



Barbican Theatre

Covid Impact Report 2020-21



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



Our Covid-19

1) 68,000 views of our FREE content on our YouTube B-Hive

2) 60 tutorials, challenges, masterclasses and fun activities filmed and uploaded to B-Hive

3) 16 new weekly ReBels Talent Development Classes (increased from 5)

4) 119 places taken in our new ReBels Talent Development Training sessions

5) 1000 people engaged with 12 free ReBels Masterclasses

6) 7 young people assisted with loans of equipment to tackle digital poverty

7) 1479% increase in views of our YouTube content

8) 29 practitioners paid to run ReBels Talent Development sessions

9) 10 freelance videographers and photographers employed

10) 1000 local people engaged (live) with St Judes Backalley Giant Puppet Parade

11) 8 ReBels Playground events offered free to local Plymouth communities, working with 6 partner organisations

12) 148 FREE spaces booked for ReBels Music workshops

13) 54 freelance & core team staff given free training in Safeguarding, Mental Health First Aid, & Emergency First Aid

14) 40 hours of free training for Digital ReBels young dance group

15) 25 creatives in Plymouth developed as practitioner & artists in own right, performing at Playground events.

16) 400% increase in dance participation through ReBels Weekly Classes & Playgrounds

17) £30,000 funding from National Youth Music to launch ReBels Music

18) 867% increase in YouTube subscribers

19) 5 ReBels annual bursaries offered in partnership with St Peter & Waterfront Councillor



Laura Kriefman, CEO Barbican Theatre

My tenure as CEO started 4 days before the first national lockdown was announced.

Barbican's team have worked hard to allow the Barbican Theatre, Plymouth to not only thrive, but refine it's work, it's journey forward, business model and approach to talent development work and role in the city and nationally as an organisation - despite starting April 20-21 facing a 53% reduction in our turn over.

Our reflections and learnings throughout 2020 have necessarily been spurred on by closure, drastic financial remodelling and inequalities made more apparent by the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, Black Lives Matter movement and the ever-increasing impact of BREXIT. This year we have sought to prepare and position Barbican and its staff to enable more inclusive futures as we practically re-engage our communities and rebuild the culture sector.

Barbican Theatre's team believes in: Building Plymouth's own Cultural Voice. Giving it a platform.

We want to shape multiple light touch opportunities for young people to explore their own creativity and gain confidence in the value of their voice, their stories and their place.

We want to champion them, support them, be their critical friends and make spaces that are theirs.

We want our example to influence others to share knowledge and systems lightly.

We want Barbican to be a safe space to come to reset after meeting challenging attitudes and environments.

"You can't be what you can't see"

Our Vision:

Barbican is a vital part of the Plymouth arts ecology.

Barbican will invest in Plymouth, and our own talent development and freelancer ecology.

Barbican will become:

- a space that fuels
- that enables the next generation of creatives - telling stories for the 21st Century (and helps them extend beyond the city)

Barbican wants to represent the subversive, underground and sub cultures of Plymouth:

- building the voices in our city
- bringing in experts from subcultures that are not currently highly represented in Plymouth ("you can't be what you can't see")
- upskilling and enabling across the city

Imagine an entire new dance style growing out of Plymouth (like KRUMP coming out of LA), the next music genre (like grime from London or Drum and Bass in Bristol). What's the new 'Margate' school of visual art? What's the new Ontroerend Goed youth theatre company that tells stories no one realised they needed to hear? Who's the next Kae Tempest?

All Barbican Talent Development work was re-branded in 2020 under the brand name "ReBels" to reflect the key principles listed above, and to encourage cross pollination between cultural strands.

ReBels are SuBversive and CollaBorative. They're standing tall and have the world in front of them.

Barbican will focus on making work that is AGILE, and MODULAR.

Agile:

So that we can still reach our audiences and communities, even if they aren't comfortable, or able to enter our building.

So that we can present work in different locations at suitable scales for changing levels of social-distancing.

So that we can be light touch and moveable.

So that our ReBels talent development work can respond to the needs of our community and the upskilling potential.

So we can enable.

So we can pivot and support under-heard subcultures and cultural voices.

