nofitstate
circus

Year 2025

january

Winter Programme

We continued our winter programme of free circus and craft activities at Four Elms, welcoming local community members of all ages and strengthening our social justice and community & co creation work.

Square Mile Partnership

The Square Mile Partnership grew to 23 organisations, welcoming new partners including Menter Caerdydd, Rubicon Dance, Ministry of Life, Cardiff Council's SAFE partnership and the Willow Cluster for Cardiff East, deepening our community & co creation focus.

Welsh Language Classes

NoFit State Circus staff continued their Welsh language classes in partnership with Oasis staff, reflecting our commitment to social justice, inclusivity and everyday bilingual practice within the organisation.

SABOTAGE in Marseille BIAC 16 January - 8 February

SABOTAGE performed at the Biennale

Internationale des Arts du Cirque in Marseille, the world's largest contemporary circus festival, renowned for showcasing cutting-edge international circus and pioneering new work in the artform.

february

Celf Cymraeg

Celf Cymraeg, a Welsh creative arts project at NoFit State, supported local young adults aged 18+ to develop their skills by drawing from life with members of the drag and circus community, embodying community & co-creation and social justice.

Circus of Tomorrow screening

We welcomed audiences to a special screening of Circus of Tomorrow at Four Elms in Cardiff, contributing to our sector leadership and skills development work by sharing circus with our community.

Foreigner In My Body R&D

We hosted rehearsals and creative development time for Sara Hartel's project Foreigner In My Body at Four Elms, supporting sector leadership and nurturing new voices and perspectives in contemporary circus.

February Half-Term Holiday Activities

We partnered with local organisations to offer free February half term activities, including circus, dance, science, arts and crafts, giving families across our community playful, accessible opportunities in line with our social justice and co creation goals.

AGM and Cabaret, 21 February

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) happens each year, and is the event where we report to our membership about what we have been doing and what our plans are. Complete with community circus cabaret 'Spring in Wales', food, music and bar.

Youth Work Course

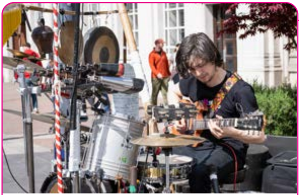
We ran a youth work course for community members and staff at Four Elms as part of our ongoing commitment to professional development.

Installation of Solar Panels at 4Elms

After securing funding we installed 49 solar panels on the roof of our base in Adamsdown, Cardiff in line with our environmental impact policy.

Foreigner In My Body Showing

We hosted the showing and creative development for Sara Hartel's project Foreigner In My Body in our Four Elms building.



Drumming Auditions

We conducted auditions to recruit a drummer for our outdoor show BAMBOO.

march

World Record Attempt

Twin sisters Grace and Clementine Tonkin Wells set a Guinness World Record with a 5-minute suspended foot-to-foot trapeze hold, hosted in our Four Elms building.

New platform lift at 4Elms

We installed a new playform lift in our office building at Four Elms after securing funding from the Arts Council of Wales.

Bamboo rehearsals in Hereford in the Big Top (on 25 March)

Rehearsals of our outdoor show BAMBOO, directed by Mish Weaver, began under the Big Top in Bristol. The creation of this new open-air production was funded by ACW, the Foyle Foundation, Without Walls, and commissioned by Stockton International Riverside Festival, Norfolk & Norwich

bridging
the

Festival, Hat Fair and Timber Festival.

Celebrating International Women's Day with Bridging the Gap

Rowan Whitehead, the founder of 'Bridging the Gap', an online feminist movement, presented their second "Show & Social" for International Women's Day in Four Elms.

First Aid training

Company staff and partner organisations took part in first aid training together, building shared confidence in keeping participants safe.

Spring Holiday Activities

Working with local organisations, we delivered spring holiday activities including circus, dance, arts and crafts and LEGO, offering free, creative opportunities for the local community, advancing our social justice and community & co creation priorities.

Ichi 'N'Chatu

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Tafwyl music project

Stacey Blythe began Tafwyl music project with St Albans Primary School in partnership with Menter Caerdydd.

april

Circus Workshops in Weston-Super-Mare

Inclusive Circus Arts Teachers (ICATs) ran circus workshops in Weston-Super-Mare in the run up to Whirligig Festival.

Weekly After School Sessions

We ran weekly after-school circus sessions with free refreshments at NoFit State Circus, creating a welcoming space for local people and supporting social justice and community & co-creation.

may

Casting Labs for Big Top Show 2026

We began casting performers for the brand new Big Top Show set to start touring in 2026.

