to commissioning, we were able to support the creation of new performances and ensure that the very best and most exciting artists and companies come to Salford and the North West (and then beyond!). We commissioned 12 pieces of Dance, Contemporary Circus, New Musical Theatre, Digital and Artist Development - 12 works that may never have been seen if it wasn't for The Lowry's involvement. Highlights included Avant Garde's SCRUM, Dante or Die's Odds On and Humanhood's Infnit. The year finished off in style with the new musical Cake: The Marie Antoinette Playlist and the incredible Peaky Blinders: The Redemption of Thomas Shelby with partner company Rambert.

Audiences responded warmly to returning works and companies, and artists from diverse backgrounds featured prominently. Melissa John's Snatched, Patricia Gets Ready, Out/Stage/Us, Quiet Rebels, Ballet Black, Bombay Superstar, Noughts & Crosses, The Color Purple, Frozen Light's Fire Songs were all especially popular with new and existing audiences.

Our international Circus programme reached far and wide, welcoming Kundle Cru from the Netherlands, Overhead Project from Germany and Matera from Italy, and we were very proud to co-commission and present the premiere of Emerging from Scarabeus Aerial Theatre in October. The deeply powerful piece explores the relationship between transgender son Naissa and his mother Daniela, as they journey together through a complex life changing process.

We have championed some of the most exciting new talent in musical theatre, proving hugely popular with our audiences. The Good Enough Mum's Club and Fat Rascal's Unfortunate: The Untold Story of Ursula the Sea Witch were smash hits and will be returning to delight audiences again in the year ahead, whilst Bombay Superstar, a dazzling celebration of the Bollywood disco era, premiered at The Lowry in November. In October we presented Mallory on the Mountain and The Night Our Parents Disappeared as part of Rewrites, the return of our new Musical Theatre festival.

It has been an exceptional year for contemporary theatre. ThickSkin's Blood Harmony, supported by The Lowry went on to run at the Traverse Theatre as part of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Theatre Re's celebrated Nature of Forgetting presented a life-affirming exploration of living with dementia, and as part of Black History Month, Vital Xposure's Quiet Rebels told the forgotten stories of white working class women who married men of the Windrush Generation. Thunder Road's Shock Horror and Crowded Room's Edith were sell-outs in our Studio.

Classic titles have been given a fresh interpretation for new generations, with Frantic Assembly's Othello (pictured), Pilot's Noughts and Crosses and Imitating The Dog's inventive neon noir thriller, Macbeth.



**Top:** Noughts & Crosses  
**Bottom:** The Color Purple  
**Opposite:** Emerging by Scarabeus Aerial Theatre



# PARTNERSHIPS

Our partnerships have allowed us to present exciting, innovative work to our audiences in the North West. For example, our Lyric Theatre show over the festive period was National Theatre's *Ocean at the End of the Lane*, the UK touring premiere of the adaptation of Neil Gaiman's fantasy novel. Audiences responded powerfully to this ambitious and challenging piece, and we are delighted that it will be returning later in the year. We are also one of the National Theatre's Theatre Nation Partners, working together to bring quality performances and more opportunities to engage with culture to targeted audiences, young people and community groups in priority areas across Greater Manchester.



In November, Opera North brought us a fabulous new adaptation of *Tosca* and an innovative new staging of *Orpheus*; passages of the work were rescored and arranged for Indian classical instruments including the sitar, tabla and tar shehnaï, in addition to European baroque instruments such as harpsichord, theorbo and lirone. We worked closely with key community groups to introduce new audiences to their first experience of opera.

Popular literary titles once again proved popular, with Wise Children's dynamic and brooding *Wuthering Heights*, along with Leicester Curve and Birmingham Hippodrome's award-winning musical *The Color Purple* which visited Salford on its first UK-wide tour.



In dance, Birmingham Royal Ballet returned with their enduringly popular *Swan Lake*, and Matthew Bourne's *New Adventures* thrilled audiences once again with gothic romance *Sleeping Beauty*.



## DANCE

Beyond our partnerships, it was another excellent year for dance. We were very proud to commission and present new works; Humanhood's Infinite and Aakash Odedra's Samsara, and in June we partnered with Far From The Norm to co-produce Botis Seva's new work Mama, a piece exploring what race and culture mean in today's world. Audiences were delighted to welcome back popular and established companies including Candoco and Ballet Black, and Royal Ballet Emerging Choreographer Joseph Toonga with Born to Exist, presenting personal experiences and stories from its all-female cast.

We ended the year on a spectacular high, as our co-commission with Rambert Dance brought the murky underworld of turn-of-the-century Birmingham to our stage with Peaky Blinders: The Redemption of Thomas Shelby. The production wowed dance and Peaky Blinders fans alike and was a wonderful celebration of our partnership.



## POPULIST

As always, our populist programme has brought together some of the biggest names and titles to entertain our Salford audiences. We began the year with the triumphant – and very long-awaited – Les Miserables, which, after a two-year wait played to a packed house night after night.

A very high bar being set, shows including SIX, Identical, Claus and Girl From the North Country featuring the songs of Bob Dylan continued to draw in lovers of musicals and storytelling alike.

Derren Brown intrigued audiences with his breathtaking Showman, and Gary Barlow shared his life story through an intimate performance of A Different Stage in our Quays Theatre, before returning to a sell-out audience in The Lyric. It was a privilege for our Studio to be chosen by Peter Kay as the venue for his warm-up performances, experimenting and sharing brand new material for our audiences before announcing his record-breaking arena tours. We ended the year looking forward to welcome acting royalty, as Sir Ian McKellen forms an unlikely pairing with John Bishop to delight audiences with Mother Goose, a pantomime for Easter.





# VISUAL ARTS

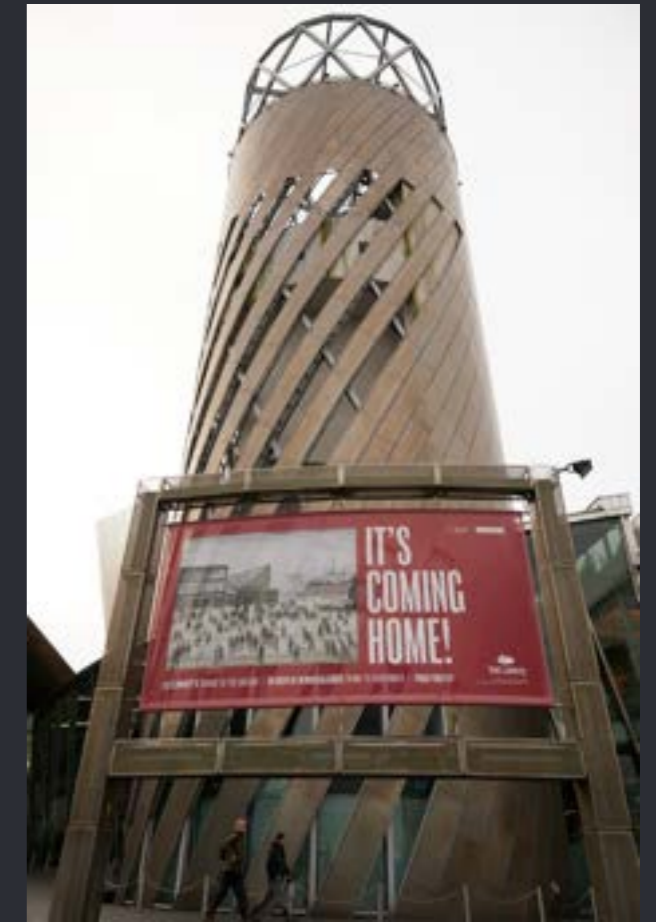
The acquisition of LS Lowry's **Going to the Match** was a landmark moment in the history of The Lowry and demonstrated our commitment to the artist, and to the City of Salford. Alongside this major coup were a series of important contemporary and family exhibitions embracing diverse audiences.



