



Theatre In Schools Scotland





Theatre in Schools Scotland

Summary of pilot Year One

"The best thing about Theatre in Schools has been to be able to bring such high quality, stimulating theatre to our pupils who live in an area of high disadvantage and to make them appreciate and value their experiences. It has increased their desire to attend further performances."

Teacher, City of Edinburgh

Theatre in Schools Scotland (TiSS) has been developed by Imagine and the National Theatre of Scotland, in partnership with leading performing arts companies/organisations for children and young people; Catherine Wheels Theatre Company, Visible Fictions and Starcatchers.

Theatre in Schools Scotland is a new initiative, to support and develop the provision of theatre in Scotland's schools, with the long-term aim of ensuring that every child in Scotland receives – at their nursery or school – a minimum of one performing arts production, per year, as a core part of their education.

The initiative has been created initially as a 3-year pilot project exploring the different models for touring theatre into schools.

Year 1 of Theatre in Schools Scotland has been supported by the Scottish Salmon Company and Arts and Business Scotland.

"I feel strongly that children need to experience live theatre. They need to experience being part of an audience. The emotional response to live theatre cannot be matched."

Teacher, Dumfries & Galloway



Aims of Theatre in Schools Scotland

- Reach every local authority in Scotland
- Raise the profile of the importance of children's work in schools in Scotland
- Raise the value of quality children's work in schools in Scotland
- Test and develop income models with local authorities, funders and schools
- Determine the infrastructure required to build capacity and continue Theatre in Schools Scotland following the end of the pilot
- Build support from regional theatres/venues and touring networks to ensure TiSS will build audience interest in theatre across Scotland

"The performance within the school was amazing as our children don't get to experience the theatre. I also really liked the performances the children created after the show."

Teacher, City of Edinburgh

"The delivery is engaging and subject always appropriate."

Teacher, Scottish Borders



Year One

Theatre in Schools Scotland toured two award-winning internationally recognised Scottish productions, *Martha* presented by Catherine Wheels Theatre Company and *Shopping for Shoes* by Visible Fictions.

The project was made possible with the support of the following local authorities and managing organisations:

Aberdeen City Council
Argyll & Bute Council
Argyll Youth Arts Hub
Clackmannanshire Council
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Dumfries & Galloway Council
East Ayrshire Council
East Dunbartonshire Council
East Lothian Council
East Renfrewshire Council
City of Edinburgh Council
Falkirk Council
Festival and King's Theatres Edinburgh
Glasgow City Council

Glasgow Life
Horsecross Arts (Perth & Kinross)
NEAT (Aberdeenshire)
North Lanarkshire Council
Orkney Islands Council
Renfrewshire Council
Scottish Borders Council
Shetland Islands Council
South Ayrshire Council
Stirling Council
The Touring Network (Highland Council)
West Dunbartonshire Council
West Lothian Council

"I think this performance would be hard to beat. If we could have a performance like that every year, it would be a real asset to our teaching and learning resources."

