

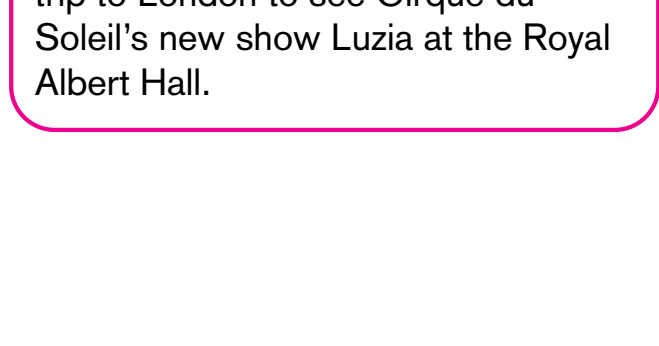
no fit state circus year highlights 2020

january



Drum up a Circus - R&D in Rwanda

From 11-18 January NoFit State and Circus Zambia joined InGoma Nshya, a female led drumming group in Rwanda, for the first R&D visit for Drum up a Circus, a new production fusing Zambian and European circus styles with Rwandan drumming. This visit was supported by Wales Arts International.



Youth Circus Trip to See Luzia in London

Our youth circus students took a trip to London to see Cirque du Soleil's new show Luzia at the Royal Albert Hall.



LEXICON Performs at the Roundhouse in London

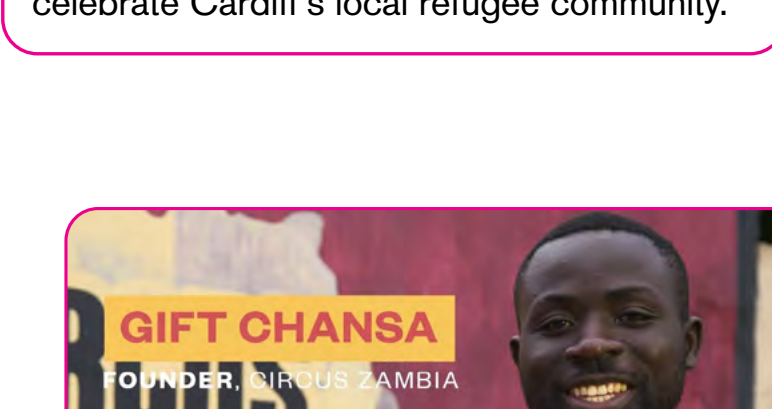
LEXICON opened 2020 in the iconic Roundhouse in London. Performing 16 shows to over 13,450 audience members from 3-18 January. It was the show's first time performing outside of our Big Top tent and into a presenting venue, performing to our biggest ever audiences.



Experimental Music & Circus Creation with Hijinx

During January, February and March we worked with the Hijinx Academy 2 developing experimental music and circus.

february



Circus to the Schoolyard Launches

As part of our first sustained collaboration with a local school we launched a programme of creative workshops planned to culminate with a community festival to celebrate Cardiff's local refugee community.



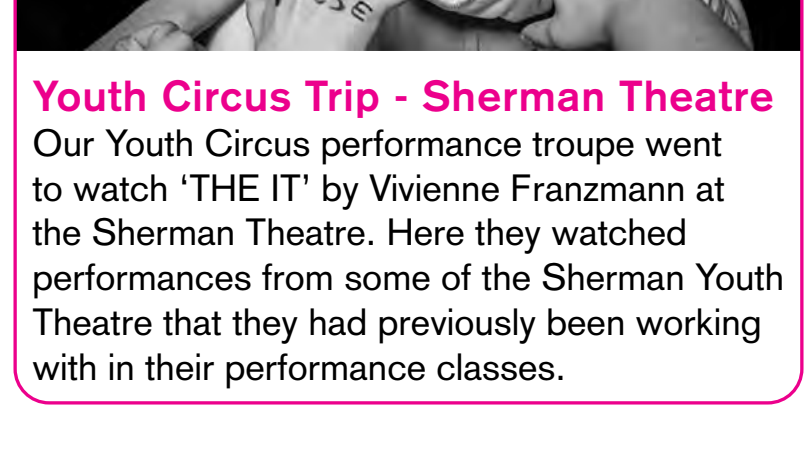
Children in Need Project Finale

Since beginning in May 2018, almost 1000 children and 400 parents have attended our free circus workshops in the local areas of Splott, Adamsdown, Butetown and Grangetown, funded by Children in Need.



