nofitstate
circus

Year 2024

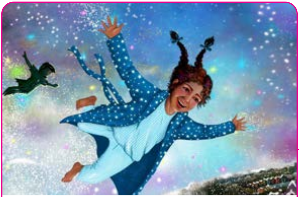
january

Winter Programme

We continued our programme of free circus and craft activities at Four Elms with our local community.

Winter Warm Space

We re-opened Four Elms as a creative Warm Space for a second year in January for families and carers from the local area. Take-up and feedback was enthusiastic as we drove to create a safe, warm and welcoming space for all.



Peter Pan Performances Continue

Peter Pan opened at the Sherman Theatre in November 2023 featuring flying sequences designed by NoFit State Circus. The show was co-produced by Sherman Theatre and Theatr Iolo. NoFit State Circus trainer and performer Kevin McIntosh was cast in the show as Michael.

february

February Half-Term Holiday Activities

We worked in partnership with local organisations to deliver a series of free February half-term activities with our local community including circus, dance, science, arts and crafts – all culminating in Golau Parc Light.

Golau Parc Light, 16 & 17 February

1600 local people attended Golau Parc Light – a free outdoor event in Brewery Park. The festival of fire and light included fire sculptures, live music, light installations, circus and story-telling – celebrating the talents of local artists and community members at the heart of our local community.

march

WNO
WELSH NATIONAL OPERA
OPERA CENEDLAETHOL CYMRU
Death in Venice
Britten

Death in Venice Collaboration with Welsh National Opera

Directed by Olivia Fuchs and featuring Mark Le Brocq and Roderick Williams, this astonishing new production included circus scenes directed by Firenza Guidi and performers from recent NoFit State productions.

bridging
the
gap

Celebrating International Women's Day with Bridging the Gap

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

BAMBOO Creation in Bristol

Creation of our new 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 Festival, Hat Fair and Timber Festival.

Spring Holiday Activities

We worked in partnership with local organisations to deliver a series of spring holiday activities with our local community including circus, dance, arts and crafts and lego.

This new production continues the collaboration between Imagineer, Orit Azaz and NoFit State Circus to discover what forms of circus and performance can be created with UK-grown bamboo.

april

BAMBOO Preview Performance, 27 April

BAMBOO had its first preview in St. Pauls Park, Bristol, to an invited audience before returning for the next stage of rehearsals in the Big Top.

Gŵyl Parc Fest Creative Development

Our large community event planned for September began with a launch Inspiration Day at Railway Gardens in Splott. This was followed by a visit by local community artists to BAMBOO rehearsals in Bristol before we opened the programme of commissions for local artists to create work for Gŵyl Parc Fest.

Circus Enrichment Sessions at Willows High School

In-school circus sessions started as part of the enrichment programme at Willows High School.

WCVA Funded Volunteer Programme

12 months of funding from the WCVA enabled us to launch our enhanced volunteering programme, providing opportunities for local people to volunteer across our community and touring programmes. With a focus on developing skills and social connections, the programme included investment in volunteer accreditation.

may

SABOTAGE in Bristol, 18 May - 2 June

SABOTAGE tour 2024 began in Bristol with 13 performances to an audience of 5600.

BAMBOO starts Touring

The first month on tour saw performances of BAMBOO in Wales, England and France:

Wye Valley River Festival, Monmouth, 4 May
Wye Valley River Festival, Redbrook, 5 May
Norfolk & Norwich Festival, Norwich,11 May
Viva Cité, Sotteville-lès-Rouen, France, 18 - 19 May
The Walled Garden, Tywyn, 28 May
The Lawn, Y Plas, Machynlleth, 29 May
The Park, Oriel Davies Gallery, Newtown, 30 May

SABOTAGE Tour
Keeping it green!

As part of our environmental commitment in 2023, we introduced a new smart metering system throughout the on-site electrical network to measure consumption at different times of the day and night for different areas of the site. Based on this data, for the 2024 UK tour we piloted a new on-site battery system using rented equipment.

The rented batteries introduced in 2024 were charged by the generators during periods of heavy power usage. During periods of relatively low power usage the generators were turned off and the entire site was powered by the batteries.

By the end of the UK tour of SABOTAGE in September, the battery system had reduced our total fuel consumption on site by 50%. This was the equivalent of a reduction of 29,145 tonnes of CO2 a year.

