Access Impact Report

# Introduction

Access is central to who we are. We respect the social model of disability and are active accomplices to the disabled community, constantly learning and wanting to improve our relevance and accessibility.

# Personal Quotes

* ‘As a disabled kid growing up, there wasn’t a space for me in the arts. I never had access to stuff like this. To see students taking part with the same diagnosis as me made my heart soar.’ - Mollie Neal, Inclusion Facilitator
* ‘The only people who can change this narrative are disabled and neurodivergent people themselves and I am proud to be part of a system that is working to open pathways for this’ - Daniel Regan

# Key Statistics

* 20% of our core staff identify as d/Deaf, disabled or neurodivergent
* 47% of Playing Up 2024 in receipt of benefits including disability payments
* 25% of 2024 auditionees identified as disabled
* Ongoing work with x10 non-mainstream schools UK-wide

# Policies and Initiatives

* Age Extension Policy: Opening opportunities to d/Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent young people up to the age of 30
* Tackling Social Isolation: Assemble 150 young disabled people in Wales, Manchester & London

# Partnerships

* Blink Dance (Associate Company)
* Touretteshero (Digital Heroes of the Imagination and Relaxed Performance Training)
* Ramps on the Moon (Embedding anti-ableism)

# Inclusive Practice

* Training for 250 National Youth Theatre members
* Inclusive Events, Mentoring Collective, Stepping Up Course

# Trauma Informed Practice

* Implemented across the charity
* Individual needs prioritized
* Silver Quality Mark awarded by One Small Thing

# Building Redevelopment

* Changing Places Toilet
* Access Across 5 floors
* Blue Badge Parking Bays
* Hearing Loop
* Accessible Calm Entrance

# On Stage

* ‘My Brother’s a Genius’ by Debris Stevenson: Two Neurodivergent Twins learn how to fly
* ‘Frozen Light’ multi-sensory theatre: ‘The Bar at the Edge of Time’ and ‘2065’

# Inclusive Performances

Calm approach to audience movement and noise. Latecomers admitted. Free re-entry during performance. Ear defenders and plugs available. Pre-show information accessible.

# Members’ Collective

‘Access Acquired’ showcasing NYT disabled talent and GLA Neurodiversity Collective

# Awards

Civic Trust Award winner 2025

# Funders and Supporters

Arts Council England, National Lottery Community Fund, The Mayor of London’s New Deal for Young People, Department of Work and Pensions, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, John Lyon’s Charity, The Baily Thomas Charitable Fund, the Boshier-Hinton Foundation, Newcomen Collett Foundation, St Olave’s Foundation Fund

# Special Thanks

David Bellwood, Extraordinary Bodies, Diverse City, Sarah Pickthall, Athena Stevens, Michele Taylor

# Industry Partners

* In Greater Manchester: Aviva Factory International, Contact Theatre, Gallery Oldham, DANC, DIY Theatre Company, HOME, Loud and Proud, The Lowry, Manchester City Council, MADE Mcr, Oldham Theatre Workshop, Palace Theatre and Opera House, Reclaim Project, Royal Exchange Theatre, 53Two Theatre, TripleC, Z-arts
* In Wales: Craidd Cymru, Grand Ambition, Hijinx, Learning Disability Wales, Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Sherman Theatre, Swansea Grand Theatre, Wales Millenium Centre
* Nationally and in London: Access All Areas, Access Consultants - Hala Zein and Katie Anna McConnell, Almeida Theatre, AngelShed Theatre, A New Direction, Blink Dance, The Centre for Equity & Inclusion, Curious Minds, Gig Buddies, Graeae, Islington Council, Islington Supported Employment Team, London Metropolitan University, MenCap, National Theatre, Ramps on the Moon, Sadler’s Wells, Unique Community, Young Vic, Touretteshero