Circus Zambia's Director Visits

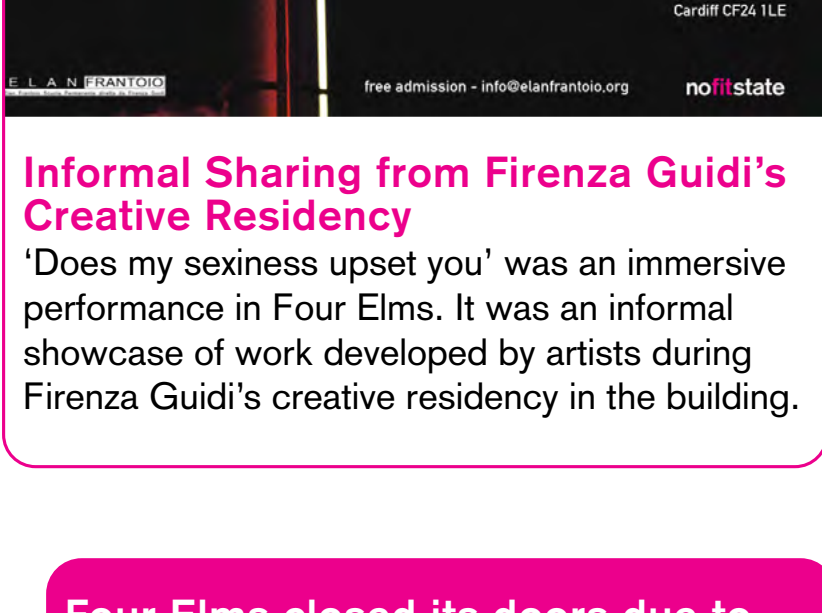
From 27-29 February Gift Chansa, Circus Zambia's Director, visited our building Four Elms in Cardiff to discuss further collaborations as a part of the Drum up a Circus Project.



Youth Circus Trip - Sherman Theatre

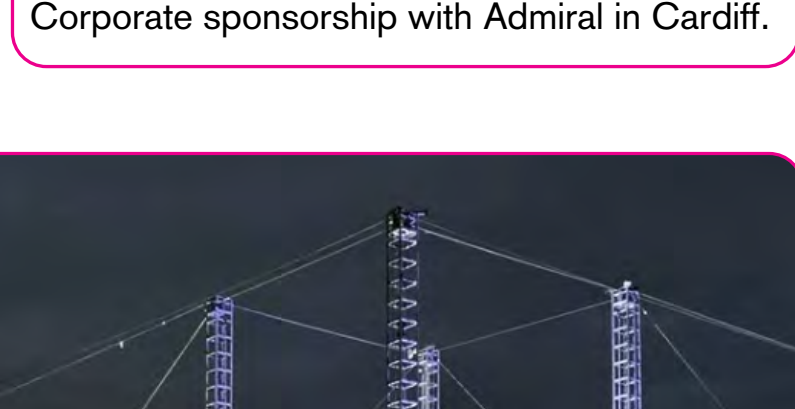
Our Youth Circus performance troupe went to watch 'THE IT' by Vivienne Franzmann at the Sherman Theatre. Here they watched performances from some of the Sherman Youth Theatre that they had previously been working with in their performance classes.

march



Informal Sharing from Firenza Guidi's Creative Residency

'Does my sexiness upset you' was an informal performance in Four Elms. It was an informal showcase of work developed by artists during Firenza Guidi's creative residency in the building.

