

BATH FRINGE 2017

Annual Report

This year's Bath Fringe added further to the list of places in which we have featured shows: No.1 Royal Crescent, the Old Barn on Kelston Roundhill, The Edge (and a tipi) at the University of Bath, and in the middle of a bush in The Holburne Museum garden spring immediately to mind, as well as a number of mystery locations, private houses, and even an imaginary version of Bath via cyberspace.



INVERTED - Pic by Daz Smith

Our penchant for outdoor and location theatre, supported by a grant from **Arts Council England**, was responsible for quite a lot of this, of course. Our participatory outdoor theatre piece, 'Looking After No.1' (the annual programme thread is called **Outside! NOW!!**), a collaboration between us and the Natural Theatre, was outstanding this year, not least because our performers had the spirit to walk, performing, through the entire city centre from Widcombe to the Royal Crescent in the pouring rain, inspired we hope by the extra input from visiting Dutch director Yvonne van den Akker and by the example of the servants whose lives they were commemorating, who would have had to work rain or shine anyway. ACE also supported The Miraculous Theatre Co. in two days of Romantic Botanic in the gardens of the Holburne Museum (big thanks to the Holburne too), the New Work Works programme which is the heart of our **bedlam fair** street weekend, and even the incursion of the dark visions of Stanley Donwood into cyber-Bath.



APOCALYPSE - Fake Escape

254 performances
in **45 venues**
to over **22,000** people
(**15000** at free events)
over **17 days**

SPECIAL PLACES SPECIAL TALENTS

But not just outdoor and location theatre was booming this year: **indoor theatre** – thanks to a hookup between the Fringe, Bath Spa Live at Burdall's Yard, and The Mission Theatre – ran to a record 50 performances of 28 shows, including some humdingers, both student and professional. Performers also deeply enjoyed our return through the welcoming portals of The Rondo in Larkhall, back where our Theatre programme began many years ago.

This also reminds us of the invaluable contribution that year-round Bath venues make to The Fringe by putting on special programmes for the festival: Green Park Brasserie & Station, The Bell, The Old Theatre Royal, The Barley Mow, Chapel Arts, Komedia...

LOOKING AFTER No.1 - Pic by Mark Bishop



New Work Works runs to present and support new work, both from new companies (whom we mentor and advise artistically) and established ones. We are proud to have played a small part in the evolution of a new show (so new as to be still untitled) from key British outdoor theatre company Avanti Display, for example, and we're gratified that work made for The Fringe went on to have life elsewhere. This also includes the aforementioned 'Looking After No.1', which had another showing in July (luckily in sunshine) Kilter Theatre used the Fringe to launch their Pub Tour (and it's still running, google it); Amadou Diagne will be launching a regular workshop after the success of his Fringe one; and there were surely careers launched via Bath Spa Live and the Fringe this year. It's worth underlining that though the Fringe has a large number of visiting artists (from France, India, Russia, Netherlands), many Bath resident performers and visual artists use the Fringe to show off what they do, introduce new crowds to a favourite venue, or just remind people that they're still in business.



UNIQUE VIEWPOINT

Fringe Arts Bath (FAB, the visual arts Fringe) are their own organisation, sharing our address and a few committee members, but they don't do an annual report, and as one of the most visual and visible aspects of the festival we're happy to give them a plug. Despite their grant from B&NES running out, they managed at least 48 shows over the fortnight, the vast majority of which were open every day, and almost all of them top quality. This is another area in which the Bath Fringe is a highlight of the national festival calendar, bringing in artists from all over the country.

'Fantastic event, came in to Bath especially to see it'

'Our little boy said "it helps our imagination"'

'The Festival is brilliant, so great to see so many people having fun'

'Surprised by the quality of the talent – would recommend it to one and all!'

