

What DIY did in 2019



DIY Theatre Community Interest Company
Impact Summary



Who we are and what we do

DIY is an established Learning Disability Theatre Company based in Salford. We are a Community Interest Company, member-led and our Board comprises mainly disabled people.

We have been creating accessible and thought-provoking theatre and creative projects for 25 years!



DIY's Board deciding on their priorities for the coming years.

Our vision is a world where performers, theatre-makers and arts leaders with learning disabilities are valued as part of the rich diversity of our cultural sector and our society.

We aim to:

Challenge preconceptions and barriers through high quality performance, education projects and research.

Celebrate diversity and creativity in all areas of our work.

Promote the achievements of performers and theatre-makers with learning disabilities and share good practice.

We offer:

- ★ Original performances which tour schools, colleges and theatres.
- ★ A youth arts and leadership programme for children and young people with learning disabilities.
- ★ Drama projects with schools, colleges and youth organisations, many of which include Arts Award accreditation.
- ★ Regular creative workshops and courses for adults with learning disabilities.
- ★ Training for Arts Award advisers, universities and practitioners.
- ★ Bespoke consultancy and training.

2019 Highlights



The Launch of our Passing the Baton Programme

Thanks to the support of the National Lottery Community Fund DIY were able to launch our 'Passing the Baton' programme of Youth Arts and Youth Leadership provision for young people in Salford at the beginning of 2019. See page 11



Partnerships with Universities

DIY have built working partnerships with the Universities of Salford and Manchester and are proud to have become Associate Artists of The New Adelphi Theatre. See pages 9 & 10



Winning the Equalities Award

Our Volunteer Leaders won the 'Equalities' Award at Salford's Heart of Salford Awards at the AJ Bell Stadium.*

This event is Salford CVS and Volunteer Centre Salford's prestigious annual ceremony to celebrate volunteering and voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations in Salford. Attendees voted live for the winner of each category, from a shortlist compiled by an independent panel of judges.

*DIY's Volunteer Leaders are from DIY's Friday and Young Leaders Groups.



Developing Following Patient 36

Thanks to the support of Arts Council England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund, we have spent time researching disability history and developing our new show. See page 5

DIY's Artistic Programme

DIY's core company creates original, high quality performances which tour to venues across the North West.



Give Me Space!

43 people saw Give Me Space! in 2019

In 2019, DIY members said goodbye to Give Me Space! our multi-sensory show for audiences with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities (PMLD) with performances at Springwood Primary School and Enrich Festival.

We visited Springwood Primary School as part of the school's Arts Week and gave two performances of Give me Space!

★ 12 children with PMLD attended the shows.

Our last performance was at the Enrich Festival, a 3-day event held in Watford in June.

★ 31 people saw the farewell performance.

During the festival DIY performed and ran workshops alongside Polish theatre company Teatr Bomba Bomba, Mind the Gap and Dance Syndrome.

“It was lovely hosting DIY at Enrich Festival, all the feedback I received about your performance was very positive, everyone enjoyed it a lot.

Ela Paszkowska, Enrich Festival



Following Patient 36

153 people attended R&D Performances of our new show.

“I think it’s a story that needs telling. It couldn’t be more timely - you mentioned in the film about things that are happening now to people, so I think it’s the right time to have the subject out there.”

Audience member, The New Adelphi Theatre performance

Throughout 2019 DIY worked on creating a new show – Following Patient 36 – using a Research and Development process. DIY members researched Learning Disability History and interviewed people with first-hand experience of Care in the Community in Salford. We made decisions about the story we wanted to tell and explored ways to communicate with our audiences.

We worked with film-maker Hilary Easter-Jones, designer Nerissa Cargill Thompson and musician Sarah Atter to create original elements for the show. We then shared our R & D performance in three very different venues with very different audiences.

We trialled our R&D piece at three public performance events:

In July we held a week-long residential in the New Adelphi Theatre at University of Salford which culminated in a performance attended by 22 people. During September and October we worked with musician Sarah Atter to create a song based on Following Patient 36 which was performed at Chethams School of Music in October. 30 people attended the performance. Finally, we hosted a Following Patient 36 research and development performance event at Eccles Town Hall in November which was attended by 94 people.

“The whole production was pared down and simple, but it had a huge impact – I love this kind of theatre.

Audience member, Eccles performance

“Thank you for such an excellent thorough performance and helping me gain a greater understanding.

Audience member, Eccles performance

DIY members also devised a workshop based on the show which was piloted with children and young people at You Can Community Club and Chatsworth Futures (Post 19 provision). The workshop used props and costumes from the performance as a way of exploring the show's themes and characters.

7 children and young people attended these pilot workshops

“I feel quite emotional but it was really, really powerful. I really liked the movement, the film, the silence, they were really powerful. Well done. It was brilliant!