BAMBOO Tour
Keeping it green!

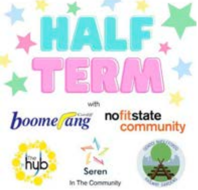
BAMBOO uses only bamboo and human bodies to create an extraordinary outdoor touring production. With no traditional circus equipment, minimal infrastructure needs, a relatively small touring company (9 people), and using a solar-powered rechargeable battery PA system, we are able to tour the show sustainably with the smallest environmental footprint possible.

We performed 51 performances entirely off-grid, using our solar battery system. This includes performances where we used the Festival's PA system but plugged into our batteries.

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.

june



Play Action Group (PAG) Meeting

PAG brings local community organisations together to plan and deliver creative programmes collaboratively. We coordinated with a range of partners across East Cardiff, organising and delivering

BAMBOO Tour

The tour continued to Foyle Maritime Festival, Derry, Northern Ireland, 29 - 30 June.

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.

Bamboo in School begins

As part of the development towards Gŵyl Parc Fest we started a programme of workshops in 6 local primary schools to introduce bamboo as a circus material to school children and their parent/carers. This included teaching circus skills using bamboo hula hoops and balance beams.

Bamboo Commissions

Commissions for local artists as part of Gŵyl Parc Fest were announced. 10 local artists and 10 community groups were commissioned to create work as part of the summer event.

The commissioned artists and groups began a summer of making with local people. The activities reached refugees and asylum seekers, people in supported housing, women at risk of trafficking and domestic violence, people and families on low incomes.

a week of community circus and other activities.

SABOTAGE in Haverfordwest, 13 - 30 June

SABOTAGE made a return to its first performance site in Pembrokeshire. This was the only Welsh location within the 2024 tour and we were delighted to perform to 5375 local residents.

Oasis Community Cabaret

NoFit State supported Oasis' first Community Cabaret by providing a circus act and sharing production knowledge. Oasis is one of The Square Mile / Y Filltir Sgwâr partners and we were delighted to see the growth of local collaboration and cultural celebration that the partnership has sparked.

july

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.

STICKS, a bamboo performance directed by Mish Weaver in collaboration with NoFit State Community Classes participants began rehearsals for Gŵyl Parc Fest.

SABOTAGE in Eastleigh, 11 - 28 July

SABOTAGE performed in Eastleigh to a total audience of 7722. This was the company's first visit to Eastleigh and we were delighted by the response of local people to seeing our work for the first time.

Community Team at the SAFE conference

Kate Parry, Community Programme Manager and Jo Taylor, Community Project Manager delivered a presentation on the work of NoFit State's community arts engagement for Cardiff City Council SAFE conference attended by hundreds of people working with children and young people across the city.

BAMBOO Tour

Timber Festival, Leicestershire, 5 - 6 July
Hatfair, Winchester, 7 July
Mouth of the Tyne Festival, Tyne and Wear, 13 - 14 July
Ensemble Festival, Royal Docks, London, 20 - 21 July
Manchester Day, Manchester, 27 July

august

BAMBOO Tour

Stockton International Riverside Festival, Stockton-on-Tees, 2 - 3 August
Eisteddfod, Pontypridd, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Wales, 7 - 9 August
Colby Woodland Garden, Amroth, 10 August
Cardigan Castle, Cardigan, 14 - 15 August
Into the Park, Right Up Your Street, Doncaster, 17 - 18 August
The Big Feast, Stoke on Trent, 24 August
Birmingham Weekender, Birmingham, 25 August
Gŵyl Parc Fest Bamboo, Anderson Fields, Cardiff, 31 August

SABOTAGE in Brighton, 8 August - 1 September

SABOTAGE returned to Brighton as part of Brighton Festival Extra performing to 11422 people.

Bamboo Workshops

We ran a full day of circus and bamboo workshops for Llamau Housing Charity at their Summer Festival for young people and families.

Gŵyl Parc Fest - Bamboo

Gŵyl Parc Fest - Bamboo was a celebration of our incredible local culture, and community. This free event took place on 31 August in Anderson Fields, Adamsdown in Cardiff. This year we explored how we can all be inspired to create, play and imagine using bamboo; one of the most incredible sustainable materials on the planet.

STICKS, a wonderful piece of co-creation that brought together a group of local performers and BAMBOO director Mish Weaver was also performed on the day.

september

Volunteer Events Training

Volunteer events training was delivered to over 20 volunteers who went on to give their time to support our large scale summer festival.