# LS LOWRY & GOING TO THE MATCH

**What a year it was for our galleries!** Going to the Match, LS Lowry's masterpiece and much-loved painting, showing crowds flocking to Bolton Wanderers' old ground Burnden Park in 1953, was triumphantly bought by The Lowry at Christie's auction house in London on 19 October 2022. This remarkable purchase was made possible because of the enormous generosity and support of Andrew and Zoë Law, and the subsequent gift we received from the Law Family Charitable Foundation. It followed an extended public campaign by The Lowry, and supported by Salford's City Mayor Paul Dennett, to keep the painting on public display for anyone to be able to see. Now, thanks to Andrew and Zoë, Going to the Match will be on public display forever.

Since its exciting return to Salford, the painting has already been on a number of trips. Firstly, our Chief Executive Julia was invited to take the painting to Bolton Town Hall for a rather special visit from King Charles and Queen Camilla. It was then lent to Bolton Museum and Art Gallery who proudly displayed it for four months as a highlight of their exhibition about LS Lowry and the history of Bolton Wanderers FC. Although it is back at home at The Lowry again now, we will be taking it back out across the North of England in early 2024 to continue to enable as many people as possible to experience it, starting in Oldham and Blackpool.



# EDITS

**Edits gives artists and performers a unique opportunity to push boundaries, develop ideas and explore their creativity.**

## JULIAN GRAY: STORIES FOR US

19 March – 2 May 2022

Stories For Us was an exhibition centred on work by Manchester-based illustrator Julian Gray. As a queer, trans, disabled and mixed-race artist, Julian champions authentic representations of marginalised populations in comics and graphic novels. At the heart of the exhibition was an opportunity for visitors to engage with the process of comic making through drawing and writing. Visitors were invited to display their finished creations in the gallery space, contributing to an evolving, collective response to Stories For Us.



## BARROWLAND BALLET: FAMILY PORTRAIT

28 May – 26 June 2022

An interactive video installation titled Family Portrait formed the heart of this exhibition. This four-screen film brought striking cinematography together with choreography, capturing Artistic Director Natasha Gilmore and her three children in an intimate portrayal of family life. The work took viewers on a geographical and emotional journey, providing an in-depth insight into motherhood and childhood. It explored perceptions of family, sharing an honest depiction of what family really is – relentlessness, responsibility, joy, balance, intimacy and love. Visitors had the opportunity to create their own Family Portrait. Drawing inspiration from the film, they were invited to use the gallery space and props provided, to explore movement and play, and contribute their photo to a growing collection of portraits which were displayed in the gallery.



## VENTURE ARTS: NARRATIVES

19 January – 26 February

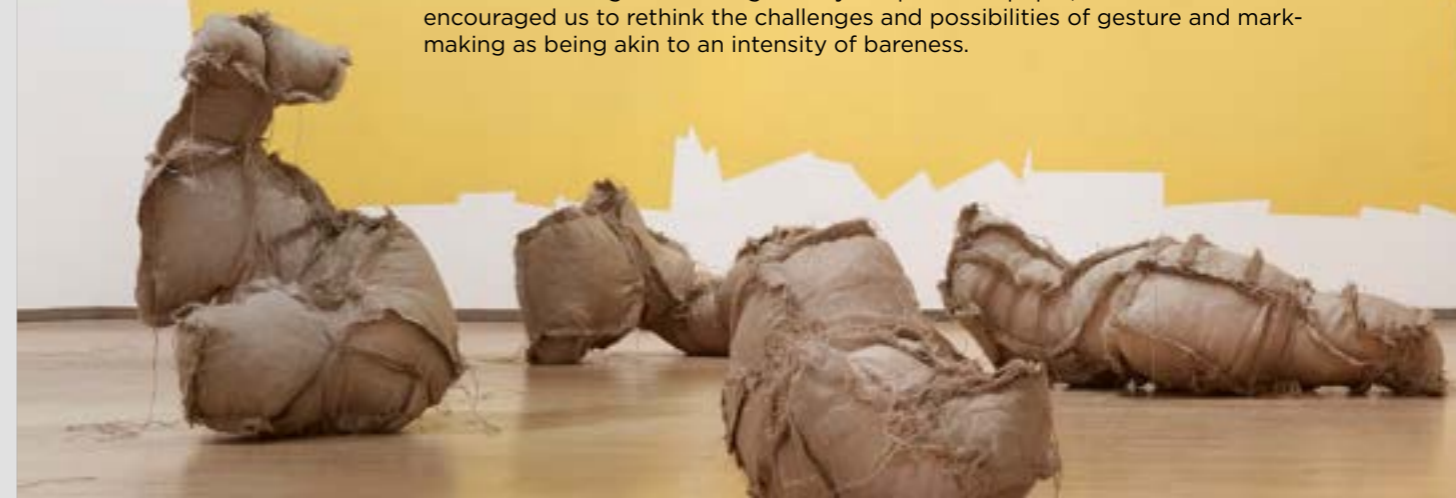
This multifaceted exhibition presented a vibrant fusion of drawing, film, performance, sound, and installation. NARRATIVES was the third cycle of the pioneering 'Conversations Series' by Venture Arts, an organisation working with learning disabled and neurodiverse artists. Their programme of four artistic projects and residencies was first established in 2016, creating new work in a shared exchange of art and ideas. Bringing together learning-disabled and non-learning disabled artists supported reciprocal learning and new creative collaborations. Through this, it is hoped that open conversations and new dialogues about the role of art in contemporary society will be generated.



## GREIG BURGOPYNE: THE ONE WHO WAS STANDING APART FROM ME

11 March – 16 April

This exhibition of newly commissioned work by Scottish artist Greig Burgoyne was complemented and informed by several works on paper selected by the artist from the LS Lowry Collection. Burgoyne spent several visits over a period of six months exploring the collection, as well as the galleries themselves. His focus was not on what we see, but what was absent and sensed. Based on self-imposed rules and processes, his work embraces seemingly contradictory ideas, such as using drawing to visualise the invisible. In this exhibition, these absences were explored through a series of videos and performances, as well as floor and wall-based works. Central to the exhibition was the performative nature of drawing itself. Going far beyond pencil on paper, this show encouraged us to rethink the challenges and possibilities of gesture and mark-making as being akin to an intensity of bareness.



## SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

# PICTURE THIS

23 July – 30 October 2022

Picture This saw thousands of visitors flock to The Lowry to enjoy a vibrant, family-focussed exhibition that combined literature with theatre. Picture This featured six popular children's books that have a strong visual identity on the page and have also been vividly brought to life on stage. Each section of the free family exhibition included illustrations and artwork from the books – which range from much-loved modern works to iconic classics. Alongside were filmed extracts from stage productions, with a variety of props, costumes, designs and posters. Throughout there were interactive opportunities for visitors to draw, write, perform, read and play and even devise their own production ideas. At the heart of the exhibition was a stage, featuring story-telling, performance, music-making and artist-led workshops.

### The six books featured in Picture This were:

- Room on the Broom by Julia Donaldson; illustrated by Axel Scheffler.
- Coming to England by Floella Benjamin; illustrated by Diane Ewen.
- Wild written and illustrated by Emily Hughes.
- The Little Prince written and illustrated by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry.
- Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll; illustrated by Chris Riddell.
- You Choose by Nick Sharratt and Pippa Goodhart.



"Begin"



# ARTIST DEVELOPMENT

It is still a tough time for our sector, and artists have always been at the heart of what we do. We feel passionately that we need to support independent artists, empowering them with the tools to establish themselves, become robust and future-proof. It was another exciting year across our Developed With and Associate Artist programmes, and our expanding Artist Network scheme. For the first time, we collaborated with Galleries to bring visual arts into our artist development programme.

# DEVELOPED WITH

**Our 2022-2024 cohort of early-mid career artists will spend 18 months with us developing new work and receiving bespoke support focusing on their professional development. We hope their talent and work will be seen by as many people as possible.**

## 2022-2024 COHORT



### BOBAK CHAMPION

British-Iranian dance artist, utilising hip-hop dance styles, storytelling and humour to directly tackle the often-negative stereo type of the middle east and Islam shown in the media.



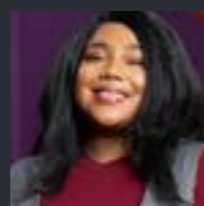
### ALICE CHRISTINA-CORRIGAN:

A visually impaired & neurodivergent actor, theatre maker and creative captioner based in Manchester.



### TANIA CAMARA

Solo performance artist based in Manchester, currently working in different mediums - devised theatre, dance, live art, video, voice-work and music.



### LAUREN YVONNE TOWNSEND:

After producing for a number of artists and organisations, Lauren is now ready to tell her own stories and focus on developing her own creative vision as a writer, producer and director of short film and theatre projects with collaborators across the North.



### NIKTA MOHAMMADI:

We are delighted to be supporting our first visual/media artist through Developed With as part of a special collaboration with our Galleries team. Nikta Mohammadi is an

Iranian artist and producer based in West Yorkshire, working across moving image, performance, sound and text. Nikta is developing a new exhibition called Memory Stone; an installation exploring ideas of speculative memory and history, using British countryside as its setting and starting point. Transforming the gallery space through highly composed and performative video work and a visceral soundscape, audiences will be immersed in an alternate version of the Northern landscape.



### EDY HURST

Edy is an award-winning musical comedian seen on MTV UK, heard on BBC Radio 4 and Radio 4 Extra. After starting comedy in 2013, Edy performs his unique brand of immediately charming and absurdist comedy across the country. Dazzling audiences with his quick wit and sharp songwriting, he's fast becoming a rising star of the UK alternative and mainstream comedy circuit.

## PREVIOUS DEVELOPED WITH ARTISTS



In 2022 we premiered and live streamed new productions from contemporary dance theatre company Thick & Tight, writer and director Tian Glasgow, theatre company TalkShow and performer and writer Melissa Johns and director Lily Levin. All productions went on to tour nationally.



Director Jess Thanki premiered her Developed With show Funnybones in March 2023, an adaptation of the classic book by Janet & Allan Alhberg. Presenting 5 performance across 2 days, all shows sold out, and Funnybones went onto tour to Oldham, London and Leicester.



Previous Developed With artist Dickson Mbi received an Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dance for his choreography of Enowate at Sadler's Wells. Dickson Mbi started his journey as a Developed With Artist in 2019 and we then went on to co-commission and premiere the full version of this work in 2021.

**“THE LOWRY’S DEVELOPED WITH PROGRAMME IS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR MID-CAREER ARTISTS LIKE TALK SHOW TO BE PART OF AN IN-DEPTH AND RIGOROUS PROCESS. HAVING A VENUE LIKE THE LOWRY CHAMPIONING ARTISTS LIKE US SO PASSIONATELY WITH A GENUINE UNDERSTANDING OF OUR NEEDS HAS BEEN A HUGE BOOST, GIVING THE COMPANY RECOGNITION, SPACE TO FOCUS AND VITAL BESPOKE SUPPORT.”**

**FAITH DODKINS, PRODUCER FOR TALKSHOW, DEVELOPED WITH COMPANY**



# ASSOCIATE ARTISTS

**Our Associate Artists are mid-career and established artists and companies who are making nationally and internationally touring work and tackling the challenges of our industry. We are delighted to welcome Finn Anderson and Thick & Tight to our Associate Artist programme.**

Composer and songwriter Finn Anderson is working on the development of a new musical called *The Edge of Me*. A synth-pop odyssey following a young gay man who gets lost and found again in Britain's BDSM underworld. An extract of the work was showcased at *Rewrites 2022* and will be presented at national musical theatre conference *BEAM* in May 2023.

Dance theatre company *Thick & Tight* presented their latest show *'Tits & Teeth'* in the Aldridge Studio on 18 January. The show sold out and then transferred to the London International Mime Festival 2023, before going on to tour nationally and internationally.

The Letter Room are currently exploring ideas for a new adaptation of *'Billy Liar'*. They plan to work towards a showcase event in London where they hope to secure additional rights to fully develop the production.

Police Cops recently had a sell-out run at Vaults Festival 2023 with their show *'Badass Be Thy Name'* and are now working towards taking *Police Cops: The Musical* to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival again. They are also working with producing company *Royo Entertainment* on commercial opportunities.

Our previous Associate Artists *SpitLip* (formerly *Kill The Beast*) are currently performing their West End hit *Operation Mincemeat* at the Fortune Theatre in London until August 2023.



# ARTIST NETWORK

We now have over 500 subscribers to our Artist Network mailing list and the programme has been busy with monthly socials and free workshops and events for artists. Highlights include a *Wise Children Performance Taster*, a devising workshop with *ThickSkin*, a *Creative Matchmaking* event for writers and visual artists, workshops with our Associate Artists *Police Cops* and *The Letter Room* and networking events for artists and organisations with *DANC* and *Triple C* and the *Dance in the North Network*. We also delivered the first in-person *New Earth Salford* and *Greater Manchester Writers and Performers Academy* for emerging East and South East Asian artists based in the North West. And awarded 15 bursaries to a range of freelancers to attend the *Freelance: Futures* programme - a national event supported by Arts Council England to discuss best practice in the freelance and independent arts sector.





