

# Impact Report

2019/20

# The Difference We Made

**M6 Theatre is one of Britain's leading theatre companies specialising in creating and delivering quality work with, by and for children and young people. M6 uses original theatre to unlock potential and create positive change.**

This year we have shared moving **productions** and thought-provoking **films** that offer alternative views of the world where difference is championed, kindness celebrated, and empathy unlocked.

We have collaborated with diverse creative teams and nurtured **talent** to reflect our community, with key grassroots partners and sector networks continually informing our development.

**Local children and young people** have been supported to create and share their own amazing plays and films and we've offered multiple work experience opportunities to expand their creative career options. We've also mentored several early career professionals including a local writer and theatre maker who we supported to develop his own company.

Behind the scenes we've been investing in our infrastructure to ensure we are greener, leaner and more sustainable. By the end of the year we had to swiftly adapt our delivery plans to new digital interventions due to the COVID-19 lockdown. The Board and team are fully committed, in this time of continued uncertainty, to managing risk, safely responding to change, embracing innovative ways of working and surviving in whatever new landscape emerges in theatre for young audiences.

We gratefully thank our small committed team of skilled professionals, board and many, many partners who have helped us collectively achieve the positive results we share in this impact report.

**Simon Whitehead** Chair

**Deborah Palmer** Managing Director and joint CEO

**Gilly Baskeyfield** Artistic Director and joint CEO

“

Every year you knock my socks off with the warmth, humour and understanding you offer all of our linking children. M6 creates a way to allow every child to shine.”

**Erica Field, EMA Teaching & Learning Adviser, RBC Early Help & Schools**



# Our Year in Numbers



9500  
TICKETS

120

Speech Bubbles  
participants

68

ARTS AWARDS  
IN PROGRESS



130

Hours of volunteering/  
work experience



3

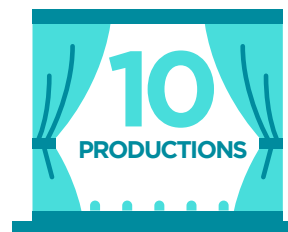
NATIONAL  
TOURS



38  
Venues  
visited



189  
PERFORMANCES



10  
PRODUCTIONS



4

FILM  
PREMIERES



564

Audience members for  
participation events



552

Workshop hours



5  
Community shows  
at M6 Theatre



3

SCHOOL  
TOURS



Young people watched  
**Curriculum for Life** films online



794  
Children participated  
in Linking Schools



2839

Youth theatre and  
workshop participants

COLLABORATED WITH

39

FREELANCE ARTISTS

# Highlights

- ▶ Gained glowing reviews for **Little Gift** (ages 3+), enjoyed by almost 800 people at Kilkenny Arts Festival, a Christmas Residency at Tramshed, London and preview shows for local schools.



- ▶ Back by popular demand, we toured **One Little Word** (ages 3+) nationally alongside community shows and intergenerational performances in local schools.

“Absolutely fantastic - my 6-year-old boy with autism really engaged and was talking and laughing.”

**Audience Member, One Little Word**

- ▶ Presented 19 performances of **The Storm**, written by Nicola Schofield, a brand-new single voice play for Year 7s confronting issues surrounding climate change. The tour was cut short due to COVID-19 restrictions.



- ▶ Alongside community performances and a national tour of **Mission...Save the World!** (ages 5+), children from diverse backgrounds in 21 Rochdale primary schools connected to enjoy a workshop and performance as part of the **Linking Schools** project. In collaboration with the Equalities Team at **Rochdale Borough Council**.

- ▶ Collaborated with **Proud and Loud** to support Chrissy Jones, an emerging artist living with a disability label, to create and tour **Shadow Girl**, her own original theatre production.



- ▶ Supported **4 diverse youth theatre groups** to meet weekly and devise their own original theatre productions. These were shared with local communities at M6 Studio throughout the year.

“M6 is brilliant for bringing children out of their shells, which is what happened with my daughters.”

**Youth Theatre Parent**

- ▶ Continued to work in partnership with **Barnardo's** supporting young people living with disability to create and share their theatre productions through our **Act to Shine** youth theatre group. The young people were thrilled when actress Shobna Gulati paid a visit to find out more about this Children in Need funded project.



- ▶ Supported young people accessing counselling services to create and share their stop motion animation films with **Beyond Psychology and High Peak Arts**.



Continued to work in partnership with London Bubble to deliver **Speech Bubbles**, a series of workshops with small groups of KS1 children who have identified speech and language delay. Teachers noticed improvements back in class in 93% of Speech Bubbles children.



Premiered **3 Unlocking Voices film resources** - Crossing the Line, We Care (made with Cared For young people) and Wherever the Road Takes Me (made with members of the Gypsy and Traveller community.)

Launched Rochdale Young Writers competition in partnership with **Touchstones** and **Rochdale Literature and Ideas Festival** with a performance of Riz Ali's winning script, Tales from the Town Hall.



Partnered with Rochdale Connections Trust to deliver **Rochdale Cares to Act** participatory projects.