Modular:

Designed and budgeted within our existing capacity or are identified as additional fundraising objectives.

Designed to work in a variety of different combinations, that allow us to keep ReBels and Barbican's presence going no matter what the next year presents Plymouth with.

Allowing us to rapidly develop ReBels activity so it is fit for purpose not our fit for our presumptions.

Will be reconfigurable for different locations.

Will respond to the need to have different types of creative content.

Will give Barbican a creative process that makes us agile and changes what we can deliver without feeling like change is a failure.

"We believe that the Barbican's role is to create platforms for others to be seen, heard, believed and valued"



Mercedes Romero performing at our ReBels With Rhythm event in Dec 2020

Catherine Fasaro performing at
our ReBels With Rhythm event
in Dec 2020



Journeys with Barbican Theatre

Here are the stories of just a handful of the incredible young people and artists we've had the honour of creating with over the past year.

Catherine Fasaro (ReBels Member)

"I discovered my passion for dance at an older age and therefore it was harder for me to find a suitable place to nurture my love for dance. However I was blessed to discover Barbican Theatre and once I found it I was ecstatic because I knew this was a place I could foster my need to dance. My first encounter was refreshing - as soon as I entered the auditorium I felt as though I belonged and I knew I had found the place I could dance. I was amazed by the quality of teaching and also the welcoming atmosphere of the company. Everyone is truly friendly. I have been given the chance to perform with aspiring and professional dancers, actors, musicians and creatives. Barbican Theatre has also given me a home to dance just when I was about to give up looking due to my age and for that I am

**"I've had amazing opportunities
& met some really cool people
who have helped support me"**
Aya El Morshdy

"Barbican Theatre has given me a home to dance"

Catherine Fasaro.

grateful. I am very confident that dance is an art form I will continually pursue in the future and Barbican Theatre is one of the factors that has led to this confidence."

Aya El Morshdy (ReBels Member)

"I have always had a connection to music, finding my inspiration from the world around me and the experiences I've had. My love for guitar was first discovered when my dad bought me my first one when I was 6, and since then I have been writing music and singing. I first discovered Barbican Theatre through my school, and jumped at the opportunity to join. They offered me a space to be creative with other people my age and instead of just performing pieces by other writers we were given the opportunity to write our own play. During quarantine we were still having our classes with some really cool creatives and musicians. Throughout my journey with Barbican Theatre I have had amazing opportunities and met some really cool people who have helped support me through my music. I can't wait to see what else I will experience in the future."

Jon Fazal (Musician, Songwriter & ReBels Practitioner)

"I moved to Plymouth about 18 months ago and have been blown away by the music scene here. It's a small city but it only takes a little bit of exploring to find all sorts of gems. One of my first gigs in Plymouth was at Cafe Acoustica at the B-Bar. During the pandemic, Cafe Acoustica moved outside and became more varied to incorporate dance and spoken word too. In general, it's been a strange time to be a musician. There haven't been many opportunities to perform, so Barbican Theatre's monthly Cafe Acoustica events at Coxside amphitheatre have been particularly special. The shows have been a really great way of getting out and meeting other artists, collaborating and most importantly bringing dance, music, poetry to the local community. It was also really exciting to work with Shaday Barrowes to co-run the Rhythm & Words workshops as part of Barbican's Rebels programme. It was challenging and rewarding. The young people we worked with were really creative and talented writers and it was amazing to see their works develop throughout the term. I love collaborating and I really enjoyed writing music to accompany their spoken word pieces.

The Wassail and Warmth live stream was also a highlight, where I performed with live and pre-recorded material. It was a really lovely event during such a gloomy time and I felt privileged to be a part of it.

"A really great way of getting out and meeting other artists, collaborating and most importantly bringing dance, music and poetry to the local community."

Jon Fazal


Me and Shaday have decided we definitely want to continue working together and we are planning a couple of exciting projects for the future. I don't know where the journey will go next, but I am excited to see what happens as it's always a pleasure to work with the Barbican."

