

20 STORIES HIGH

Annual Report 2014-15





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1. Welcome from the Co-Artistic Directors

2014/15 has been a very interesting and ambitious year for 20 Stories High. A theme of the year has been developing new ways of creating work with our Young Actors Company (YAC), and finding new ways to share that work with audiences.

In July, Keith wrote a series of contemporary monologues called *Headz*, which were performed initially at the Liverpool Playhouse studio by the YAC. Our young actors rose to the challenge, working in detail on their characters and their stories, and performed their pieces fantastically. The audience feedback was brilliant, and the group were over the moon. We have subsequently had the opportunity to showcase the monologues at Contact theatre as part of the international Contacting the World festival. Again, there were really positive responses and we are delighted to have the *Headz* monologues as pieces of work we can remount easily and take to young audiences at festivals and a range of theatre and non-theatre settings over the coming years.

In August and September 2014, we toured *Tales from the MP3*, also performed by the YAC and directed by Julia Samuels. The production opened in Liverpool at the Everyman, before doing a run at Summerhall at the Edinburgh Festival and then four other national theatre venues. This tour marked YAC's first paid acting work with the company. As with *Headz*, our young actors company were fantastically professional and adapted brilliantly to the context of national touring, impressing audiences across the country. In September, we were invited to perform extracts from the show at the Young Theatre Makers Event, the National Theatre's launch event for its new participation space.

In Spring 2015, we toured our brand new play, *Black*, a provocative and engaging new show that digs deep at the heart of racial tensions in the UK today. *Black* was written by Keith Saha and directed by Julia Samuels. YAC member Abby Melia was cast in the main role, and was joined in performer by DJ/Producer Craig Shanda, an artist we know from his time as part of Contact's Young Company.

Alongside both *Tales from the MP3* and *Black*, our artists collaborated with young people through a wide range of engagement activities, from pre-show performances and post-show jams to workshops and post-show discussions.

The core participation programme ran throughout the year, with weekly Youth Theatre and Young Actors Company sessions, regular Youth Advisory Group meetings and a range of other activities. Highlights included the Youth Theatre's summer show *Standard*, and running our first ever Young Director's Course, supported by the Regional Theatre Young Director Scheme.

We have also been developing projects which will come to fruition next year. Keith and Sue Buckmaster from Theatre-Rites are collaborating on our 2016 co-Production, an experiment in Hip-Hop theatre and puppetry, bringing together an amazing, eclectic team of performers

We would like to thank our fantastic staff team; the young people and artists we have collaborated with; our Board, funders and partners who continue to do so much to help the company grow and develop.

Keith Saha and Julia Samuels
July 2015

2. Welcome from the Chair

This year has seen 20 Stories High explore change. Changing economic climate, changing internal and external priorities and changing models of operation and production. The organisation has been challenging itself to adapt, to be highly creative and remain ambitious without burning out. For an organisation of its size (five core staff), the charity has delivered a lot.

As the charity adapts it's thinking, it needs a Board of Trustees which is fit for purpose. This year a board assessment process was undertaken, providing a framework to implement positive changes.

We have been developing relationships with individuals and organisations beyond the arts sector to enrich our work and bring in the expertise that enabled us to continue producing professional work, increase our reach to more young people in a safe and responsible way, and build trust in 20 Stories High among the young people of Liverpool.

By us and for us. The young people have been tremendous; from informing the content of the work to delivering high quality and relevant productions. They have been challenged and stretched by the work and have come out better for it. The camaraderie and support between the Young Actors Company and the Youth Theatre is a joy to see.

I have every faith in the future for 20 Stories High. The impact its work has on audiences is undeniable. Ensuring more influencers and decision makers get to experience the work, ensuring the charity can diversify its funding portfolio, and ensuring we remain confident to face change stays at the top of my to do list.

Yvonne Hepburn-Foster

July 2015

3. Who We Are

Vision

20 Stories High make theatre with...
young people from excluded communities, emerging & world-class artists
to tell stories that are...

