



visible fictions

explore · live · digital

Impact Report 2025/26



Hello, we are Visible Fictions and we love telling stories.

Since 1991 we have been creating innovative and dynamic story-based projects and experiences for young people and adults of all ages. We do this through three main strands of work: **Explore** (through formal and informal creative learning and professional development projects); **Live** (theatrical experiences in venues and public spaces); and **Digital** (work shared through film, audio and online platforms).

We love to **explore** and find ways for audiences to engage with the stories we share. Exploring is in our DNA – in the creation of our professional art, in the educational projects we undertake, in the partnerships we nurture, and in the artist development programmes we instigate.

Our **live** performances are crucial to us – celebrating a shared experience in a space with an audience. This can be in schools, theatres, community venues and also in less traditional places - in parks, libraries, on boats, bikes and in specially created theatrical spaces. In fact, we'll perform anywhere and everywhere we can.

Exploring the world of **digital** increases access and helps our work travel further afield. As a result, our stories are presented all over the world. We share this work at film festivals, over the internet, on television, and in audio formats. Through our audio dramas and interactive and site-specific work we love utilising technology to enhance the experience for the audience and celebrate storytelling in this way.

Our Mission

We create thought-provoking, performance-based storytelling and curriculum-linked learning experiences that captivate children, young people and adults. We believe storytelling is a fundamental human need; and through our explorations we inspire wonder, reflection and discovery through diverse, accessible artistic activities, delivered with fairness, inclusivity and care for the people and the environments in which we work.

Our Values

Visible Fictions recognises that people are our greatest strength. We value mutual consideration, respect, and honesty with all those who come into contact with us, empowering their creativity and engagement.

These are the values that underpin all that we do with and for them:
Daring / Integrity / Innovation / Professionalism / Fairness /
Accessibility / Transparency

Staff	Dougie Irvine	Artistic Director
	Laura Penny	Producer
	Sophie Ochojna	Marketing & Development Manager
	Julie Brown	Projects Manager
	Suzie Bell	Creative Learning Co-ordinator
	Malena Persson	Digital Communications Officer
	Jason Dyer	Fundraising Officer
Board	David Baird	Financial Controller
	Darrell Williams	Chair
	Rachel Edwards	
	Martin Letham	
	Etienne Kubwabo	
	Andy Stewart	





Hello and a warm welcome from us all at Visible Fictions.

As ever we have had a hugely productive year delivering a varied programme of theatre productions, audio drama, animations and live orchestral work that has connected with over **26,047** young people living in Scotland and beyond. And alongside this there has been curriculum-connected learning activities and development programmes for artists from various disciplines. It's been very rewarding.

High-quality productions and engagement projects strengthened our commitment to delivering artistic work directly into schools.



Clunk, **The Impossible** and **The Adventures of Yoyo** ensured young people across Scotland accessed art regardless of barriers, and their teachers too were meaningfully supported to deliver curriculum based creative learning.

Live audiences were also engaged by our productions in theatre and community venues across the country. **Up** at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival was an intimate and unique object manipulation piece for older teenagers and adults, and **Clunk** also toured across the country delivering story-driven theatre directly into the heart of communities.

Our digital work has regularly been presented all over the world. **Snip Snap** in collaboration with Clubhouse Animations was presented at **10** international film festivals alone this year. In partnership with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, we completed a major tour of concert halls **Yoyo & the Big Sleepover** with a series of animations we produced. The animations were created to be made available also as standalone episodes, and these were seen across the whole of Scotland, reaching **14,739** children in **336** primary schools.

This year we have also been developing the creation of two new works **Pigeon Girl** and **Timeless**. Both pieces of theatre push the boundaries of content, style and form for young audiences and will be ready for touring very soon.

We couldn't do any of this without the skilful freelance artists and creatives of Scotland, and supporting them and our arts community

with dynamic projects and opportunities is essential in ensuring the arts flourish. This year we offered two artist development programmes: **Working Title 3** which enabled professional artists to explore very early stage story driven ideas; and **Wee Wonders**, Scotland's first ever animation development scheme designed to support animators who have never been previously commissioned.

I'd like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to our key supporter Creative Scotland, and to a recent partner, Screen Scotland. A huge thank you also must go to all those who have engaged with us - our audiences, artists, educators, creatives, freelancers, funders and supporters. You have made this year so rich and meaningful. We deeply believe the arts are crucial for shaping young lives and you've all played a vital part in making that happen.

Douglas Irvine
Artistic Director & CEO, Visible Fictions

The Impossible

91 participating schools across Scotland

An interactive facilitator led session and audio drama following the story of a young girl with severe anxiety forming a life changing and fantastical friendship with Amelia Earhart. Young participants make their own listening station, taking inspiration from a flight deck and enjoy the audio drama in this space with headsets. For ages 8 and up.

