



Neath based charity celebrates 35th birthday with Big Lottery success

Bilingual theatre company Theatr na nÓg are celebrating a grant from the Big Lottery to support their work mentoring young theatre makers from Carmarthen to Cardiff, by giving them the opportunity to work in a professional environment.

The £8,440 will support the core running costs of the Young Ambassador scheme, a community of 16-25 year olds who are interested in gaining more experience in theatre behind the scenes as well as performing on stage.

The project began in January 2016 and has supported over 40 young people interested in pursuing a career in the arts.

Geinor Styles, Artistic Director of Theatr na nÓg said:

“We established the Young Ambassador scheme to create a legacy for the company, ensuring that the ethos and our commitment to creating exciting theatre for the young people in our area would continue for another 35 years. They get the opportunity to be involved not only in the production side of theatre but more importantly the nitty gritty of the business of running a subsidised theatre company”.

Daisy Williams, Young Ambassadors co-ordinator helped set up the project; “The Ambassadors have already supported us on a number of productions, most recently Eye of the Storm which played to 5,000 young people from across South Wales this Autumn.

We will be creating our very first play as a team in January, which is another exciting element to the project that we have never been able to do before."

The grant from the Big Lottery will allow more young people to access this free scheme by covering their travel expenses.

Ani, a former Young Ambassador said:

"It gave me more confidence than I could have expected, not just having first hand experience of the business side of running a theatre company but basic office experience that has helped me become more employable in a non-theatrical setting as well. I've since gone on to temporary work in offices and am now an Emerging producer of another theatre company. Armed with the skills, insights and first hand experience with Theatr na nÓg I am confident in my abilities as a working professional."

Theatr na nÓg, 'theatre of eternal youth,' is on a mission to ignite the imagination of the nation. They believe in the power of outstanding theatre to inspire life-long change, and enrich the lives of people of all ages. Rooted in the Welsh valleys, they create original theatre in English and Welsh that inspires and engages audiences of all ages across Wales and beyond. As a registered charity, they rely on the support of the Arts Council of Wales, private companies and other funders to make their work possible.

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Notes to Editors

- Interviews available
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About Theatr na nÓg

www.theatr-nanog.co.uk

Theatr na nÓg is on a mission to ignite the imagination of the nation. They believe in the power of outstanding theatre to inspire life-long change, and enrich the lives of people of all ages. Rooted in the Welsh Valleys, they create original theatre in English and Welsh that inspires and engages audiences of all ages across Wales and beyond.

Their name means 'theatre of eternal youth,' and they bring this energy and passion to creating excellent new work that is both authentic to their home in Neath, and is effective at connecting to audiences wherever they tour, from Swansea to Singapore. Their shows are of the same high quality, artistic ambition and professional standard for every audience – children or adults. Theatr na nÓg love bringing to life the stories of ordinary people who achieve extraordinary things. They work with, and create original productions for young audiences and schools, and they are also a provider of main stage work with appeal for a wide range of ages.

Theatr na nÓg's most notable recent success was with their production of 'TOM the Musical' A story of Tom Jones which toured to 12 venues across the UK, played 83 performances to over 41,000 people. Theatr na nÓg was founded 35 years ago to meet the needs of the community in West Glamorgan. They've come a long way since then, but their ethos has remained the same. They believe that people of all ages and backgrounds should be able to experience accessible, live theatre of the highest quality.

As a registered charity, they rely on the support on the Arts Council of Wales, private companies and other funders to make their work possible. Every year more than 16,000 young people and their families attend their educational performances.

Theatr na nÓg are an associate company to Wales Millennium Centre, and enjoy dreaming up exciting collaborations outside of the theatre world. Their growing list of collaborators includes the Natural History Museum (London), The National Museum of Wales, The National Botanic Gardens of Wales, and Singapore Science Centre.

About the Young Ambassadors

www.theatr-nanog.co.uk/ambassadors

Theatr na nÓg's Young Ambassador scheme started in January 2016 in order to support and mentor the new generation of theatre professionals.

Aimed towards 16-25 year olds, the scheme offers full access to the company to learn by observation and get hands-on experience at rehearsals, on productions and events. The Ambassadors have already supported many productions such as 'TOM' at the Wales Millennium Centre, performed as cast members in 'The Amazing Adventures of Wallace and Bates' at Cardiff Museum and the Eisteddfod as well as most recently 'Eye of the Storm' at the Dylan Thomas Theatre and Taliesin Arts Centre in Swansea.

Theatr na nÓg want to work with as many young people as possible through the medium of both Welsh and English and by offering their support and resources, they hope to contribute to the development of new skills to use at Theatr na nÓg and elsewhere in the industry.

About the Big Lottery Fund

www.thebiglotteryfund.org.uk

The Big Lottery Fund is responsible for distributing 40 per cent of all funds raised for good causes (about 11 pence of every pound spent on a Lottery ticket) by the National Lottery - around £670 million last year.

Since June 2004 they have awarded over £9 billion to projects supporting health, education, environment and charitable purposes, from early years intervention to commemorative travel funding for World War Two veterans.

Their funding supports the aspirations of people who want to make life better for their communities. We deliver funding throughout the UK, mostly through programmes tailored specifically to the needs of communities in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland as well as some programmes that cover the whole UK.

The Big Lottery Fund was created by the National Lottery Act 2006, which set out the main rules under which we operate.

The big lottery fund is governed by a Board comprising the Chair, the four chairs of the country committees and up to seven other members.

Each country has a committee responsible for the funding programmes in their country; the Board has also appointed a committee for UK-wide funding.