

20 STORIES HIGH

Annual Report 2015 - 16



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1. Welcome from the Co-Artistic Directors

This feels like a very exciting and important time for the company, reaching our 10th anniversary milestone in 2016.

We began marking our 10th Birthday year with the Broke 'n' Beat Collective which was very well received and gave us greater profile nationally. A new website has been launched. We are in the first stages of implementing our new staffing structure, which will enable more artistic work to happen and participatory work to be led by the Co-Artistic Directors. We will see a keener focus on excluded young people with a HEADZ tour in October 2016. We have started a new music project with Firefit, our young writers project will launch in the autumn, made possible by the National Theatre's new Jenny Harris Award. There seem to be more and more ways that 20SH alumni are coming back to work with us. It really feels that we are achieving our desire for participation to be inseparable from the touring programme – at the heart of what we do and at the core of what our overall programme.

Challenges of course continue. We need to keep a keen eye on the capacity of the team, and need to keep looking forward to see how we can fund all of the posts on a long term basis. We are also looking very closely at the cultural diversity of the core staff team, so it reflects the young people and audiences we work with.

We will continue to celebrate our 10th Birthday year throughout 2016 and early 2017 with a programme of events and shows (see section 10) and are looking forward to the next 10 years!

Keith Saha and Julia Samuels
April 2016

2. Welcome from the Chair

A lot can happen in a year. 20 Stories High has experienced an eventful year of change.

The company, with the support of the Trustees, underwent a reorganisation, to become better fit for purpose, and I'm looking forward to the opportunities this will enable. In December the Young Actors and Youth Theatre trialled the first combined double bill, which continues to diversify our models of creative output. The Board of Trustees underwent an assessment to increase our effectiveness and ensure we continue to be fit for purpose, and that we maintain the connection between beneficiaries and the Board. The company won the National Theatre's Jenny Harris Award for work with young people, and has been focused on strengthening its operation and its offer; managing challenges, recruiting new talent across staff and participants; and closing out the year in a healthy financial position.

Yvonne Hepburn-Foster
April 2016

3. Who We Are

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, jumping, 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

Young Writers Project

2016 Jenny Harris Young Writers Award

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

4a. National Touring: *The Broke 'n' Beat Collective*



The Show

The Broke 'N' Beat Collective was our 2016 touring co-production with London based puppetry Theatre Rites. Originally performed at the Unity Theatre in February this year, The Broke 'N' Beat Collective received five star reviews and toured nationally throughout February and March. We will also visit on the Edge Festival in July later this year.

20 Stories High and Theatre-Rites present...
The Broke 'N' Beat Collective
A Mash Up of 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 Ryan **LoGiStic** Harston, singer/rapper **Elektric** and puppeteer **Mohsen Nouri** 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.*

Come and spend an evening with the Collective; a raw, gritty, funny and moving gig that explores the hardships faced by young people in the UK today.

Gripping tales, transfixing poetry and hip-hop puppetry like you've never seen before.

A 20 Stories High and Theatre-Rites co-production in association with Unity Theatre, Liverpool

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

Creative Team

Co-Writer/ Co-Director	Keith Saha (20 Stories High)
Co-Writer/ Co-Director	Sue Buckmaster (Theatre-Rites)
Music Writing & Arrangement	The Cast and Keith Saha
Designer	Miriam Nabarro
Lighting Designer	Douglas Kuhrt
Sound Designer	Jon Everett
Puppet Designers/Makers	Paul Vincett and Becky Johnson for Stiches and Glue and Matt Hutchinson
Specialist Props Maker	Jemima Robinson

Cast

Beat-Boxer	Jack Hobbs aka Hobbit
Dancer	Ryan Harston aka LoGisTics
Singer/Poet	Elisha Howe aka Elektric
Puppeteer	Mohsen Nouri

*...arguably the most innovative piece of theatre to hit Liverpool since The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time. ***** – Liverpool Echo*

*It is sensitive, poignant and is very much in touch with young people. ***** – Liverpool Sound and Vision*

We had an absolutely brilliant experience working with you guys. The show was fantastic and all the wraparound activity too – it's the first time we've really presented a show targeted at this age group so to achieve such great audiences and get so much glowing feedback from everybody was amazing. The post-show jam was a particularly highlight for me, seeing so many young people in our building, engaged and excited in what they were doing and taking a lead in making it happen. It's really helped build our partnership with the college too and we're hoping to continue running open mic nights together as a result of this success! – Becky Lees, Education Manager, Stratford Circus

Engagement Activities

Running alongside the tour, 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 *The Broke 'N' Beat Collective* using a number of different art forms and theatre making techniques. These workshops were led by Rowan Watts (VIP Puppets) and Nathan Crossan-Smith.