## SCRATCH NIGHTS X GALLERIES

Our Scratch Nights offer an evening dedicated to the development of brand-new work and in November, we collaborated with the Galleries team to host a Scratch Night for performance, visual, and media artists to share work in progress in our gallery spaces. Offering a supportive platform for artists to experiment, take risks and test ideas we presented three 20-minute performances and two longer durational work across the evening:

- ▶ The Ghost Swap by Clodagh Chapman & James Varney
- ▶ Into The Wall by Malik Jama
- ▶ Bruise Prelude by Beth Kettel
- ▶ Web Wide World by John Powell-Jones
- ▶ Aphrodite's House Party by Night People

### SCRATCH NIGHTS X CIRCUS

In January we launched a callout for our next Scratch Night - Scratch Nights X Circus. Working in partnership with Ockham's Razor and Turtle Key Arts, we selected five proposals from circus artists based across England and Scotland to develop and present new work in April 2023. The artists selected were Zinnia Oberski, Vee Smith, Myles MacDonald, Louiseanne Wong and Gabbie Cook.



# LIVE NOW

Taking place from 2021 - 2023, LIVE NOW was a significant artist development / commissioning programme from The Lowry, supporting mid-career artists to make work for digital platforms and online audiences. We supported the development of nine new digital projects including:

- ▶ The Alter by Swamp Motel (winner of the Cannes World Film Festival award for 'BEST EXPERIMENTAL FILM')
- ▶ A Dangerous Thing by Proto-Type Theatre
- ▶ All The Water In The World by Limbik Theatre
- ▶ FOUNTAIN by Yewande 103 (which toured to Picturehouse Cinemas in Autumn 2023 and is now touring nationally)
- ▶ Odds On by Dante or Die (winner of the 'Best Interactive Film' award at the International Media Festival of Wales 2022)
- ▶ Scrum - An Illegal Dance film created for VR180 by Avant Garde Dance
- ▶ The Interrogation by Access All Areas
- ▶ 2461 by Leo & Hyde
- ▶ Mystery Trip by Nigel Barrett & Louise Mari in collaboration with Kerry Underhill

### LIVE NOW FESTIVAL

At the end of January 2023, we delivered a three day festival showcasing and celebrating the projects developed through our LIVE NOW commissioning programme. Taking place online and in-person, the event offered artists, organisations and audiences an insight into how these commissions were created. The successes, the challenges and where these projects are now. The events were well attended with artists and colleagues from across the UK joining us over three days.



### OTHER ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

We were also delighted to create and deliver the following programmes with partners:

The Lowry X Far From The Norm artist development labs: a new programme supporting eight Hip Hop dance artists in Greater Manchester with practical skills, insight, and resources to enrich their practice. The artists took part in three creative labs at The Lowry focusing on producing and fundraising, choreography and movement, and production design/ lighting. Guest artists and creatives delivered the sessions including Botis Seva. The artists also attended a rehearsal for Far

From The Norm's new show Mama in London in March 2023.

CTRL (Creative Technology Research Labs) with Submerge Festival: a new programme supporting 14 under-represented artists who are looking to learn and develop skills in creative technology performance, immersive experience making, and digital creation tools. Working in partnership with Submerge Festival, artists have taken part in workshops with BRIGHTBLACK, artists Nik Rawlings and Rebecca Smith / Urban Projections and have been on research trips to Pervasive Media Studio in Bristol and FACT in Liverpool.

LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT

# YOUTH TALENT

Our Youth Talent programmes provide creative experiences, skills development sessions and training programmes for children and young people; supporting the next generation of creatives to discover and develop their talents.







## STAGE DIRECTIONS

As one of five National Pilot Projects, in partnership with Salford Community Leisure and Salford's LCEP, the third year of Stage Directions delivery offered an exciting and diverse programme of theatre-making and creative activities for children and young people aged 8 to 18 across Salford. 495 children and young people accessed a range of cultural opportunities including workshops, theatre trips and working with professional artists and theatre companies, including Big Comedy Shop, The Knotted Project, Walk the Plank, Company Chameleon, Girl Gang Manchester, Thick Skin, Theatre Porto, CHOL Theatre, TripleDot, VIP Puppets, DIY Theatre.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

8 Salford schools explored theatre making and created new pieces of work

8 Emerging Practitioners trained, 31 Practitioners accessed training opportunities through Stage Directions

Offstage skills development for 46 children and young people in technical, design & digital arts.

Stage Directions Festival – A vibrant three-day celebration and sharing of young people's work in the Quays Theatre

Community Onstage Delivery & Celebration delivered in Ordsall, Eccles & Walkden plus a nine-day intensive at University of Salford creating a celebration event with Walk The Plank

**“WE’RE DOING PHYSICAL THEATRE, SO WE CAME TOGETHER, WE DID SOME IMAGERY, WE CAME UP WITH SOME WORDS AND... CREATED A PERFORMANCE THAT’S BASED AROUND DISCOVERY AND WORKING TOGETHER...WE’VE HAD TO ADAPT TO THINGS AND CHANGE...BEING IN CHARGE AND KIND OF LEADING”**

### YOUNG PERSON TAKING PART IN STAGE DIRECTIONS



## NATIONAL THEATRE SPEAK UP PROGRAMME

A three-year partnership project with The National Theatre, which promotes co-creation and youth voice, encouraging young people to challenge the world they live in and Speak Up through creativity. Following the pilot in 2021, Speak Up has grown to work with 15 secondary schools in total; five in Salford, five in Wigan and five in Rochdale, delivering an exciting programme of weekly artist-led workshops and developing youth led and co-created creative work and events.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

Cultural Trips: 9 schools (270 young people) watched *Ocean at the End of the Lane* and took part in a page to stage workshop with the cast and crew of this epic production. 8 Speak Up schools (220 young people) watched the production of *The Color Purple*, participating in post-show workshops exploring the poignant themes of the show.

12 freelance artists attended a co-creation training day prior to the upscaling of the project; 28 freelance artists engaged over the past twelve months.

Collaboration with GM arts organisations – Two trips to Touchstones in Rochdale, attending workshops and events, including an exhibition exploring LGBTQ+ history month

Young people have been taking part in weekly creative workshops with professional artists and creatives. Themes and topics that have been discussed include bullying, racism, mental health and the cost of living crisis. These topics have been explored using drama, spoken word, animation, beat boxing, filmmaking, textiles and illustration.



## NT CONNECTIONS FESTIVAL AND THE LOWRY YOUNG COMPANY

In partnership with the National Theatre, The Lowry are one of the 36 national Connections Festival hosts. Connections commissions new plays for young people to perform and brings together some of the UK's most exciting writers with our future theatre makers. In 2022 we hosted the first festival since pre-pandemic, bringing together 8 schools and youth theatre groups to perform at The Lowry, engaging 175 young people. Our new Lowry Young Company was also launched this year and we are looking forward to seeing them perform in the Connections Festival in 2023.

# CENTRE FOR ADVANCED TRAINING IN DANCE

The Lowry is home to the North West region's CAT programme funded by the Music and Dance Scheme with approx. 65 students aged 11 to 16 per academic year. The programme provides specialist training for young people, with supported progression routes to conservatoires, universities & employment. The CAT outreach programme reaches young people in areas identified by the MDS including Cumbria, Blackpool, Salford and Oldham. Outreach supports young people to experience dance and develop basic skills and understand how to access the scheme and grant support from DfE.

