



PROJECT  
**BFG**  
REPORT

**THE LYCEUM**  
Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh



## About The Lyceum

**The Royal Lyceum Theatre Company is one of Scotland's leading producing drama companies with a world class reputation for both classical and contemporary work, and for developing and supporting creative talent.**

Our beautiful late Victorian theatre is in the heart of Edinburgh's artistic and cultural quarter. We rehearse in our own rooms opposite the theatre, and costumes and sets are designed and built at our workshops in Roseburn.



## Project BFG

***Project BFG* was an exciting interdisciplinary learning programme developed and delivered by Lyceum Creative Learning in partnership with City of Edinburgh Council, Arts & Creative Learning. *Project BFG* engaged with over 900 participants across 14 primary school classes, 4 special schools, 3 family learning groups and 1 family arts day. This collaboration lasted 9 months and involved visits to The Lyceum as well as a 6 week delivery in schools by *Project BFG* artists.**

*Project BFG* was The Lyceum's third interdisciplinary learning programme following the success of *Project Dream* in 2012 and *Project Scrooge* in 2013 - inspired by The Lyceum's productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *A Christmas Carol*. *Project BFG* asked schools and family learning groups to develop their own creative response to The Lyceum's production of *The BFG* by Roald Dahl.

*Project BFG Theatre Makers* was creatively our most ambitious to date with schools being offered the opportunity to work with a variety of artists such as animators, filmmakers, dance specialists, puppeteers, visual artists as well as drama artists from The Lyceum. This variety ensured pupils and teachers had the creative freedom to take a fully multi disciplined approach over the 6 week delivery period.

Out with our work with schools, *Project BFG* engaged with Family Learning Groups and also offered teachers Career Long Professional Learning (CLPL) opportunities, to develop their own creative practise working alongside professional artists. The artists in turn benefit from working with colleagues in the formal education sector ensuring the sharing of skills and experiences which only strengthens future collaborations.

Out with schools *Project BFG* engaged with Family Learning Groups and The Lyceum hosted a BFG themed Family Arts event where families could engage in creative activity together, further cementing The Lyceum's relationship with community partners.

The Lyceum is one of Edinburgh's iconic cultural venues and *Project BFG* gave participants the opportunity to explore our beautiful theatre by attending performances and backstage tours. This gave them the opportunity to see professional colleagues at work embarking on the same creative journey as they have.

John Glancy  
Acting Head of Creative Learning



***Project BFG* is the third project in a series that began in 2012 with *Project Dream*, and has been developed and delivered by The Lyceum in partnership with Arts & Creative Learning and City of Edinburgh schools.**

Over the 3 years, the model has developed and strengthened with each partner bringing their expertise to the collaborative approach and building opportunities for peer learning within the project.

This year *Project BFG* invited Primary schools and Special schools to develop interdisciplinary creative responses to the story of *The BFG*, through a range of different art forms and the experience of working with artists to develop creative skills.

The strength of the collaboration is apparent in the range of different partnerships and learning experiences that have evolved from the project: between The Lyceum and schools; teachers and artists; learners and artists, and Arts & Creative Learning.

This continues to be an exemplary partnership with the creative experience of learners at the heart of the process.

Lucy Vaughan  
Principal Arts Officer for Performing Arts  
City of Edinburgh Council Arts & Learning



## Project BFG Primary Schools & Special Schools: **THEATRE MAKERS**

### **What is *Project BFG*?**

A cross curricular project inspired by Roald Dahl's *The BFG*, involving school pupils working with artists of various disciplines such as drama, visual art and dance.

### **Who is it for?**

Primary 4, 5 and 6 and Special Schools P5-S6

### **What happens?**

Over 6 weeks, a specialist artist from Lyceum Creative Learning worked with pupils in weekly sessions to produce a creative response to *The BFG*.

### **Where?**

Workshops took place in school during class time, with 2 visits to The Lyceum built into the project time-line to see a performance of *The BFG* and take part in a backstage tour.

### **Project Length?**

School delivery included 90 mins per week for 6 weeks as well as 2 half days of teacher CLPL and 2 theatre visits.

**“We were particularly interested in being part of this project because of the skills the children would gain and we knew from previous colleagues experiences it was a quality project”** Teacher

In May 2014 all City of Edinburgh Primary and Special Schools were invited to take part in Project BFG. The following were selected to participate:

### PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Corstorphine  
Duddingston  
Kirkliston  
South Morningside  
Positive Action Schools  
Forthview  
Gilmerton  
St Catherines RC

### SPECIAL SCHOOLS

Braidburn  
Kaimes  
Woodlands

### FAMILY LEARNING GROUPS

Carrickvale Community Centre, Stenhouse Primary  
Gate 55, Sighthill  
West Pilton Neighbourhood Centre

**Working with 409 pupils and 25 teachers in total**

# Project BFG: THEATRE MAKERS TIMETABLE

## WEEK 1: EXPLORE THE PLAY

The pupils explore the themes, story and characters. The artist facilitates the ideas from the group and helps to shape the outcomes, whilst still ensuring the pupils lead on the creative response.

## WEEKS 2 - 4: DEVISING PROCESS

Using contributions from the class, the theme/story and narrative outline is devised with creative input from the artist. This includes prop making and preparing the school for the final performance.

## WEEK 5: REHEARSALS/ FINAL PREPARATIONS

## WEEK 6: SHARING OF WORK

For friends, family and school colleagues.

The final part of Theatre Makers took place when all the participating schools visited The Lyceum for a backstage tour and a performance of the theatre's Christmas production *The BFG*.