- from Bedlam Fair audience feedback

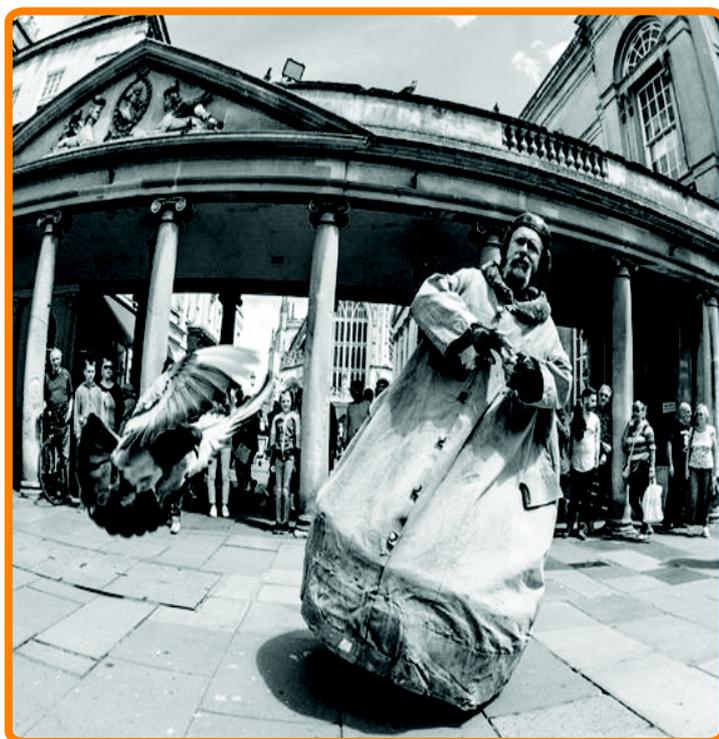
'We had a fantastic time and it has lit a fire under us to get working and actually succeed. We can't thank you enough for the opportunity.'

'The workshops & individuals session were both massively helpful... & I have been reflecting on it since. I think it will be helpful for my future development as a performer. The one to one ... completely changed my show - into something on my own I was unlikely to have conceived. Amazing!'

- From New Work Works performer participants

'But of course there would not have been any 'first show' if not for you. I can't express how grateful we are for giving us the opportunity to perform at your beautiful, alluring theatre as part of the Bath Fringe. Thank you - I mean it sincerely, as it is only people such as yourselves giving us 'newbies' the first opportunity that we can ever hope to take our first tentative steps.'

- Theatre artist feedback



DYNAMOGÈNE (France) - Pic by Mark Thornberry

...and where else but a Fringe can you:

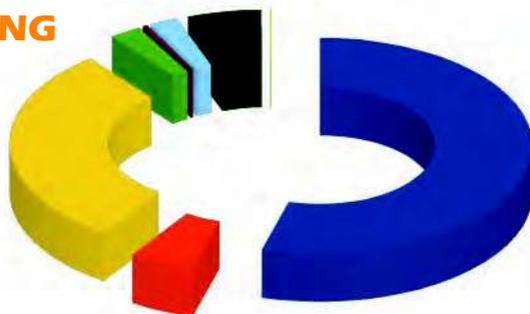
- Experience a movie for the ears
- Be prepared for the end of the world
- Track Slave Owners to their historic homes
- Revive a cult '70s dystopian TV series
- Experience the gig where the artist didn't make it (a visa problem, we hear) - so the audience entertained us all!

- or indeed see classic but underplayed artforms like poetry or puppetry for adults

REPORT - Bath Fringe 2017

THE FIGURES

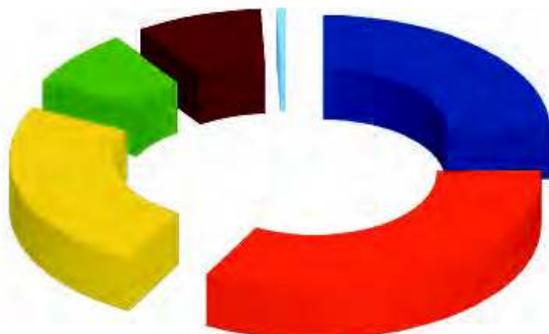
INCOMING



■ Grants	£44482
■ Donations	£1075
■ Trusts	£24522
■ Sponsorship	£2000
■ Tickets	£280
■ Programme Ads	£1775
■ Listings	£4575
■ Other Income	£60

TOTAL = £78769

OUTGOING



■ Production	£18154
■ Artists' Costs	£24613
■ Staff	£18000
■ Office	£6000
■ Marketing, Programme	£6635
■ Other Event Costs	£484

TOTAL = £73886

This year's financial position is an improvement on last year, with a higher amount retained to start off next year's work. As in recent years, we have not run many ticketed events ourselves (and we didn't operate a venue). We are very conscious of the expense involved in putting on arts events - because we've done it ourselves - and try to keep the cost of being in the Fringe to the minimum (our charges to artists pay for the print & web programmes, distribution and advertising the whole event). We are still one of the cheapest of the bigger Fringes to take part in, and we haven't increased our fees for several years.



LOTTERY FUNDED



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