## U.DANCE NW 2023

U.Dance NW 23 is The Lowry's regional youth dance festival. March 2023 was the first time since the pandemic that we have been able to deliver our programme with no COVID restrictions which allowed us to really explore its full potential and offer the most joyful and memorable experience for the young people. The festival saw 300 young people from across the region, 24 groups taking part, 6 local artists delivering workshops, 2 Dance Ambassador interns and 10 volunteers (mainly Salford university students) present work to an audience of 600.

## ENGAGEMENT WITH VISITING COMPANIES

We engaged a huge number of companies to work with The Lowry CAT programme, including Ugly Bucket, Night People, Aakash Odedra, Rambert, Verve, Company Chameleon, The Overhead Project, Emergence, Jasmin Vardimon, Scarabeus, Move Mcr, Northern Rascals, Francis Angol, Xzibit Young Creatives, National Youth Dance Company, Dada and Masilo. These companies have engaged with participants through one-off workshops, intensive projects or performance visits. Our CAT and Company Chameleon Cross Over Day was an opportunity to share and create work with one another and our graduating students performed their creation as a curtain raiser for Emergence Dance Company. Dancers from the local community worked with South African Dance company Dada and Masilo which included a workshop with the company on stage and performance visit to see the show on The Lyric stage. Some of these young people had never attended The Lowry before and we have continued our engagement with them through The Lowry CAT outreach and recruitment work.

## THE LOWRY CAT ANNUAL PERFORMANCE

The Lowry CAT cohort worked with Northern Rascals, Company Chameleon and Francis Angol to create three pieces of performance work presented in the Lyric theatre in July. This was the first time we had been able to present work on stage since the pandemic and the opportunity to perform in a large-scale theatre setting was a wonderful experience for our 65 students. The artists visited us at intervals across the spring and summer term to initiate the work and the students and Lowry CAT artists continued to develop them through the summer curriculum sessions. The process provides the CAT students with an in-depth understanding and awareness of how professional work is created, giving them invaluable insight into the methodology undertaken by the visiting company, and supports the growth and enhancement of their technical and creative skills.

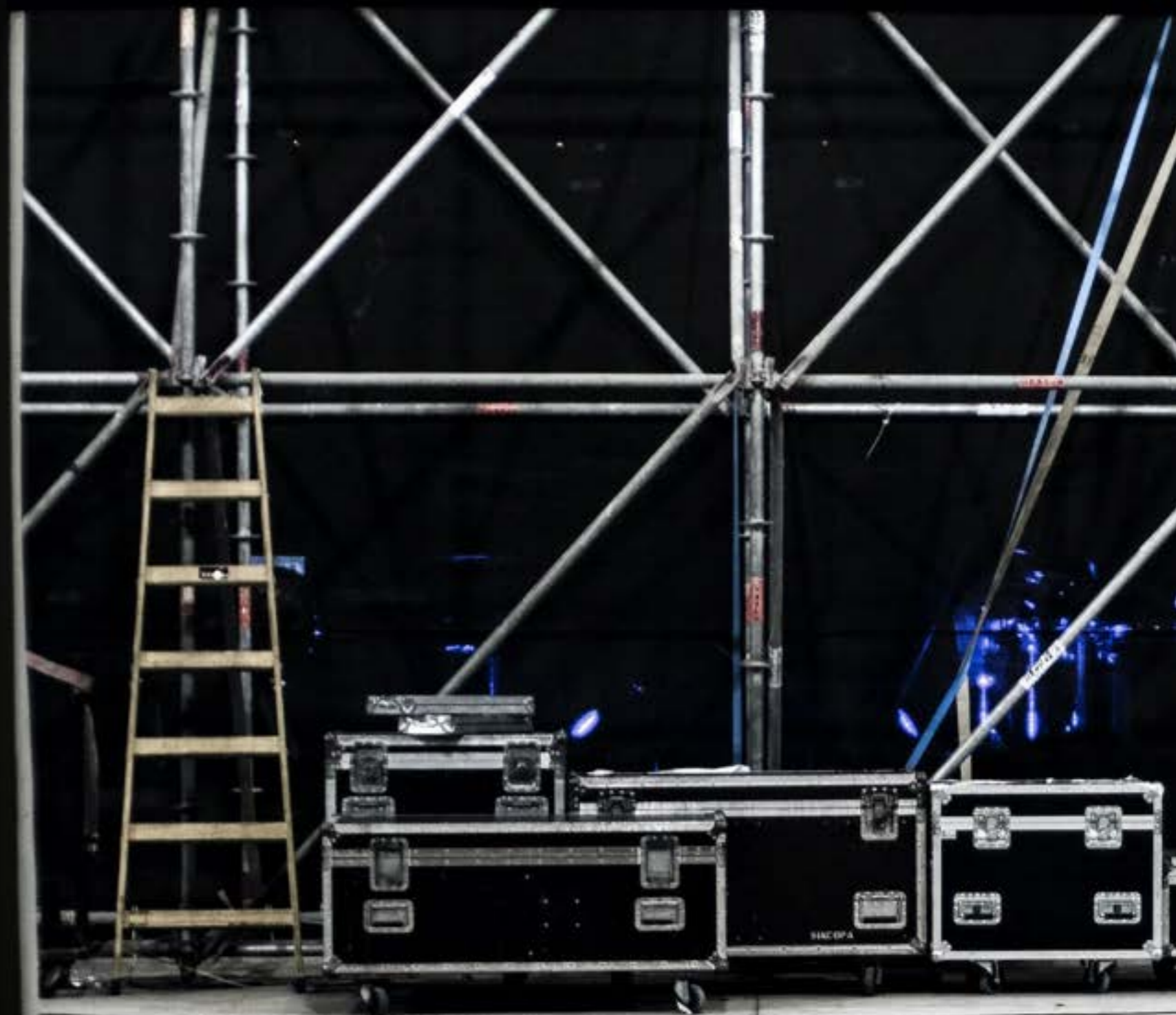
## THE LOWRY CAT OUTREACH AND RECRUITMENT WORK

We engaged with approximately 2500 young people through our regional outreach and recruitment work. One off workshops take place across the full regional area with specific targeted longer term projects focused in the localities of Oldham, Blackpool, Salford, the rural area of Cumbria, areas of multiple deprivation and specific work with male dancers and young people from ethnically diverse communities. We have also established a bridge programme called Pathways which gives young people not ready for CAT training the opportunity to receive additional technical and creative skills over the course of a year with the intention to support them to progress onto further training with CAT or other provision.

## LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT

# EMPLOYABILITY & SKILLS

In Salford, numbers of NEET young people (not in employment, education and training) are above the national average, and our Youth Employability and Skills programme offers a range of creative employability opportunities with a variety of outcomes. The programme is designed to introduce young people into the world of work, build positive relationships, set new challenges, expand experience, reduce isolation and build self-esteem. Over the last 12 months we have been able to connect 712 young people with bespoke and accessible offers, including building tours of The Lowry and one-off masterclasses, alongside longer-term, deeper engagement through placements and mentoring.



# ARTS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

Our flagship programme for long term, in depth creative engagement with young people facing the biggest barriers in our city, living in some of the most complex circumstances.

