

lighthouse

Arts & Entertainment | Poole

| A Year in Review

APRIL 2022 - MARCH 2023



| Different every day

569 productions
1052 performances
541 screenings
13 exhibitions

(2021/22: 458 productions, 879 performances, 502 screenings, 15 exhibitions)

161,394 tickets sold

(2021/22: 110,181* impacted by Covid closures)

711 workshops, classes,
participation sessions
17,812 participants

(2021/22: 287 sessions for 4,049 participants)

1,731 complimentary
carer tickets

(2020/21: 2,000)





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Cover: Fantastically Great Women Who Changed the World

From the Chair

I was honoured to become Chair in October 2022 having joined the Board during the Covid pandemic, and have been hugely impressed by how the organisation has rallied, recovered and reached new heights.

This has been a tough three years for the cultural sector, not only in terms of pandemic impacts, the pressure on arts funding and the cost-of-living squeeze on our audiences, but also in relation to the costs of doing business, putting on performances, attracting talent, hiring staff and literally keeping the lights on.

Yet Lighthouse continues to rise to these ongoing challenges, winning back most of our audiences and attracting new ones with a fantastically wide-ranging programme and an array of new initiatives that reach into our community whether they be audiences, artists or local businesses.

I have been amazed at the wonderful things I have discovered in all corners of the programme. I have also been delighted to see how incredibly valuable our venues are to local artists, groups and students, giving them space to learn, create and convene.

I'm particularly looking forward to seeing how some of the Artist Development and Education initiatives such as the Sanctuary programme and Lighthouse Academy grow and thrive.

I have a strong conviction that engagement with the arts is healthy for individuals and communities and am pleased that our wonderful local area, blessed in so many ways, also has a thriving audience for culture. But in challenging times these relationships and habits can be fragile, and I think it's incumbent on us to actively provide the excitement, vibrancy, variety and value for money that a great evening at Lighthouse promises.

So, I am delighted with our inspiring strapline 'Different Every Day' that reflects our offer so well.

MT Rainey OBE

Chair, Poole Arts Trust



MT Rainey (credit Richard Budd)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MT Rainey OBE, Chair

Monika Barnes, Deputy Chair

Alison Gannagé-Stewart

Caroline Gitsham

David Hoare

Tony Johnson

Professor Donald Nordberg

Channa Vithana

Jane Webster

Mark Powell (retired October 2022)

Spencer Clarke (resigned May 2023)

Introduction from our CEO

After the disruption of the pandemic, this year was meant to be business as usual, but just as cultural organisations began to stabilise, the price of fuel rocketed, followed by transport costs, food prices and energy tariffs, impacting not only our business partners, but also our audiences and artists.

The impact on our organisation has been significant with increased costs in all areas, recruitment challenges, rising wages, and audiences not yet back to pre-pandemic levels.

Nevertheless, we have presented a terrific programme, Lighthouse has enjoyed higher audience return rates than many other venues and our in-house production of Cinderella smashed all records with audiences clearly delighted to be able to let their hair down and hiss and boo.

We are particularly delighted that Lighthouse was nominated for three coveted UK Panto awards, winning Best Ugly Sisters and being pipped at the post for Best Spiritual Being (Fairy Godmother) and for the prestigious Best Panto. Sadly, and rather annoyingly, we were up against Sir Ian McKellen's production of Mother Goose otherwise we would surely have been victorious!

Our Creative Engagement programme is flourishing as Lighthouse Academy engages with and supports cultural participation with schools and our community, as well as artists who we continue to support in many ways, but particularly through the Sanctuary residency programme that has developed into a really important part of our work.

Commercial events are also enjoying a resurgence and we were delighted to be named Best Business Events Venue at the South West Tourism Awards 2023. It is a highly prized award and a real badge of quality.

Lighthouse earns more than 80% of its income, with the remainder coming from sponsorship and fundraising. The continued support of BCP Council is invaluable and we are incredibly grateful that our status as a National Portfolio Organisation has been confirmed by Arts Council England with guaranteed funding for the next three years.