**contemporary, youthful, authentic, melodic,
gritty, poetic, rebellious, cheeky
original, visual, challenging, tender
anarchic, diverse, eclectic, bass-heavy,
political, funny, collaborative...
and heart-felt.**

We bring young people into theatre venues and go out into their communities.

We hail from Liverpool, but our reach is national.

We believe everybody's got a story to tell...and their own way of telling it...

Founded in 2006, 20 Stories High has established itself as one of the leading young people's theatre companies nationally, and has won a series of prestigious awards and commissions. We tour to theatre venues and community spaces and run a range of participatory projects. We are part of the Arts Council's National Portfolio of funded organisations, and are a registered charity.

Awards & Nominations

Whole by Philip Osment

2013 *Writers Guild of Great Britain* Best Play for Young People

Ghost Boy by Keith Saha

2011 *Brian Way Award* for UK's Best New Play for Young People

2010 *Liverpool Daily Post* Arts Award for Best Touring Production

Blackberry Trout Face by Laurence Wilson

2010 *Brian Way Award* for UK's Best New Play for Young People

2009 Shortlisted for *Manchester Evening News* for Best New Play

4. National Touring: *Tales from the MP3*



The Show

This gritty, honest and transformative piece of verbatim theatre, developed with 20SH Young Actors Company and directed by Julia Samuels. Between August and September 2014, we took 26 performances to six national venues; including opening at the Everyman as part of Liverpool's FLUX festival, and a run at Summerhall in Edinburgh. We also ran 17 participation sessions alongside the tour.

A scratch version of *Tales from the MP3* was originally performed at the Bluecoat in Liverpool in December 2012. There was an overwhelming response from young audiences and from arts and theatre practitioners that this work was unique and needed a wider audience. The 2014 show was an updated version of this production.

When tensions within the company ran high, the Young Actors decided to interview each other to find out the stories that made each member who they are today. Armed with MP3 players, they created a play that tells the story of a group of ordinary – and extraordinary – young people.

Tales from the MP3 was developed as a piece of verbatim theatre, performed using the 'recorded delivery' technique. In this, the group listened to the original MP3 recordings live onstage, repeating the words they heard played through their headphones. This gave the performances a raw authenticity – and an incredibly spontaneous energy.

The show also featured live music, poetry and spoken word created by the group, and a simple but striking design.

The 2014 tour of *Tales from the MP3* was, for most of our young actors, their first experience of being paid to take part in a professional production and of touring. They rose to the challenge and impressed audiences across the country.

There was fabulous feedback from audiences, venue-partners, theatre professionals and the press.

Creative Team

Director/ Editor	Julia Samuels
Designer	Miriam Nabarro
Musical Director	Keith Saha
Lighting Designer	Douglas Kuhrt
Assistant Producer	Anita Welsh
Original music	Bradley Thompson, the Cast and Keith Saha

Cast

Ade Ajibade	played Scott Lewis & Anita Welsh
Annie Mukete	played Toyin Otubusin & Owen Jones
Bradley Thompson	played Annie Mukete
Odile Mukete	played Nsensa Mbolokele
Owen Jones	played Brodie Arthur
Sam Ikpeh	played Lateefah Wainwright-Owoo & Odile Mukete
Scott Lewis	played Bradley Thompson
Toyin Otubusin	played Sam Ikpeh & Ade Ajibade

The piece is what 20 Stories High do so well – high quality participation work with unquestionable integrity of purpose... It was funny and moving. It was personal and it was political. It was wide ranging... The performers were relaxed and hugely (infectiously) enjoying doing the gig, this made for a great live youth-powered event. The skill of the company – and the trust in the company by the participants – is clear.