Christina Fasoro (ReBels Member)

"Dance is my favourite art form, I find it so captivating. Perhaps its the use of our bodies as an instrument to compliment a piece of music and sometimes our bodies and breath are the only instrument. Our bodies are used to create rhythms, how cool is that?! The body is also used to narrate a story, when words fall short, we dance what cannot be said or sung. And we use movement to convey a message. How cool is that?! It is a great creative outlet for me especially when it comes to worship, when I can't seem to verbally express how magnificent my God is, I dance and let my soul do it for me. But I didn't always have a place



Jon Fazal performing with
Suzie West (l) and Daisy
Harrison at Coside Cafe
Acoustic Sept 2020



Julius Taresch performing with the puppet they created in our Backalley Puppet Parade in St Judes Sept 2020

to dance I spent years searching for a place to dance but there was always a failing factor - age, distance, training or funding. I still kept looking until we finally came across Barbican Theatre - a silver lining! It was perfect, everything we've been looking for.

"I danced in the rain to the sound of drums and it was the best I've felt in a while during Covid-19"

Christina Fasoro

I am so grateful to be part of the Barbican Theatre and the dance opportunities I've had through it. A highlight is definitely the Civic Production it was absolutely incredible and I am so honoured to be part of it. I had never done anything like it and I just didn't want it to end.

Because of Barbican Theatre I can also finally say I danced in the rain to the sound of drums - it was the best I've felt in a while during Covid-19. As I'm reaching my final year as a student in Plymouth university I just want to make the most of time I have in Barbican Theatre and it will always be a part of me too!"

Julius Taresch (ReBels Member)

"I've been attending classes at Barbican Theatre for many years and I am currently part of ReBels. Last year I took part in their

"Puppet Parade", including the puppet making. The Barbican are also supporting me working towards my Gold Arts Award. My highlight over the last year was when we were able to be on stage for Halloween Stories (despite everything that was going on at the time) It was a big challenge for me, because we had to learn the lines quickly. I really enjoy "Digital Rebels", because sessions are surprising and an adventure, and we are able to decide what skills we want to learn.

Our current ReBels "Dancing on Cars" is also a challenge for me, because I've never taken a dance class before and the rhythm is so fast, but it is a good challenge. I join many of the ReBels Masterclasses as well, which show me how to use the resources that are available, so that I can achieve a lot without professional equipment. There are more and more opportunities opening and they always keep changing, which I find thrilling and very positive, because with this you learn a lot of different skills and you find where you are most interested in. Something I really like about the Barbican Theatre is also that they ask what we are interested in to help plan sessions and programmes."

"There are more and more opportunities which I find thrilling and very positive"

Julius Taresch

Check out some of our B-Hive Activities, Challenges and Tutorials below!

Or you can watch all of the B-Hive films on our YouTube channel (opens in a new window)

ReBels B-Hive Zoom Games created by James Woodhams (April 2020)



B-Hive Activity: Zoom Games - Theatre / Drama Warm Up Games (or just for fun!)

Monday 30th March 2020



B-Hive How to do the 'Steve Martin' hip hop party dance with Kadus Smith

Monday 26th October 2020



B-Hive #IsolationPlays

Monday 6th April 2020



B-Hive #LightUp Lighting Challenge final film

Thursday 16th April 2020



B-Hive: Rhythm Creative Dance Challenge

Thursday 16th April 2020



ReBels Masterclass Webinar: Challenge Accepted with Make AMPLIFY (recorded 26 November 2020)

April - May 2020

Launch of B-Hive

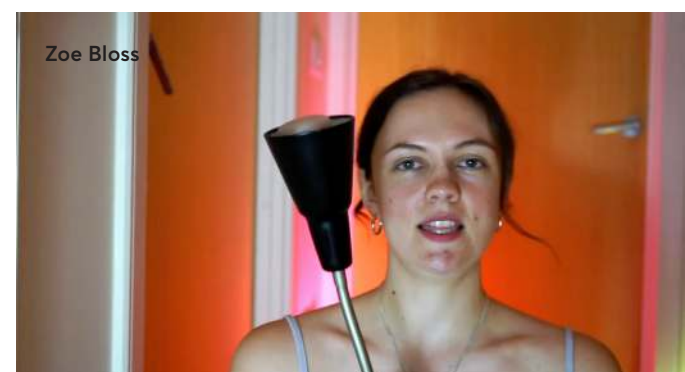
A free online resource launched on YouTube offering access to challenges, tutorials, masterclasses and fun activities. Created by our core team, practitioners and freelance associates B-Hive featured videos such as Zoom Games, Climbing The Wall dancing, Isolation Plays and a Lighting Challenge.