Post-Show Discussions

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

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 *The Broke 'N' Beat Collective* collaborated on stage together. Young people are also encouraged to perform as individuals or groups. During On The Edge 2016, we will work with Southside Producers, a Birmingham based company, to host a great jam.

Resource Pack

A free pack was available online for any school or community group. It featured key information about the show, company and production team. The pack also offered activities and ideas for groups to explore in the classroom or during session time, as well as important sign posting information.

Arts Award Bronze Booklet

This year, we trialled our first Arts Award booklet. Supported by Curious Minds and Arts Award, we created a booklet for use in schools and communities to complete. By attending a 20 Stories High workshop, and coming to see the show, any young person could pass the Bronze Arts Award using our booklet.

The workshop at Thomas Ashton (Community Special School) was very successful and we received extremely positive feedback from the staff. Some of the staff and students went to see the show again at Oldham Library and took other members of staff who they felt would benefit from seeing the show. As this group has many challenges, it worked really well for them to see the show before the workshop took place. The school also had a go at making their own cardboard heads! - Lizzy Tait, Contact

4b. National Touring: *HEADZ*



In the Autumn of last year, we did a mini-tour of our urban contemporary monologues, *HEADZ*. This tour consisted of local venues –The Powerhouse, Harmonize Academy, Barton Moss Secured Children’s home – as well as national venues: Traverse Theatre Scotland and St Matthew’s Library, Leicester. The success of this project has been a contributing factor to 20 Stories High being awarded Arts Council England’s Strategic Touring Fund to tour *HEADZ* again in the autumn of this year.

20 Stories High Young Actors Company present...

HEADZ

A Series of Contemporary Urban Monologues

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* offers a gritty, challenging and humorous insight into the lives of young people in Liverpool today.

Creative Team

Writer	Keith Saha
Co-Director	Julia Samuels
Co-Director	Keith Saha

Cast

BABY performed by Bryony Doyle
HOME performed by Paislie Reid
SOFT performed by Owen Jones

Engagement Activities

Running alongside the tour, 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 *HEADZ* using a number of different art forms and theatre making techniques. These workshops were ran by the cast and Keith Saha.

Post-Show Discussions

Young people participated in a discussion with the actors, exploring further the themes and issues in the play, and the making of the production. We hosted post-show discussions in Scotland, and all of our Liverpool venues.

Post-Show Jams

20 Stories High in partnership with SPARK Festival set up an exciting post-show jam event for local young people. The post-show jam was bespoke, working alongside local young people to organise the event. Young people and artists from *HEADZ* collaborated on stage together. Young people are also encouraged to perform as individuals or groups.

Resource Pack

A free pack was available online for any school or community group. It featured key information about the show, company and production team. The pack also offered activities and ideas for groups to explore in the classroom or during session time, as well as important sign posting information.

5. 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 - Promises

Youth Theatre members worked on their devised show *Promises* with Julia from January to July. This was an exploration of teenage life – particularly focusing around the school experience of young people today. The show was performed to two sell out audiences on the 16th, 17th and 18th July, at the Unity Theatre, Liverpool. This was a double-bill evening with our Young Actors Company. Youth theatre members loved the show, and the chance to perform in our local theatre venue.

Throughout the autumn a diverse range of artists led one-off skills workshops, which were then developed with associate artist Nathan Crossan-Smith to culminate in a sharing of work at our Winter Sharing Event (14th Dec). This was following extensive research and development around 'home' and 'identity', exploring the refugee crisis in Calais at the time. Our next big youth theatre production will be an amalgamation of our Youth Theatre and Young Actors Company to create a show of epic proportions to be performed on the Everyman main stage, called *The Elasticated Sound System*.