Kevin Dyer, ACE Artistic Assessment



*@20StoriesHigh
Tales From the MP3
@Summerhallery
essential verbatim
snapshots of the lives
of Liverpool
teenagers. Smart
work.
@lyngardner, via
Twitter*

5. National Touring: *BLACK*

The Show

Black was a provocative and engaging new show that digs deep at the heart of racial tensions in the UK today, written by Keith Saha and Directed by Julia Samuels. The production toured to national venues and Merseyside schools January–March 2015, taking 39 shows to 9 theatres, 10 schools and 1 library with 40 participation sessions running alongside the tour.

The play featured live DJ soundscapes from Chunky (Riot Jazz /Hoya Hoya) and the lead role was played by a young actress, Abby Melia, who has been nurtured through 20 Stories High's local Youth Theatre and Young Actors Company. *Black* represents a real situation and puts the spotlight on a real issue.

Nikki doesn't think her Dad is racist... he just cares deeply about his community. But when a Zimbabwean family move in over the road, the dog won't stop barking... the local kids start lobbing stones... and her Dad starts laying down the law.

With the current rise of racist attacks in the UK, and far right parties dominating the political agenda with issues around immigration, *Black* explored head on some of the difficult questions that are being raised. During the play, tensions rise, not only within the estate, but in Nikki's family as their conflicting opinions and loyalty to each other threatens to tear them apart.



We were delighted that The Anthony Walker Foundation (AWF) agreed to be a partner on the tour of *Black*, providing follow-up advice and support in post show discussions. The aim of the organisation is “promotion of racial harmony, celebration of diversity, personal integrity and the realisation of potential of all young people”. The subject matter and language of the play was such that the young audiences had many interesting and

challenging questions during post show discussions and the expertise and knowledge of AWF staff was invaluable.

Creative Team

Writer	Keith Saha
Director	Julia Samuels
Designer	Miriam Nabarro
Assistant Designer	Florence Hazard
Associate Director	Julia Samuels

Cast

Nikki	Abby Melia
Performer - DJ/MC	Craig Shanda

We received fantastic feedback from audiences, venue-partners, theatre professionals and the press.

*Saha's play is sharp, funny and honest. He provides no easy solutions yet does allow a glint of hope as to the future ******

Morning Star, Paul Foley

Newcomer Abby Melia makes her professional debut here as Nikki, and it's a hugely challenging role, essentially an hour-long monologue, which she delivers with a raw, naturalistic intensity. While Black was written as a monologue, in reality the finished play is a two-hander, with DJ and actor Craig Shanda personifying the character of Precious on stage. He's ever present as a calm physical presence, but also punctuates the scenes with a musical narrative which both comments on and also mirrors the arc of Nikki's own 'journey'.

Catherine Jones, Liverpool Echo

Saw #blacktheplay by @20StoriesHigh. So moving & unfortunately relevant. Hope they tour it all over the country! People need to see this!

@SophieCharleson, via Twitter



6. National Engagement Activities

Running alongside the tours of *Tales from the MP3* and *Black*, was an extensive and far-reaching engagement programme, where young people collaborated with a range of artists through a range of activities including:

Workshops

Professional artists led workshops with up to 30 young people at a time which explore the themes and stories within *Tales from the MP3* and *Black* using a number of different art forms and theatre making techniques.

Post-Show Discussions

Young people participated in a discussion with the actors, exploring further the themes and issues in the plays, and the making of the productions.

Post-Show Jams

20 Stories High in partnership with host schools/ venues set up exciting post-show jam events for local young people. Each post-show jam was bespoke, working alongside local young people to organise the event. Young people and artists from *Tales from the MP3* and *Black* collaborated on stage together. Young people are also encouraged to perform as individuals or groups.

Call to Create Session

Call to Create is a global collective of cultural organisations who believe it's time to shout louder about the great art young people make. 20 Stories High is one of the organisations involved in this initiative and a performance of *Black* at Contact Theatre with an extended post show discussion was one of the 'moments' in the Call to Creative programme of 2014/15.

Resource Packs

A free pack was available online for each production for any school or community group. It featured key information about the shows company and production teams. The packs also offered activities and ideas for groups to explore in the classroom or during session time.