Teacher, Eilean Siar



Number of Schools – 61

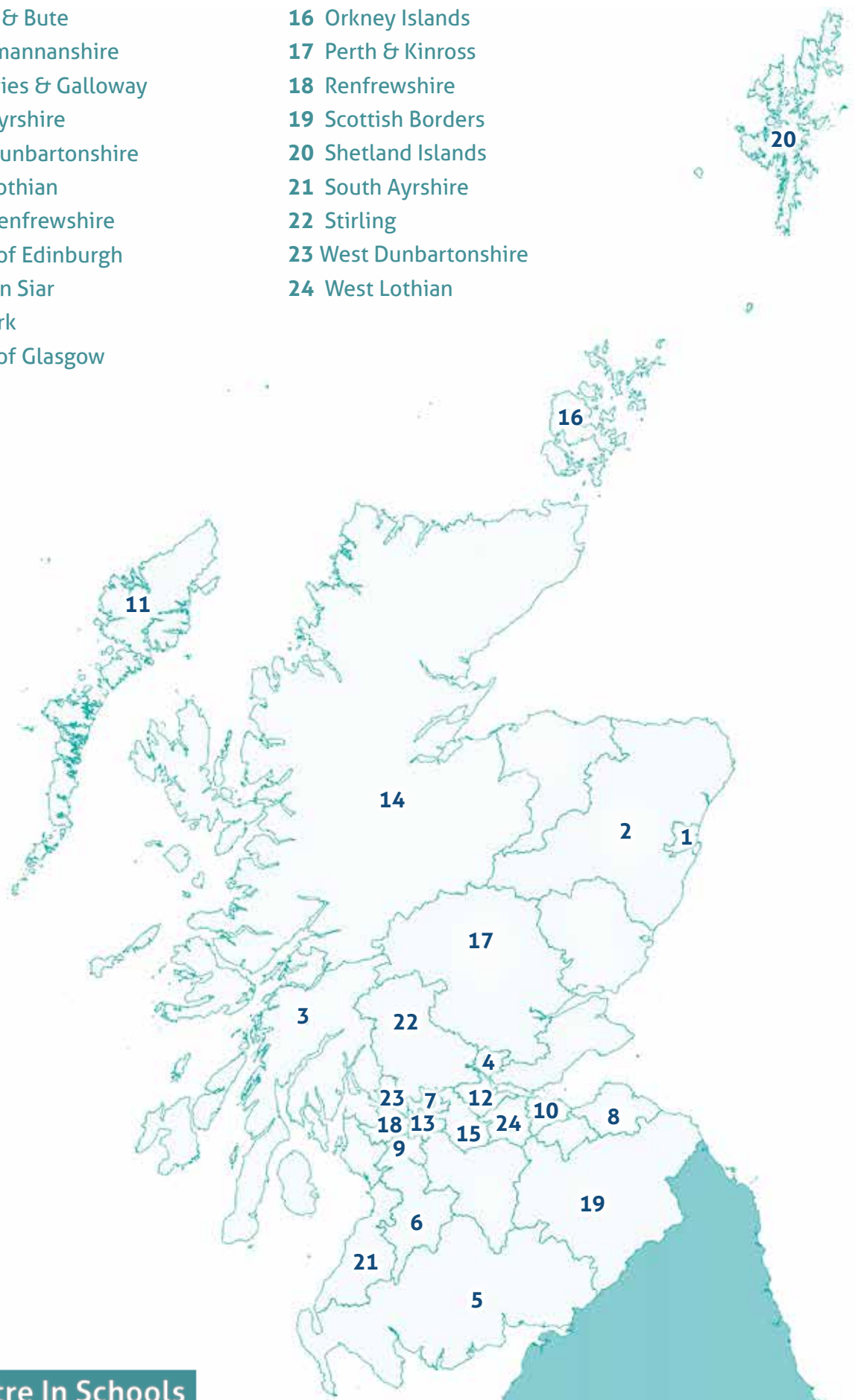
Achiltibuie Primary School, Ullapool
 Aitkenbar Primary School, Dumbarton
 Arklestone Primary School, Renfrew
 Auchinairn Primary School, Bishopbriggs
 Baird Memorial Primary School, Cumbernauld
 Belmont Primary School, Stranraer
 Cairn Primary School, Maybole
 Canal View Primary School, Edinburgh
 Carbost Primary School, Isle of Skye
 Carlibar Primary School, Barrhead
 Castle Kennedy Primary School, Stranraer
 Castlehill Primary School, Campeltown
 Dales Park Primary School, Peterhead
 Dalintober Primary School, Campeltown
 Drummore Primary School, Stranraer
 Dunoon Primary School, Dunoon
 Eastriggs Community School, Annan
 Eyemouth Primary School, Eyemouth
 Fallin Primary School, by Stirling
 Fenwick Primary School, Kilmarnock
 Forthview Primary School, Edinburgh
 Gardenrose Primary School, Maybole
 Glaitness School, Orkney
 Glenluce Primary School, Newton Stewart
 Kirkcolm Primary School, Stranraer
 Langless Primary School, Falkirk
 Leswalt Primary School, Stranraer
 Leverhulme Memorial School, Isle of Harris
 Lochgilphead Primary School, Lochgilphead
 Lochinver Primary School, Lairg
 Meethill School, Peterhead
 Park Primary School, Stranraer
 Portpatrick Primary School, Portpatrick
 Preston Street Primary School, Edinburgh