May Half-Term Holiday Activities

We continued to work in partnership with local organisations to deliver a series of May holiday activities with our local community including circus, play, arts and crafts, giving local families accessible creative opportunities aligned with our social justice aims.

SABOTAGE Rehearsals

SABOTAGE show began rehearsals in the Big Top, Hereford.

BAMBOO Tour Begins

Peterborough Celebrates, 17 May
Barnsley Garden Party, Barnsley 24 May
The Culture House, Cleethorpes 26 May
Out There Festival, Great Yarmouth, 30 - 31 May

Creative Residency For The Next New Show

We began residencies for the brand new Big Top Show, set to start touring in 2026.

CIRCO

STRADA

EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR CONTEMPORARY CIRCUS AND OUTDOOR ARTS

FRESH Street Circostrada Conference

Dann, Tom, Mish and Orit attended the FRESH Street Circostrada Conference; Great Yarmouth 28 - 30 May.

SABOTAGE in Hereford 23 May - 8 June

SABOTAGE begins its 2025 tour in Hereford with 13 performances to almost 7000 audiences.

green squirrel

Fundraise via Green Squirrel Ceilidh

Supporting partners organised a fundraising Ceilidh event via Green Squirrel, hosted by NoFit State, reinforcing our role as a creative civic hub and our community & co creation pillar.

june

SABOTAGE in Basingstoke 20 - 29 June

SABOTAGE performed in Basingstoke for the first time ever, as part of Basingstoke Festival 2025 to almost 5000 audiences.

Celebration of Refugee Week

We worked with local community partners, including the Welsh Refugee Council, to celebrate Refugee Week by running activities in the local area from 17 - 23 June, highlighting social justice.

BAMBOO Tour

Whirligig Festival, Weston-super-Mare
7 - 8 June
Glastonbury Festival 27 - 29 June

nofitstate cymune

Welsh Language Circus Workshops at Tafwyl

ICATs ran Welsh language circus workshops at Tafwyl.

Welsh Language performance at Tafwyl

Stacey Blythe led St Albans Primary & Ysgol Glan Morfa Welsh Language performance at Tafwyl in partnership with Menter Caerdydd.

Zoe Munn Eisteddfod/Cirque Bijou rehearsals

We hosted rehearsals for Zoe Munn Eisteddfod/Cirque Bijou in Four Elms building.

july

Rescue training

We hosted rescue training for staff in our Four Elms building.

SABOTAGE in Galway, 11 - 27 July

We kickstarted our shows in Galway, Ireland, as part of the Galway International Arts Festival, a major cultural organisation presenting one of Europe's leading international arts festivals. SABOTAGE performed in Galway to sold out crowds.

BAMBOO Tour

Bell Square, Hounslow, 5 July
Cairde Sligo Arts Festival, Ireland
11 - 12 July
Earagail Arts Festival, Letterkenny, Ireland
13 July - 14 July 2025
IF: Milton Keynes International Festival 2025
18 - 20 July
GL4, Gloucester 26 July
La Strada, Austria 29 July - 2 August

New Acrobatics class begins

We began a new Acrobatics class with

welcoming and friendly group to learn a range of acrobatics skills and physical tricks including tumbling, cartwheels, handstands and more, expanding the pathways into circus and regular participation.

Free!
Summer Fun

Summer Holiday Programme - Extension of the Play Action Group

We worked with 7 local partners and commissioned artists and groups to deliver a bamboo themed programme of free Summer Fun activities in 12 locations across Splott, Adamsdown and Tremorfa: from play sessions, singing and dancing workshops, to circus, free-running, wild arts and nature tales, combining social justice, community & co creation and climate action.

august

SABOTAGE in Cornwall, 15 - 31 August

SABOTAGE performed in Cornwall, in partnership with The Ladder and we were delighted to perform to 8000 local residents.

BAMBOO Tour

Sziget Festival, Budapest, 6 August - 11 August
Sir Harold Hillier Gardens, Romsey
20 - 21 August
Greenbelt Festival, Kettering 23 - 24 August
BAMBOO in the Brownfield Parklet, Stoke
28 August
Bamboo-Castle, Newcastle-under-Lyme
29 August
Harbour Festival, Whitehaven 30 August

International Day of Play

To celebrate International Day of Play, ICATs ran a circus workshop in Anderson Fields in line with our community & co creation goals.

ucu
Unversity and College Union

UCU Event To Raise Funds

We hosted University and College Union's Cardiff branch for a 'friends speed-dating' event to raise funds for their strike fund.

