

**FULL
HOUSE**



ANNUAL REPORT

2022 - 2023





“ONE OF THE **JOYFUL** THINGS ABOUT LEADING THIS ORGANISATION IS THAT NO TWO YEARS ARE EVER THE SAME. OUR **SENSORY ADVENTURES** PROJECT HAS ALSO REMINDED ME THAT THERE IS ALWAYS SPACE TO **LEARN**. IT WAS A GREAT **OPPORTUNITY** FOR ME AND THE WIDER TEAM TO **DEVELOP** OUR PRACTICE. IT REALLY WAS A VERY SPECIAL **PROJECT**.”

– Harriet Hardie, Creative Director

“AS AN APPLIED THEATRE MAKER ONE OF MY MAIN **AMBITIONS** FOR FULL HOUSE HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO DEVELOP **DYNAMIC** ALTERNATIVE FORMATS FOR **LEARNING** OUTSIDE OF SCHOOLS. OUR **POWER OF THREE** PROJECT BROUGHT TOGETHER THE MUSEUMS OF BEDFORD AND SAW HUNDREDS OF LOCAL CHILDREN EXPERIENCE DANCE, THEATRE, MUSIC AND EVEN PARTAKE IN AN IBIZA STYLE **RAVE**, ALL IN THE NAME OF **EDUCATION**. FOR ME, IT REALLY DOESN'T GET BETTER THAN THAT.”

– Ben Miles, Creative Director



MESSAGE FROM CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

“FULL HOUSE GOES FROM **STRENGTH** TO **STRENGTH**. UNDER THE **DYNAMIC**, CREATIVE LEADERSHIP OF BEN AND HARRIET THROUGH THESE LAST **CHALLENGING** YEARS, THE COMPANY HAS **EMERGED** STRONGER THAN EVER WITH SOME **EXTRAORDINARY** NEW **PROJECTS** NOW EMBEDDED IN THEIR REPERTOIRE.

A MAJOR ‘MOMENT’ IN OUR **HISTORY** TOOK PLACE THIS YEAR WITH THE **GRANTING** OF **NATIONAL PORTFOLIO ORGANISATION** (NPO) STATUS, ENSURING A STEADY INCOME FROM THE **ARTS COUNCIL** FOR THREE YEARS. AS WELL AS THE FULL HOUSE TEAM, I’D LIKE TO THANK FELLOW **TRUSTEES** FOR THE QUIET BUT **VITAL** WORK THEY UNDERTAKE ON BEHALF OF THE COMPANY, INCLUDING **SUPPORTING** THE NPO APPLICATION AND ITS ONGOING **EVALUATIVE** PROCESSES.”

– Sally Mackey, Chair of The Board

VISION

For every child to hold
treasured memories of theatre.

YEAR IN NUMBERS

Our projects reached

11,463

children, young people
and their families



6,781

people took part in
workshops and activities



We worked with

125

artists



We presented

113

live performances



ART TOWN

Our ongoing **community** arts project
Houghton Regis Art Town
continues to engage disadvantaged
children in **creative** and **exciting**
activities.

This year we launched the Art Town
Fantastic Fridays programme,
with a range of **immersive** arts and
cultural **engagement** sessions for
under-fives and their grown-ups.



864 people have
participated in Art Town
activities this year.

“WE LOVE FANTASTIC FRIDAYS!
WE COME EVERY MONTH AND
ARE ALWAYS **AMAZED** AT THE
DIFFERENT FUN ACTIVITIES ON
OFFER. MY CHILD'S **CONFIDENCE**
HAS BLOOMED SINCE ATTENDING
SESSIONS”

- Parent Feedback

“ART TOWN GIVES ME A PLACE
TO REALLY BE **MYSELF** AND
LEARN NEW SKILLS”

- Participant Feedback



Photos © Full House Theatre

“THE PROJECT EXTENDS OUR
CHILDREN'S **CREATIVITY** AND
FURTHER DEVELOPS THEIR
CONFIDENCE AND SENSE OF
BELONGING TO A COMMUNITY”

- Parent Feedback

FEB FEST 2022 & 2023

Our popular children's arts festival **Feb Fest** brought live performance and participation experiences to **children** and families in **Luton** with two **fun-filled** programmes in 2022 and 2023.

A total of **6,195** people engaged in our flagship **festivals**, which showcased some of the **highest quality theatre** for **families**.

“**LUTON IS SO DIVERSE. IT'S ABOUT TIME WE HAD TOP CLASS EVENTS LIKE THIS TO REFLECT THE TALENT IN THIS TOWN**”

– Audience Feedback

“**THANK YOU AGAIN FOR AN AMAZING FEB FEST**”

– Audience Feedback



“**THE SHOWS ARE ALWAYS GREAT, THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING THESE EVENTS FOR FAMILIES**”

– Audience Feedback



2023 marked the **10-year anniversary** of Feb Fest. This **milestone** was both **significant** and exciting for our small yet **mighty charity** as we welcomed a

record-breaking number of attendees!

THE POWER OF THREE

An innovative new partnership with **Bedford's museums** was a core part of our work in 2022, with live and interactive performances.

893 people enjoyed the fun, vibrant, and immersive educational events at **The Higgins, John Bunyan and Panacea museums.**



PANACEA
museum



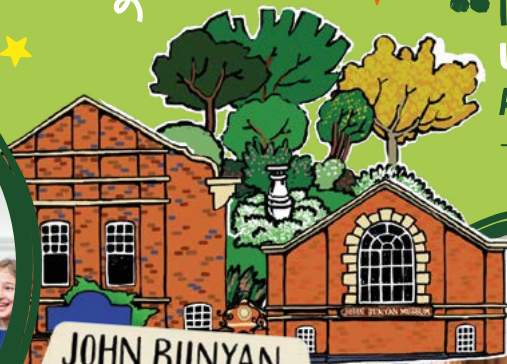
“IT WAS SUPER FUN, ENGAGING, QUIRKY, EDUCATIONAL & BRILLIANTLY ORGANISED”

– Teacher Feedback



“THIS WAS THE BEST SCHOOL TRIP IN A LONG TIME!”