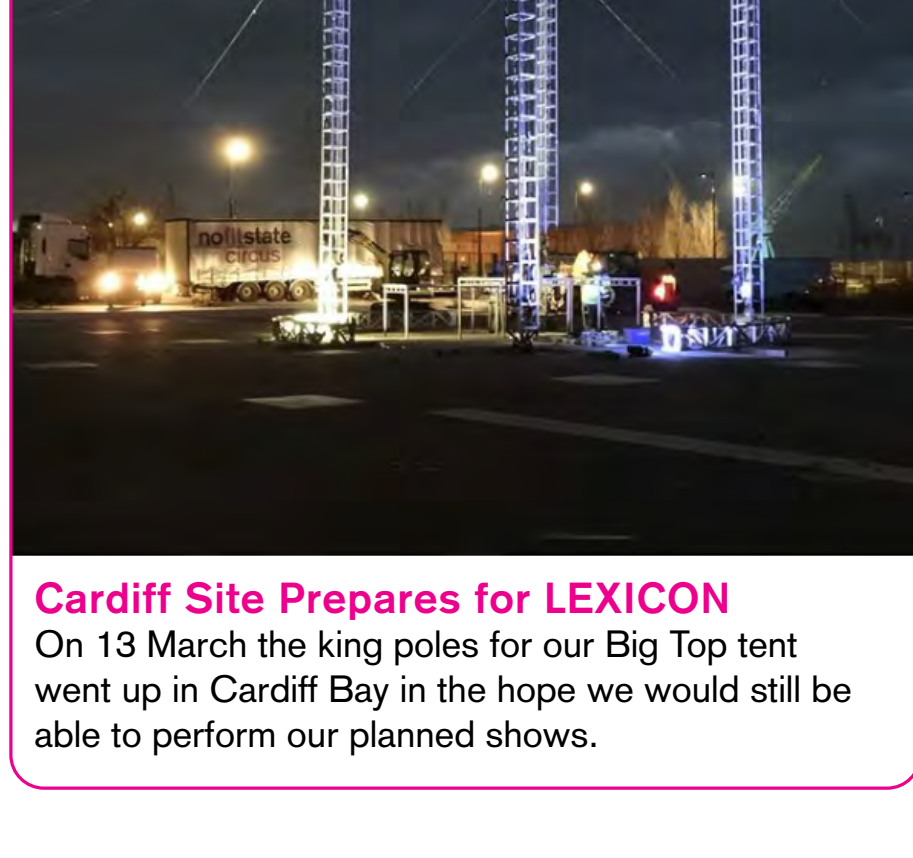


Surf's Up!

We took the beach to the office as part of our Corporate sponsorship with Admiral in Cardiff.

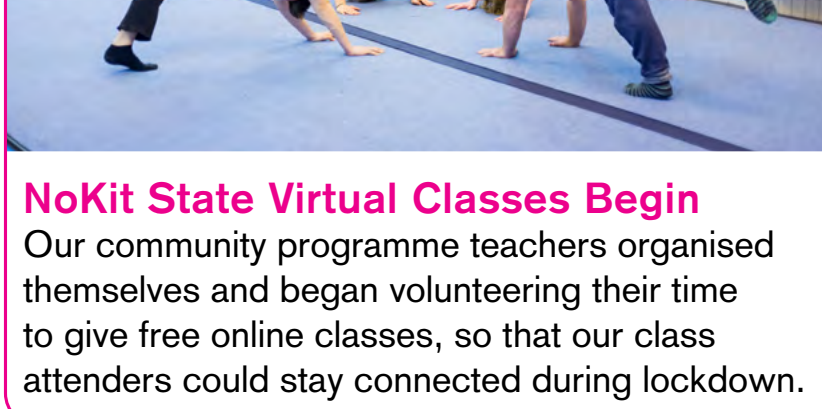
Four Elms closed its doors due to the Coronavirus pandemic

On 18 March the decision was taken to close Four Elms for the safety of staff and class attendees. Lockdown followed on 23 March.