Arts for Social Change focuses on improving wellbeing, increasing healthy social relationships, reducing social isolation and anxiety and amplifying unheard voices.



## NEXT STEP CREATIVE MAKEOVER:

In October we partnered with Next Steps and GMYN (Greater Manchester Youth Network), working with five care experienced young people help them redesign their community space into a creative, welcoming and youth-friendly space. The young people worked with an artist from The Lowry and led throughout, from consultation, to developing a creative visioning board, to learning the practical skills to bring their vision to life. This included managing their budget, painting walls, framing and hanging their own art work, repurpose and upcycle furniture and ensure they fulfilled their brief. Two of the young people engaged in the project who had recently moved into their own flat shared how they would redecorate their own space after taking part and realising their own talents and abilities.

## PAID INTERNSHIP

This year we introduced a paid placement for those individuals who have completed a YES placement, but may not be ready to apply for work. The internship introduces more responsibility and commitment, and payment boosts the young person's self-worth and motivation. For one young person (aged 20) this was their first experience of paid work and the ongoing support from our YES manager has helped them take positive steps forwards towards employment.

## HALF TERM BACKSTAGE TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS

This year we began regular half-term activity for young people that prefer a practical, hands-on experience where they can learn new skills. Our Backstage Technical Theatre workshops offered the chance to work with a technician, learn how to create moods and states through lighting, how to create soundscapes, what is a risk assessment and how do they work. It was also a great opportunity to talk to technicians about how they got into their roles, and what their jobs are like day to day.

## TECHNICAL PLACEMENT

Our first placement in the Technical department took place this year after previous restrictions since 2020 due to COVID. This is one of the great strengths of the programme as it's one of the experiences that can't be replicated in non-theatre venues. Between January and March 2023 the Technical team supported a young person who had been home schooled and reluctant to engage with other providers due to his anxiety, our ability to offer unique placements such as in Technical has been a real bonus.

**"THE LOWRY COMING INTO SCHOOL MAKES ME FEEL HAPPY, WE HAVE FUN AND I CAN BE MYSELF"**

**YOUNG CARER AGED 9**



## GET INVOLVED:

Open-access drama and theatre-based group for young people aged 13-18 living in Salford, who may have adverse lived experiences. 56 young people took part in a diverse range of theatre making and creative workshops and co-created their own work that was shared at the Arts for Social Change showcase at The Lowry in June 2022. The group also enjoyed theatre trips and for some young people this was their first experience of theatre. This year the young people have also had the opportunity to work with five different theatre companies and artists including Ariel and Circus Company 'Scarabaeus' and Queer led Company 'Thick and Tight' developing thought-provoking and challenging new work.

## LOWRY YOUNG ARTISTS:

Visual arts group aimed at young people aged 11 - 18 living in Salford, supporting and engaging young people with adverse lived experiences. This year we engaged 47 young people who worked together to curate exhibitions supported that amplify their voices. The group also visited a number of exhibitions and galleries including the Tate Liverpool. The project continues to engage and inspire young people to use arts for well-being, creating impactful experiences for the next generation of creatives.

## YES DRAMA

YES Drama is our provision for young people 16-24 in Salford with learning disabilities. They use drama and the creative arts to explore employability skills, including positive relationships, what it means to be professional, and how work as a team. We have 10 active members who meet weekly on a Thursday afternoon, the group is led by a drama facilitator and learning disabled co-facilitator who initially started on a volunteer basis and are now paid as a support artist. It is important that the participants in YES drama feel inspired and see people who are reflective of the group leading the session. This year the group started to work towards their Bronze Arts Award.

**"THE CHANGE IN HER HAS BEEN AMAZING, I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT WHEN I SAW HER SERVING DRINKS IN SUCH A BIG CROWD. USUALLY SHE STRUGGLES IN SETTING LIKE THIS"**

**TEACHER OF YES PARTICIPANT**

**"THANK YOU FOR BEING SO UNDERSTANDING AND FLEXIBLE, IT'S REALLY HELPED WITH MY ANXIETY."**

**YES PARTICIPANT**

## BIG LIGHT PROJECT:

Over the past year the Big Light Project engaged a total of 61 Young People in various multi arts projects such as a spoken word project that saw the young people's work in a published book in Partnership with Homeless House, and a project which took young people on a journey to create their own music with beatbox and rap, exploring themes that matter to them such as Black Lives Matter, the current cost of living crisis, and life living in Salford as a Young Person at Risk of Homelessness. The Project also saw young people playing a key role in the Salford City Council Youth Homelessness Protocol, co-designing a flyer that gives young people the understanding of what support is legally available when they become Homeless under 18. With their input, the final product was creative, visual, and most importantly accessible to young people.

## YOUNG CARERS:

The Lowry has worked with Young Carers since 2011, producing work and delivering creative projects that explore the challenges faced by Young Carers nationally. This year we have engaged 66 Young Carers, across six projects, offering a space for Young Carers to create work that advocates for their needs and rights. We worked with 'LUNG' to develop a film for Young Carers Action Day in March 2023 which highlights the challenges that young carers face every day, whilst celebrating their strength and resilience. The film was a powerful call to action and was shared with Carers Trust to nationally platform their voice.



## YOUNG PARENTS AND FAMILY OUTREACH:

Our Young Parents Programme Engaging Young Parents under 25 and their little ones continues to grow. We deliver two offsite outreach projects in partnership with Salford Youth Services, led by artists the sessions encourage creative play, healthy relationships and positive parenting. We have also partnered with Salford City Council, Salford CVS and the Family Hubs to deliver the 'Wishing Tree Project'. 'Planting Seeds for Change', a beautiful artist designed installation toured 25 Family Hubs across Salford gathering the wishes of Salford Families, as they share what they would like to improve or see change within their local communities and across the city.



**"THIS PROJECT IS JUST MAGICAL. WE ARE GETTING FAMILIES TALKING ABOUT WHAT THEY WANT TO SEE CHANGE IN THEIR COMMUNITY BUT THROUGH THE CREATIVE ACTIVITIES THEY ARE ENGAGING WITH OUR COMMUNITY CENTRES AND HUBS WHICH HAS BEEN NON-EXISTENT SINCE THE PANDEMIC RECOVERY"**

**CLAIRE EAST, FAMILY HUB COORDINATOR**

LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT

# LEARNING & PARTICIPATION

Our Learning & Participation programmes provide opportunities for schools and families alike to get involved.



# CREATIVE WRITING CHALLENGE

This year we were very excited to launch a new creative writing competition for children in Greater Manchester aged 7-11, thanks to the generosity of long-time Lowry supporter Beryl Jones and her husband Trevor.

For Beryl, founding the programme is the realisation of a long-held dream. The aspirational competition is designed to help children become more creative and more confident in their writing, and is being delivered in partnership with the National Literacy Trust, an independent charity dedicated to raising literacy levels across the UK.

A panel of celebrated judges will choose winning entries, in a celebration of creativity, imagination and the magic of storytelling. Alongside the competition, we are working with 12 schools and 420 children across Salford to deliver a programme of wraparound engagement, supporting teachers to use creativity as a tool to enhance children's literacy. This we have received almost 400 entries in our first year, and we look forward to hearing shortlisted entries and the winner announced in a celebration on our Quays Theatre stage in May 23.