Portree Primary School, Isle of Skye
 Prestonpans Infants School, Prestonpans
 Prestonpans Primary School, Prestonpans
 Rattray Primary School, Blairgowrie
 Redwell Primary School, Alloa
 Rephad Primary School, Stranraer
 Rockfield Primary School, Oban
 Sandhead Primary School, Stranraer
 Sgoil nan Loch, Isle of Lewis
 Shawbost Primary School, Isle of Lewis
 Sheuchan Primary School, Stranraer
 Sir E Scott Primary School, Isle of Harris
 Sound Primary School, Shetland
 St Bernard's Primary School, Glasgow
 St Clare's Primary School, Glasgow
 St Cuthbert's Primary School, Maybole
 St David's Primary School, Edinburgh
 St John's Primary School, Barrhead
 St Joseph's Primary School, Stranraer
 St Peter's Primary School, Dumbarton
 St Rose of Lima Primary School, Glasgow
 Stromness Primary School, Orkney
 Struan Primary School, Isle of Skye
 Tingwall Primary School, Shetland
 Ullapool Primary School, Ullapool
 Windyknowe Primary School, Bathgate
 Woodside Primary School, Aberdeen

➤ Number of performances	121
➤ Martha	61
➤ Shopping for Shoes	60
➤ Total audiences	10,697
➤ Martha	6,323
➤ Shopping for Shoes	4,374

Local Authority Areas

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Aberdeen City | 14 Highland |
| 2 Aberdeenshire | 15 North Lanarkshire |
| 3 Argyll & Bute | 16 Orkney Islands |
| 4 Clackmannanshire | 17 Perth & Kinross |
| 5 Dumfries & Galloway | 18 Renfrewshire |
| 6 East Ayrshire | 19 Scottish Borders |
| 7 East Dunbartonshire | 20 Shetland Islands |
| 8 East Lothian | 21 South Ayrshire |
| 9 East Renfrewshire | 22 Stirling |
| 10 City of Edinburgh | 23 West Dunbartonshire |
| 11 Eilean Siar | 24 West Lothian |
| 12 Falkirk | |
| 13 City of Glasgow | |





MARTHA

The Shows

**SHOPPING
FOR SHOES**





MARTHA



Primary 1-4

"I loved your show. My favourite part was all of it. The show made me feel happy and it was very good"

Josh, audience member



MARTHA

"We liked the bit in the toilet! It made us laugh! It made us feel good!"

Morgan & Hayley, audience members

Catherine Wheels Theatre Company presents **Martha** – an original story about friendship written by Andy Manley, Gill Robertson and Annie Wood. Directed by Gill Robertson.

- 89.5% of responding teachers rated the show as 5 stars (excellent) with the remaining 10.5% rating the show at 4 stars
- 79% of responding teachers noticed their class was fully engaged with the show, 17% mostly engaged and 1 teacher opted for 'other' while stating 'A super experience for my children...thank you!'

Who is Martha?

Martha lives by the sea...

Martha lives alone...

Martha doesn't need anyone...

She is stubborn, eccentric and highly independent.

Who are Martha's friends?

Not her next-door neighbour.

Not her helpful postman.

Not her secret admirer from across the bay.

One day she has an unexpected visitor and for Martha life will never be the same again.