Delivered a writers' camp for young people living with disability, in partnership with **High Peak Community Arts**.

Delivered **Grey Matters** workshop sessions to care home residents, leading to attendance of family performances at M6 Studio.

“With 40 years in children's theatre, M6 Theatre Company know their audience, and successfully deliver a show that's both strong and smart.”

**The News, Portsmouth (on Mission...Save the World!)**



# Money



Revenue Funding  
**£209,009**



Capital Funding  
**£141,969**



Fees, Box Office &  
Other Funding  
**£56,546**



In Kind Support  
**£51,396**



Income 2019-20  
**£658,267**



Project Funding  
**£144,547**



Theatre Tax Relief  
**£54,800**



Artistic & Participatory Programme  
**£259,595**



Premises Costs  
**£51,396**



Governance  
**£5,530**



Expenditure 2019-20  
**£484,453**



Core Costs  
**£167,932**



Capital Expenditure  
**£125,608**



In Year Reserves Movement  
**£173,814**



Operating Surplus  
**£48,206**



A full set of  
audited accounts  
is available on the  
website

# People and Partners

Adam Carrée Alice Bunker-Whitney Alison Heffernan Amy Pearce Andy Manley Anna Friel Antonia Elsey Ashley Walsh Beth Allen Caitlin Garner  
Caroline Kennedy Caroline Sheard Chrissy Jones Christopher Tyler Collette McManus Danielle Frame Deborah Palmer Dot Wood MBE Eleanor  
Samson Erica Field Fiona Fogarty Fiona Kennedy Gail Hopper Gareth Dennison Gillian Barratt Gilly Baskeyfield Guy Hargreaves Holly Stevenson Huw  
Jones Imogene Doyle Jane Cox Jenni Morris Jenny Harris Jill Welsby John Matzen John Nicholls Josie Cerise Joss Matzen Julie Forster Kamal Kaan  
Kirsty Johnson Lauren Dixon Lauren Fielden Lesley Stinson Lewis Wileman Lizzie Wilson  
Major Mark Melville Mark Starbuck Molly Hugo Muriel Gott Nan Jackson  
Nicola Ingram Nicola Schofield Nigel Gloudon  
Thomson Prof Tony Jackson Purvi  
Shaban Dar Shannon Wild Sharon  
Whitehead Sofiya Haq Steph  
O'Connor Tayo Akinbode TC  
Zak Greaves Action Together  
Barnstorm, Kilkenny Festival Belfield  
Primary Caldershaw Primary School  
North West Culture House at  
Deeplish Academy Ergon Greater  
Primary Heywood Children's Centre  
Kentmere Academy KYP Langley  
Library Leo & Hyde Link4Life Littleborough Community Primary London Bubble Lower Place Primary Lyric Hammersmith NESTAC Number One  
Riverside Oulder Hill Community School Proud and Loud Rochdale Borough Council Children's Services Rochdale Borough Council Early Help  
Rochdale Borough Council Schools & Community Cohesion Rochdale Borough Culture Network Rochdale Connections Trust Rochdale LEAP  
Rochdale Libraries Rochdale Literature and Ideas Festival Rochdale Music Service Sandbrook Community Primary St Anne's Academy St Cuthbert's  
High School St Edwards CE Primary St Luke's CE Primary St. Mary's RC Primary Stratford Circus Terry O'Toole Theatre The Challenge The Lowry  
The Spring Arts & Heritage Centre The Tramshed Touchstones Waterside Arts Centre Woodland Primary Yate Library NCS The Challenge





# Future Plans

## When we Started Singing

KS2

Autumn 2020

An uplifting film and workshop experience for linking partner schools to enjoy in their own buildings, at the same time. When We Started Singing by Mike Peacock is the story of a kind, elderly man who brings his community together and was one of the winning entries in our Love in the Time of Corona monologue competition.



## Little Gift

Ages 3+

Christmas 2020

Performances for school bubbles and socially distanced community shows at M6 Studio. An optimistic tale of friendship and hope to bring a little light into the darkest season of the year.

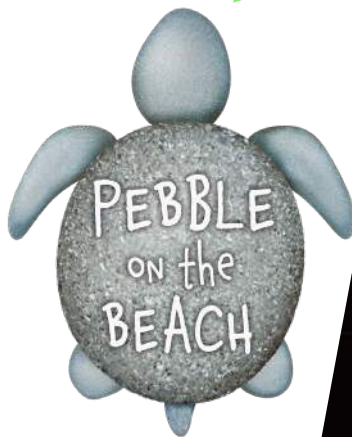


## Pebble on the Beach

Ages 3+

Spring 2021

A pilot schools tour of this brand new show for young children and families. Combining live music, dynamic choreography and engaging puppetry, Pebble on the Beach will transport audiences to a fun and unforgettable day at the seaside.



Stay safe & creative and see you after the interval.

The M6 team





# M6 Theatre Company

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With thanks to our funders:



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BUILDING A STRONGER  
BRITAIN TOGETHER