These were shared with our Performance Training participants to engage with at home, plus schools and other organisations in the City.

"This is a amazing! Really inspired me with my writing"
YouTube viewer of Shaday Barrowes' Rhythm & Words writing inspiration challenge

68,000 views April - January
(1193% increase year on year)
751% increase in subscribers

"Great ideas! We are using these on zoom with our Sunday Club children aged 3 to 14!"
YouTube viewer comments for Zoom Games Part 2





Digital ReBels create The Butterfly Effect film with experts from Make AMPLIFY

May - July 2020

Launch of Digital ReBels

Young Rebels were invited to meet online and co-design a new challenge for their creative minds in lockdown. The young dancers consisted of four 18-23 year old dancers in training or recently graduated, living in or near Plymouth.

They choreographed content and designed the digital and visual world alongside digital artist Zack Walker (MakeAmplify), videographer Dan Martin, practitioners Daisy Harrison, Harry Scott and Bakani Pickup and producers Laura Kriefman & Suzie West.

Their process of working together, in isolation and then simultaneously making with technology produced The Butterfly Effect film which premièred in October 2020.

**4 young dancers,
5 paid practitioners
40 hours of free training
700 views online**

**"The movement improvisation was
a challenge but a good challenge!"**

Jonny Hibbs, Digital ReBels

June - July 2020

ReBels Playground FlashMob

Dance performances to Singing In The Rain were created for outdoor / safe spaces (socially distanced) at 5 residential care homes and 2 public parks.

Participants learnt the routine via zoom workshops, to be performed as a thank you for keyworkers, family members and care home residents.

"It's been the first time I've been able to perform and bring my toddler and feel that he is so welcome too. It meant a lot to be able to be the old me!"

Singing In The Rain FlashMob dancer

**52 participants aged 12-65
8 paid practitioners
113 in audiences**

"It was really good fun and really nice to physically do something with other people."

Singing In The Rain FlashMob dancer





July - September 2020

Coxside Cafe Acoustica

To engage with the local residents of Teats Hill and Coxside the monthly Cafe Acoustica was moved to Teats Hill Amphitheatre, with plans to run as a free event on the Friday of each month, with live music, poetry, dance and storytelling.

Three live open air events were held from July - September, in partnership with Take-A-Part and The B-Bar.

16 commissioned artists
14 community performers
155 live audiences



Coxside Cafe Acoustica August 2020

"Something for Coxside residents and visitors passing through the area to look forward to on the last Friday of each month"

Katie Osborne, local resident & poet, writing for Plymouth Culture

September 2020

Backalley Giant Puppet Parade

On 10 September Barbican's ReBels brought a giant puppet parade to the backalleys of the St Judes area of Plymouth.

Five metre tall puppets built in free workshops at Barbican Theatre by local residents, travelled the back service lanes accompanied by two seven metre tall puppets on loan from Lostwithiel Puppets.

"It was motivating and it's an amazing feeling when you can make someone else's day."

Puppet parade participant

998 people watched parade from their homes

20 participants in parade

23,295 reached via social media stream & film

Backalley Giant Puppet Parade Sept 2020

"See - public arts in the time of corona-virus can happen! Brilliant and just what everyone needs right now."

Twitter comment about film

"Awesome. Kids loved it. Well done. Nice to have some joy."

St Judes resident



September 2020 onwards

ReBels Talent Development launched

ReBels focuses on removing the barriers between training for art forms to unleash a new creativity. As professional artists participants are always combining different art forms and styles. Young people doing this instinctively, and we want to foster this.

Over the course of the year, all ReBels members will have the chance to experience a variety of projects and performance types. They will generate projects that are achievable, fun and most importantly co-created. This is a place where artists and young people can work together, feed each other's creativity and talent to create something unique. In the first two terms ReBels have worked with a number of creative concepts including creating character with combat, comedy sketches, combining rhythm and word, developing online stories and creating performances for unique spaces.