Elspeth McBain (credit Richard Budd)

Individual donors and sponsors have contributed much needed funds for our learning and education work, as well as the continued updates to our building and equipment, while our Christmas Appeal once again reflected the generosity of our community and funds raised have enabled thousands of young people and families to access performances and participation in the arts.

All our staff work tirelessly and with skill, humour and enthusiasm to make what we provide for our community possible. This is a team effort and it is a huge privilege – not to mention enormous fun – to lead such a talented group of people.

My grateful thanks for every one of our Lighthouse family, friends, audiences, partners, donors and funders.

Elspeth McBain
Chief Executive

About Us

VISION

Lighthouse is a nationally significant, regionally important, locally loved multi-arts venue and one of Dorset's cultural gems. At the heart of our community, it is a dynamic, vibrant place where people feel inspired, entertained and welcomed; and where artists and performers feel supported and empowered to do their best work.

MISSION

Lighthouse exists to provide the people of Poole and the wider region with a vibrant, diverse and relevant cultural programme of live performances, film, engagement and participation. We aim to entertain, move, surprise and challenge our audiences through an ever-changing programme that encompasses the popular and familiar as well as the eclectic and innovative, reflecting and respecting the breadth of their interests and their trust in us.

Supporting Artists

Lighthouse is here to enable and encourage established, emerging and experimental artists to create, rehearse and perform their work, using our world class facilities to inspire and delight those who encounter it and to support the national arts ecology.

Supporting Culture

As an active and collaborative partner with other creative organisations, Lighthouse supports local strategy to establish the region as a vibrant place to live, work and visit.

Supporting our Community

We are also dedicated to maintaining our iconic venue to create a bright, safe and environmentally responsible facility, with a range of attractive amenities, activities and cultural opportunities the community can be proud of.

OUR VALUES

Aspirational

We are up for it! We believe passionately in the power and value of Lighthouse. We believe that bold, audacious arts can enrich and inspire the lives of our community through shared cultural experiences. We strive to improve and develop in everything we do and to lead innovative ways of working.

Welcoming

We welcome our staff, volunteers, artists, audiences, partners and our community into our work. We are friendly, inclusive and work together effectively and safely, ensuring that teamwork is at the heart of everything we do.

Excellence

Everything we do is of the absolute highest quality. We strive to achieve excellence in every aspect of our work and how we deliver it.

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE®
We invest in people Standard

ASPIRATIONAL

WELCOMING

EXCELLENT

Delivering a Great Arts Programme

Lighthouse enjoys a hard-won reputation for delivering a wide-ranging cultural programme, packed with opportunities for our community to be entertained by and take part in the arts at their very best.

Of the work we present, 20% is made or enabled in-house, and 20% of our entire programme is aimed at children, young people and families.

In a year of stellar highlights, we welcomed Richard O'Brien's legendary *Rocky Horror Show* back to our Theatre stage for the first time in a generation as one-time Dorset schoolboy Ore Oduba donned his fishnets as Brad Majors.

It was a great year for laughter at Lighthouse with Jason Manford, Stewart Lee, Frankie Boyle, Jimmy Carr, Sandi Toksvig, Paul Merton and David Sedaris, not to mention our monthly Coastal Comedy night with its quarterly Colossal extension in the Theatre.

The mighty Sophie Ellis-Bextor recreated her lockdown Kitchen Disco in a mesmerising, hi-energy concert and we were proud to welcome the venerable R&B guitarist Wilko Johnson for a strangely euphoric performance in what proved to be the influential six-string slinger's penultimate concert appearance.

Richard E Grant took a resounding standing ovation after sharing stores from his profoundly powerful memoir *A Pocket Full of Happiness*.

Having firmly established our traditional family pantomime, produced entirely by Lighthouse, audiences flocked to see Chris Jarvis in a record-breaking production of *Cinderella* that fully deserved its Best Panto nomination at the 2022/23 Pantomime Awards, where the brilliant Andrew Pollard and Alim Jadavji scooped the Best Sisters award for their hilariously memorable Nadine and Doris.



East London Group: Dorset Days

Christmas at Lighthouse was no less wondrous for our very youngest audiences – the stunning Story Pocket Theatre production of *The Jolly Christmas Postman* sold out every performance. Those young audiences were further entertained with a new monthly Films & Fun Saturday morning 'club'.