"Pupils, teachers and helpers were mesmerised by this wonderful performance. All of us from the youngest to oldest absolutely loved it... I, as a teacher still make reference to it when dealing with playground incidents and disagreements between friends. All the pupils related so well to Martha's character and were able to show empathy and understanding and also relate it to situations they find themselves in. For such a young age group to get so much from a play is just wonderful."

Teacher, Eilean Siar

"Excellent show. Brought out a lot of emotions in the children which they enjoyed sharing with the class. Was lovely to see them discuss like this."

Teacher, East Dunbartonshire



SHOPPING FOR SHOES



Primary 5-7

SHOPPING FOR SHOES



"The play was so funny. There were shoes like old ladies and that made me laugh. It made me think, too, and I'd really like to see more."

Callum (9)

- Visible Fictions presents *Shopping for Shoes*. Written by Tim Crouch and directed by Douglas Irvine
- 70% of responding teachers rated the show 5 stars (excellent) with 13.3% rating the show 4 stars
- 40% of responding teachers noticed their class was fully engaged with the show. 40% mostly engaged and 20% engaged in the show

Siobhan McClusky is 13 and passionately politically aware. Shaun Holmes is also 13 but is passionate about only one thing – shoes. A small part of Siobhan's heart belongs to Shaun even though he'd have difficulty putting a name to her face. Undeterred, and with a little bit of planning and nifty footwork, Siobhan soon helps Shaun discover that a pair of shoes can do much more than just help a person express themselves.

"I thought the 'one woman' show element was very impressive and the fact she remembered where all the boxes went was amazing! She engaged the audience of quite big characters but had them involved the whole time. The children were amazed by the expensive and 'cool' props which were appropriate for this peer group."

Teacher, Scottish Borders

"It was funny because the shoes were like people. It was really, really good, and I hope they come back soon."

Sophie (9)

"This was a fantastic performance and really captured the child's attention and imagination especially as we are 85% EAL (English as an Additional Language)."

Teacher, City of Edinburgh

The Model

The selection process

The productions to date have been chosen through a rigorous selection process. A number of shows from Scottish companies who have a proven track record of touring high quality shows into schools were considered by a panel of representatives from each of the partners. Productions also needed to fulfil a number of additional criteria such as targeting specific age groups, being tour-ready and having previously received critical acclaim. In 2017 we plan to put a call out to the sector inviting applications for touring in 2018, based upon our selection criteria.

Working with schools

Theatre in Schools Scotland aimed to provide teachers and Local Authorities with a whole-school experience of theatre with proven reputation, created by companies with an understanding of working in a school environment. The two selected productions covered the whole primary age group, one for lower and one for upper school. Productions were designed specifically with the schools, buildings and audiences in mind, and had a proven record of success in Scottish schools' touring. Each supporting Local Authority made choices about the schools to be involved. Schools were offered one day of each production, one week apart. TiSS arranged all the practicalities with the Head Teacher and companies to ensure minimum disruption to the school.

Resources

To enhance the Theatre in Schools Scotland experience, online resources were developed between the partner organisations for teachers to access and use with their class. A pre-show introduction video was created for both the teachers and the pupils to prepare them for the visit. Follow up resources were developed and made accessible online for the teachers to continue to discuss and investigate the themes in the productions.

"Very useful as gives pupils prior knowledge of what show is about and a bit about background information about the company and shows."

Teacher, East Dunbartonshire

"Set the scene well for the children. Particularly liked that it focused on what to expect and feelings that the children may experience during the production."

Teacher, Orkney Islands

Funding

In addition to National Theatre of Scotland, Imagine and Arts and Business Scotland investment, several funding models were negotiated and developed to deliver the project.