## Impact on pupil learning: **FEEDBACK FROM TEACHERS**

**“The pupils really embraced the project and for those months it felt to them that it was ‘their’ story. There was a strong sense of ownership about what they were developing together and they felt part of something special.”**

“A rich, inter-disciplinary experience. I knew that it would also interest them in theatre and performance – not something that they are particularly familiar with.”

**“Our experience of working with our professional artist was excellent. She was so professional, organised, positive and skilled throughout the sessions. This ensured that she really got the children on board which allowed them to develop the project.”**

“We were amazed at how the artist put it all together with 99 children! The children were very excited about the performance. Loads of new skills learnt: creativity, performance, team building, reflecting and evaluating.”

**“Thank you very much for all your help, inspiration and encouragement. Helping to fund The Lyceum trip also really enabled us to take part in this project.”**

# FEEDBACK FROM PUPILS

**“I have learned how to project my voice, how to script a play and how important it is to keep going and use your IMAGINATION.”**

“Thank you for making us one of the schools that got this experience. You taught us how to put a play on. We came across some challenges but you helped us through them.”

“I think it was an AMAZINGLY fun week and I would love another chance to do it again. I learned so many new things like stage left, lower stage, and lots of new acting skills. I have always liked drama and now I love it more.”

**“You made me more confident in my acting skills because I was a giant and had to speak VERY LOUD.”**

**“I remember on the first day we were coming up with all these mad ideas; that was a great day!”**

“Our class did a show about dreams. My dream was about someone falling into a chocolate lake and we had to save him with sweets. Thank you for letting us go.”





## Impact on pupil learning: **FEEDBACK FROM ARTISTS**

**“There were many instances when students achieved great things – playing a sound beam part with great accuracy; engaging in a piano and keyboard ‘call and response’ duet; or watching a student with profound visual and auditory impairment play the piano and guitar with great musicality.”**

“As much as possible we tried to allow the students to shape the project. By allowing them to make clear choices with regards to what they wore, how they would act, what they

played etc. I hope that it was a very empowering project. I would hope they have real ownership of the work we created.”

**“They were extremely active and proactive in the process – making decisions and choices and taking responsibility for the performance. I think the project pushed the boundary of what they perceive themselves to be able to do.”**

“It was lovely to see pupils in the final week of the project, as they felt so at home with their puppets, masks, costumes and the concept of *The BFG*. They enthusiastically talked about project and were keen to showcase their work. Pupils gained confidence, and took great pride in what they’d done.”



# FAMILY & COMMUNITY LEARNING

## FAMILY LEARNING GROUPS

Carrickvale Community Centre/ Stenhouse Primary; Gate 55 Sighthill, West Pilton Community Group.

## Total number of participants

57 children and adults

Over 4 weeks, a specialist artist from Lyceum Creative Learning worked with the families in weekly sessions to create devised responses to *The BFG* story, making giant ears, warm-up games, vocal and breathing exercises, creating a Bonecrunching Giant piece, shadow puppet making and performance

All activities took place at family community centres, and the project culminated with a visit to The Lyceum to see our production of *The BFG*.

## IMPACT ON PUPIL LEARNING

Feedback from Community Learning & Development Workers and Head teachers

**“For us as a school trying to encourage Family Learning it was a fantastic opportunity.”**

“I think it widens learning opportunities for children and encourages them to engage in new and different activities they might not otherwise access.”

**“The project really engaged with families and promoted different ways of interacting with their children to enhance learning.”**

“My child was crying every morning coming into school – but since the project and theatre visit she has been excited about coming into school.”

# FAMILY ARTS DAY AND THE BIG DRAW

**Number of participants:** 300 children and adults

The Lyceum threw open its doors for a fun-filled BFG themed activity day. All workshops were free to families and took place throughout the whole theatre. From movement workshops, scavenger hunts and drama games; to Roald Dahl story telling performed by the Lyceum Youth Theatre.

Participants were also invited to help us create Sophie's Dream Blanket by designing and making their own square, which were then sewn together by our costume department into one LARGE Dream Blanket that we displayed in the theatre foyer throughout December and January.

## FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS

**"A great day of fun, loved the costumes, the scavenger hunt and great to see the enthusiasm from the Youth Theatre."**

"Fantastic fun was had by all – my son loved the workshops and got really involved. Well planned and delivered."

**"Great fun, lots of things to stimulate the imagination. Would love to come back next year."**

"Fantastic for adults and kids alike! Very participative, full of energy. Staff enthusiastic. A magical day!"



# PROJECT BFG CREDITS

## THE LYCEUM

Sharon May, **Head of Creative Learning**

John Glancy, **Acting Head of Creative Learning**

Christie O'Carroll, **Drama Artist**

Tanwen Llewelyn, **Creative Learning Co-ordinator**

## CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL ARTS & LEARNING

Lucy Vaughan, **Principal Arts Officer for Performing Arts**

## PROJECT BFG PARTICIPANTS

### Primary Schools

Corstorphine

Duddingston

Kirkliston

South Morningside

### Positive Action Schools

Forthview

Gilmerton

St Catherines RC

### Special Schools

Braidburn

Kaimes

Woodlands

### Community Learning &

#### Development Family Learning Groups

Carrikvale Community Centre, Stenhouse Primary

Gate 55, Sighthill

West Pilton Neighbourhood Centre

## PROJECT BFG ARTISTS

### Animation

Henry Cruickshank

### Dance

Lucy Wild

### Drama Artists

Jo Sharp

Caroline Donald

### Film

Duncan Sanders

### Music

Dave Trouton

Louise Martin

### Puppetry

Alison Monaghan

Donna Owens

Katy Dye

### Project Photographer

Aly Wight

## REPORT DESIGN

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