

THUNK-IT THEATRE LTD.

**ANNUAL REPORT
2020 - 2021**



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Artistic Director's Comment

Welcome to our first annual report for Think-It Theatre Ltd. Over the past year we have established ourselves, grown our network and connected and worked with a wide variety of organisations, communities, groups and people. It has been an incredible year of growth and development and we are so excited to share what we have achieved in this short space of time. It is important for us to shine a light on the elephant in the room - the Coronavirus pandemic. The arts have struggled this past year, and when we decided to start this company in early 2020, no one could of anticipated the level of change that would come to our industry.

The past year has been a challenging one however, we are so grateful for the opportunities and experiences we have had the privilege to undertake at this difficult time. The pandemic provided us with, the ability to connect with more people and communities than ever before possible, across the country and internationally.

Our practice quickly adapted and changed to suit the new digital medium and we will be taking the skills we have developed this past year into our practice moving forward. Think-Its core values are based around community and this is so important now, and forever more.

The community that we have built this past year inspire us every day. The incredible charities we have ran workshops and projects with, the members who threw themselves into every activity, our fellow creatives who have continued to create and everyone who has been involved with Think-It and made our first year so special.

This report champions our successes, however, there were also many difficulties and struggles along the way. We will continue to be open with these, and have learnt so much from them. We are incredibly excited to continue developing Think-It and working with our local communities.

Thank you for reading our report and we hope that we can have a natter with you in the near future!

Becky and Jules,
Co-Artistic Directors



Committee Members

Becky Lennon, Secretary and Co-Artistic Director

I am a York based Director, Creative Practitioner and proud Yorkshire woman graduated from The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in 2020 with a BA in Drama, Applied Theatre and Education. I have had the opportunity to work with a wide variety of arts organisations, such as Tender; Education and Arts, Clean Break, The Lowry Theatre in Manchester, Greater Manchester Youth Network, Mousetrap, House Lights and CatWalk4Power. I am currently working with the York Theatre Royal, Dark Horse, The Pauline Quirke Academy. and delivering work with and for Thunk-It. I am passionate about community arts practice and engagement as I believe that it creativity is so important, especially after this past year. I am so grateful for Thunk-It and the work we are able to produce and create and I am excited about nurturing the relationships we have built and creating more provisions in the future. Bring on the next year! - Becky Lennon



Jules Risingham, Chair and Co-Artistic Director

I am a York based writer and creative practitioner. I graduated from a BA (Hons) in Drama and Scriptwriting in 2020. In the past five years I have been able to work with a variety of incredible companies and organisations including; The Hatton Gallery, The Star and Shadow Cinema, Open Clasp, Theatre Delicatessen, Six Lips Theatre and The National Railway Museum. In 2019 I wrote a verbatim-inspired piece for The Gateshead Carers Association that was performed at their AGM; it was during this time I discovered my love for working with communities to create theatre. I have been so grateful to expand on my passion for community based practise this past year with Thunk-It and alongside the amazing charities we have worked with. Currently I am working as a facilitator in Drama Programmes for young people. I am thrilled to be a part of Thunk-It and cannot wait to see where the next year takes us. - Jules Risingham



Ellen Jupp, Treasurer and Associate Artist

I am a South London based playwright and queer theatre maker. In 2020 I graduated from The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama with a first class honours in BA Drama, Applied Theatre and Education. My drama school experience provided me with the opportunity to engage and collaborate with a number of organisations such as Montage Theatre Arts, The Lowry Theatre in Manchester, Greater Manchester Youth Network and The Scout Association. Alongside this, I discovered my love for playwriting, and I have had work produced at various organisations like at RCSSD with rehearsed readings, Young Pleasance Theatre and ShowFace Festival. I have also had the privilege of being longlisted for several Royal Court Theatre Writer programs and occasionally I undertake script reading consultancies for emerging writers. Currently I work as an SEN Teaching Assistant for those with severe and profound learning disabilities. I am incredibly excited to join the Thunk-It Team as a Committee member and Treasurer, as I am eager to learn and develop as a Community Arts Practitioner with such a fresh, fantastic and emerging theatre company. - Ellen Jupp



Engagement Figures

76

Artists,
Creatives &
Specialists

135

Participants

0

Audience
(Live)

977

Audience
(Broadcast,
Online)

Our Partners



Thunk-It Thoughts

In June 2020, Thunk-It Theatre launched their first project 'Thunk-It Thoughts' - a five day prompt project to engage people in small moments of creativity within their day-to-day life. At the start of each day the Thunk-It Team posted a creative prompt to their social media, and encouraged followers to respond to the prompt in any creative way.