Papergee and the Spider

17 animation workshops in schools across Scotland

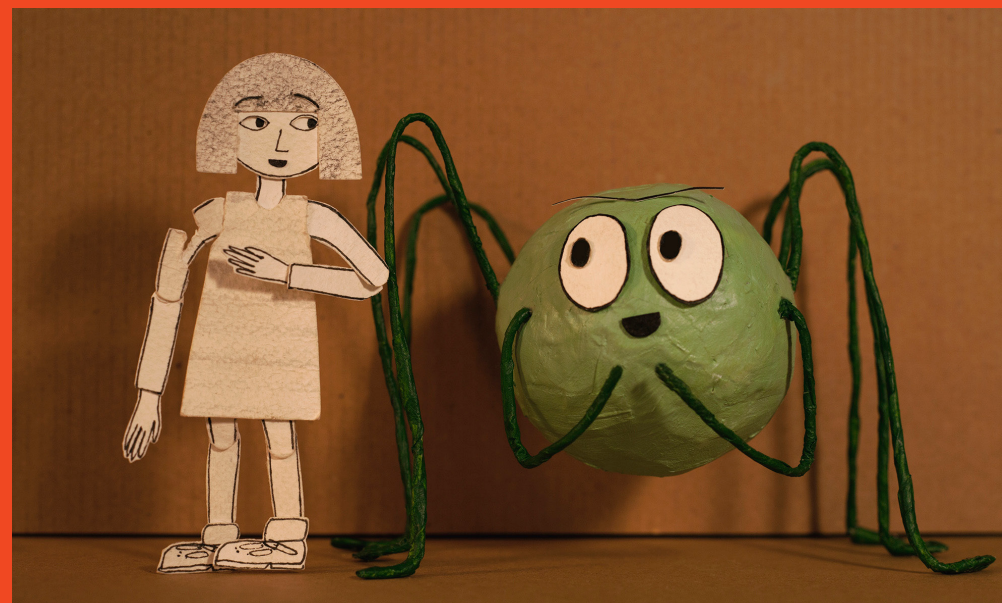
Taking stimulus from our stop frame animation about a displaced child and an unlikely friendship, young participants created their own animations over 10 sessions culminating in an exhibition. For ASN students aged 15 and up.

Work Experience

11 students

A rolling programme offering tailored work experience to high school and university students interested in an arts career. Students have access to all members of staff and are welcomed into rehearsal rooms, meetings and workshops as well as working on creative tasks.

Our projects



Working Title 3

7 professional lead artists

Now in its third year, Working Title awards artists/creatives the space, time and money to be bold, innovative and to stretch their artistic ambitions. Our aim is to allow the 7 selected individuals time to dream, to talk, to experiment and to develop a new story/idea suitable for young audiences.

Wee Wonders Scotland

6 professional lead artists

In partnership with Screen Scotland this project is supporting new and emerging film makers to make an original animation short. Our 6 successful candidates will partake in a programme of regular one-to-one sessions, masterclasses, development workshops, editorial support and industry mentorship. Their short animations will be completed by December 2026.

Professional Development and support

We support the sector by offering help and resources to artists, creatives, technicians, and administrators.

We provide artistic support to artists looking to develop projects, provide a space in our office for those who need a temporary working area, offer guidance and assistance with everything from funding applications to international touring advice. We have props, sets, and technical equipment which we regularly loan to other artists and organisations.

Our projects



**"The performance was the best one
I have ever seen in school."** Clunk, Primary School Pupil

**It was pitched exactly at the children's level - realistic and thought
provoking. The children and I were transfixed from start to finish."**

