



FULL HOUSE

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025



“This has been a year of remarkable achievement. We have reached thousands of children and families, bringing the **transformative power of the arts to local communities. Projects such as Houghton Regis Art Town, Amped - Get Creative and our work with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children has inspired creativity, built confidence and opened **new opportunities**. Beyond this local impact, our work has contributed significantly to the wider sector, and we are proud to be recognised as a leading voice in **championing innovation and inclusion**.”**

- Ben Miles, Creative Director



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“Looking back over another year of **inspiring activity for children and young people is an opportunity to reflect on the contribution of those who have helped make so many projects come to fruition. From our dedicated core team to the array of associate artists and freelance creatives who have worked with us to bring **joy and wonder** to children in the last twelve months, not to mention the support of our board and our many project partners. I would like to thank everyone for being part of another **amazing year**, we really couldn't do what we do without you all.”**

- Harriet Hardie, Creative Director

OUR VISION

For every child to hold treasured memories of theatre



OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



We worked with

153

artists



Our projects reached

14,824

children, young people and their families



5,915

People took part in workshops and activities



We presented

114

live performances

ART TOWN

Our vibrant community arts project continues to thrive, engaging disadvantaged children through creative fun, including our Fantastic Fridays programme, packed with amazing arts experiences for under-fives and their grown-ups.

2,034 people have taken part in and attended Art Town activities this year.

“I think it helped build better connections within everyone... It really helps smooth everything out overall with the community and the vibe of what we were doing.”

– Art Town Participant



“Building confidence and resilience in my little boy. We had lots of fun singing, dancing and exploring some things we don't have at home. Thank you.”

– Parent Feedback



“Art Town offers the chance to explore a variety of skills in an area which has little other opportunities for young people... it has changed my life.”

– Art Town Participant



FEB FEST



The flamingos flew back into town for our annual children's arts festival in Luton. We were proud to deliver an unforgettable, high-quality programme focusing on access and inclusion and to celebrate the town's rich diversity. Highlights included Second Hand Dance's joyful and inclusive interactive performances of *The Sticky Dance* and an international visit from the incredible Kininso Koncepts from Nigeria.

We were thrilled to welcome **2,160** attendees.



1,141
people visited our
**IMAGINATION
STATION**

262
children took part in
WORKSHOPS

757
people came to
watch a **SHOW**



“Feb Fest is always great. We look forward to attending every year. Great shows at a good price. It is always so fun.”

– Parent Feedback

“First activity my autistic son joined in with. Brought literal tears to my eyes. Amazing! Thank you!”

– Parent Feedback

“The Rainbow Butterfly was exceptional! Interactive, awe-inspiring and unusual. Thank you for bringing a variety of experiences to Luton.”

– Parent Feedback

DAY DREAMERS

This year, we revisited a Full House family favourite and headed outdoors with our playful interactive show, *Day Dreamers*. Little ones and their grown-ups donned headphones at Ampthill Park, Houghton Hall Park and Stockwood Discovery Centre for an awesome audio adventure unlike any other, led by fabulous host, Imogen Stretch.

“My son has Down syndrome and ASD. Rarely joins in. He loved this today. Thank you for allowing him to join in.”

– Parent Feedback

“Fantastic, brilliant fun, loved the interaction.”

– Parent Feedback

14
SHOWS
PERFORMED

292
AUDIENCE
MEMBERS



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SENSORY LIBRARIES

Building on our impactful immersive sensory experiences for children with SEND, we took the adventure on the road, delivering performances in libraries across Central Bedfordshire. With 39 joyful sessions across 5 libraries, we were thrilled to enable young people, who often face the greatest barriers to access, to embrace unique and exciting sensory experiences.

204 CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES PARTICIPATED

“Wonderful experience. Staff are so attentive and knew exactly how to deal with my autistic children. Highly recommend.”

– Parent Feedback

“Brilliant! Everyone is so friendly and always involve all children. We have never seen our son so happy and engaged in anything like these sessions before. It's amazing.”

– Parent Feedback



WHO IS BEDFORD?

In partnership with Bedford Borough Council, **1,171** children embarked on a joyous interactive heritage adventure, bringing Bedford's rich history of multiculturalism and diversity to life. Through this immersive experience, school children explored real-life stories that have shaped their town, in a fun and educational way.

“Everything was interesting and cool but the bit at the market hearing all the different people in Bedford talking was the best.”

– Participant Feedback

“Thank you so much for the performance yesterday. The feedback from staff and children has been incredible. The engagement of the children was amazing, and they all said how much they learnt. The staff were amazed at how engrossed the children were and how receptive they were to the actors.”

– School Staff Feedback

“This was amazing.”