"I AM THRILLED AND HONOURED TO BE ASKED TO HELP JUDGE THIS YEAR'S CREATIVE WRITING CHALLENGE AT THE LOWRY, A WONDERFUL VENUE AT THE HEART OF MY HOME CITY. I HAVE WORKED WITH YOUNG WRITERS ALL MY LIFE. THEY CONTINUALLY INSPIRE AND SURPRISE ME. THE ENERGY AND FEARLESSNESS OF THEIR IMAGINATION IS INFECTIOUS AND GALVANISES ME TO BE MORE ENERGETIC AND LESS AFRAID. I CAN'T WAIT TO READ THEIR WORK."

SIMON STEPHENS, PLAYWRIGHT AND CREATIVE WRITING CHALLENGE JUDGE





# THE COPLEY PRIZE

## AND COPLEY CHILDREN'S CREATIVE ARTS PROGRAMME

Our annual art competition for primary school-aged children continues to inspire hundreds of children to create their own piece of art in the style of L.S. Lowry. This year's winner, selected from over 300 entries was A Walk in the Street by 9-year-old Millie Alice Andrews from St Andrew's CofE Primary School in Bury. Her work is currently on display in our L.S. Lowry galleries amongst our permanent collection, where it will be seen by thousands of visitors over the year.

Alongside the prize, the Copley Schools Outreach programme has been delivering free high-quality visual arts workshops to schools across Salford since 2018. Thanks to the generosity of Alison and Noel Copley, this year, we are delighted to have been able to deepen the impact of this work through 'The Copley Children's Creative Arts Programme', which now combines performing as well as visual Arts. Ten carefully chose primary schools across Salford are now receiving a LS Lowry workshop for their pupils, a hamper of art materials, 40 tickets to a performance at The Lowry, a Lowry themed drama workshop, a mindfulness workshop, plus all transport.

The Copley Prize and Copley Children's Creative Arts Programme are generously supported by Alison and Noel Copley.

**"HE HAS A UNIQUE STYLE. I LIKE THE WAY HE DRAWS ANIMALS. THE SIMPLEST LOOKING PICTURES CAN SOMETIMES TAKE LONGER THAN DETAILED ONES."**

**MILLIE, WINNER OF THE 2022 COPLEY PRIZE**





# FAMILIES

Through our new Creative Families at The Lowry offer, we have delivered a total of 288 family sessions reaching 4,411 families. We offer a free, diverse weekly programme of artist-led workshops including storytelling, baby yoga, dance and family craft activities, from our dedicated family space in the Carole Nash Lookout. Sessions are a wonderful opportunity for children and their grown-ups to enjoy high-quality creative experiences, whilst meeting new people and supporting the development of their

## THE BOOTH CHARITIES FAMILY SCHEME

The Lowry's Booth Charities Family Scheme offers families of children with disabilities or additional needs the opportunity to see relaxed theatre performances at The Lowry for free. We were delighted to invite 30 families into The Lowry throughout this past year to enjoy four fabulous, family performances. We provided food vouchers as well as the option to take part in additional creative activities before each performance. The feedback from families was wonderful, with participants reporting a positive experience at The Lowry, and during what has been another challenging year for many families, this scheme enabled us to help families overcome barriers and bring smiles to many faces. The scheme is generously supported by The Booth Charities.

**"THE EXCELLENT LITTLE CREATIVES PROGRAMME YOU OFFER FOR FREE AT THE LOWRY OFFERS FAMILIES WHO MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO AFFORD ANY PAID ACTIVITIES AT ALL AN UNRIVALLED PROGRAMME OF DEVELOPMENTALLY AND CREATIVELY RICH... SOURCE OF FUN AND JOY - WHICH IS NOT ONLY A TREASURE FOR OUR COMMUNITY, BUT ALSO A GREAT TRIBUTE TO ETHOS OF THE LOWRY AS A WHOLE."**

**LITTLE CREATIVES REGULAR PARTICIPANT**



# SCHOOLS

Our Creative Learning programme for schools (key stages 1-6) has engaged a total of 10,471 children, enabling schools to take part in creative activities and projects that improve literacy and oracy as well as building transferable skills that promote attainment and aspirations through creativity. This year we have also re-established our teachers network, bringing teachers together to discuss our wider cultural offer and the challenges schools are facing, this is a valuable opportunity for us to listen and shape our offer in response to the needs of schools.





## LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Ensuring that everyone can be inspired by, engage with and participate in the arts and putting our communities at the heart of everything we do is integral to our organisation. We prioritise underserved communities by building meaningful relationships, and we seek to listen and understand the needs of our communities. Working together to remove barriers, signpost to creative opportunities, build confidence and share agency.



# OPEN DAY 2022

On the 7th August, our ever-popular Open Day returned with an action-packed day full of exciting opportunities and experiences for all. Over 4,500 people joined us over the course of the day, and took part in everything from backstage sneak peeks to children's storytelling sessions, Bollywood dance classes to an exciting outdoor hip-hop theatre performance, VR experiences and cupcake decorating.



## GALLERIES STEERING GROUP

Our Galleries Steering groups is made up of 15 Salford residents from a range of diverse backgrounds, with a range of lived experiences. During the course of the year, they have worked alongside curators and our team of gallery interpreters to learn about the running of our galleries, explore our collections and exhibitions and enjoy monthly trips to other galleries. The group has played a vital role in the development of our own efforts to make the space more accessible and inclusive, and explore how we might take art out into the local communities.

## MAKING THEATRE ACCESSIBLE TO OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

We continue to work closely with visiting and partner companies through initiatives to remove barriers to engagement and support local communities to access theatre. We work with our Community Connectors (representatives with lived experience of barriers to engagement) to identify and support underrepresented communities, removing costs of tickets and transport, and supporting local community members to step into The Lowry, which, for many, is their first visit to the theatre. Highlights include supporting 27 community groups (607 people) to watch *The Colour Purple* and bringing 19 community groups (325 people) to see *The Ocean at The End of The Lane*.

## SHOW SELECTORS

This year we piloted a brand new project with 15 Salford residents with diverse lived experiences. The group experienced a range of theatre shows before selecting three shows that they were passionate about sharing with local communities. They programmed free shows in two Salford parks and one school, focusing on making the events accessible and inclusive. The performances were enjoyed by over 650 people, many of whom do not go to the theatre.

**"MORE PEOPLE ARE FEELING A SENSE OF CONNECTION TO THEATRE AND THE LOWRY THAN THERE WAS BEFORE. PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACCESS THE ARTS FOR FREE WHICH MEANS PEOPLE WHO COULDN'T USUALLY AFFORD THAT COST WERE ABLE TO HAVE A DAY OUT WITH THEIR FAMILIES AND NOT FEEL EXCLUDED."**

**SHOW SELECTORS PARTICIPANT**

# QUAYS CULTURE

## LIGHTWAVES 2022

In December 2022, Quays Culture's much-loved Lightwaves festival returned to Salford Quays. The annual free light art festival brought over 200,000 visitors to the Quays, demonstrating the enduring appeal of illuminated artworks and the appetite for cultural activities in the public realm. The trail of thirteen pieces included 'Garden Of The Deep', created in partnership local communities, two artworks by emerging artist who were commissioned and mentored via the SHINE emerging artists programmes and co-commissions RHS Bridgewater and MediaCity.