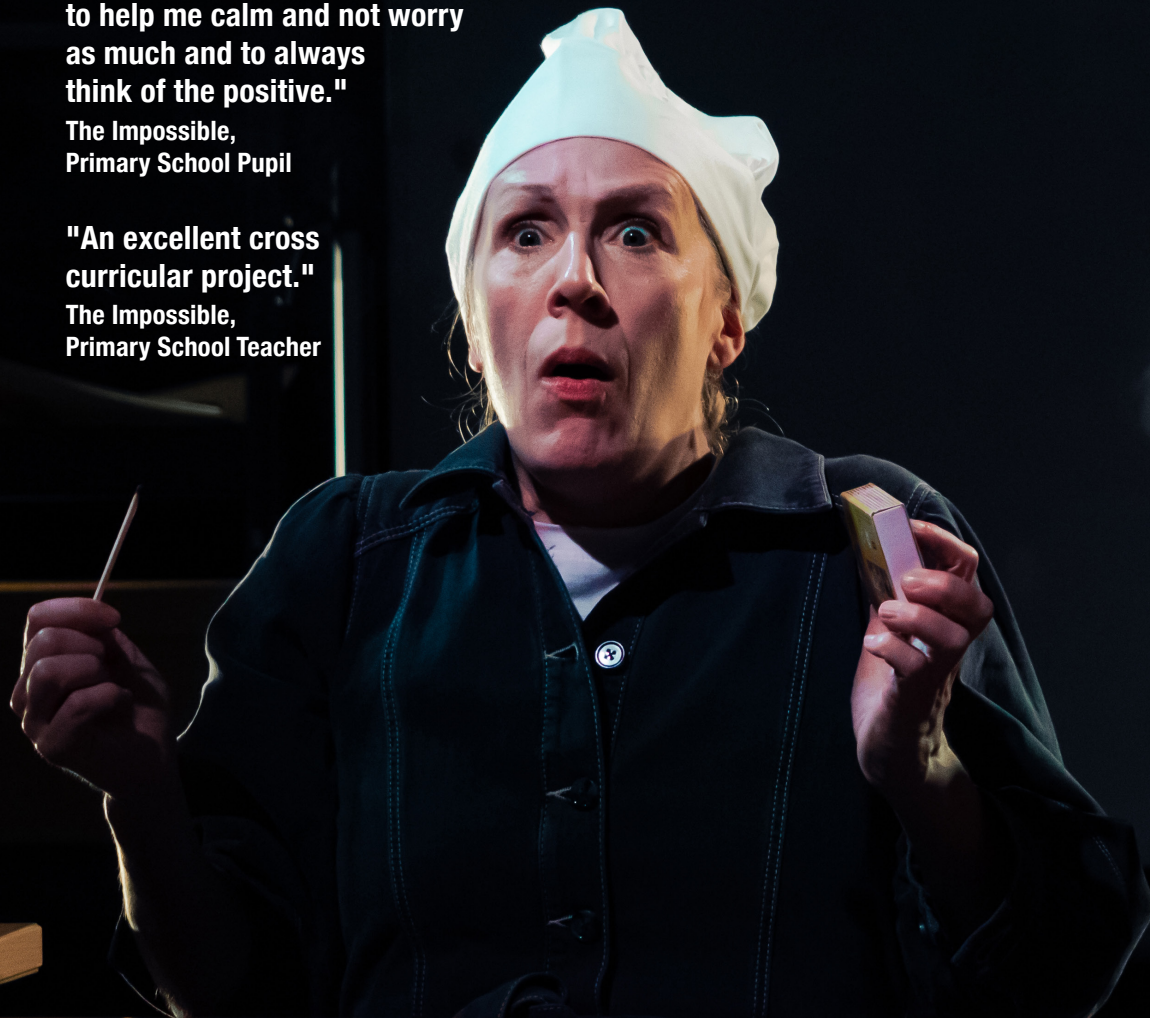
Clunk, Primary School Teacher

**"I liked how it gave me tactics
to help me calm and not worry
as much and to always
think of the positive."**

The Impossible,
Primary School Pupil

**"An excellent cross
curricular project."**

The Impossible,
Primary School Teacher



**"Douglas Irvine and the company
lift things into the stratosphere."** Up, The Herald

"A dynamic, entertaining and remarkably uplifting production ."

Up, Broadway Baby

"Breathless two-hander ."

Up, Total Theatre Magazine



Up

23 performances at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe

A big story told with everyday tiny things. Lucky Jay and unlucky Jayme find love in the most unusual circumstances. Told through 'Object Theatre', a dynamic and imaginative artform rarely seen in the UK. For ages 14 and over.

Clunk

5 performances in venues across Scotland (cont. from 24/25 tour)

An intimate and powerful one actor play which tells the story of Andy whose life changes dramatically when something falls out of his ear during class. He keeps it in his pocket - secret. Turns out he's not the only one in his family to keep secrets and things change in Andy's life for ever. For ages 8 and over

Yoyo and The Big Sleepover (Concert Hall Tour)

5 performances in major concert halls across Scotland

In partnership with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, a live concert experience combining captivating animations with an orchestral score. Storytelling, animation and music combine to create a magical event. For ages 3 and over

Yoyo and The Big Sleepover (Community Tour)

13 performances in community spaces across Scotland

In partnership with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, a live concert experience with animations scaled to fit community spaces.



Snip Snap

11 screenings at film festivals worldwide

A stop frame animation in partnership with Clubhouse telling the story of a child's limitless imagination as she plays with paper and scissors. Her living room is transformed into different landscapes as her scissors, now a crocodile, take her and her teddy on an adventure of a lifetime. For all ages.

The Bauble Bunch

5 episodes shared on our social media platforms

An online drama presented to our followers during the festive period over five films. A heartwarming tale about a collection of unwanted Christmas decorations in a charity shop, their past and bright futures with their new owners. For all ages.