20 Stories High has taught me a lot and has helped me gain confidence. It is my second family. - Young member

Young Actors Company - Animals

Our Young Actors company worked with Keith from January to July. They created a piece based around the pressures and current issues that young people face today – both socially and politically. The show was performed as a double-bill with *Promises*. We received such great feedback and the young people had such a positive experience, we are currently in the process of considering touring the show nationally in 2018.

YAC also worked with a diverse range of artists this autumn, followed by 5 focused weeks with Julia to explore *I told my Mum I was going on an RE Trip...* (touring nationally 2017). The themes of the show are abortion, family planning, sexual health, family & relationships. The group worked using the verbatim interviews Julia has conducted with over 50 people – from people who have experienced the process of abortion, to doctors, to campaigners. The exploration culminated in a performance at the Winter Sharing, and helped inform the further developments Julia is making with the show.

*Both plays are angry, challenging, intelligent, thoughtful, funny and above all hopeful. They're performed by a large cast of fine actors who give voice to their emotions through music, poetry, and dance. 20 Stories High is a remarkable theatre company and we need more like it across the country to give voice to such young people. They are the future and if their talent is harnessed, Cameron, Osborne and their ilk don't stand a chance. - *****Paul Foley, Morning Star*

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 relay race to raise money for the organisation – helping YAG reach their fundraising target
- Hosting two dinner N debates – debating abortion, sexual health and young people today.

YAG is currently undergoing some changes, to help re-form it and shape it to suit the changing needs of our young people. Over the next few months, we will be hosting consultations with YAG to develop the future of YAG.

Outreach Projects

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

Mic club: From January-April, we ran weekly sessions every Thursday at the Firefit hub, Toxteth. This was ran with lead artist Martin Stannage (MC Visceral) for twelve weeks. This was supported by RTYDS young director Paislie Reid. The project ended with a performance-jam, where all the young people of the hub were invited to watch/participate, with our weekly group. This was well attended, including our Youth Theatre and YAC members, and one participant from the group has now joined our Youth Theatre. This project formed the basis of an ongoing partnership with the Firefit hub.

King's Leadership Academy: We have hosted two workshops in one of our partner local schools, King's Leadership Academy. This is an ongoing project, with more workshops scheduled for July.

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 2015-16, 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 Dorcas Sebuyange for a paid position as our Youth Advisory Group Chair, funded by Curios Minds, Dorcas spent more time in the office helping us to develop the young voices and how they influence our work.
- We had Raven Maguire as our Regional Theatres Young Directors Scheme Assistant Director, helping to direct *Animals*
- We received the National Theatre's Jenny Harris Award – which will enable us to run our Young Writers programme this autumn
- We have continued with four of our members to help achieve Gold Arts Award, as well as five of our members achieving Bronze level
- Nick Mullin joined us for work experience last June/July
- 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 now recruiting students and volunteers to engage in our YT and YAC projects for 2016/17.

Other Activities

We have also been busy with...

... **10** theatre trips

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

... A '**Dinner & Debate**' titled 'No Borders', exploring the current refugee crisis, and our part to play

... 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!

... 12 weekly sessions at The Firefit Hub, Toxteth exploring **Mic Club**, a weekly spoken word, poetry project lead by Martin Stannage (MC Visceral)

... Presenting a **Flash Mob** performance in Liverpool One, as part of our 10th Birthday celebrations

... Hosting four **Pop Up performances** in shopping centres/venues around the country to help promote our national tour of The Broke 'N' Beat Collective

... Creating a short pop up performance titled **African Beach Party** – exploring the refugee crisis, performed in national venues across the year

... Taking all our young members on a **Residential trip to High Ash Farm** in Buxton, to play games, hand fun and spend some great time together

Case Study – Emma Burns

Emma joined 20 Stories High's Youth Theatre in September 2013. Since then, Emma has also become a member of our Young Actors Company, as well as being employed for our 2017 professional tour, *"I told my Mum I was going on an R.E. Trip"*.

1. Tell me a bit about yourself

I grew up in the rough parts of Walton... I remember in school I was just all about trying to fit in, and not being an outcast.