As well as new class content and format, class sizes were reduced to allow for strict social distancing and cleaning. During the 2nd and 3rd lockdowns classes successfully moved to zoom, with resources offered to members who had limited access to tech or high speed broadband.

16 new weekly ReBels Classes (11 more than 2019-20)

1101 engagements from 13 weeks of classes

7 young people assisted with loans of equipment to tackle digital poverty

29 practitioners in paid employment

400% increase in dance participation

What's Your Style?' group performing as part of ReBels With Rhythm Dec 2020

"She absolutely loved the session yesterday & was very inspired / impressed by the practitioners. Well done to all of you for running the groups during this time. Culture is key to our future!"

Parent of ReBels Rhythm & Words participant





October 2020 onwards

ReBels Free Masterclasses Launched

We think it's important young and emerging artists get to see, hear and learn from the best and get a chance to hear about and get excited about all the creative careers they could have. So as part of our ReBels Talent Development we host a minimum of 4 masterclasses per half term.

Our masterclasses are free for participants, but all speakers and panellists are paid. They cover many areas of creativity and the performing arts industry; such as how a record gets made and distributed, fundraising, how to do your tax return, producing outdoor events, and creating marketing campaigns.

1000 people engaged
14 free ReBels Masterclasses
23 paid panellists

"AMAZING...that was literally life-saving and game-changing to me... so many incredible bits of wisdom that are going to fill in some gaping holes that I stumble over constantly."

Masterclass participant feedback after Jon Aitkin's What am I worth? Finances for freelance creatives masterclass.

"That was a really inspiring masterclass! Such a relief to have an organisation supporting so many young artists!"

ReBels Talent Development participant feedback after Laura Kriefman, Future of Barbican Theatre Masterclass

Chloe Carruba at Cafe Acoustica Halloween Ghosts & Ghouls Special 30 Oct 2020



October 2020

Cafe Acoustica Halloween Special Live from Barbican Theatre

The October Cafe Acoustica Halloween Ghost Stories special was moved to the Barbican's auditorium due to poor weather.

A socially distanced audience was invited to watch 'live' from the theatre with, further audiences from the event streamed via Zoom.

33 live audience members
21 zoom audience members
9 artists including 3 from
ReBels Training

The Wheel at Cafe Acoustica Halloween Ghosts & Ghouls Special 30 Oct 2020



"That was fantastic. I really enjoyed being a part of it and I think digital theatre like this really works."

Zoom audience member



Vibha Selvaratnam performing Bharatanatyam solo at ReBels With Rhythm

December 2020

ReBels With Rhythm entertain Plymouth Christmas shoppers

Barbican Theatre were invited to create a performance for Plymouth City Centre's Piazza, on Thursday 10 December to entertain Christmas late night shoppers.

Our ReBels team created a vibrant programme of dance celebrating rhythm, incorporating members of our ReBels talent development dance groups, with professional dancers in Afro Beat (Beryl Tebug), Commercial, Flamenco (Mercedes Romero) and Bharatanatyam (Vibha Selvaratnam).

Due to the 2nd lockdown routines were choreographed via zoom, with minimal face to face opportunities to finalise the performance.

258 people watched live at The Piazza

3,611 people watched via FacebookLive

10 performers

"It was so enjoyable to dance live in front of an excellent audience!! Despite the rain it was so worthwhile to share the evening with other very talented dancers, musician and all the crew from the Barbican theatre. Ole!!"

Mercedes Romero, Flamenco performer



Jon Fazal performing live for Wassail & Warmth
YouTube LiveStream



Caitlin Brawn performing
live for Wassail & Warmth
YouTube LiveStream

37 performers
79 livestream viewers
482 views of recording
£195 in donations

January 2021

Wassail & Warmth YouTube Livestream

Our monthly Cafe Acoustica lockdown style with a Wassail and New Year theme.

Featuring specially selected music from Alex Hart (pre-recorded), Jon Fazal (live from Barbican Theatre), Caitlin Brawn (live from Barbican Theatre) plus pre-recorded performances from Barbican ReBels, Coffee Cup Choir and Take A Part Cxside partners Crab & Bee.