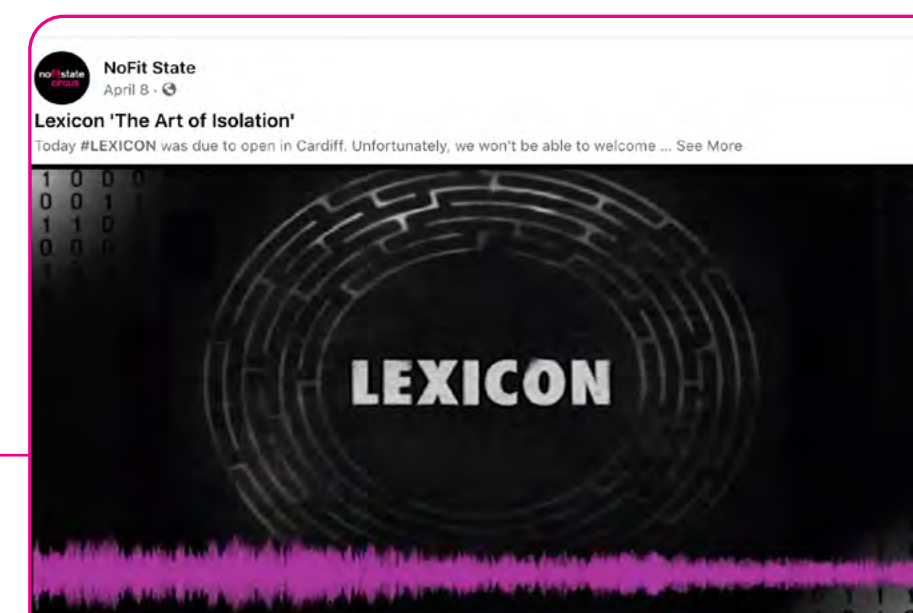
Cardiff Site Prepares for LEXICON

On 13 March the king poles for our Big Top tent went up in Cardiff Bay in the hope we would still be able to perform our planned shows.



NoKit State Virtual Classes Begin

Our community programme teachers organised themselves and began volunteering their time to give free online classes, so that our class attendees could stay connected during lockdown.



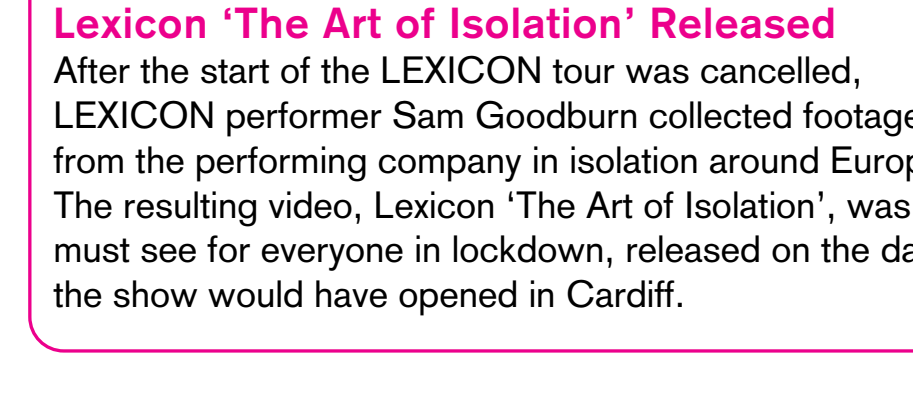
Lexicon 'The Art of Isolation' Released

After the start of the LEXICON tour was cancelled, LEXICON performer Sam Goodburn collected footage from the performing company in isolation around Europe. The resulting video, Lexicon 'The Art of Isolation', was a must see for everyone in lockdown, released on the day the show would have opened in Cardiff.



Stabilisation Fund Awarded

Receiving the Stabilization Fund from the Arts Council of Wales supported us to adapt our ways of working and survive through an incredibly uncertain time. It enabled us to strengthen partnerships, begin new ones, and to conduct a rigorous pilot programme to prepare for the building reopening with all the new Covid safety precautions needed.



