

BATH FRINGE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



154 (+) performances of
107 shows (plus at least
38 FAB visual arts
exhibitions)
in **25** venues (plus **23**
exhibition venues)
to over **19,000** people
(**13,000** at free shows)
over **17** days



The 35th year of Bath Fringe (more importantly for us, the 25th year of the current organisation) passed off pretty much like any other.

The important thing, as we see it, is that we're still here and still doing what we do:

- o Presenting the highest quality new work in a wide variety of artforms
- o Providing an opportunity for local artists, venues and promoters to show off what they do to a larger audience
- o Making experiences that can only happen in a festival and that haven't happened in Bath before.
- o Supporting and developing emerging artists

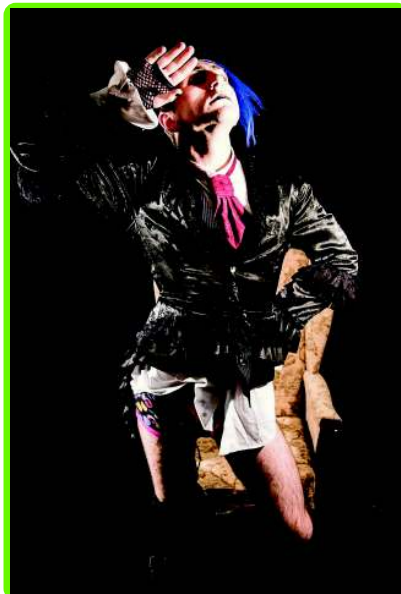
It's in times of economic uncertainty that people need arts, entertainments and expression the most, of course, and we're used to hanging on in there for the better times: and when they come we're ready for them. The small size and great flexibility of our organisation, and the irregular nature of our event(s) makes us more able to ride out the bumpy Superhighway of Fortune than others. We'll still be here in another year, another five, even another 25 ...

SO HOW DID WE DO THAT?

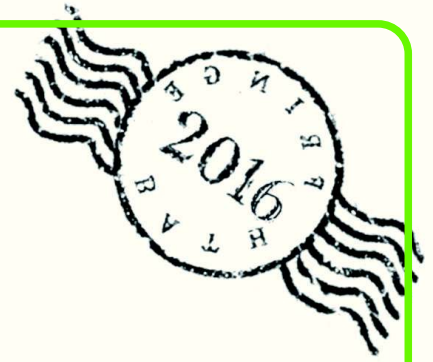
Bedlam Fair moved back into the city centre on Saturday and in the gradually re-vamping SawClose & Kingsmead Square on the Sunday. We were blessed with excellent weather and some very entertaining acts playing to increased crowds.

Arts Council England supports us to support new artists at Bedlam, and helps us to balance them with a few new shows from more established names.

Our other **Arts Council** supported project, participatory & collaborative outdoor performance saw young people and non-professional performers working with everyone's old friends **The Natural Theatre** and Brighton-based **Urban Playground Team** to make work inspired by the railways in commemoration of the 50 years since the Somerset & Dorset Railway last steamed into Green Park Station. The event combined comedy with nifty parkour-inspired acrobatic dance and was a flashy side-step into new artistic territory - and a seriously impressive climbing frame!



Boxed Up and About a Goth, both from Burdalls Yard



URBAN PLAYGROUND TEAM at Green Park Station

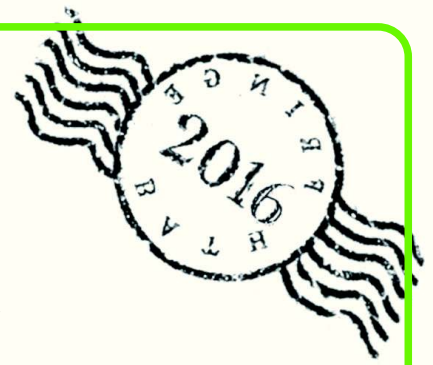
THEATRE STARS

Another major success story this year was **Burdalls Yard**. Combining the end-of-course work of Bath Spa University performance students with a number of professional and local companies proved an ideal combination, pushing audiences up massively to 1392 (!) and establishing a role for Burdall's in the Fringe. Long may it continue that way, and special thanks to the Fringe's Theatre subgroup for pulling it together. Not content with this year's success, they're already planning to roll out to other venues in 2017...

REPORT - Bath Fringe 2016

ALL VERY F-A-B

They don't produce their own report so we'll blow our trumpet for them: **Fringe Arts Bath** visual arts fringe overcame a major shortage of venues to create yet another ground-breaking, mind-and-budget stretching and successful programme in empty shops and on the streets of Bath. We love what they do and it has become one of the things that is most distinctive about Bath at Festival time.



IS THIS YOUR FIRST FRINGE?

Among the places presenting their first ever Fringe shows (or the first for a long time): The Ale House, Prior Park Gardens, The Museum of Bath Architecture, The Mineral Water Hospital Chapel, and the brand spanking new Widcombe Social Club.