Our film programme and, with that our audiences, have not yet recovered from the impact of Covid. This was balanced by strong audiences for our NT Live, Royal Opera House and Exhibition On Screen presentations.

The re-energised visual arts programme saw the nationally important *East London Group: Dorset Days* exhibition in the Gallery. This added to the on-going revival of interest in the work of this group of largely self-taught working class artists from between the wars, by presenting a collection of work, some of which had not been seen for 80 years.

And of course, our resident orchestra, the BSO, whose concert season was delivered in full alongside the innovative digital streaming of their programme.



Lauren Azania as Fairy Godmother shows Cinderella (Charlotte Wood) her magic carriage pulled by ponies Storm and Buddy (credit Richard Budd)

Developing Creative People and Artists

The new Lighthouse Academy brings together the various strands of our Learning and Participation programme which continues to go to go from strength to strength.

As well as a vibrant outreach programme of visiting artists, workshops and pre- and post-show talks, we continue to develop and produce courses to support young people into creative careers, not necessarily on stage. Young Writers and Young Technicians have become mainstays of our calendar and crucial to our work helping young people develop their skills.

The Partner Schools programme has developed, with 21 local schools now signed up to bring participation and education opportunities to local young people. We have invested in a new member of the team to support this and the wider creative engagement programme.

We also continue to support others to deliver training and skills development opportunities. Extraordinary Bodies, whose young company is resident at Lighthouse, premiered new pieces of work this year in *Delicate* and the circus theatre musical *Waldo's Circus of Magic & Terror*.

Lighthouse is also home to Dorset School of Acting, an accredited national drama school, and Stagewise performing arts school.



Training Young Technicians (credit Richard Budd)

PARTNER SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

Our Partner Schools:

- Avonbourne Academy
- The Bishop of Winchester Academy
- Bryanston School
- Bourne Academy
- The Cornerstone Academy
- Courthill Infant School
- Ferndown Middle School
- LeAF Studio
- Lytchett Minster School
- Magna Academy
- Montacute School
- Oakdale Junior School
- Poole Grammar School
- Poole High School
- Parkstone Grammar School
- The Quay School
- St Aldhelm's Academy
- Upton Infant School
- Wimborne St Giles Church of England First School
- Winchelsea School
- Yarrells Preparatory School

21 schools were supported and inspired to connect with the extraordinary work Lighthouse offers

SUPPORT FOR ARTISTS

Since 2020, in recognition of the challenges facing artists in uncertain times, Lighthouse has opened the Sherling Studio and our function rooms as artistic development spaces throughout the summer.

This year our ongoing artist residency programme **Sanctuary** saw 17 artists and companies – more than 90 individual creatives – make use of space, subsistence and travel as well as technical support at Lighthouse.

We are enormously proud of our resident artists Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and Bournemouth Symphony Chorus, as well as associate artists including Angel Exit and Stuff and Nonsense.

This year, more than 80 artists and creatives, representatives from venues, agencies, promoters and funders gathered at Lighthouse to present their work, share experiences, pitch and develop ideas at the first Dorset Artists Festival.

They enjoyed a busy programme of abridged performances, work-in-progress sharings, workshops, and discussion groups.

Among those artists taking part were: Aanka Batta, Angel Exit, Charlie Bicknell, Diverse City, Dorset Born, Gemma Alldred, Gobbledygook, Joli Vyann, Louise Jordan, Rohan Gotobed, Rowan Prescott Hedley, Starecase Productions, Stuff and Nonsense Theatre Company, The Working Boys Club, Theatre Vivo and Transtlantky2. This was made possible with support from the Garfield Weston Foundation.

COMMISSIONS

Lighthouse commissioned or co-commissioned a number of new works this year.

Among many artistic highlights were *Dia-Beat-es*, a DJ theatre set by Daniel O'Donnell; *Three Little Pigs* by Stuff and Nonsense (co-commissioned with Theatre Royal Plymouth); *Kin*, a new show from Gecko; the interactive sound installation *Serving Sounds* by Working Boys Club; and a second wire sculpture *O22* by WildWire artist Paul Green to celebrate the first breeding ospreys in Poole Harbour for over 200 years.