The prompts that were posted were; "Rosie Red Cheeks", "Sunset Over The Rooftops", "Dry Yellow Rain Mack", "Leaves Dancing In The Wind", "Look Up To The Bright Blue Sky" and "Stop Can You Smell The Lavender?". These prompts were created to engage different emotions but also be open enough that they could be perceived in many varied ways.

We had hoped to be sent at least 5 responses to this project, and we were incredibly pleased to see that we had 37 responses over the five days. These responses included many different art forms including; poetry, makeup looks, songs, videos, photography, collages, drawings, among others.

In the midst of the first lockdown, we thought it was incredibly important for people to have something to engage with and to feel a part of. This project was such a success for us, as it had engaged people and involved them in something creative and fun.

You can view all of our prompts and responses in our 'Thunk-It Thoughts' story highlight on our Instagram.

"I haven't written anything in ages so thank you for inspiring me to be creative, I loved your prompt, I needed this today" - Participant

'Such an amazing way of getting your creativity going. I come back for the prompts. I'm very much in need of stretching my writing muscles'



Creatives - 2, Participants - 16

Thunk-It Chatter

In June 2020, we published that we were going to deliver and curate our second project: an online monologue series! This project would last three months and be showcased in September 2020. The aim of the project was to engage those who wanted to gain experience working within a collaborative form online and stay creative during the COVID pandemic.

This project took part in six main stages;

Writer callout (11 people applied!)

Meeting with Writers

Actor Call out (Over 30 people applied!) and Casting

Writers and Actors meeting (10 pieces went ahead with 10 actors,
10 writers and 2 directors)

Rehearsals (each piece had 3, 30 minute rehearsals)

Showcase (Initially 4/9/2020 but was postponed to 5/9/2020)

To view the showcase head to our YouTube channel.



'My favourite thing about the project was seeing my work produced and celebrating it.' -

Creative

'Really enjoyed that challenge and would love to work with the company again' - **Creative**

Creatives - 23, Audience (0) - 865

Monologues and Teams

'Paper Bag' - Written by Wil Cox, Performed by Miles Kinsley, Directed by Becky Lennon

'Catching Up' - Written by Leiana Petlewski, Performed by Caitlin Finney, Directed by Jules Risingham

'Perfect: A Monologue' - Written by Richard Banton, Performed by Dale Hooley,
Directed by Becky Lennon

'Waiting' - Written by Sophie Macwhannell, Performed by Naomi Bowman, Directed by Becky Lennon

'2:03AM' - Written by Ellie East, Performed by Brandon Robinson-Connolly, Directed by Jules Risingham