Splott
Community Volunteers

30 years of Splott Community Volunteers

We partnered on a celebration event with circus workshops to celebrate 30 years of Splott Community Volunteers honouring the years of co-creation and community work.

Oisian Meilir R&D

We hosted space for rehearsal piece for Mari Ha!, a performance inspired by the Mari Lwyd tradition.

september

SABOTAGE in Cardiff
12 - 28 September

SABOTAGE returned to its hometown Cardiff performing to 7000 people.

R&D for Gwyl Parc Fest

We showcased research and development for Gwyl Parc Fest with class participants, strengthening our community & co-creation pillar.

Gŵyl Parc Fest - Common Ground

Gŵyl Parc Fest – Common Ground was a free celebration of our incredible local arts, culture, and community, made by and for the people of Adamsdown, Splott, and Tremorfa. The day started with a parade down Clifton Street, followed by a festival in Anderson Fields with circus, music, performances, food, and arts and crafts.The festival ran from 12:30 for a fun-filled day until 17:00.

citrus arts

Artworkers Cabaret at Citrus Arts

Some of the students and teachers performed at the Artworkers Cabaret at Citrus Arts, also organised by two of our students.

BAMBOO Tour

Rotherham Show, 6 - 7 September
Festival of Thrift, 20 - 21 September
Ettelbrooklyn Street Festival, Luxembourg
27 September

Circus Workshops at Llamau

ICATs ran circus workshops at Llamau's Family Fun Day and a CCHA tenant participation event, using circus to support social justice.

SABOTAGE creation with Artists

We hosted SABOTAGE creation with the artists in our Four Elms building.

Introduction to Circus Workshop

Introduction to Circus workshops were held in the Big Top Tent during its time in Cardiff.

october

BAMBOO Summit 2025

On 10 October, Brilliant Bamboo, in collaboration with Orit Azaz, Creative Director of Imagine Bamboo, hosted the UK Bamboo Summit 2025 in Stoke-on-Trent, the first event to take place in the historic Vaults at Goods Yard. Bringing together 100 in-person attendees and 125 online participants, the summit gathered speakers and contributors from around the world to focus on work happening in the UK.

October Half-Term Activities

During October half-term we worked in partnership with local organisations to deliver a series of free October half-term activities with our local community. The activities ranged from circus, holiday clubs, arts and crafts to keep our local community busy and entertained over the half-term holidays!

Circus
Change
UP

Circus Change Up Conference

Circus and Mental Health Resilience Workshop for TGP Olga Kaleta

We hosted a Circus and Mental Health

Dann & Tom went to Circus Change Up Conference; Bristol 11 October. A one-day circus sector meeting to discuss the future of support for our sector nationally.

Resilience workshop for TGP at Four Elms, led by Olga Kaleta, exploring how circus skills can support wellbeing and social justice in our community.

Circus workshop with Oasis

ICATs ran a circus workshop for Afghan refugees in partnership with Oasis, offering a creative, welcoming space that aligns with our social justice and community & co-creation priorities.

Clara Laurent Straps Masterclass

On 17 October, we hosted a straps masterclass led by Clara Laurent in the Four Elms building.

Circus workshop with TGP Cymru

ICATs ran circus workshop with TGP-Cymru for young unaccompanied asylum seekers and refugees, using circus to build confidence, connection and social justice in practice.

november

Free to Access Programme Review

We conducted a free to access programme review day with all ICATs, Community Champions and volunteers to plan what's next for 2026.

1872 PRIFYSGOL
ABERYSTWYTH
UNIVERSITY

Resisting Polarisation in our Communities Workshop

We hosted and took part in the Resisting Polarisation in our Communities toolkit workshop, led by Dr Amy Sanders, exploring how our programme can support social justice, inclusion and connection locally.

december

Plans in Place for 2026

- Planning for 2026 tour of BAMBOO and the new Big Top show.
- Members of the classes programme showcased everything they had learned to friends and family as a final Christmas celebration.

All thanks to support from our incredible funders:

Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru
Arts Council of Wales

ARIENNIR GAN Y LOTERI
LOTTERY FUNDED

Noddir gan Llywodraeth Cymru
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Welsh Church Acts Fund

WCVA
CGGC

Thanks to our individual donors for supporting us throughout our journey.

The transformation we have undergone over the last year and the impact we have made in this time has strengthened our commitment to being a powerful catalyst for change.