

# The Egg, Theatre Royal Bath

"The Egg in Bath is a fantastic theatre that offers some of the best work for children and family audiences." - Lyn Gardner, *The Guardian*

Since its opening in 2005, The Egg - Theatre Royal Bath has played a vital role in building the cultural capital on which the city of Bath stands. The theatre is a hub for creativity, learning and entertainment. The theatre and its staff have built enormous expertise in running a venue with outreach and community engagement at its core.

The Egg Theatre is a pioneering space dedicated to children and young people. It's a place for curious minds where the joy of being human is shared through theatrical experiences. Each year, it presents more than 200 performances of more than 30 different high-quality productions. It runs a year-long programme of participation and engagement, including Theatre School, Young Apprentices, Bath Theatre Academy, Engage and our most successful ongoing campaign: Wonderfund.

- **Theatre School:** It runs a youth theatre for 5- to 18-year-olds to express themselves, create and learn all facets of theatre-making, and acquire a solid foundation of transferable skills. Annually, Theatre School hosts 112 participants.
- **Young Apprentices:** The Egg's annual work experience scheme welcomes 25 young apprentices aged 14-15 from different schools across Bath & North East Somerset for a week of a unique, immersive work experience placement.
- **The Bath Theatre Academy:** Bath Theatre Academy (BTA) began development in 2017, drawing on the academic successes and educational understanding of Bath College in collaboration with the world-renowned Theatre Royal Bath. BTA offers students a full-time UAL Level 3 Course in Performing and Production Arts in and around B&NES. We want to serve the students on our course by ensuring that they are exposed to the industry's most exciting and innovative thinkers and makers – all of whom are united by the shared vision to radically readdress common misperceptions about the work young people are capable of making. We are passionate about empowering the next generation of theatre makers to go boldly. BTA enrolls between 78 and 80 students per year.
- **Engage:** Since 2010, the Engage programme has offered workshops and productions for adults to participate in. This year, the scheme has grown to offer more activities and extra case-by-case bursaries to cover the costs of the paid activities. Every term, Engage hosts 45 participants.

*"It was an extraordinary and special experience. I am so proud to have been part of it. It was one of those moments when you realise just how wonderful theatre can be, and I appreciate just how good that makes me feel about, well... everything."*

Engage participant 2019

- **The Wonderfund,** launched in 2022, is a unique ongoing initiative to give state and special school children free access to live performances. As a charity, the theatre asks for the public's help to remove all the barriers to accessing theatre and additional resources to enhance their education.

The Egg's Theatre Wonderfund has become one of the most successful community engagement schemes The Egg has ever delivered. It is part of the local vernacular, and schools emerge from the woodwork daily. Children from Swindon to Marksbury, Keynsham to Radstock enjoy the best theatre for young audiences – learning new vocabulary, sharing experiences, expanding their cultural horizons and having fun.

*"The pupils at Palladian Academy Trust have benefited enormously from the work of the Wonderfund, not only through the distribution of more than 800 tickets but also through supporting transport costs. Pupils of all ages across BANES have had access to cultural capital opportunities that would not have been possible without the Wonderfund. We look forward to continuing our partnership into next year and beyond to enable us to live out our Trust vision of 'excellent and equitable opportunities so everyone can flourish.'*

Donna Tandy, Chief Executive Officer, Palladian Academy Trust, February 2023

Collaboration is vital, and part of The Egg's Theatre Royal Bath's efforts is to foster partnerships to improve access and enhance the cultural experience of our shared audiences and participants, as well as support our artists and colleagues within the creative industries and beyond. Some of our key partnerships include Bath Spa University, the University of Bath, Bath College, House of Imagination, and The Holburne Museum—as well as local and international theatre companies, and schools.

At every level, The Egg enriches the lives of children & young people, from all sectors of society. From the first spark of curiosity to preparing them for the rigours of modern-day employment. The Egg is an unmitigated success story for children and young people in Bath and North East Somerset.

## Our Impact

Theatre School has staged and offered work nationally and internationally. The youth theatre is wildly popular, with over 200 young people regularly participating in weekly performances and backstage workshops. To ensure that we enable access to all young people, TRB offers bursary support to all participants who need it. In the last five years, we have offered 247 bursaries (equating to around £25k).

Young Apprentices, this year, offered an unprecedented gamified experience to the 25 young minds that took part. To celebrate its success and share the experience, The Egg have put together a brief video available here: <https://vimeo.com/852380360>

With Bath Theatre Academy, we are going into our seventh year of delivery, and this year (2023/2024), we will enrol our largest-ever cohort of 85 students, who, when they graduate, will join the 134 students who have graduated from the course since we began operating.

The Egg's Theatre Wonderfund aims to make Bath & North East Somerset the region where all children have an equal opportunity to make live theatre part of their everyday experiences, just like reading, listening to music, or simply playing.

The Wonderfund has offered 9878 free tickets to 97 schools over the past two years. Our fundraising efforts have exceeded expectations, with over 6000 donations, surpassing our target by £40K. We've also allocated £7,500 towards transport for schools with high numbers of Pupil Premium children. Further, we've hired a full-time Education Officer through the Kickstart scheme, expanding our Wonderfund initiative to offer additional free workshops. Our impact has not gone unnoticed, as we've been nominated for the 2023 Creative Bath Awards and BANES Charity of the Year.