Transitions - Covid-19 Micro Fund Update

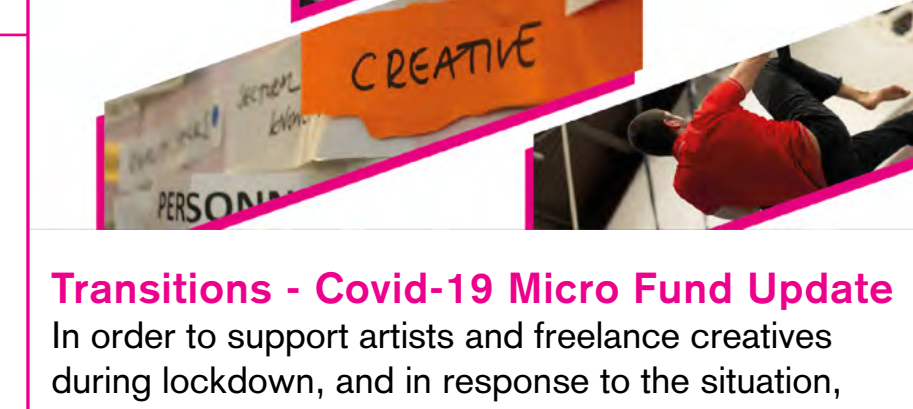
In order to support artists and freelance creatives during lockdown, and in response to the situation, we actively encouraged applications that would enable circus professionals in Wales to better equip themselves to deal with the situation. Whether that be by delivering activity remotely, conducting R&D while self-isolating, or delving into online learning to strengthen their resilience and adapt. The Transitions Micro Fund is supported by the Arts Council of Wales.

april



Transitions - Online Masterclass

We hosted our Associate Artists, Company-ish as part of our Transitions programme with their popular masterclass 'How to Start a Circus Company' to inspire Welsh circus artists.



Transitions - Covid-19 Micro Fund Update

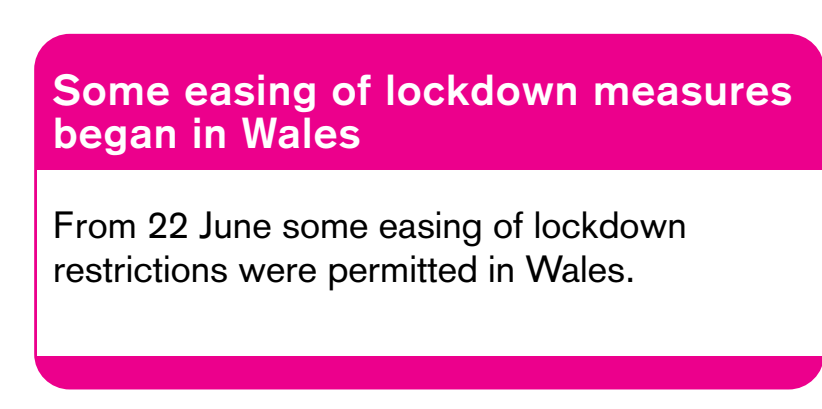
In order to support artists and freelance creatives during lockdown, and in response to the situation, we actively encouraged applications that would enable circus professionals in Wales to better equip themselves to deal with the situation. Whether that be by delivering activity remotely, conducting R&D while self-isolating, or delving into online learning to strengthen their resilience and adapt. The Transitions Micro Fund is supported by the Arts Council of Wales.



Wales Cultural Alliance

We started taking part in the Wales Cultural Alliance meetings from the start of July when they first began. The Alliance represents a new collective voice from and for the cultural sector, led authentically by people from across the communities of Wales, coming together to share and develop a vision for the future and in support for all aspects of cultural life in Wales.

may



Some easing of lockdown measures began in Wales

From 22 June some easing of lockdown restrictions were permitted in Wales.

june



Circus to the Schoolyard Transforms into - Into the Light

Circus to the Schoolyard, our partnership with the local Adamsdown Primary was reimagined and relaunched as Into the Light. The project was given a new focus on the children's wellbeing, especially in relation to dealing with the negative effects of lockdown on their mental and physical health, through new socially distanced, Covid secure sessions.