Black was a particularly ideal resource for school groups and young people, encouraging them to explore themes and issues relevant to them, their peers and their communities. Through vibrant, contemporary and accessible theatre the project supports Citizenship, PSHE and Drama/ English for young people aged 13-30 contributing to their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

It [Post Show Jam] was amazing, super talented actors. I enjoyed every second of it and looking forward to more shows. 5 Stars!

Clonnard Youth Club Member, Belfast

I just wanted you to know how your theatre is inspiring and motivating and challenging. I loved the actress and how honest she was in her performance, plus the live music added a real bit of attitude and flavour to it. Overall a really great piece which I will remember for years to come, because it forced me to think about things going on in society and people's attitudes. Thank you for a great night of theatre.

Lamin Touray, student at ALRA North, Wigan

WOW! Thank you so much for today. Our students LOVED the workshop and as well as being fun it was so relevant for their A-Level studies. I can't thank you all enough. We are all looking forward to making our own Verbatim plays now... it was just the experience our students need to inspire them. Keep up your good work, this was one of the best in school experiences I have ever had in over 15 years of teaching. You've got it just right.

Sian, Drama Teacher, Thorpe St Andrew School and Sixth Form, Norwich



7. Participation Programme

Participation is at the heart of everything 20 Stories High does. We engage young people living in some of the most deprived and excluded areas of the country. We capture imaginations, raise aspirations and provide opportunities to debate the most urgent issues in young people's lives through engagement with high-quality, thought provoking and entertaining live performance, participatory activities and digital media. We support young people who have interest in the arts but might lack the confidence, support and financial means to get involved in activities and access further training.

Youth Theatre



Standard

Youth Theatre members worked on their devised show 'Standard' with Rachel Brogan and Bradley Thompson from January to July. The show was performed at the Bluecoat to two sell out audiences on the 16th and 17th July. Youth theatre members loved the performance and felt proud of the show and their achievements. Rachel was a really committed and passionate associate artist, and it was a real success having an Assistant Director (Bradley) working on the show.

Throughout the autumn a diverse range of artists led one-off skills workshops, which developed to a sharing of work/ skills learnt at our Winter Sharing Event (15th Dec). Our next big youth theatre production will be

lead by Julia in partnership with local Urban Arts Company, Urbeatz. Julia and local artists Future (Urbeatz) will collaborate with youth theatre members to create an original Urban Arts show. This show and our next YAC show will be will a double bill called *Promises & Animals!*

I was so shy before I joined the Youth Theatre. Even at home, I was so shy; I'd stay in my room all the time. Now, I go downstairs and spend time with my family. They can't believe how much I've changed. - Youth Theatre member

Young Actors Company

From January 2014 YAC worked on a series of contemporary monologues, *Headz*, written by Keith Saha, which were initially performed in July 2014 at the Playhouse Studio. One monologue from *Headz* was *Black*, which later toured in early 2015, as above.



Headz was my favourite artistic performance and experience I have EVER been part of it. I loved it because it wasn't easy for us, it was a challenge and I can't believe you actually let us do it! You really trusted us and we smashed it and now I'm doing BLACK!!! I am just dead excited to start it! Abby Melia, BLACK actor

Headz

Volume 1

Inside every HEAD lies a secret... a story waiting to unravel. Mikey's Mum and Dad still haven't forgiven him for what he did when he was six... Jamie is keeping her pregnancy under wraps...and David is having an affair with his teacher. With 11 different monologues over 4 nights... HEADZ offered a gritty, challenging and humorous insight into the lives of young people in Liverpool 2014.

YAC enjoyed developing and performing their *Headz* monologues. This was a very different process for our YAC members and very nerve-racking, but they worked really hard and they totally rose to the challenge.

Alongside this, we continued to forge strong relationships with our local social partners including The Anthony Walker Foundation and Sahir House. HEADZ is also part of our drive to tour more of our young people's work with a mini-tour presented to school groups in conjunction with St Helen's Library service and plans to tour to YTAS' Chrysalis Festival in Scotland in 2015.

