

Young Audience Group

Easy Read Report



Report Part 1 – What We Found Out



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About this Easy Read document



This is an Easy Read version of a longer report.



You can ask someone to help you read it.

Trauma

Disabled

Global Majority

We have put some words in **bold** and explained what they mean.



We also explain important words in our **Key Words** document.

What is this report about?



This report is about people who make live shows for babies, children, and young people.

This kind of work is called the **young audience sector**.

It includes:



- theatre



- dance



- music



- storytelling



- creative play



We spoke to lots of artists.
We asked:



- What is hard about working in this kind of art?



- What would make it better and fairer?

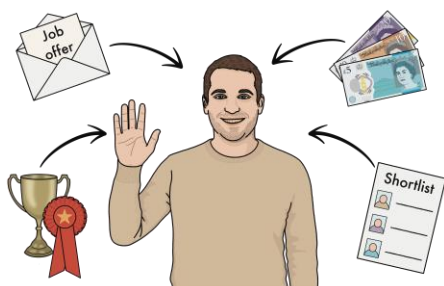


This is what we found out.

1. Some people get more chances than others



Not everyone gets the same support or opportunities.



White, non-disabled, middle-class people are more likely to get money or jobs.



Some artists are often treated unfairly. They get fewer opportunities.

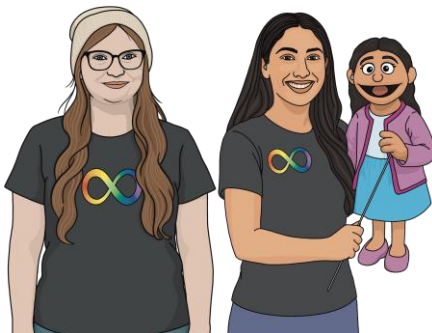
For example:



- Artists from the **Global Majority**. This means people who are Black, Brown, or Mixed.



- Disabled artists



- **Neurodivergent** artists. This means people whose brains work differently. For example, autistic or dyslexic people.



- **LGBTQIA+** artists.



- **Working class** artists



We explain all these words in our **Key Words** document.

2. Some people feel unwelcome or unsafe



Some artists said it does not feel friendly or safe to work in making shows for babies, children and young people.



Some artists said they faced **racism** or **ableism**.



Racism means being treated unfairly because of your race or where your family is from.



Ableism means being treated unfairly because you are Disabled.

For example artists said they:

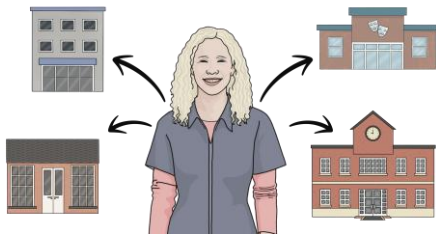


- were ignored or not taken seriously



- felt people did not understand or value their work.

3. Freelancers are tired and badly paid



Most artists are **freelancers**.

This means they do not have one regular job.

They work for different people at different times.

Or at the same time.



Freelancers often said that:

- the pay is too low



- they have no sick pay or holiday pay



- they do not know what work is coming next



- they feel exhausted or burnt out.

4. There is not enough access support

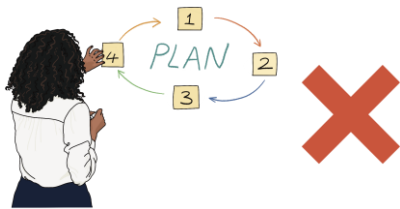


Many artists and audience members need support to take part. But it is often missing.



People told us:

- Organisations do not know enough about BSL, Captioning and Audio Description.



- Access is not planned from the start



- There is not enough support for sensory needs



- It is hard to ask organisations for support



- There is not enough access information



- Parents and carers are left out

5. Events and spaces feel unwelcoming



Networking events are where people meet others who make shows for babies, children and young people.



They are often:

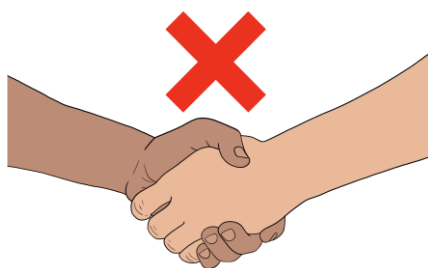
- too loud and not accessible



- focused on alcohol or small talk



- full of people who already know each other. Or that do not talk to new people.



This makes it hard to build connections or find work.

6. Not all children feel seen in shows



Some children do not see people like them on stage. They do not see their culture, language, family, or life experiences.



This can make children feel left out.



Some artists said: “We want children to feel like: that could be me.”

7. It is hard to join this kind of work



Many artists said it is hard to get started making shows for babies, children and young people.

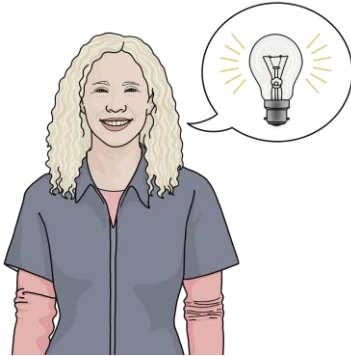


Especially for Disabled, Deaf, Visually Impaired, Neurodivergent, Working class and Global Majority artists.



People said: "It feels like you need to already know someone."

What is next?



After telling us about these problems, people told us what could make things better.



We explain what they told us in **Part 2: What needs to change.**

Who made this report?



Kirstin Abraham wrote this report in April 2025. Kat Gollock took this photo of her



The **Young Audience**

Group asked her to write it.

The Young Audience

Group includes:

- Action Boat
- Barrowland Ballet
- Catherine Wheels & Shona Reppe
- Curious Seed
- Frozen Charlotte
- Imagineate
- Independent Arts Projects
- Lyra
- Scottish Theatre Producers
- Starcatchers
- Visible Fictions



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

Creative Scotland paid for the report.



Door in the Wall Arts

Access CIC made it into

Easy Read in July 2025.