There was also a showing of the film 'Wildings' created by Karen & Fiona Evans and the Orchard clan of traditional wassail rituals.

"My first paid gig... I was honestly just so happy to be there and take part. The work that you guys do really does make a positive difference in the community and to people's lives and mine."

Caitlin Brawn live performer & ReBel Talent Development Training member

"Well done to all the artists, contributors & staff, amazing to pull this show together despite the restrictions."

Audience member

January & February 2021

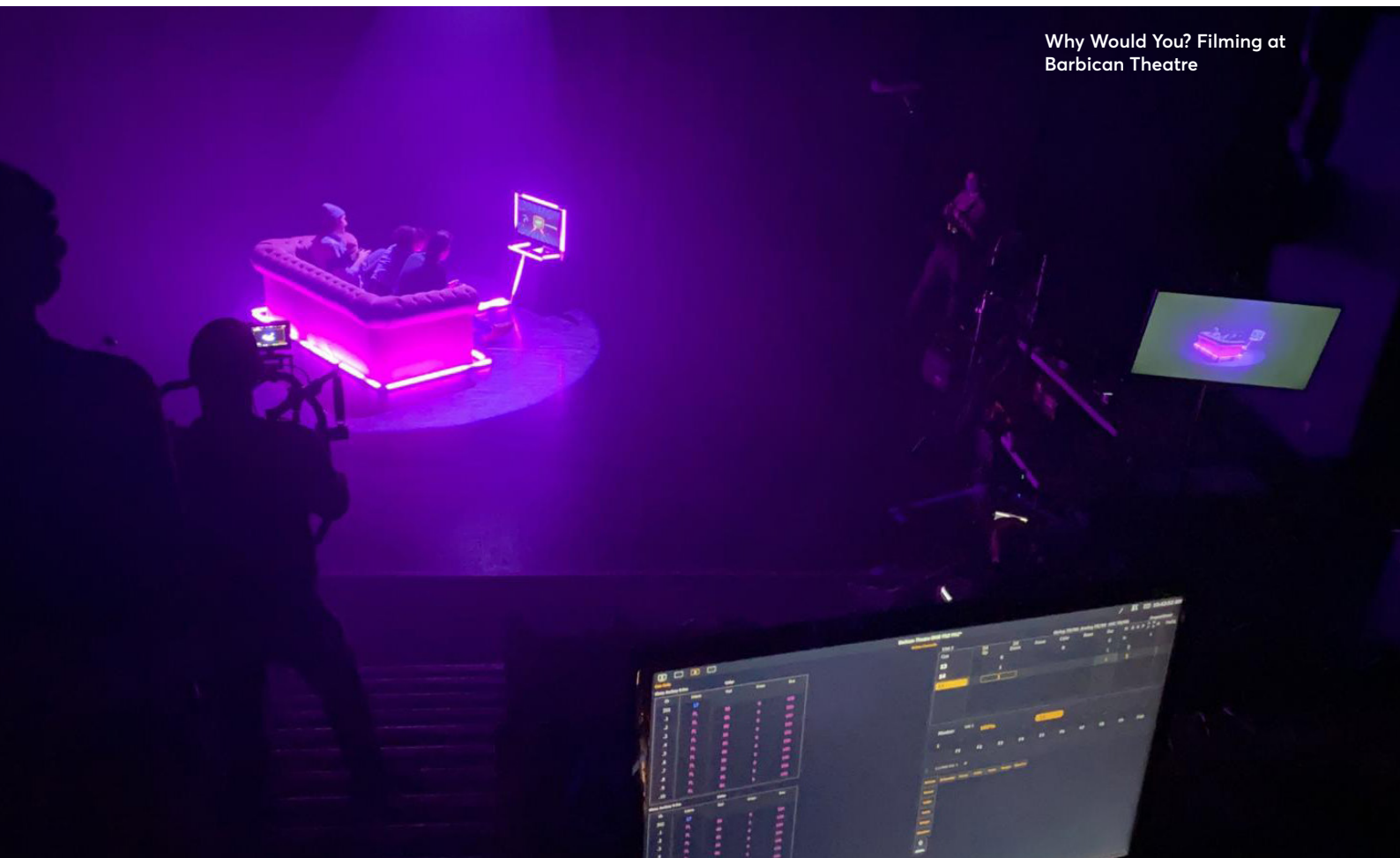
'Why Would You?' film recording

Why Would You? has been a key part of our schools engagement programme for the past 5 years. In response to the show being unable to go to schools this year, our commissioners, Next Step South West, allowed us to adapt the play into a film that will be presented to schools digitally. In February we assembled our cast and crew, directed by John Crooks to shoot the film for it to be distributed to schools from Summer 2021 onwards. This project helped us employ 25 creatives from the south west and beyond.

"I've learnt so much and had the best time"

Sam Hunter, Actor

25 creatives & crew members in paid employment
8 days shooting in Plymouth
28 hours of footage recorded





Alex Hart is one of our initial ReBels Music Team members

February & March 2021

Launch of ReBels Music

ReBels Music is funded by Youth Music and part of Barbican Theatre's wider talent development work supporting Plymouth's own creative voice and giving young people platforms to be heard, while support the growth of music industry talent in the city. Not only those who want to perform, but those who want to record, produce, market and design tours that promote music.

Barbican Theatre understands you 'can't be what you can't see', and this programme aims to break down barriers to expose young people to all the vital roles that make up the music industry, and opportunities to work with leading industry professionals.

13 free ReBels Music workshops
148 FREE workshop places booked
4 music professionals employed

"Progressive organisations, like Barbican Theatre, lead the way with their innovative approach and dedication to diversifying the creative sector."

Matt Griffiths, Youth Music CEO

The ReBels Music team is joined initially by four incredible experts from the music industry
Alex Hart: a professional singer-songwriter, musician and recording artist.