YAC also worked with a diverse range of artists this autumn, followed by 5 focused weeks with Tim Lynskey to create a short piece which was performed at the winter sharing event. Keith has since working with YAC on the next full scale production. This will focus on Urban Art forms, and we will be performed alongside our Youth Theatre.

The Headz show I took [Luke] to the other week left me in no doubt that the theatre 20 Stories High develops with and for young people is hitting a high standard whilst creating its own unique flavour. Relevant, witty, gritty, familiar and surprising at the same time - it's filling a gap in Liverpool by representing the diversity and reality of young people's lives. High quality stuff with emotion that packs a punch and comedy that can be close to the bone - but is always sensitive. Can't wait for Tales from the MP3... Alice Demba – (the young person's name has been changed)

Youth Advisory Group

YAG is a monthly group that involves young people in decision-making across 20 Stories High. Highlights from this year include:

- Planning a 24 hour cycle challenge which raised over £2500 for the company
- Organising a really successful social evening for all our participants, which took place at John Archer Hall earlier this year.



YAG have already begun to plan fundraising and fun events for 2015/16, starting with a Relay Race that will take place in Sefton Park later this year.

Outreach Projects

Alongside our regular groups, we run local and national outreach projects:

Melody Loses Her Mojo Exchange Programme: Youth Theatre and School Drama groups from across the UK were invited to create a piece in response to our 2013 tour of Melody Loses Her Mojo. They met for an exciting day of workshops and performances at Curve, Leicester

Outreach Drama Workshops at University Academy: 20 Stories High Emerging Artists Anita Walsh and Bradley Thompson ran a series of drama workshops for pupils at University Academy culminating in a sharing for staff, friends and family.

Open workshops: This year we have seen an incredible increase in the number of young people coming along to our one off creative open workshops.

Training and Accreditation

In 2014-15, we had a number of work placements at 20 Stories High, many of which involve past/present Youth Theatre/Young Actors members.

- In the last financial year, we recruited Anita Welsh as **Participation Intern** with funding from CC Skills via Liverpool Arts & Regeneration Consortium (LARC). Anita continued to work for us at the start of this year, assisting on the participation associated with our *Tales from the MP3* tour.
- We had Young Actor Bradley Thompson as our **Assistant Director** for Youth Theatre's July 2014 show *Standard*
- In January 2015, we received funding from Regional Theatre Young Director's Scheme to appoint an **Assistant Director** (Raven Maguire), who assisted with workshops around *BLACK*, as well as currently assisting Julia Samuels on this year's YT show *Promises*.
- This RTYDS funding also enabled us to run **our first Young Director's course** last October-November. These sessions were facilitated by Artistic Director Julia Samuels and Artistic Associate Phillip Osment.
- Owen Jones (YT/YAC member) was employed as our **Assistant Stage Manager** for *BLACK*.
- In February, thanks to funding from Curious Minds, we recruited Dorcas Sebyange as our **Trailblaze intern**. Dorcas took on the role of Youth Advisory Group Leader, and helped the company to strengthen YAG, as well supporting the management of the group.
- We have started **6 Gold Arts Awards** with some of our older members. This will result in the six young artists leading their own creative project and focusing on a second art form. We have also started **6 Bronze Arts Awards** this spring with YT members.
- Caroline, an MA student from Manchester University joined us for her **MA placement**, assisting us in the office and on *BLACK*.
- Volunteers and placement students – We have been working with some fantastic students/ artists on a number of different projects in partnership with John Moores University, LIPA and Hope Street Limited. We hope to continue partnerships and look for future opportunities for students. We are so pleased to have offered paid contracts to previous placement students Bethany Sproston, Yvette Sedgley and Paul Williams this summer.

We are now recruiting students and volunteers to engage in our YT and YAC projects for 2015/16.

Other Activities

We have also been busy with...