– Pupil Feedback



JOHN BUNYAN
museum & library



“IT WAS A REALLY INTERESTING AND UNIQUE WAY TO LEARN ABOUT HISTORY AND ENGAGE WITH THE MUSEUM”

– Audience Feedback



“IT WAS SO FUN I WISH I COULD DO THIS EVERY DAY”

– Pupil Feedback



THE HIGGINS
bedford

SENSORY ADVENTURES

In the **summer** we collaborated with long-term partners, **Bedford and District Cerebral Palsy Society**, to create a week-long residency of **immersive** and **imaginative** sensory **experiences** for children with profound and multiple **disabilities**.



We brought moments of **joy** and wonder to the **children** taking part and shone a light on the unique and awesome **achievements** of everyone.



“I AM SO HAPPY HE CAN DO IT WITHOUT OUR SUPPORT. THANK YOU SO MUCH! I WAS QUITE **EMOTIONAL** WATCHING THE PERFORMANCE”

– Parent Feedback



“THE YOUNG PERSON I SUPPORTED STARTED THE WEEK ANXIOUS, SHY, AND WANTING TO GO HOME. BY FRIDAY THEY WERE SMILING AND **LAUGHING ALL DAY** AND COULD NOT GET ENOUGH OF THE PERFORMANCE”

– Support Worker Feedback



WHO IS BEDFORD?

It was great to be back **touring** our **interactive** audio adventure in **Bedford**, our first school-based tour since the **pandemic**.

We ignited the **imagination**s of **1,150** children, with **32** performances taking place across **ten school sites**.

Bedford's rich **cultural heritage** was celebrated in an **immersive** learning **experience** like no other.

“I LOVED **LEARNING** ABOUT BEDFORD”

– Pupil Feedback

“THE CHILDREN REALLY ENJOYED THE **EXPERIENCE**, IT WAS THE TALK OF THE PLAYGROUND!”

– Teacher Feedback



APPLES & LOLLIPOPS

This year we launched a **new** and **ambitious** project, working with children and families from **Central Bedfordshire's Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community**.

Through our **Apples and Lollipops** project, we began building **trust** and breaking down barriers with this seldom heard **community**. With **time, care, and patience** we have made **wonderful** progress.

We aim to nurture these **new relationships** and move, with **optimism**, into a final phase of delivery.



160 participants across **4 sites**



Photos @Full House Theatre



BY THE LIGHT OF THE MOON

Seasonal work in **Luton** was again a **core part** of our activity with performances of our tender, **heart-warming** show, By the Light of the Moon taking place at **The Hat Factory** in **December**.

This was extended with a **tour** of nurseries and early years settings in **Bedford Borough** throughout **January**.

 **419**
participants

2,108
audience members



**“LOVELY MESMERISING
INTERACTIVE PERFORMANCE”**

– Teacher Feedback



**“THE MESSAGE ABOUT BEING DIFFERENT
WAS VERY POSITIVE, MY SON LOVED IT”**

– Audience Feedback



**“WHAT A TRULY WONDERFUL
EXPERIENCE FOR OUR CHILDREN TO
HAVE, THE PRODUCTION AND TEAM
WERE AMAZING”**

– Nursery Feedback



CREATIVE BUZZ

This year **221** children took part in **inspiring** fun-filled **activities** in the school holidays. The **creative** sessions are led by **talented** arts practitioners and everyone also enjoys a **hot, healthy meal**. We continued to champion quality with exciting **theatre trips** and by working with some brilliant **local artists**.

The project is delivered in **partnership** with **Central Bedfordshire Council** and **DCMS**, for **children** in receipt of free school meals.



Photos ©Full House Theatre

“IT WAS **AMAZING** HERE!”

– Participant Feedback



THE WORST PRINCESS

Having secured the rights to the wonderful **bestselling** book by **Anna Kemp** and **Sara Ogilvie**, it was great to kick-start our **research** and **development** process with a book group of critical friends.

We've also worked with **270** children from schools in **Central Bedfordshire** as **co-creators** of our **brand-new** show.

“WE ARE SO **EXCITED** TO SEE THE PERFORMANCE NEXT YEAR”

– Teacher Feedback



“THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR LETTING US BE A PART OF THIS, IT WAS A **FANTASTIC** OPPORTUNITY”

– Teacher Feedback



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ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

It's been an exciting year of **progress, development** and **achievement** here at Full House.

We welcomed **two** new members to our **core team** and made much needed **improvements** to our building in the heart of **Ampthill**.

In November we were **successful** in our application to join **Arts Council England's National Portfolio**.

This will have a hugely **positive impact** on our **organisation** and the **communities** that we serve.



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FINANCE

HOW WE RAISED OUR FUNDS

£404,993

£26,920 Earned Income

£293,938 Grants

£10,583 Donations

£73,552 Other Income

HOW WE USED OUR FUNDS

£469,553

£181,221 Making our work

£21,802 Touring our work

£31,239 Marketing our work

£179,008 Running the company

£56,283 Raising funds

THANK YOU

With thanks to **everyone** we have worked with during **2022-23**, and to all who have **supported** us.



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND





FULLHOUSETHEATRE



FULLHOUSETHEATRE



@FULLHOUSETHEACO

FULL HOUSE THEATRE

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