Audience member, The New Adelphi Theatre performance

During the R&D period we:

- ★ learnt research skills.
- ★ increased and developed new creative skills and practices including creating a number of evocative films, experimenting with integrating film with live action and incorporating songs and Signalong into performance.
- ★ created an original performance which, amongst other things, proved a powerful medium for highlighting a largely hidden period of Learning Disability history and the resilience of people with learning disabilities.
- ★ developed positive partnerships which have enabled us to extend our audience reach.
- ★ trialed our new show to a diverse range of audiences and gained positive feedback to support future development in 2020.

“It is brilliant – more people need to see it.

Audience member, Eccles performance

DIY's Work with Adults with Learning Disabilities:

DIY provides a range of opportunities for adults with learning disabilities to access training, increase their skills and develop as leaders.



“Before coming to BUDS I was lonely because I had nothing to do. Then by chance I met Bill (DIY Access Coordinator) who said I could join the group. This made me feel happy. I join in with some of the activities” ”

Buds 'Sense of Adventure!' participant

DIY BUDS

15 adults with learning disabilities attended regularly.

Our 'Sense of Adventure!' Drama Project was open to adults with learning disabilities in Salford. The weekly sessions offered opportunities to gain skills, socialise with others and improve members' health and well-being.

“many members identified their experience of joining a 'Sense of Adventure' as like moving from a place of loneliness to finding friends, and having a place to socialise.”

Feedback from DIY worker

DIY BUDS' 'Sense of Adventure!' project incorporated activities that developed a wide range of communication styles to ensure that all group members were included in activities. Sign-Along and physical theatre were incorporated to ensure all group members and audiences were able to participate fully in the story. The sessions also included yoga and the group was introduced to different healthy foods during the break.

In June the group hosted a sharing event to show some of their work.

DIY Courses for Adults

DIY provides engaging and varied opportunities for adults with learning disabilities to develop a range of creative and essential skills.



DIY ran 7 courses in 2019.

Each comprised 10 weeks of 2 hour sessions:

- ★ Puppets & Props Course – 14 students.
- ★ Banner-Making course – 7 students.
- ★ Movement for Theatre course – 10 students.
- ★ Moving Puppets course – 12 students
- ★ Next Steps Banner-Making – 8 students.
- ★ A Costume for Me course – 12 students .
- ★ Print and Stitch course – 8 students.

“DIY Theatre Company provides local learning-disabled adults with limited access to mainstream activity with high-quality, stimulating and meaningful opportunities that value them as individuals, allow self-expression and enable them to forget their disabilities for a few hours.”

Nicky Vinver,
Coordinator, Community Learning, Salford City College



Chatsworth Engage

DIY began a new partnership with Chatsworth Engage, a project which works with adults with learning disabilities in Swinton. DIY ran three sensory workshops with a small group of participants during Autumn 2019.

6 adults attended the workshops.

Friday Group focus on Arts & Health

DIY's Friday Group is a group of adult leaders with learning disabilities that designs, delivers and evaluates most of DIY's Outreach Programme.



Drama and Health Module for Manchester University

In 2019 we began a new partnership with the School of Medical Sciences at University of Manchester.

DIY Friday Group members developed a Drama in Medicine course which they co-led twice during the year.

DIY leaders taught students how different drama games and exercises can all be linked to the 5 outcomes for health and wellbeing. We explored the importance of a social model of health and how this complements a medical model of health. The students had a chance to shadow how we plan as a group for our BUDS drama sessions. We explored different forms of communication through drama and how to adapt activities to make them more inclusive.

17 medical students were trained by DIY.

“I learnt more about communicating, teamwork and noticing different needs people in a team may have.”

Student feedback

“Very welcoming, inclusive, a great learning space, I really enjoyed it all”

Student feedback

Our other work with universities in 2019

DIY's Friday Group planned and delivered a workshop called 'Movement through the Life Stages' as part of the 'All the World's A Stage' Creative Therapies Conference at University of Salford in October 2019.

In the workshop we used the 5 ways to well-being to help show how drama can support people's mental and physical well-being

11 delegates participated in our workshop



“Thank you to DIY for coming to present a workshop at our first Creative Therapies Conference at University of Salford and helping to make it such a memorable event.”

Leigh Gardner, Lecturer in Counselling and Psychotherapy, University of Salford.

We became associate artists of The New Adelphi, University of Salford, and held a week-long residency and performance in their studio theatre during the Summer.

DIY's Friday Group also ran:

- ★ 2 training sessions as part of the 'Theatre and Communities' module at the University of Salford.
- ★ a training day for second year drama students at the University of Manchester. This looked at approaches to developing sensory theatre as part of a performance practices module.