## WAY ABOVE THE HOUSES

We worked with Cirque Bijou on Way Above The Houses - a large scale outdoor show created with, and for, the people of Salford. Our local community members were involved right from the start - not only were they part of the show, they helped shape it. The key theme of the project was 'home' - the places we live and the community we are surrounded by - and the spectacular show that emerged from workshops and participation sessions was a fusion of music, performance and choreography, telling the story of Salford and the people that live there.



## WE INVENTED THE WEEKEND

Quays Culture are producing We Invented The Weekend - a huge, new free festival taking place at Salford Quays on the 3rd and 4th of June. The event programme is delivered in collaboration with arts and culture organisations large and small - from grassroots community groups to nationally recognised institutions - and will create an event of a scale never seen before at the site.





# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

We have continued our commitment to reducing our environmental impact, with the ambition of becoming a leading example for the cultural sector. By embedding sustainability across our operations, empowering our staff and volunteers to become environmental ambassadors, and working sustainability with our partnerships, we have further embedded a culture of shared responsibility.

Using the Theatre Green Book, our Environmental and Sustainability Team have once again ensured environmental considerations are at the forefront of our thinking in everything we do.

We know this is only the start of our journey. We will continue to investigate and implement changes, with the ultimate ambition of becoming a carbon neutral organisation by 2038.

## Physical interventions we've made to our building this year include:

- ▶ Low-energy hand dryers installed across all toilets, alongside dual flush cisterns and Saniflo urinal systems, cutting water usage by 50%
- ▶ Continued with the programme of changing to energy efficient LED bulbs, completed across more than 80% of the building
- ▶ Material waste separated at source in order to be recycled. 100% of general waste is now divested from landfill, sent for waste-to-energy use

## Significant changes to our operations this year include:

- ▶ Local, artisan, environmentally-conscious suppliers, including H.M. Pasties, Seven Bro7hers Brewing, Four Sis4ers Distillery and North West-based roasters Neighbourhood, a certified carbon neutral company
- ▶ Two thirds of restaurant dishes are vegetarian or vegan
- ▶ No single use plastic bottles sold in front of house areas
- ▶ In our shop we use 100% recyclable and biodegradable Hive Wrap used instead of bubble wrap, and card mug boxes replacing polystyrene
- ▶ E-tickets removing the need for printed tickets



# EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The Lowry's commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion is underpinned by a three-year strategy, and has been strengthened by the appointment of our new EDI Manager in August 2022. We have implemented a programme of training and initiatives which have been instrumental in delivering our strategy. Work so far includes:

- ▶ Launching our new EDI Steering Group, consisting of staff and volunteers from across the organisation to engage in co-production work and to democratise the decision making in relation to EDI matters.
- ▶ The installation of a Changing Places Toilet at the end 2022 - which provides the right facilities and equipment to meet the full range of our visitors' needs.
- ▶ Our EDI Calendar, highlighting key moments throughout the year for celebrations and awareness-raising across all the communities we seek to represent, recent examples including presenting LGBTQ+ Salford as part of LGBTQ+ history month, and traditional events to celebrate Nowruz, the Iranian (or Persian) new year.
- ▶ Looking ahead, there is much more we can do. We will be working towards Attitude is Everything's Gold Award, and plan to implement Affinity groups, spaces where marginalised communities can meet to share solidarity, bring forward issues, and liaise with the EDI Manager to effect change.

# LOOKING AHEAD

We are so pleased to be able to look back over such a successful year, but even more excited to look ahead at a fantastic programme of art, events and engagement at the heart of our community.



## PERFORMING ARTS

On our stages, we will be welcoming major, highly acclaimed titles as well as some of the most exciting new work and emerging talent.

Highlights include:

### Life of Pi

5 December 2023 – 7 January 24

An amazing piece of visual theatre that's already taken West End and Broadway by storm. Extraordinary puppetry and brilliant story-telling - gripping theatre for all ages.

### Ghost Story

31 October – 4 November

A huge hit in the West End - a great play full of twists and turns and with an all-star cast that's still to be announced. Genuinely scary - you won't guess the ending...

### Message in a bottle

27 – 29 July

Incredible and innovative dance show from award-winning choreographer Kate Prince (Everyone's Talking About Jamie). The music of Sting has never sounded better - a very timely and heart-breaking story of migration and refugees.

### Unfortunate: The Untold Story of Ursula the Sea Witch

Thu 22 February – Sat 2 March

The hit musical parody returns after a sell-out run in the Quays Theatre in 2022 and fresh from a London run in the Autumn. Created by Fat Rascal who first appeared at The Lowry as part of the Rewrites new musical festival.

### SIX

Tue 13 August – Sun 1 September

The brilliant musical that re-imagined musical Theatre and has become a global hit. Back at the Lowry where it was first seen in the North West and as fresh and innovative now as when we first presented it.

## VISUAL ARTS

In our Galleries, following on from the success of our Picture This exhibition, The Lowry is proud to be mounting **Julia and Axel: Thirty years of Favourite Stories**, a major exhibition celebrating the 30-year partnership between Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler. Together they have written and illustrated some of the most popular children's books of all times, including *The Gruffalo*, *Zog* and *Tiddler*. This free family exhibition will include Julia Donaldson's original notebooks, as well as sketches and final artwork by Axel Scheffler, alongside hands-on activities, and lots of creative opportunities for young visitors to be the Julias and Axels of the future.



## LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT

In Learning & Engagement we look forward to celebrating more of the achievements of our young people across our programmes through a range of events:

- ▶ 3rd May: Community night with Sucker Punch through Theatre Nation Partnership
- ▶ July: Centre for Advanced Training in Dance and Arts for Social Change Showcase
- ▶ Speak Up Summer Celebrations - three in-school film screenings, and a Student Pride and Diversity festival Performance at Band on the Wall
- ▶ 6th August: Open Day, working with our Community Connectors to make our Open Day accessible for hundreds of Salford families

We hope you can join us!

# NONE OF THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT...

## FUNDERS

Arts Council England  
Salford City Council  
Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA)  
National Lottery Community Fund

The Lowry's Dance Centre for Advanced Training in Dance (CAT) is funded by the Department for Education's (DfE) Music and Dance Scheme (MDS).

Museums and Cultural Property Department, Arts Council England  
DCMS/ACE Cultural Recovery Fund

## GALLERIES SUPPORTERS

Alison and Noel Copley  
Art Fund  
Ernst & Young  
The Law Family Charitable Foundation  
Professional Footballers' Association

We would like to thank all those who support us through the Adopt A Lowry scheme

## LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT SUPPORTERS

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John Thaw Foundation  
National Lottery Community Fund  
Oglesby Charitable Trust  
Salford City Council  
Zochonis Charitable Trust

A huge thank you to all of the local services and partners in Salford who work alongside us to deliver our charitable activity with children, young people & communities across the city.

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In loving memory of Steve Aveyard  
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Graeme Lawrence

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