august



Transitions Year 1 Video Released

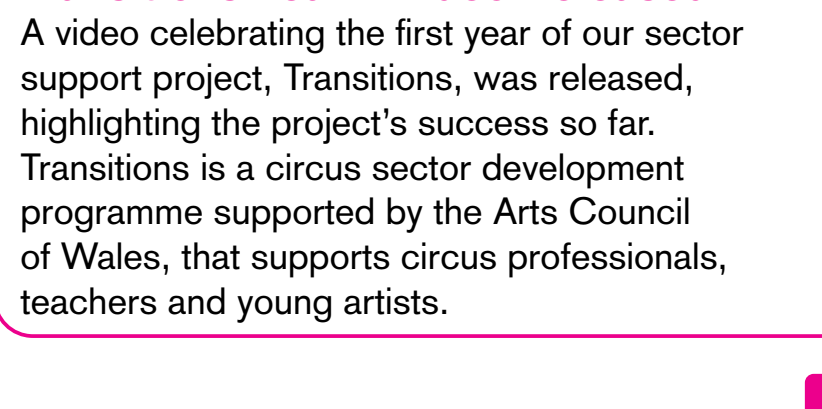
A video celebrating the first year of our sector support project, Transitions, was released, highlighting the project's success so far. Transitions is a circus sector development programme supported by the Arts Council of Wales, that supports circus professionals, teachers and young artists.



Online Youth Circus Summer Festival

Unable to run our Youth Circus Summer Schools in the building as normal, we launched a week long Online Youth Circus Summer Festival for children 5-18 years old.

september



Drum up a Circus Collaboration Goes Online

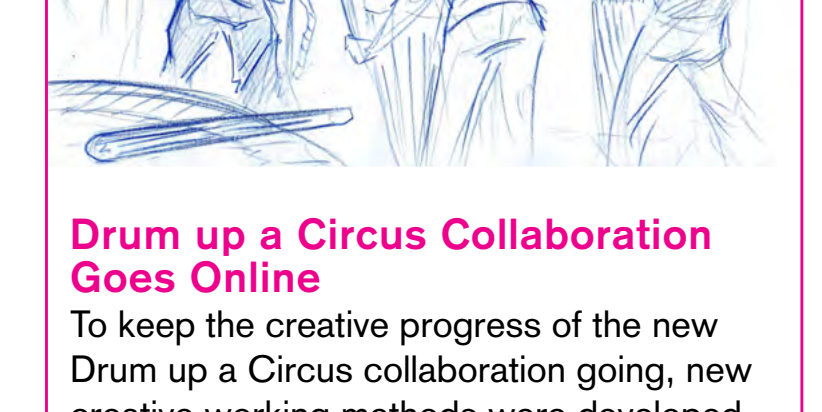
To keep the creative progression of the new Drum up a Circus collaboration going, new creative working methods were developed so that R&D could continue digitally.



Micro Funds Continue to be Awarded

From the start of March to the end of September 21 Welsh circus professionals were awarded Micro Funds to a total value of over £4,400.

october



Pilot Programme Classes Begin

Following much research and development of new safety procedures, the first pilot classes were held in the building. Marking the beginning of the building's reopening to the public.



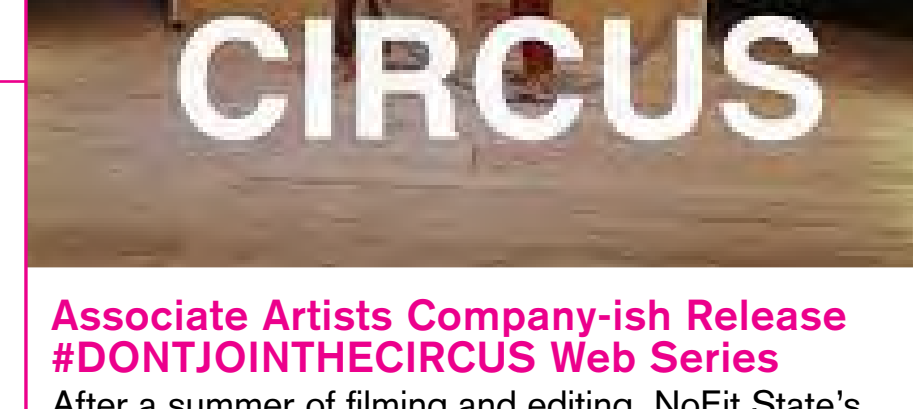
Associate Artists Company-ish Release #DONTJOINTEHCIRCUS Web Series