The Adventures of Yoyo animations and learning resource

336 participating schools across Scotland

A series of 4 animations following a young girl, Yoyo, and her family as they get ready for the Inverkitkin Big Sleepover. Accompanied by a creative learning resource combining visual art, music and drama to connect young students to the themes in the animations.

Our projects



Our year in numbers

Live

46

performances

to **8,146**
people

Digital

347

screenings

to **15,959**
young
people

Explore

(schools)

108

creative learning
sessions

to **1,942**
young
people

Explore

(professional)

32

artistic development
projects

with **210**
artists



Our work is for everyone

Our ambition is to ensure as many young people as possible can experience our work and to help us achieve this we offer a range of accessibility options throughout our programme.

As standard we offer

VF Live

Relaxed performances
BSL interpreted performances
Audio described performances
Accessibility packs with full story description,
venue information and trigger warnings

VF Digital

All online content is captioned
We add alt text to social media posts where possible
All online content is created according to UK
accessibility guidelines

VF Explore (schools)

Bespoke projects for ASN schools and units
A Pay What You Can policy across our schools touring
Access to free or subsidised transport

VF Explore (professional)

Access riders for artists
A trained Mental Health First Aider made available to
all permanent and freelance staff

Core staff have been trained in Disability Awareness, d/Deaf Awareness, Anti Racism, Cultural Diversity and Children's Rights.

Within the team we have an Accessibility Champion, Fair Work Representative, Child Protection Lead, First Aiders and Mental Health First Aider.

We are proud to be awarded the Bronze Charter from LGBTQ+ Scotland and we are an ITC Fair Work Approved Manager.

Our journey to Net Zero

The impact our work has on the environment is very important to us. Year on year we aim to reduce our carbon footprint and are held accountable for our emissions via our yearly carbon reporting to Culture for Climate Scotland.

All our core staff are trained in Carbon Literacy, and we are guided by our Green Action Plan and policies to ensure our footprint remains low. We consider the environmental impact of our productions from conception and where possible we reuse and recycle sets. Using our online presence we share information and ideas regarding our net zero journey to inform, influence and inspire.

In 24/25 our organisation produced 11900 kgCO₂e. To date we have planted 309 trees in our Trees for Life grove in the Highlands to help offset our carbon emissions as we continue to work on reducing our footprint.

Front & Back Cover Stills from Snip Snap / Pg 3 Photo Neil Thomas Douglas

Pg 6 (l to r) Papergee and the Spider workshop / making of Papergee and the Spider / Papergee and the Spider / The Impossible workshop / The Impossible workshop

Pg 8 (l to r) Working Title Cohort (clockwise) James Peake, Rachel Keiller and Fiona MacKinnon, Niloo -Far Khan, Michelle Hopewell, Beth Morton, Liam Rees / Wee Wonders workshop / Wee Wonders masterclass / Wee Wonders Cohort (clockwise) Linda Hughes, George Summers, Connor Leslie, George Howie, Pamela Gray, Calum Main / Wee Wonders masterclass

Pg 9-10 Up Photo Enya Fortuna

Pg 12 (l to r) Up (Photo Enya Fortuna) / Yoyo and the Big Sleepover / Clunk (Photo Mark Donnelly) / Up (Photo Enya Fortuna) / Yoyo and the Big Sleepover / Clunk (Photo Mark Donnelly)

Pg 14 (l to r) Snip Snap / Snip Snap / The Adventures of Yoyo / Snip Snap at Film Festival / The Bauble Bunch

Join us on our journey



Scan Me

If you would like to join us on our journey please consider becoming a member of our Friends Circle or making a donation. Your support makes a huge difference by bringing creativity, exploration, play and new perspectives to young minds.

In the coming years we have some truly exciting and impactful projects planned that need support. From a large scale musical to intimate theatrical pieces and animations, your donation will help to create jobs, add to the Scottish cultural landscape and shape lives through the power of storytelling. Further information on how to donate can be found on our website visiblefictions.co.uk or scan the QR code above. Your donation will make a difference.

Thank you to our funders

Creative Scotland, Lindsay Cordiner, Hugh Fraser Foundation, The Order of St Lazarus, The Nairn Family Trust, The D'oyly Carte Foundation, The Glasgow Airport Flight Path Fund, The Misses Barrie Charitable Trust.

Thank you to our partners

Creative Scotland, Screen Scotland, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Clubhouse and all the school and local authorities who have hosted our work.

Thank you to our Board of Directors for their hard work, support and dedication.

For more information and
latest news follow us



visiblefictions.co.uk

Visible Fictions Theatre Company is a Scottish Charity (SCO21724)
and a Company Ltd by Guarantee (Scotland 144133).