...**9** theatre trips

...Performances at Liverpool's annual **Light Night**

...A '**Dinner & Debate**' evening exploring themes around the *Headz* monologues

...Participating in The **Big Event** –In partnership with the Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse, Unity Theatre, and other Merseyside Youth Theatres, we led this year's Big Event Festival. 120 young people from across Merseyside participated in a weekend of performances and workshops. We think this was the best year yet!

Case Study – Dorcas Sebuyange



Dorcas joined our Youth Theatre in 2012. She is 18 and was born in Congo, moving at a very early age to Liverpool.

It wasn't a simple childhood, we moved house a lot so I never got to stay at the same school which can sometimes be tough. On the plus side though, it allows you to meet lots of different people along the way - I think that makes you a better and stronger person all round.

I studied theatre at college and always enjoyed it, so when my brother and sister encouraged me to join 20 Stories High, I jumped at the chance!

Since being with 20 Stories High I have had the chance to meet, work with and learn from so many people I wouldn't have done otherwise. We get the chance to develop our performance skills and it's not just 'straight drama', I have learnt how to perform the poetry I write and learnt new skills like puppetry and physical theatre. I've also been appointed as Chair of the Youth Advisory Group and I've been supported to develop my administration and organisational skills too.

Every 20SH session starts with a couple of different warm up games and my weekly exercise is very, very, very light so going to sessions where we have these physical warm ups reminds me how important it is to stay in shape! And the work we do is often about current issues, politics and challenges facing young people today so I'm given the chance to speak out my opinion and engage in lots of debates.

I love the fact that being a member of 20 Stories doesn't stop at the end of our sessions, we have access to the office which gives us the chance to go to staff for advice and support, do homework and apply for jobs. Everything we do is supported by staff, its brill and it brings us closer making us a family - it sounds cheesy but it's true and from the heart!

20 Stories High recognised my potential as YAG Chair and sought funding to pay me to carry out the duties of this role which was amazing - I am learning more about being a team leader and how to turn actions and ideas into reality.



During my placement as Trailblaze Intern I've been given the opportunity to take responsibility for the actions discussed in the Youth Advisory Group meetings and organizing social and fundraising events. I have enjoyed this placement for many reasons such as working in such a calm and family filled workplace, getting the chance to develop my skills, always being supported when I needed that support, gaining confidence in myself and becoming closer with all members of the company. Since my placement with Trailblaze I have started a Bronze Arts Award as well as my Gold and I hope that I get the chance to work as this role again!

8. Partnerships

Partnership working is key to the development and success of 20 Stories High. This year we have continued to develop relationships with venues, networks and social partners.

We built on the relationships with partner venues, successfully booking not only the *Tales from the MP3* tour but also our early 2015 tour, *Black*. It has been encouraging that many venues want to work with us repeatedly.

We were excited to agree a collaboration with Theatre-Rites for creation and tour of our 2016 production, *The Broke 'n' Beat Collective*. The two companies have come together to fully explore the potential to fuse Hip-Hop Theatre and Puppetry and to create a unique piece of theatre to tour to young audiences across the country.

Contact Theatre, Manchester have agreed to co-produce our 2017 production, "*I Told My Mum I Was Going On an RE Trip*" (working title) and we have already started working with them closely on R&D and casting.

In Liverpool, our Participation Manager co-chairs the Merseyside Youth Theatre Forum. We are a key partner in Liverpool's first ever young people's take over festival FLUX and are developing new relationships with Youth Theatre development agencies in both the North of Ireland and Scotland, both of which have brought 20SH in to facilitate training for their youth theatre sectors. One of our Co-Artistic Directors is a member of COoL, a network of small to medium sized creative organisations and also represented COoL at LARC meetings (a network of the larger creative organisations in Liverpool).

In addition, we have established links with national social partners in relation to the participatory activities we offer with national tours, and were very pleased to work with the Anthony Walker Foundation on our tour of *Black*.