After a summer of filming and editing, NoFit State's Associate Artists, Company-ish, released their 4 part comedy web series on Facebook, funded by the Arts Council of England.



Cultural Recovery Fund Awarded

The Arts Council of Wales and the UK and Welsh Government awarded us The Cultural Recovery Fund. This gave us a lifeline and the opportunity to be able to adapt and make new plans for the future.



Four Elms closes its doors for firebreak lockdown

From 23 October - 9 November Wales went into a 17-day firebreak lockdown during which no activity could happen in Four Elms.

november



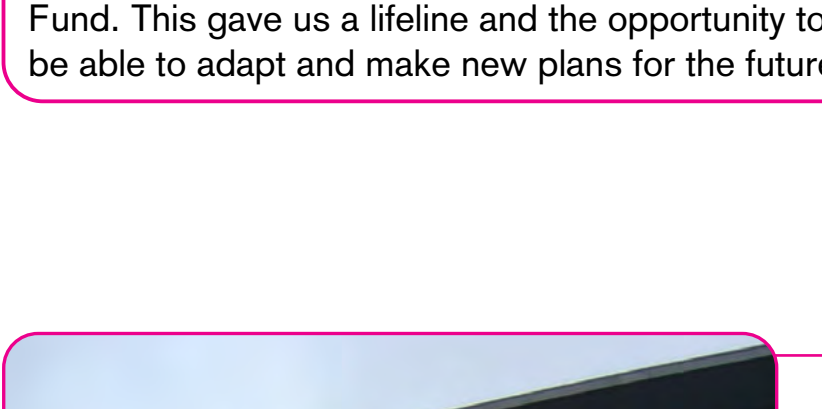
Facebook Live Sessions

In a partnership with the local Hubs and Library, we delivered a 6-week programme of English and Welsh Facebook Live circus sessions on the Cardiff Library Service Facebook channels.



Four Elms Class Programme Relaunches

After a successful pilot programme in October, our community classes relaunched with new Covid safety procedures and a reshaped programme.



Diverse Circus Classes Launch

As we relaunched our class programme in Four Elms we introduced new weekly Diverse Circus classes designed especially for children and young people aged 5-18 on the autistic spectrum.



NoKit State Virtual Classes Success

Between March and November nearly 1800 adults and children took part in online NoKit State digital classes. Thanks goes to our incredible teaching team for organising the sessions and offering their time to keep the community connected.



Leonard Cheshire Partnership

From October to December we delivered digital circus sessions to groups of young adults from 16-35 with learning disabilities and additional needs across Wales, as part of the Can Do project.



Oasis Partnership

In December we started an 8 week programme with Oasis, a local charity that aims to help refugees and asylum seekers in Cardiff. This led to the delivery of free circus workshops in their building for displaced children and their families.

december



Hijinx Silent Movie Project

Over 6 weeks, two of our circus trainers worked with a group of Hijinx actors and their group leader on a silent movie project. This gave them a creative outlet and showed them how to make home movies whilst working on their physical comedy and character building skills.



Four Elms closed its doors due to another national lockdown

On 28 December Wales went into another national lockdown as Coronavirus cases increased due to the new variant.

More than ever, none of this would have been possible without the incredible support of all those around us. Without the generous support of our partners, funders, donors, supporters, commissioners, co-producers, artists, directors, performers, community members, family and friends we could not have achieved so much through such a difficult time.

Thank you for helping us create some wonderful memories during 2020. We look forward to sharing many more in 2021!