BAMBOO Tour

Splott Park, Cardiff, 1 September
Imagine Bamboo, Nuneaton and Bedworth, 14 September
To The Sea, Cosmeston Lakes, Penarth, 15 September
Streets of Cov, Coventry, 20 - 21 September
Harbour Festival, Hall for Cornwall, Redruth, 28 - 29 September

BAMBOO Summit 2024

A cross-sector gathering, bringing together international bamboo specialists and entrepreneurs alongside engineers, pioneers, architects, academics, artists and environmental leaders to delve deeper into the opportunities of this extraordinarily sustainable material for the UK and explore what ambitious projects and research might look like, with the city of Coventry as an innovative case study.

We also performed our new outdoor circus show BAMBOO to Coventry audiences.

To The Sea, Penarth

Our friends at Splatch Productions delivered a fantastic lineup of outdoor arts, activities and performances along with a BAMBOO performance by NoFit State.

WNO
WELSH NATIONAL OPERA
OPERA CENEDLAETHOL CYMRU
Death in Venice
Britten

Death in Venice Won the Sky Arts Award for Opera

The WNO collaboration with NoFit State and Firenza Guidi to stage a new production of Death in Venice, directed by Olivia Fuchs and featuring Mark Le Brocq and Roderick Williams, won the Sky Awards in the Opera category.

New Term of our Community Circus Programme

In addition to our weekly classes programme in Four Elms, the Inclusive Circus Arts Trainers delivered an incredibly wide-ranging programme including Sunday Circus in the Parks, Syrcas Cymraeg at Ysgol Glan Morfa, Adult Intro to Circus, Diverse Circus, Community Space Circus, STAR Hub Circus and Circus Club.

Volunteer Nominated for Volunteer of the Year Award

Community Space Volunteer Kevin was nominated for the Volunteer of the Year award. He missed out on the award but it was a great chance to celebrate and recognise the hard work of all our volunteers.

GREGGS
GREGGS

Welsh Language & Culture Strategy

A new Welsh Language and Culture Strategy Group was formed from NoFit State staff and Board members. Core staff, community champions and trainers began Welsh Language lessons at Oasis. A new Welsh language partner, Menter Caerdydd, joined the Square Mile Partnership.

october

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!

young people below the age of 18 years

Alison's visit to Zambia for Artists as Activists Project

As a result of the deepening partnership with Circus Zambia, NoFit State Circus' Executive Director Alison Woods visited Lusaka, Zambia, to continue work on the partnership project, 'Artists as Activists'. Alison met with Circus Zambia artists and community activists from Zukarni Action Zambia to plan a performance event in February 2025 in Lusaka.

november

New Introduction to Circus Class

With the weather turning, we ended the season of Sunday Circus in the Parks and a new Sunday adult Introduction to Circus class began at NoFit State, Four Elms building.

Ministry of Life Visit NoFit State

Tremorfa young people alongside staff from Ministry of Life visited Four Elms for a circus skills session. This visit was a year in the making and the young people had a fantastic time.

Future of The Square Mile Partnership

Square Mile Partnership and community stakeholders met to explore the future of the partnership and agree to continue working together.

SABOTAGE in Winterfest, 27 November - 15 December

SABOTAGE performed in Winterfest, Salzburg, a winter festival that celebrates the unique art form of contemporary circus every year in the lead up to Christmas.

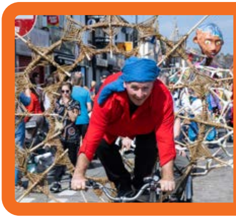
december

Plans in Place for 2025

- Planning for 2025 tour of BAMBOO and SABOTAGE gathered pace.
- We explored new Welsh medium circus class provision.
- Members of the classes programme showcased everything they had learned to friends and family as a final Christmas celebration.
- Planning continues for the installation of solar panels in Four Elms.

Looking back at the impact of our work this year!

Community Programme



20,000	565
Number of attendances from the local area	Number of activities we organised this year

SABOTAGE

71	38,940	2,699
Total number of performances	Total number of attendees	Total number of free vouchers given out

BAMBOO

64	24,000
Total number of performances	Total number of attendees

All thanks to support from our incredible funders:

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Arts Council of Wales

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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.

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