9. Research & Development

In December 2014, 20 Stories High held a week long R&D at the Everyman Theatre for *The Broke 'n' Beat Collective* – Adventures in Hip-Hop, Theatre and Puppetry. This is our professional touring show for 2016 and is a collaboration between 20 Stories High and Theatre-Rites. We are currently in the process of tour booking for this show, which will commence in February 2016.

In May, we held a day of R&D for "*I Told My Mum I Was Going On an RE Trip*" (working title). This show is currently under research and development with Julia and we plan to tour this in 2017.

Following the success of *HEADZ* in July 2014, we now plan to tour these to festivals and events, as they have become a useful pop-up resource.

10. 2014/15 in Numbers

We performed a total of **64** professional shows...

We performed **26** participatory shows...

We facilitated **257** workshops...

We performed at **4** festivals ...

Over **6000** audience members saw our work...

Over **7100** participants engaged in workshops and activities...

We worked with **20** volunteers and **44** artists.

11. Company and Financial

20 Stories High is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status. Our charitable objects are:

- To advance the education of the general public, in particular but not exclusively young people, in the performing arts.
- To provide or facilitate or assist in the provision of activities in the interests of social welfare for the public and in particular but not exclusively young people.

We achieve these objects through two main strands of work:

- Professional performances that tour to schools, youth clubs and theatres
- A range of equally high quality participatory activities that engage young people in their own creative and social development

Our financial result at the end of the financial year 2014/15 was:

- Total income of £353,321 (2013/14 £308,282)
- Total expenditure of £325,532 (2013/14 £308,534)
- Net surplus of £21,919 (2013/14 £1247)

Reserves:

Though the charity operates on a not for profit basis, the charity will endeavour, in order to provide for financial stability and sustainability, to develop a policy of maintaining a free reserve. Based on 3 months' core costs, the trustees estimate that the charity will require an ideal free reserve of £45,000 to sustain its operations at the current level over a period when one major funding stream ends and a new one commences. Actual free reserves at 31 March 2015 were £24,402. The trustees forecast to increase the free reserves to the appropriate level within the next 3 years.

12. The Future

The Broke 'N' Beat Collective

Adventures in Hip Hop, Theatre and Puppetry

20 Stories High and Theatre-Rites join forces to create a unique mash up of hip-hop, theatre and puppetry bringing together 4 amazing artists: beat-boxer Hobbit, b-boy LoGisTics , singer/rapper Elektric, and puppeteer Mohsen to form *The Broke 'N' Beat Collective*.

*Sometimes when I can't stand on my own two feet
Or the voices in my head feel cracked and incomplete
I turn up the volume of my Broken Beats
The Big Heavy Bass sends moves flowing to my feet
Melodic rhymes fill my head and make me feel oh-so-sweet
Cos my Broken Beats help me feel alive
And not so Broke and Beat.*



Touring to small scale national venues in Spring 2016.

I Told My Mum I Was Going On an RE Trip (working title)

"I Told My Mum I Was Going On An RE Trip" (working title) is a new play in development exploring teenage abortion, pregnancy and parenthood.

Director Julia Samuels will lead a creative team through discussions and workshops with young people - some who have had abortions, some who are pregnant or are parents, and some who abstain from sex. The play is a co-production with Contact, Manchester and will be touring nationally to schools and small scale theatre venues in 2017.

Participation

Our Liverpool-based core Participation Programme 2015–16 will include:

- **Youth Theatre:** working on creating *Promises*, directed by Julia Samuels and Raven Maguire
- **Young Actors Company:** working on the *Animals*, written and directed by Keith Saha. Some YAC members will also be performing *HEADZ* monologues at a Pupil Referral Unit, Spark Festival (Leicester), and Chrysalis Festival (Scotland).
- **Artist-led** workshops for shows in development
- **Open and Outreach Workshops** to engage new young people
- **Youth Advisory Group** sessions
- **Four Dinner & Debates** – which will all feed into making our professional work relevant
- **Numerous theatre trips** – Both local and national
- **Arts Award** – We are continuing to deliver Arts Award of all levels with our young people
- **Connecting with local, national and international festivals.**

Working with our national venue partners, we will also create bespoke participation projects, which interact with our national tour *The Broke 'n' Beat Collective*.