We supported Bournemouth Symphony Chorus and Youth Chorus, commissioning the piece *Four New Seasons* from composer Paul Carr, which was performed by the choirs with our resident Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and the extraordinary violinist Braimah Kanneh-Mason.

Connecting With Our Community

Lighthouse is proud to provide a wide scope of opportunities for people of all backgrounds from our community. From seeing inspiring, entertaining and thought-provoking performances, to participating in high quality cultural activities, our audiences are engaged, curious and eager to get closer to the artists, the creation process and the ideas that are presented at Lighthouse.

Our aim is that Lighthouse is the creative hub of our community, ensuring our BCP region is culturally vibrant, and residents, visitors and those who work here can access high quality arts and culture within their neighbourhood.

Our Creative Engagement team have developed and delivered an inspiring and ambitious programme of cultural engagement and opportunities for our

community to get involved in culture – from the research and development of Poole's first community play *SALT*, to Lighthouse Academy, the partner schools programme and beyond.

Once again, our resident artists Bournemouth Symphony Chorus welcomed singers from across the region to *The Big Sing*, its annual workshop and performance, led and conducted by its inspirational director, Gavin Carr.

Last summer we partnered with The Power House to create a beautiful project in which the people of Poole came together to create and celebrate Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee in the Poole *Britannia!* Exhibition and Mass'd Sing workshop.

This year's *NT Connections* was the biggest Lighthouse has hosted, with more than 85 young people in the building on a single day.



Some of the cast of *SALT*, the community play for Poole (credit Jayne Jackson)

Audiences and Access

Lighthouse has welcomed some 220,000 customers to shows, screenings and events.

On average our website receives more than a million visits during the year and our social media platforms continue to grow.

About half our audiences are based in the BCP area, with 26% from the wider Dorset area and the rest travelling from across the South West.

IMPROVING EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & BELONGING

Lighthouse is actively confronting the inequalities that exist in the arts, particularly around race and disability and we are strategically re-evaluating our resources and processes to strengthen our contribution in supporting the UK arts national ambition to be truly inclusive for all.

We have retained and progressed in our Investors In People (IIP) accreditation and our staff continue to receive detailed training and mentoring with a variety of specific programmes – in line with our core values – to ensure the customer experience at Lighthouse is second-to-none.

ACCESS

Lighthouse operates and continues to grow and develop a comprehensive access policy, ensuring all sectors of our community can experience our building and programme.

Our new access scheme enables anyone with an access need to sign up to book tickets online, bring an essential carer for free and ensure that we can meet their needs.

We now have more than 1,000 members.



| 1,081,439

Website sessions

| 662,584

Website users

| 22,000

Facebook followers / likes

| 13,300

Twitter X followers

| 5,100

Instagram followers

| 477

YouTube subscribers

Maintaining a World Class Facility

Our award-winning building is recognised as an invaluable facility for the Poole community as well as the wider region.

On-going investment in our website, ticketing system, staff teams and café facilities has enabled the audience base to continue to grow as Lighthouse builds back from Covid.

SUSTAINABILITY

The climate crisis is of utmost concern and significance to the artistic community and Lighthouse is conscious of its responsibility to play its part in addressing this.

Actions and targets informed by data analysis aim to reduce our environmental impact and support being sustainable in the future.

We are continuing to phase out single use plastics and have increased waste recycling. We are replacing our venue lighting with LED lights and have a longer term plan to replace stage lighting where we can find funds.



Supporting the Cultural Strategy of the Region

Lighthouse forges partnerships with a range of cultural organisations and artists to help realise artistic projects. In doing so, Lighthouse drives economic activity worth millions of pounds, promoting the town and its facilities, attracting investment and enhancing the region's reputation as a beautiful place in which to live, work and visit.

NETWORKS

We work with many national and regional partners and are grateful to them for ensuring that we deliver strong art and culture in our region.