– Participant Feedback



All Photos: @Shaun Armstrong



MY MUSEUM

In partnership with The Culture Trust, we brought creative sessions to schools and community spaces across Luton. For this exciting new project, community engagement has been at the heart of shaping a new way for people to engage with Wardown House and Museum. **1,131** children and their families experienced *The Fabric of Luton* performances and participated in exciting, hands-on activities.

“It was fascinating to have a first experience here at Wardown Museum.”

– Parent Feedback

“Our children told us they loved the experience they had today at the museum.”

– Parent Feedback

“It was interesting and fascinating, my daughter enjoyed it a lot.”

– Parent Feedback



GYPSY AND TRAVELLER COMMUNITY PROJECTS

We've continued to nurture our connection with Central Bedfordshire's Gypsy and Traveller community, working regularly across three sites in Greensands Country. Through music, visual arts, and performance, we explored and celebrated the rich heritage stories of this seldom heard community. This powerful co-creation project culminated in a touring exhibition in 2025.

“We really like it when you come to site, it's really fun. We loved this session, we liked making things, I like being creative.”

– Participant Feedback

“I don't like it... I love it! I like it when Full House come because it means I can get outside and do something fun.”

– Participant Feedback



All photos: @Shaun Armstrong

AMPTHILL

Following a successful launch, Ampthill Town Council once again commissioned us to deliver a fun-filled creative programme for local young people and their families. We introduced 'Wild in Wellies', a new programme of outdoor interactive storytelling adventures for under-fives in Ampthill Park and continued our Amped – Get Creative sessions for ages 11-17. Highlights included model-making with the legendary Aardman Animation and SFX make-up masterclasses.

306 CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES PARTICIPATED

“I loved this activity with Full House, it was very fun and cool and I learned something that I would have not really ever learnt.”

– Participant Feedback

“I am extremely grateful my son was able to attend this activity. A huge thank you to Full House and Aardman. Not only did my son thoroughly enjoy the workshop but he was so inspired he has carried on making stop motion films over the weekend... A huge thank you from a very proud and grateful parent.”

– Parent Feedback



CREATIVE BUZZ

We continued our partnership with Central Bedfordshire Council to deliver our incredible Creative Buzz free Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) provision. **405** local children in receipt of Holiday Activities Vouchers enjoyed fun activities, healthy meals and exciting trips to live theatre shows.

“Great day for the children to experience something new, fun and different. Both my children made new friends.”

– Parent Feedback

“It gives my daughter the freedom to do things that I physically would struggle to do on my own.”

– Parent Feedback



HOUGHTON REGIS HULLABALOO

We were delighted to return with our popular annual outdoor arts festival, Houghton Regis Hullabaloo. Live shows were performed across three sites in the town, showcasing varied and vibrant creative excellence from the wonderful Circo Rum Ba Ba, Sonia Sabri Company, Tit for Tat and Simple Cypher.

“I really liked seeing dancing, community, and togetherness. Would totally recommend to others. Go Houghton Regis!”

– Attendee Feedback

“I went to several shows today and they were all such fun for all our family. Very positive lovely day outside.”

– Attendee Feedback

“Amazing, it was funny, it was dangerous, there was fire and they loved books like me.”

– Young Audience Member Feedback



NUMBER OF ATTENDEES
1,150

NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES
12



THE KING'S POLAR BEAR

We created a brand-new, exciting show exploring the climate crisis and themes of environmental sustainability. *The King's Polar Bear* toured the UK in October and November before a three-week seasonal run in Luton. We're incredibly proud of this poignant piece, which delved into big ideas, in a gentle way, to positively provoke and entertain our young audiences.

3,679 people came to watch the show with **1,368** taking part in audience development activities.

“Very inclusive for my son with autism and global development delay. Completely engaged throughout the show! Loved the shadow puppets and message that was conveyed.”

– Audience Feedback



“This was a high quality, thought-provoking, fun, magical, fabulous piece of performance - it brought all the essential elements of a show for children and families together beautifully.”

– Programmer, Z-arts

“Beautiful production for all ages - clever, engaging, and thought-provoking. Our 3-year-old loved it - thank you!”

– Audience Feedback

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CREATIVE PLAYGROUND & CREATIVE PATHWAYS

Sector and skills development remains a growing focus for our small yet mighty charity. In 2024 we launched a programme of CPD and mentoring opportunities for local artists, supported by the UK Government through the UKSPF fund. With **2** new artist commissions and **19** local artists already involved, our aim is to continue to nurture these ambitious development programmes into 2025/26 and beyond.



“A great chance to **explore** and try new things in a very **safe space**.”

- Creative Playground Participant Feedback

“Meeting people from the area and finding out what they do was **really helpful**. I have **reflected** that I need to **rebrand** and **communicate** the range of things that I can do!”

- Creative Pathways Participant Feedback

FINANCE



THANK YOU

With thanks to **everyone** we have worked with during **2024-25**, and to all who have **supported** us.



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ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



JOIN OUR
MAILING LIST



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