Not of course forgetting Cleveland Pools and other FAB venues

Oh and we had a new website

Massive thanks to Geoff (in particular) and Chris
It was visited 18,000 distinct times in April (when the programme went online), 29,500 times in May and 29,600 times in June.
We have 6,700 followers on Twitter and 2,500 on Facebook
We printed **25,000 programme brochures**
and additional leaflets for Bedlam and some individual events & venues.



RAMSHACKLICIOUS lay waste to SawClose

ARTISTS SAY

Thank you for always being so supportive and for running a great festival in Bath! We appreciate your team A LOT!

- **Caroline Garland, Kilter Theatre**

Thanks for having me at the festival, it was a lot of fun and a real nice crowd.

- **Jack Stoddart, Ramshacklicious**



KILTER THEATRE in Prior Park Gardens

AUDIENCES SAY (Bedlam Fair):

It's great. I'm staying longer in Bath because of it. (Visitor from Bristol)

Brilliant: fun for adults and kids.

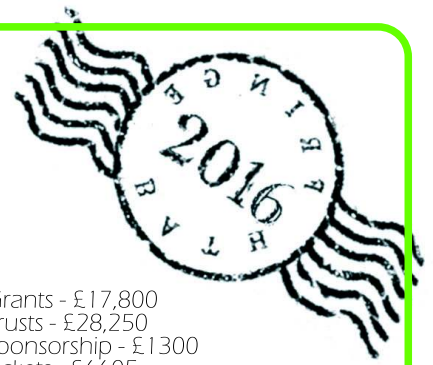
Nice dimension to the city.

I'm moving to London but interested in coming back for this event!

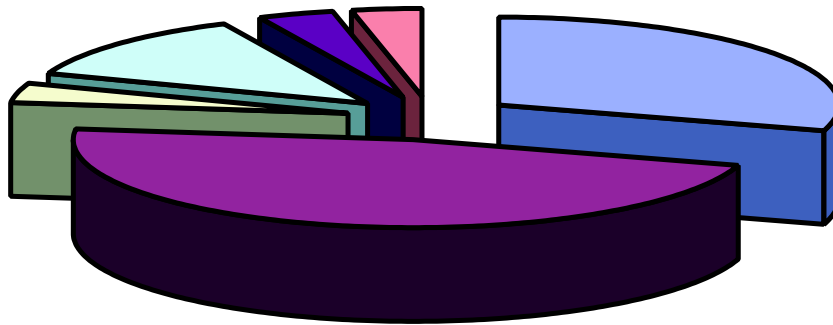
Lovely - happy and glad I came.

REPORT - Bath Fringe 2016

THE FIGURES



INCOME

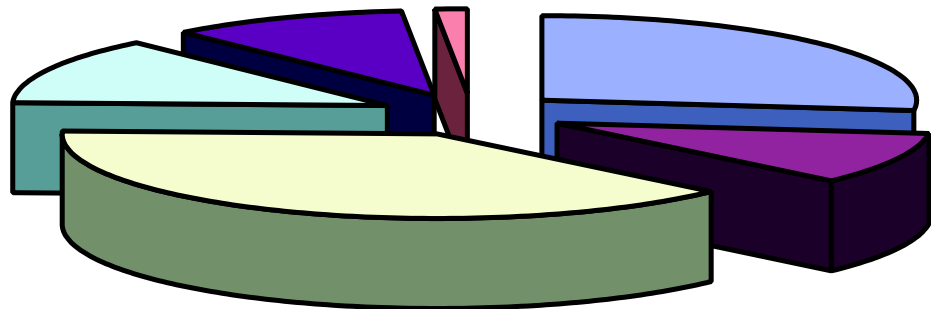


- Grants - £17,800
- Trests - £28,250
- Sponsorship - £1,300
- Tickets - £6,605
- Programme Ads - £1,050
- Listings - £1,600

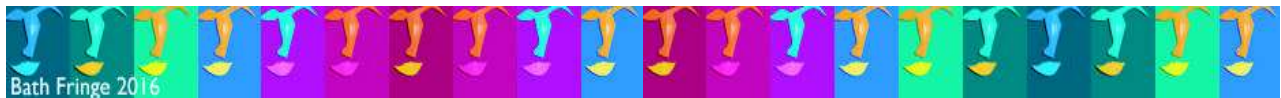
£59,785

OUTGOING

- Artists Costs - £16,797
- Production - £6,194
- Staff - £24,000
- Office - £7,963
- Marketing & programme - £6,407
- Other event costs - £780



£62,141



**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

LOTTERY FUNDED

For further information contact:
WENDY MATTHEWS
103, Walcot Street
BATH, BA1 5BW
Tel/Fax 01225 480079
Email: wendy@bathfringe.co.uk
meet us online at: www.bathfringe.co.uk

PRINCIPAL FUNDERS

Arts Council England
BathNES Council
The Joyce Fletcher Trust
The Roper Family Charitable Trust
St John's Hospital Trust

SPONSORS

Burdall's Yard
Green Park Brasserie
ICIA
IOP Publishing
Somerset & Dorset Railway Trust
The Bell Inn
The Guild CoWorking Hub
Wessex Water
Xerophon

REPORT - Bath Fringe 2016