2. What made you join 20 Stories High Youth Theatre?

I saw *Grounded*, and I just thought it looked so fun to be a part of. The acting style was something I'd never seen before; I wanted to work with the company to explore it more. I'd just left college and thought this is what I need. I'd never been part of a Youth Theatre before.

3. How has being a member of 20 Stories High developed your confidence?

A lot. It's helped me with even just walking in to a room and not being worried or thinking about what anyone else was thinking. Because of a problem with girls at school I would never go to town, but when I joined 20 Stories I started to feel like I could again.

4. How has being part of 20SH developed your creative skills? What new skills have you learned?

It's helped me write poetry, script a play.... It's helped my reading skills – I never had any before I came here. I'm proud of being able to stand on stage and talk. It's helped me overcome my fear of walking into a strange or unknown environment. I can now embrace the adrenaline of it all.

5. Has being a member of 20 Stories High positively developed any other parts of your life?

A lot. 20 Stories has given me a lot of connections – with theatre companies, venues, people in the city, different artists, it's connected me to the different areas of Liverpool. 20 Stories give me advice whenever I need it, Leanne has helped me so much in the past. I've got my first professional acting job with 20 Stories High – being an actor in *"I told my Mum I was going on an RE Trip"*. That has given me so much confidence in my ability.

6. What is the most beneficial part of being a member of 20 Stories High?

The company give as much as they can. No opportunities pass us by. It feels like you can just walk in the office at any point and speak to anyone about anything

7. Has being part of 20SH inspired you to think about your future career and life?

Yeah, when I got the audience feedback for the sharing of RE Trip. Loads of people were telling me "you're so funny to watch Emma you really need to explore comedy more"; it

made me so happy! While being here I've thought a lot more about writing – I'm writing a script at the moment, because I love the idea of putting on my own play. Going to Dinner N Debate made me realise that I really want to host my own, to explore what I'm writing about.

8. Do you have other enhanced aspirations?

I want to continue with acting for a few years, maybe four. I want to go to loads more auditions to get the experience. While I'm doing this, I'll start writing more scripts. Maybe after four years I'll see where I'm at, and might look at running my own company. I know 20SH are starting a Young Writers course soon with Keith Saha and Phillip Osment, I can't wait to join that and get some knowledge from them.

9. What is your 20SH best moment or highlight?

I've got so many! In rehearsals for *STANDARD*, we went out and built our own dens in a camping ground, it was so much fun and everyone had such a good laugh; we really started to get to know each other. When we went on the residential to High Ash Farm in Buxton last summer, we went on a hike to the top of one of the mountains and all had a boss time on the top of this rock at the top, just sitting together and having a laugh.

There was this time we went to the Royal Exchange for this Future Jam event, and we all went for pizza after and I proper felt like a massive family. In our last show (Promises), me and Will (another YT member) came up with these characters called Gold & Champagne; we made these hilarious scenes for the show.

All of these moments just tell anyone and me really how much 20 Stories act like a family to you. Everything we do is always so fun and light-hearted, no matter what's happening on the outside.

10. What are you looking forward to the most about the coming year with 20 Stories?

Going on tour with RE Trip. There are loads of other opportunities that 20 Stories are telling me about around the tour that would be so exciting if they came through. I'm also looking forward to performing on the Everyman stage next month for *Elasticated Sound System*; it's going to be amazing!



11. Other comments?

All of the staff team are so helpful. Like I can literally go to anyone with anything and they will help. When I suggest ideas to the company they actually take them on board, and they try to make them all happen. Like my ideas actually get used, they value my opinion.

6. Partnerships

Engagement

We worked with local partners, collaborating on outreach activity to attract new participants to our participation programme, focusing on young people who experience multiple and complex barriers to engagement. These included:

- Kings Leadership Academy, Liverpool
- Harmonize Academy
- Fire Fit Youth Hub
- Academy of St Francis of Assisi
- Powerhouse Foyer (supported accommodation for young people)
- Barton Moss Secure Children's Home

Strategic Relationships

We continued to increase our engagement and reach through working strategically with national partners. For example we have consolidated our close working relationship with Contact Theatre, taking *The Broke 'N' Beat Collective* to the venue, developing our co-producing relationship for our 2017 show and working with their young people through workshops and R&D.