- Arts Marketing Association
- British Association of Concert Halls
- The Cultural Compact (BCP)
- Dance Along the South Coast
- Dorset Theatre Promoters' Consortium
- Future Arts Centres
- Music Beyond Mainstream
- Regional Touring Network
- What Next? Dorset

PARTNERSHIPS

- Activate
- Arts University Bournemouth
- Arts Council England
- Arts Development Company
- Arts by the Sea Festival
- BCP Council
- Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra
- Inside Out Festival
- Pavilion Dance South West
- Poole BID
- Soundstorm
- Wave Arts Education Agency



Pilot Theatre: Noughts & Crosses

The Money

Lighthouse has successfully retained its status as a National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England for the periods 2023-2027 and we are grateful for their support and endorsement.

We remain a key asset to our other major funder BCP Council, whose support enables our building to be maintained and our community programme to flourish.

After the convulsions of the last few years, the immediate revisions we needed to make to our financial plans for 2022-23, following the onset of the cost-of-living and fuel costs crises, were disappointing and unwelcome, but entirely of a piece with the changeable world we have all adapted to working in.

The whole organisation has thrown itself into continuing to deliver its vision and mission at the highest levels, supported by a financial position focused on building and sustaining ongoing resilience.

As a result, the figures show an organisation straining against increasing costs and restricted funding and welcoming back enthusiastic audiences throughout the year. As pressures continue to rise, our focus is on re-claiming audiences lost in the pandemic, refining and building on the level of service and audience experience, and investing in the building in such a way that delights current audiences and maintains the facility for future generations.

Pete Wilson

Head of Finance

FUNDRAISING

In 2022/23 donations to our annual Christmas Appeal helped us to provide 2,238 tickets with a value of £36,639 to 130 different charities, schools, community groups and individuals.

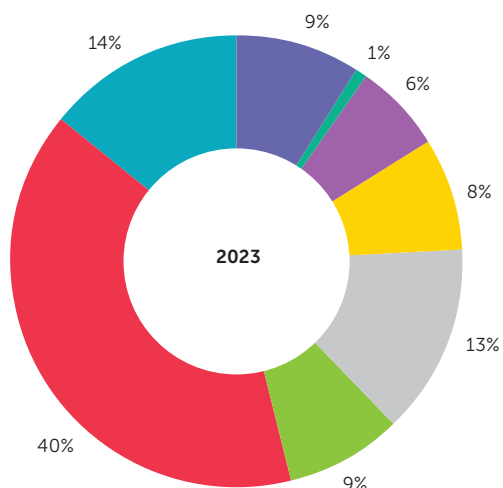
These were for a wide range of shows including *Fantastically Great Women Who Changed The World*, *Rock of Ages*, *Levantes Dance*, *Blood Brothers*, *Oti Mabuse* and, of course, our pantomime, *Cinderella*.

Some of the recipients included Winchelsea School, Something Special SEN Group, The Remix Inclusive Youth Performance Company, and the Poole and District Children's Cancer Fund.

Financial Summary

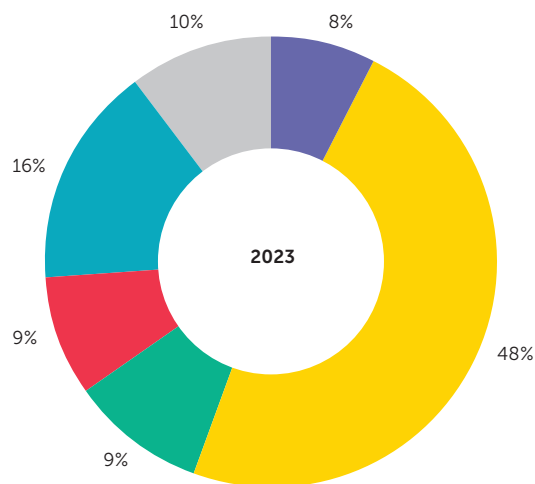
	2023	2022	2021
Earned Income	£3,849,858	£2,918,287	£323,582
Ticket Sales	£2,161,136	£1,671,990	£49,211
Secondary Income	£489,510	£346,708	£10,305
Grants	£794,155	£2,034,410	£2,696,721
Donations / Fundraising	£41,516	£117,684	£104,169
Unrestricted Surplus / (Deficit)	(£19,125)	£182,568	£34,536