“Thank you so much. They were both such wonderful sessions. The students thoroughly enjoyed them both..... I'm very much looking forward to working with you all again soon”

Sheila McCormick, Senior Lecturer in Performance, School of Arts and Media, University of Salford.

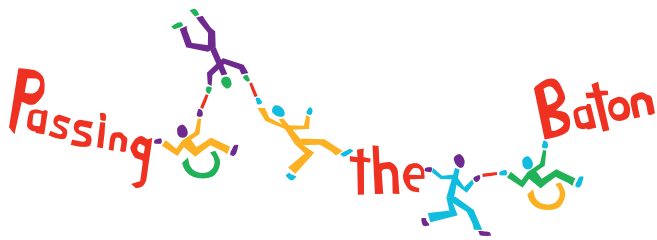
Working with Children and Young People with Learning Disabilities



Thanks to the support of the National Lottery Communities Fund, DIY were able to launch our 'Passing the Baton' programme of Youth Arts and Youth Leadership provision for young people in Salford at the beginning of 2019.

"It's a really inspirational project as our young people can see that there are real and authentic opportunities for them post-education, when they work with the artists from DIY who they can relate to. It helps to give context and authenticity to the arts work they do in school and encourages them to develop their own passions and talents."
Chatsworth High School and Community College





Tasters & Outreach

DIY Leaders co-planned and co-led a number of outreach projects with children and young people with learning disabilities this year:

Chatsworth Futures

In May we started a new partnership with Chatsworth Futures, where we ran a taster workshop with 15 students. As there was a high level of interest, we followed this with a series of 6 sensory theatre and Discover Arts Award sessions to Post 19 students at Chatsworth Futures.

8 young people took part in the project, 6 achieved their Discover Arts Award.

A follow-up Explore Arts Award project focussed on the theme of 'Environment' and took place during the Autumn term. Students explored different environments through sound, music, sensory props and movement.

4 young people completed their Explore Arts Awards.

Chatsworth High School and Community College

DIY worked with Year 10 and 11 students at Chatsworth High School during June and July 2019. We supported the students to develop their own leadership skills by planning and preparing a workshop for younger students. They successfully delivered their workshop during the school's Music Festival.

12 young people attended these sessions.

“The relaxed atmosphere of the sessions gives every student a voice and an opportunity to express themselves, helping them to develop the confidence and skills they need to self-advocate, become independent and lead”

Feedback from school staff

“There is a really warm, supportive atmosphere in DIY sessions. Students are always encouraged to make their voice heard and feel confident in doing this in a safe environment. The workshops are also really fun and creative”

Feedback from school staff

Springwood Primary School

During May 2019 DIY contributed to Springwood School's Space themed week. DIY's Young Leaders designed an accompanying set of space-themed workshops for the students which we ran three times in one day!

81 children took part in workshops which contributed towards their Explore Arts Awards.

Passing the Baton's Regular Programme



Passing the Baton Young Leaders

This group provides a unique opportunity for young disabled people to build confidence, develop leadership skills and gain an Arts Award qualification. Our Young Leaders Group met regularly throughout 2019 and have:

- ★ created a new logo and had t-shirts made to promote their work,
- ★ come up with the idea of a 'Circus Tricks' project and successfully fundraised for this (from the Salford CVS Youth Wellbeing Fund)
- ★ visited The Lowry to watch Circus 1903 and worked with 2 circus practitioners, and,
- ★ represented the group at 3 consultation events; Salford Stories (Salford CVS), Seldom Heard (Salford CVS) and Tea With...(Curious Minds).

6 young people regularly attended

4 Young Leaders have achieved Discover & Explore Arts Award Adviser status.

Passing the Baton Youth Drama Club

DIY ran a taster session at You Can Community Club during Spring 2019. It was attended by 10 young people and in June 2019 we launched the Youth Drama Club at the Beacon Centre. This is open to any young disabled person aged 10 – 25. It provides opportunities to build confidence, meet new people and learn new skills.

6 young people regularly attended

4 achieved Discover Arts Award

DIY is a national leader in Arts Award training and support.

We deliver Arts Award training and support and are one of only three organisations nationally delivering specific Discover/ Explore and Bronze/ Silver training to people working in SEN settings.

“Loved it. I am excited about teaching again! I thought it was great to meet non-teachers and very valuable to hear other's ideas. Lot of valuable information BUT not bombarded with 'Stuff' that was not relevant. Fab day!

Arts Award Advisor Training session feedback

Arts Award Adviser Training

During 2019 DIY ran 9 Public Training Courses and 2 In House Training Sessions.

44 people achieved Advisor status for Discover & Explore Arts Award

48 people achieved Advisor status for Bronze & Silver Arts Award

8 people achieved Advisor status at Gold Arts Award level

“Everything was very clear and concise making the training pleasant, fun enjoyable and informative! It was brilliant.”