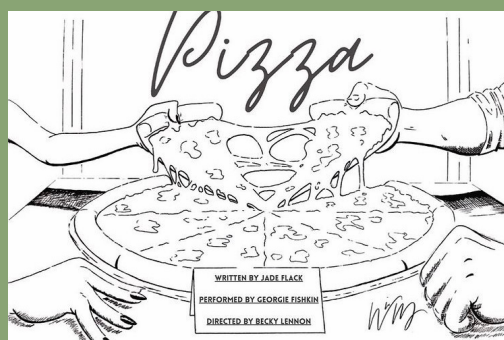
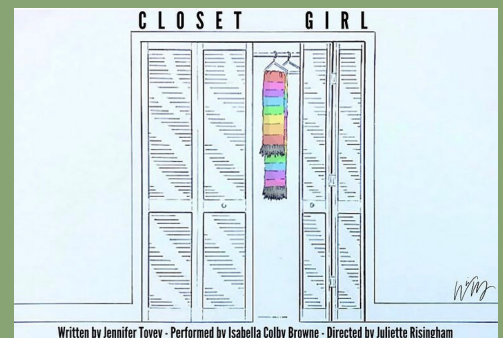
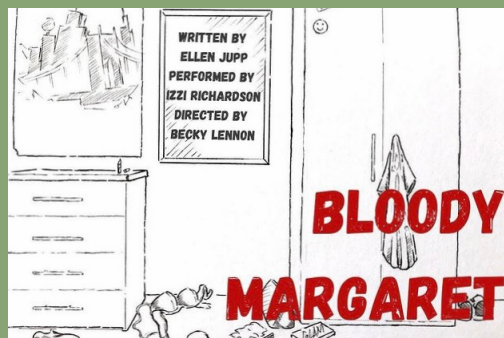
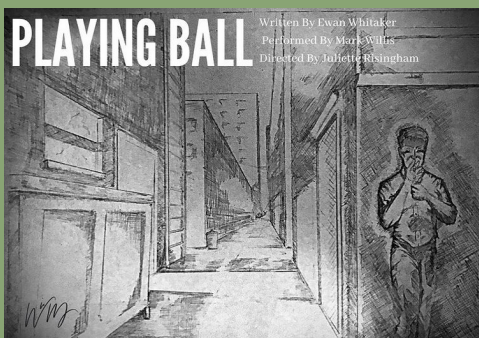
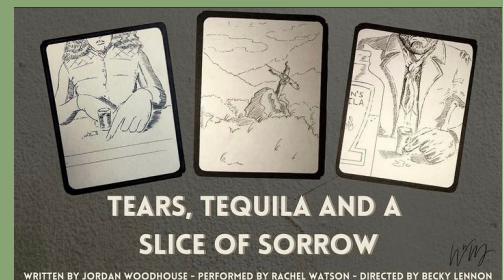
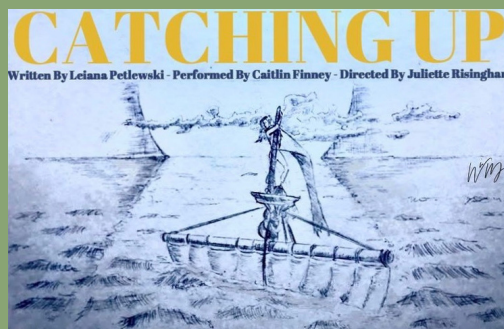
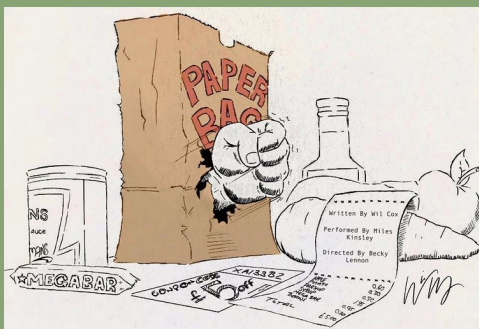
'Tears, Tequila and a Slice of Sorrow' - Written by Jordan Woodhouse - Performed by Rachel Watson,
Directed by Becky Lennon

'Playing Ball' - Written by Ewan Whittaker, Performed by Mark Willis, Directed by Jules Risingham

'Bloody Margaret' - Written by Ellen Jupp, Performed by Izzi Richardson, Directed by Becky Lennon

'Closet Girl' - Written by Jennifer Tovey, Performed by Isabella Colby Browne, Directed by Jules Risingham

'Pizza' - Written by Jade Flack, Performed by Georgie Fishkin, Directed by Becky Lennon



Title Card Artwork by Will Maughan (@eighthdshigh)

Positive Stories for Negative Times by Wonder Fools and in Association with the Traverse Theatre in Partnership with Kyra Women's Project

In October 2020 we began working with Kyra; Women's Project, on the Positive Stories for Negative Times project by Wonder Fools and in Association with the Traverse Theatre.

We have been running sessions weekly with sessions between 1 and 1.5 hour long. Each session focusing on the script 'Bad Bored Women of The Rooms' by Sabrina Mahfouz; 'A lyrical adventure through the centuries of women who have spent a lot of time stuck in a room and who have not necessarily been very 'good'. From Nesmut, raider of Ancient Egyptian tombs to Madame Ching, the most famous pirate of all time, here are historical and contemporary stories of women who have been 'bad', bored and often trapped in a room. Fused with fictional or real-life tales from the performers themselves, this is not only a narration of doing epic, noble or naughty things, but that extraordinary thing of getting through the days as best we can, in a room. This is a play about women you have probably never heard of before, doing extraordinary, criminal things and it's about you - what have you been doing in your room all this time?' Through traditional theatrical techniques we have explored this script and prepared to film a 'rehearsed reading' style showing of the piece for the project.

Although we have been working towards filming this piece, we have also been focusing on wellbeing and connection in these online zoom sessions. In our sessions we focus on using creativity as a way to elevate the stresses of day to day life, encourage positive wellbeing and build confidence. We begin each session with a short physical warm up to get the members on their feet and moving. We then use positive writing exercises to provoke empowerment in the members and we also run meditation exercises to alleviate stress at the end of sessions. The main duration of the session is spent exploring the piece we are creating, experimenting with the delivery and form, whilst having fun.

The sessions are free flowing and allow for the members to input what they wish to explore and try out.