Daisy Higman: an experienced theatre-maker, composer, writer, voice artist and musician who identifies as a disabled artist and is passionate about inclusive arts practice

Benny Lau-Crispin: a Director of Milk Box Music Group Ltd, based at The Granary Studios offering a range of services such as music engineering and recording, production tuition, record label management and distribution.

Jason Singh: a sound artist, producer, DJ, facilitator and performer whose work includes sound installations, nature soundscapes, radio shows, sound design and sound explorations.



Saf Hazeldine & Beryl Tebug performing for our Prime Film project

The next step...

Just a few of our exciting plans for 2021...

Prime Film Project

Working with local videographers to create three 'music video' style films featuring local dancers, parkourists and skateboarders with original soundtracks.

BackAlley Puppet Parade - Keyham

Following the success of our first parade in St Jude's we're bringing a nautical themed giant puppet parade to the back alleys of Keyham, with opportunities for the local community to get involved in making and performing.

ReBels Prime Saturdays

We're taking over the amazing Prime Skatepark in Coxside for a night of riotous fun featuring DJ's, Skaters, Plymouth Parkour and Street Dance Crews along with members of our ReBels dance, music and movement groups.

A Summer Spectacle

Our Playgrounds, ReBels Talent Development and Prime Saturdays are all building towards a big open air spectacle over the August bank holiday at a unique location in Plymouth. Bringing communities from across the city together for a fun and exciting event.

"Plymouth loves good art and culture and there is enormous support for Barbican Theatre"

Luke Pollard MP Plymouth Sutton & Devonport

"One of our cultural Crown Jewels."

Tudor Evans, Leader of Plymouth City Council

Inclusion & Our Acknowledgement Statement

We are working with Zahra Ash Harper as our Creative Director for Inclusion over the next 12 months to slowly and steadily evolve our work. We are actively asking ourselves how we embed and deliver inclusion, to shape multiple light touch opportunities for you to explore your own creativity and gain confidence in the value of your voice, your stories and your place.

"The corner of Plymouth that is changing the world"

Hannah Harris, CEO Plymouth Culture

Partnering with

The B-Bar

Granary Studios

Nudge Community Builders

National Marine Aquarium

Plymouth Parkour

Plymouth Speedway

Prime Skatepark

Real Ideas Organisation

Take-A-Part