Arts Award Advisor Training session feedback

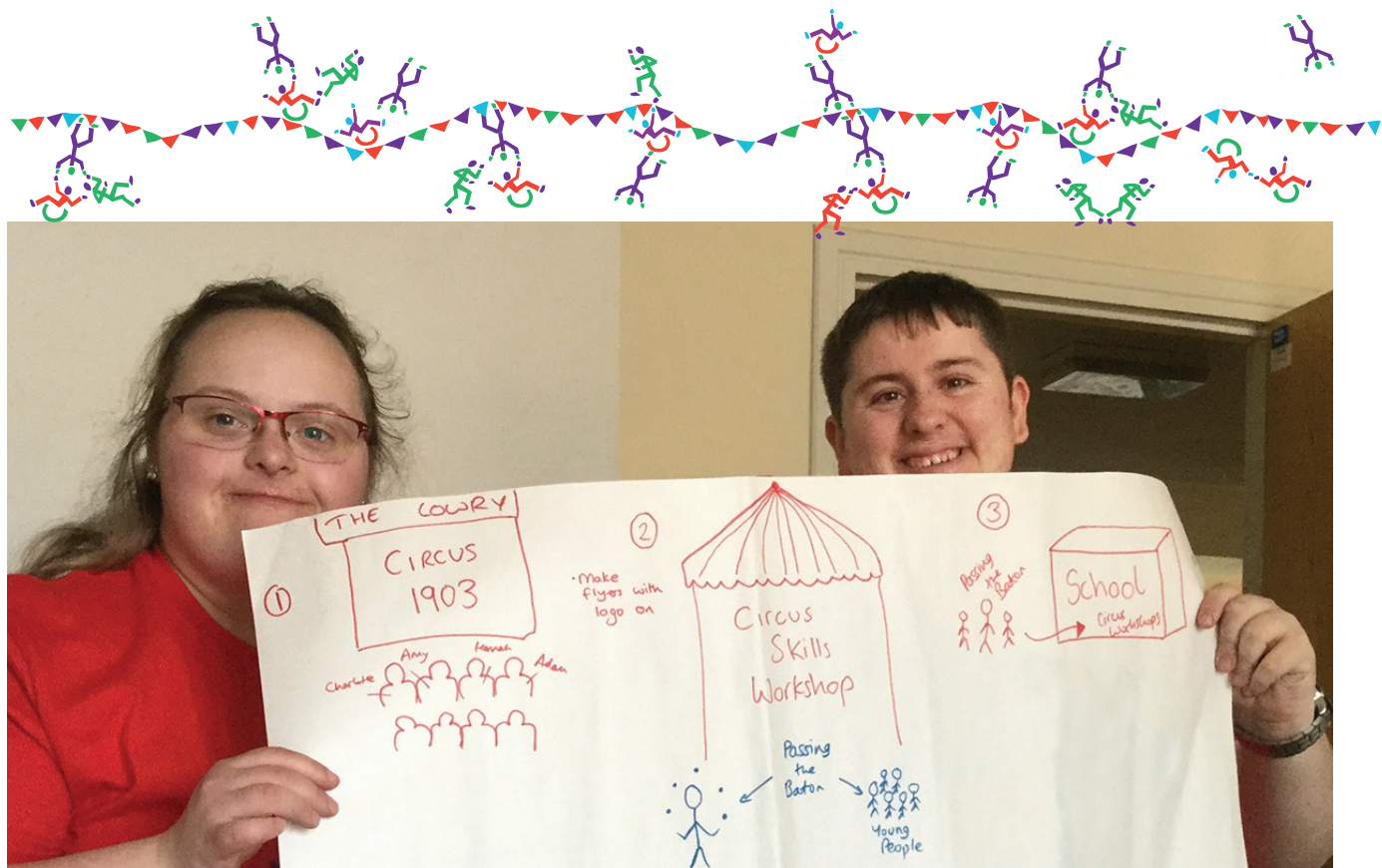
100 people successfully trained to become Arts Award advisers.

Arts Award Support

DIY is an Arts Award Support agency funded by Trinity London and Curious Minds. This means that we are able to offer trained arts advisers free support visits. Visits help advisers get going with Arts Award, help refresh or build their knowledge or support them in preparing for moderation.

We supported 14 cultural / educational organisations with their Arts Award delivery including:

- ★ Birkenhead Park Visitor Centre
- ★ Heart of Glass
- ★ Park Community Academy
- ★ Rowan High School
- ★ Walton-le-dale High School
- ★ Elms Bank School
- ★ Brighter Sound
- ★ Royal Exchange
- ★ Halton LCEP.



Many thanks to the funders who supported
DIY's work during 2019:



Supported using public funding by
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Find out more and keep up to date with DIY's work:

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andreadesigns ref: 90447
e&oe January 2020