This setup has been well received by the members and allows the sessions to focus on the whole experience rather than a traditional rehearsal period resulting in a polished end product.

THAT'S A WRAP!



'Friendly, Exciting, Good fun, New' - Member

'Really enjoyed this and you guys did great' - Member

Creatives - 2, Participants - 4

Common Ground

Common Ground is a co-creation project between Barrel Organ and Think-It Theatre for the 2021 National Student Drama Festival.

In September 2020, Think-It applied to the NSDF Creates mentor programme. NSDF partnered with Barrel Organ Theatre to present an opportunity for an emerging company to create a new piece of work in co-production with the critically acclaimed company that would be showcased at the festival next year. Barrel Organ would co-produce the new piece and provide support, mentoring and a meaningful introduction to the theatre industry. We pitched the 'Common Ground' project and were lucky enough to be chosen for this opportunity.

The Project!

An intergenerational project where we search to find the similarities and differences between older and younger generations

Phase 1 - Workshops with organisations such as; Ageing Without Children, York Mind, Helmsley Arts Centre, Leeds Connections.

Phase 2 - 'Mega Workshop' - a workshop where all participants were invited to attend, meet one another and have a natter.

Phase 3 - Casting call - an open audition which invited actors to audition by creating pieces of performance from verbatim text.

Phase 4 - Rehearsals! Turning the text into performance.

Phase 5 - The Showing at NSDF.

On Wednesday 31st March at 2.30pm, Think-It and Barrel Organ presented a work-in-progress of their latest show as part of NSDF Festival 2021. Common Ground was created using verbatim material from participants.



CAST

Caitlin Finney
Joe Kent-Walters
Immy Wood

CREW

Text by Jules Risingham and Rosie Gray.
Co-Directors - Ali Pidsley & Becky Lennon
Produced by Ellie Cloughton for Barrel Organ & Think-It Theatre

"Common Ground is a new, interactive piece about home, advice and memory. Inspired by workshops with intergenerational participants throughout the winter months, Common Ground will use participation, interaction and verbatim material to create an engaging piece of performance that explores the importance of community and connection during fractured times".

**'Just watched Common Ground
- really beautiful piece exploring our similarities
& differences. Really warm & comforting piece
that holds space for the problems of lockdown
without referencing covid too heavily' -
Audience Member**

**'You certainly felt welcomed
and immersed within the cast
and friendship group' -
Audience Member**



**'I think I was struck by
everyone's ability to socialise and
seek connection and how resilient
we are' - Audience Member**



barrel
organ

Common
Ground

Creatives - 14, Participants - 78, Audience (Online) 103

Lockdown Drama Club!

In January, lockdown three was announced in the UK. This meant that the majority of young people would be starting to learn from home again. We noticed that this caused a lot of stress and anxiety, not only to the young people - but also their parents/carers/guardians.

In response to this change, we decided to run a free, weekly drama club for primary school aged children. We had an amazing interest of around 30 families and recruited a regular group of 15 young people who attended one of our two weekly sessions.

The sessions were fun, open and encouraged everyone to get a little bit silly in our own spaces. We ran five sessions with the following themes:

Space!
Pirates!
Under the Sea!
Fairy Tales!
Circus!

At the end of the term, we sent the young people individual certificates so that they could celebrate the fantastic work they achieved, and so that we could thank them for their hard work!

'Just to say thank you for these sessions - they're fantastic and my child is really enjoying them, and I think they're really helping with her confidence'

'It has given some time out from doing school work and given them chance to use their imagination and have fun'



Creatives - 2, Participants - 17

Thunk-It Youth Theatre with Pocklington Arts Centre

Following the success of our free lockdown drama sessions, Thunk-It established a partnership with Pocklington Arts Centre and have been delivering sessions every Sunday in term time! These sessions will be delivered on Zoom until it is safe to return to face-to-face delivery.

The sessions focus on making small pieces of performance as a group, confidence building, and creating a fun introduction for young people who are interested in the arts!

'(My child) loved his first session of youth theatre, thank you. He wishes it was next Sunday already!'



Creatives - 2, Participants - 10

'One Off' Sessions

**Wolds Pride Workshop -
A one hour workshop on the
theme of 2021's LGBTQIA+
History Month -
'Spirit, Mind and Body'
Creatives - 2, Participants - 2**



**Scratching Workshop -
'Directing Instead of
Dictating'**

**A one hour workshop looking
at directing as a practice.
Creatives - 1, Participants - 12**

DIRECTING
INSTEAD OF DICTATING
WITH BECKY LENNON

How to collaborate while creating when in the role of director. A workshop exploring some practical ways of creating a positive creative environment as a director.