INCOME

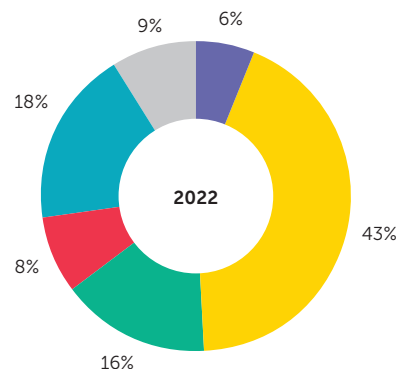
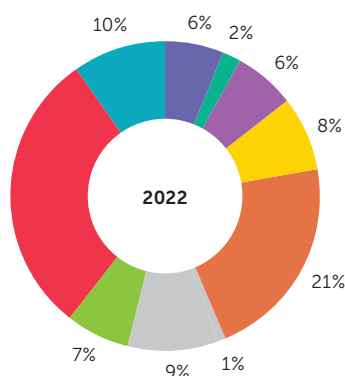


- Bars, Catering, Merchandising, etc.
- Fundraising
- Grants, Arts Council England
- Grants, BCP Council
- CJRS & Other Unrestricted COVID Support Grants
- Grants, Other
- Other Direct Programme Income
- Rental Income
- Ticket Income
- Trading Company

EXPENDITURE



- Bars, Catering, Merchandising, etc.
- Direct Programme & Event costs
- Establishment Cost
- Marketing & Publicity
- Support Costs
- Trading Company



Thanks

FUNDERS

We are extremely grateful for the funding and continuing support of our major stakeholders.

- Arts Council England
- BCP Council

CORPORATE PARTNERS

- Breeze Motor Group
- Volvo Cars Poole
- Poole Audi
- Trethowans
- NFU Mutual

TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS

- Garfield Weston Foundation
- The Wolfson Foundation
- The Theatres Trust
- Foyle Foundation
- The Leonardo Trust
- BFI Fan Audience Network
- Heritage Fund
- Talbot Village Trust

Lighthouse is a major community asset, a cultural jewel in the BCP region and intrinsic to the development of artists, both current and those yet to start their creative journey.

Thanks to all the people within our community who have ensured that Lighthouse continues to thrive and serve our region's cultural strategy.

Particularly:

- Our Lighthouse staff team, for their work, warmth, humour and positivity.
- Our Trustees, who give their expertise and guidance freely.
- Our volunteers, who ensure that our audiences are welcomed.
- Our artists, whose work is our reason for being and makes our programme so vibrant and diverse.
- Our audiences, whose love of and support for culture is what drives our ambitions.
- Our funders, without whose financial support Lighthouse simply would not exist.
- Our suppliers, who keep our bars and café stocked, our equipment maintained and our building safe and inviting.
- Our clients, who hire our spaces and provide amazing cultural and business opportunities for our community.
- Our corporate sponsors, who support our work and value our contribution to the region.

SUPPORTERS

We want to thank all the trusts, foundations, companies and individuals who have supported Lighthouse with donations, grants and gifts.

MAJOR DONORS

- Lyn Glass
- Mike and Pam Jeffries
- Clive and Sally Sherling
- Ralph and Janet Marshall
- Mrs M Anderson
- Mr and Mrs Heffer
- Renny Gye
- Philip and Jane Green

... And our anonymous donors

GREAT FRIENDS

- Susan Mclean
- Mr & Mrs D Tibbs
- Robin Loader
- Alison Zutshi
- Jill Legg
- Brian Miles CBE
- David Middleton
- Anthony Ward
- Pam Warren
- Susan Minchin
- Colvin Aldous
- R Ffoulkes-Jones

DONORS

- John Biggs
- John and Maggie Mills
- Judith Martin
- Sue Hopkins
- Ian Hay
- Carolyn Date
- Lynne Chellingworth
- Ian Scott
- Jenny Mitchell
- Jo Rogers
- Peter Brades
- Kathryn Webb
- Catherine Fitzgerald
- Sam Kelly
- Sally Langham-Brown
- Laura Holm

...And our anonymous donors

A Year in Review

lighthouse
Arts & Entertainment | Poole



Giovanni Pernice: This is Me

SUPPORTED BY



Supported through public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

**INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE**



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| Different every day