One key relationship we developed in the last year was the co-producing relationship with Theatre-Rites. For both organisations, this was a new way of working – sharing the artistic and operational responsibilities and it was a very positive experience with valuable learning on both sides. The companies have plans to work together again on future projects:

- Presenting *The Broke 'N' Beat Collective (TBNBC)* at the ASSITEJ international children's theatre festival, On The Edge, in Birmingham in July 2016
- Co-creating a Christmas show for Z-Arts in 2017, based on *TBNBC*

We toured to a total of 15 venues. One venue that was new to both companies was Oldham Central Library and a particularly good relationship was established with them. They put our Audience Development Coordinator in touch with key community, school and college contacts in the local area and were able to offer heavily subsidised tickets to groups (£2). As a result they achieved 70-80% audiences, the majority of whom were made up of our target of hard to reach and diverse young adults. Richard Hall, Senior Library Officer and our main contact commented:

“For a relatively small town such as Oldham there is a lot of arts provision but no real opportunities for young people to watch accessible world class theatre aimed at their age group, which is why the visit by 20 Stories High and Theatre Rites was so important. I was keen to programme the show for an audience of young people and equally to raise in the sector the profile of Oldham library as a small scale venue.”

For 20 Stories High it was a first time working with Stratford Circus and this is a partnership that we hope to sustain in the future. We received the following feedback from them:

“Thanks for being so lovely to work with in setting up all the participation activities... you helped keep it so calm and fun for everyone! My colleague Ashlie and I are looking forward to coming up on Thursday to see the RE Trip sharing ... we'd be really keen to continue working with you.”

Both companies plan to visit the venue again with future touring productions.

Working with a dedicated Audience Development Coordinator meant they were able to spend time researching and documenting key contacts in each area. We now have a database of youth and community contacts and will be using this database to maintain relationships with Youth and Community groups and young people's support services across the country, keeping them up to date with future productions and participatory opportunities.

At selected venues (Unity, Contact, Octagon, Albany) we held Ambassador events, inviting key contacts to come and find out more about the show in advance of its arrival in their area. The relationships established at the events resulted in group bookings and ongoing conversations about future audience development and collaborations, e.g. Manchester Youth Justice and Bolton Young Persons Housing Scheme.



7. Research & Development

In March 2016, we held our second, the day-long R&D for *I told my Mum I was going on an RE Trip*. Julia has spent a large part of this year interviewing doctors, young people, family, friends of those who have experienced abortion. This show is currently in the writing and editing stages for Julia, and will tour nationally from February 2017.

8. 2015/16 in Numbers

We performed a total of **53** professional shows

We performed **15** participatory shows

We facilitated **165** workshops

We performed at **3** festivals

Over **7900** audience members saw our work

Over **7300** participants engaged in workshops and activities

We worked with **14** volunteers and **62** artists

9. 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 the performing arts
- To advance in life and help young people through:
 - The provision of recreational and leisure time activities provided in the interest of social welfare, designed to improve their conditions of life;
 - Providing support and activities which develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.

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 2015/16 was:

- Total income of £301,201 (2014/15 £353,321)
- Total expenditure of £271,247 (2014/15 £325,532)
- Net surplus of £36,030

Reserves:

Although we are a charity operating on a not for profit basis, we endeavour, in order to provide for financial stability and sustainability, to develop and maintain a free reserve of £45,000 to sustain our operations over a period. Actual free reserves at 31 March 2014 were £56,886.

10. 20 Stories High turns 10!

In January this year, we kicked off our 10th birthday celebrations with our national tour of *The Broke 'N' Beat Collective*. To carry on the party, we came up with ten things that we will do over the next year to celebrate our work:

1. The Broke 'N' Beat Collective National Tour – Feb-March 2016
2. Flash Mob in Liverpool One – February 2016
3. Launch of Mic Club at Firefit Hub – January 2016
4. Website Launch – April 2016
5. Creation of 10th Birthday film – Winter 2016
6. Hosting an Emerging Director placement – Paislie Reid (RTYDS) – Spring 2016
7. 10th Birthday show – The Elasticated Sound System – July 2016
8. HEADZ autumn tour – October 2016
9. Young Writers Project – Sept-Dec 2016
10. 20SH Donation Scheme – Launched June 2016



11. The Future

I told my Mum I was going on an R.E. trip...