31ST JANUARY 2021
3 - 4 PM

**International Women's Day w/
Kyra - A one hour workshop
exploring this years IWD's
theme of 'Choose to Challenge'
Creatives - 2, Participants - 8**

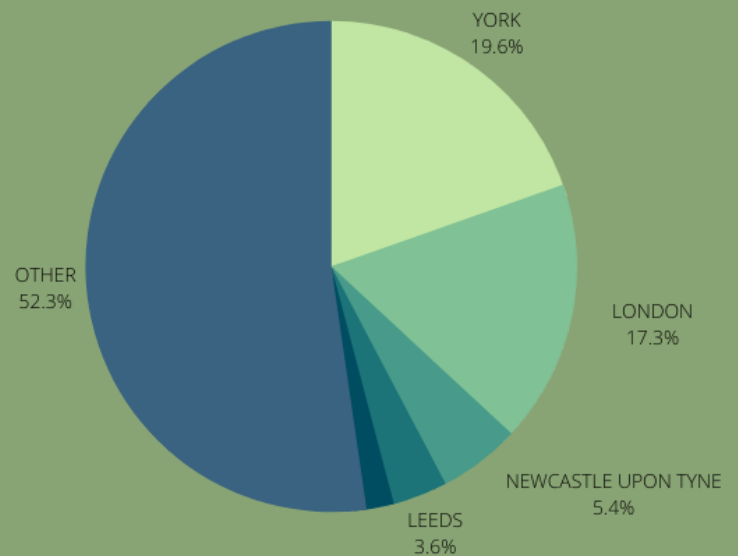
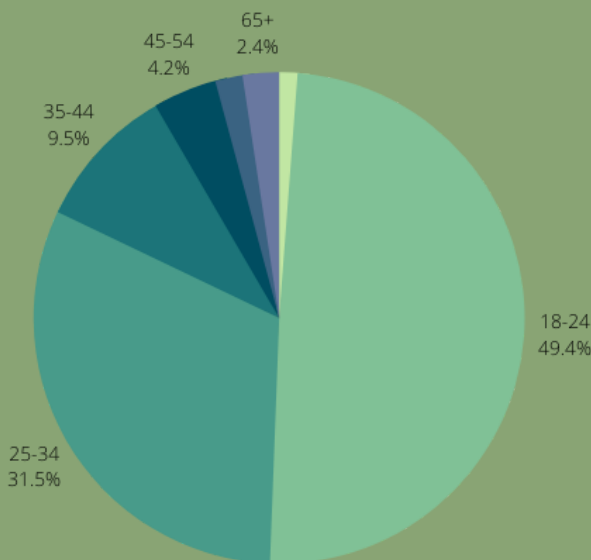
MONDAY 8 MARCH

10am	Welcome
11am	Panel <i>moving on from the pandemic</i>
12pm	Kyra Voices / Walking Group
<i>lunch break</i>	
2pm	Thunk It Theatre
3pm	Kyra Rose Group
4pm	Kyra Yoga

Reach and Growth

This year connecting online has become more important than ever, and we have been able to see an incredible amount of growth on our social media platforms. Just like our projects, the pandemic has enabled us to connect with audiences and participants both nationally and internationally.

Our most recent figures on Instagram (our primary social media platform) show that our current accounts reached are +131.5% and our Impressions +276.7% more than last year. Our overall engagement figures have grown each month and, as shown below, we have been engaging with a variety of people based on age and locality.



Current Social Media Follows:
Facebook Follows - 285
Instagram Follows - 331
Twitter Follows - 368

Goals for next year - To continue increasing engagement and finding alternative ways to connect with those who may not have access to/use social media, so that we are able to connect with more people who may want to get involved with all things Think-It!

Email: thinkittheatre@gmail.com



Twitter: @ThinkItTheatre



Instagram: @thinkittheatre



Facebook: ThinkItTheatre

Accounts

Up until April 1st 2021.

(Money moving out of the account must be signed off by at least 2 committee members if under the amount of £200. Anything over £200 all members must sign off)

Income:

Donations: £30.00

Fees: £1,150.00

**Activities for
generating funds:
£260.00**

Total: £1,440.00

**Total carried
forward:
£205.65**

Expenditure:

Resources: £36.37

**Freelancer Fees:
£1,100.00**

**Business
requirements:
£97.98**

Total: £1234.35