- The Scottish Salmon Company – sponsorship funding to enable schools in Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Highland Council and Argyll and Bute Council to receive double the number of performances and extra activity in these areas. In the Western Isles we were able to cover six primary schools with a minimal amount of funding from the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
- Local Authority support – financial support and working in partnership to identify schools that received Theatre in Schools Scotland
- Partnership work – associated managing companies supported the provision in key areas (Horsecross Arts for Perth & Kinross, The Touring Network for The Highland Council and Eilean Siar and NEAT for Aberdeenshire)
- Joint partnership working – Festival and King's Theatres Edinburgh and City of Edinburgh Council plus Glasgow Life and Glasgow City Council worked together in financial partnership with schools to increase the capacity and reach across their areas
- Schools booked directly with Theatre in Schools Scotland

Communications

Theatre in Schools Scotland was successfully launched at Preston Street Primary School, Edinburgh on 1st June 2016, with lead partners, artists and Fiona Hyslop, MSP the Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs attending, resulting in positive headlines and widespread news coverage. The Chair of the National Campaign for the Arts alongside actor Samuel West subsequently hailed it as a “wonderful” initiative “that should resonate with the whole of the UK”. The project continued to receive positive media coverage throughout Scotland during the tour. Materials were produced to support the tour to enhance the theatre-going experience for children and teachers, including posters which were displayed in every school and a postcard for children to take home, which carried information about the production, resources and website.

Future Development

A robust evaluation process with all participating schools is ongoing in Year One. All findings and feedback will be considered by the producing partners and organisations and will feed into reviewing and developing the project for Year Two.

Priorities for Year Two include:

- Continuing to develop bespoke income models and partnerships to enable the work to reach further audiences
- Piloting an 'in association' production model with our partner organisations
- Strengthening the brand and understanding of Theatre in Schools Scotland with audiences, teachers, local authorities and the theatre and dance sector
- Investigating ways of capturing the impact on audiences and families
- Continually assessing and developing the strategic priorities to strengthen relationships with theatres/venues and touring networks to ensure Theatre in Schools Scotland will become a respected and sustainable initiative for enhancing the profile, importance and value of work for children in schools
- Continuing to work with the children's theatre and dance sector in Scotland and beyond on how best to develop and sustain Theatre in Schools Scotland
- Establishing our teacher consultation group with whom we will liaise for future planning
- The two main touring shows for 2017 are *Up to Speed*, produced and created by Rosalind Sydney, and Visible Fictions' *Jason and the Argonauts*
- Explore Theatre in School's Scotland strategic engagement within early years settings

Partners



imagine.org.uk



nationaltheatrescotland.com

Imagine and National Theatre of Scotland are proud to have developed Theatre in Schools Scotland in collaboration with partner companies Catherine Wheels, Visible Fictions and Starcatchers. As national organisations, National Theatre of Scotland and Imagine take seriously a commitment to provide theatre to all the people of Scotland, breaking down the geographic and economic barriers that prevent engagement with the arts. Theatre in Schools Scotland enhances the reach of quality work already made for children in Scotland, allowing young people across the country to see work in their local communities that has toured the world. It allows children access to new stories, new voices and new experiences. It makes theatre relevant, exciting and accessible and enriches the lives of children across Scotland.

Associated Partners



catherinewheels.co.uk



visiblefictions.co.uk



starcatchers.org.uk

Supporters for Year One

The Scottish
Salmon Company



scottishsalmon.com

New Arts Sponsorship
Grants supported by the
Scottish Government
in conjunction with...

Arts
& Business
Scotland

aandbscotland.org.uk

"The Scottish Salmon Company were delighted to support this first year of the Theatre in Schools Scotland programme. A programme which closely mirrors our own values with its community focus and commitment to the arts reaching remote and rural areas of Scotland. As the leading producer of premium salmon with operations only in Scotland, we are proud to include Theatre in Schools Scotland in the range of sporting and cultural activities we support in the Scottish communities where our 480 staff work and live."

[Craig Anderson, Managing Director, The Scottish Salmon Company](#)

All photography by Colin Hattersley