I told my Mum I was going on an R.E. trip... 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. Following a day's R&D at the Contact, Manchester earlier this year, another week-long R&D will be held early 2016. The play will then be written, and developed with professional actors and will be touring nationally to schools and small scale theatre venues in 2017.

The show will be a co-production with Contact, Manchester.

Participation

Our Liverpool-based core Participation Programme 2016–17 will include:

- **Youth Theatre & Young Actors Company:** Working on *The Elasticated Sound System* with Keith & Julia, to perform in the Everyman Theatre this July, then working with a guest artist to produce a short performance to be performed at our Winter Sharing 2016
- **Artist-led** workshops for shows in development
- **Young Writers Project workshops:** led by Keith Saha and Phillip Osment
- **Open and Outreach Workshops** to engage new young people
- **Youth Advisory Group** sessions
- **Two 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 "*I told my Mum I was going on an R.E. trip*".

11. 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, Ruth and David Samuels, The Big Lottery (Awards for All).

Core Team

Julia Samuels, Keith Saha, Leanne Jones, Tina Taylor, Lucy Graham, Nathaniel Hall and Nicole Morris.

Company Associates

Isobel Hawson, Philip Osment and Curtis Watt.

Board

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

Volunteers and Students

Siofra McKeon-Carter, Elizabeth Barker, Heledd Rees, Stephanie O'Hara, Jack Coleman and Nick Mullin.

Freelancers

Ange John, Nancy Poole, Laura Hammond, Adam Stewart, Yvette Sedgley, Simon Sturgess, Debo Adebayo, Bid Mosaku, RRD Creative, Tess Farley, Katie Musgrove and Brodie Arthur.

Artists

Keith Saha, Julia Samuels, Graeme Lycett, Doug Khurt, Adam Robson, Raven Maguire, Wesley Storey, Afreena Islam, Ade Ajibade, Rachel Farrell, Gavin Wood, Gill Charnock, Rowan Watts, Grace Goulding, Bryony Doyle, Owen Jones, Nathan Crossan-Smith, Jennifer John, Cathy Butterworth, Abby Melia, Bradley Thompson, Miriam Nabarro, Emma Burns, Martin Stannage (MC Visceral), Elisha Howe (Elektric), Ryan Harston (Urban Conceptz), Jack Hobbs (Beatbox Hobbit), Mohsen Nouri, Jon Everett, Sue Buckmaster and Jamie-Lee O'Donnell.

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, King's Leadership Academy, Theatre-Rites, The Powerhouse Foyer, Harmonize Academy, Young

Identity, Toxteth TV, University Academy Liverpool, Academy of St Francis of Assisi, Fire Fit Youth Hub, Barton Moss Secure Children's Home, LIPA (Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts), Unity Theatre, Z-Arts, Tmesis, LCVS (Liverpool Charity and Voluntary Services), Tell Tale Theatre Company, Battersea Arts Centre, Altru Drama, Suitcase Ensemble, Off the Ground Theatre, Curious Minds, TIPP, Unity Youth & Community Centre, Liverpool Youth Service, Young Minds, Contact Manchester, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Cardboard Citizens, Bolton Octagon, The Royal Exchange, Albert Kennedy Trust, Freedom Studios, ITC (Independent Theatre Council), Youth Theatre Arts Scotland (YTAS).

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



Photo credits:

- P1:** The Collective, *The Broke 'N' Beat Collective* by Robert Day
- P2:** Bryony Doyle performing *HEADZ* at Crysalis Festival, by Robin Mitchell
- P5:** The Collective, *The Broke 'N' Beat Collective* by Robert Day
- P8:** Paislie Reid performing *HEADZ* at Crysalis Festival, by Robin Mitchell
- P10:** Scott Lewis performing *ANIMALS* at Unity Theatre, by Wesley Storey
- P14:** Emma Burns performing *Promises* at Unity Theatre, by Wesley Storey
- P16:** Young participants in Puppetry workshop with Rowan Watts, by Wesley Storey
- P18:** Young participant in Indian Dance workshop with MILAPfest, by Wesley Storey
- P21:** Young participants on our residential to High Ash Farm, photo by Julia Samuels