13. Thank You

Without the support of our funders, partners, young people, staff, board, volunteers, artists and freelancers, we couldn't achieve our ambitions with such success and energy.

So, a huge thank you to:

Our Funders and Donors

Arts Council England, Liverpool City Council, BBC Children in Need, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, PH Holt Trust, RTYDS, Curious Minds, Kate Samuels, Ruth and David Samuels Trusthouse Charitable Foundation, Awards for All, Granada Foundation, Skelton Bounty, Trinity (Arts Award)

Core Team

Julia Samuels, Keith Saha, Leanne Jones, Sarah Meath, Tina Taylor, Nathaniel Hall, Anita Welsh, Nicole Morris and Dorcas Sebyange.

Company Associates

Isobel Hawson, Philip Osment and Curtis Watt.

Board

Yvonne Hepburn-Foster, Lateefah Wainwright-Owoo, Trish Sangster, Anita Welsh, Curtis Watt, Jo Hemmant, Gordon Millar, Alice Demba and Richard Reddrop.

Volunteers and Students

Yvette Sedgley, Jamie Thompson, Mhairi Howison, Lisa Davis, Sam Heamingway, Laura Lomax, Becky Christian, Holly Mazur, Fran Meath, Lucy Graham, Bethany Sproston, Charli Parkin, Nicole May, Caroline Vogt, Raven Maguire, Nick Mullin and Owen Jones.

Freelancers

Helen Robinson, Hannah Robinson, Megan Sheeran, Curtis Watt, Owen Jones, Paul Williams, Ange John, Karl Llorca, Jude Jagger, Mike James, Sam Kent, Isobel Hawson, Pam Kehoe, Gill Wood and Yvette Sedgley.

Artists

Keith Saha, Julia Samuels, Graeme Lycett, Doug Khurt, Bradley Thompson, Raven Maguire, Robert Day, Wes Storey, Toyin Otubusin, Sarah Alexander, Kane Roberts, Abby Melia, Kal Ross, Gavin Wood, Paul Vincett, Ryan Logistics, Mohsen Nouri, Elisha Howe, Adam Robson, Craig Shanda(Chunky), Phillip Osment, Benji Reid, Miriam Nabarro, Tim Lynskey, Jack Hobbs (Hobbit), Esco Williams, Dan Meigh, Elinor Randle, Nsensa Mbolokele, Brodie Arthur, Ade Ajibade, Odile Mukete, Scott Lewis and Sam Ikpeh.

Our Local and National Partners

COoL (Cultural Organisations of Liverpool), Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse, The Bluecoat, DaDa Fest, MPAC (Merseyside Play Action Council) , YEP (Young Everyman

Playhouse), Merseyside Youth Theatre Development Forum, Knowsley Council, Young Identity, Toxteth TV, University Academy Liverpool, Academy of St Francis of Assisi, LIPA (Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts), Unity Theatre, Z-Arts, Tmesis, LCVS (Liverpool Charity and Voluntary Services), Tell Tale Theatre Company, Altru Drama, Suitcase Ensemble, Off the Ground Theatre, Curious Minds, Unity Youth & Community Centre, Liverpool Youth Service, Anfield Community Arts, COAP (Children of Addicted Parents), Contact Theatre, mac Birmingham, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Unicorn Theatre, Summerhall, mac Belfast, Vivacity Peterborough and The Key Theatre, The Garage, Bolton Octagon, Burnley Arts Centre, St Helens Council, The Albany, Roundhouse, Anthony Walker Foundation, Freedom Studios, NAYT (National Association of Youth Theatres), ITC (Independent Theatre Council), Youth Theatre Arts Scotland (YTAS), .

And a final huge thank you to all of our audiences and participants!



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(2015) – Photograph by Keith Saha

Page 23: Toyin Otubusin, *Tales from the MP3* (2014) – Photograph by Wesley Storey