

## BURSARIES FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IN THE PERFORMING ARTS

Someplace Theatre is seeking to raise funds for its student bursary scheme – so that some of the most disadvantaged young people in Someplace can access an inclusive education in the performing arts.



Whilst recognised as one of the UK's leading theatres for children and young people, many aren't aware of our highly regarded education programmes. Our first course began in 1995, and we now have an established reputation for delivering quality inclusive education in the performing arts.

According to the Creative Industries Federation, there is “a lack of diversity across gender, disability, sexuality, age and socio-economic background” (Creative Diversity, 2015) and increasing the diversity of the creative sector workforce is not just a matter of social justice, but will have a positive economic effect. As an inclusive organisation, this aligns with Someplace Theatre's ethos, as we value everyone's contribution, believing this enhances the quality of our work. Through our education and training programmes we seek to redress the lack of diversity – both in the industry and in society as a whole.

We know that the performing arts – if delivered in a positive and inclusive environment – can help people to overcome any barrier, and develop skills and qualifications that can enable them to take the next step to further education, training and employment. And so we work with young people from all social and economic backgrounds and abilities – bringing them together to study creatively, alongside each other.

Because our programmes are accessible and open to everyone, they are often over-subscribed. It also means that we have a cohort of students with increasingly complex, debilitating and immediate support needs, whether these are medical, behavioural, emotional, social or educational.

### WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

Many institutions claim to be 'inclusive' but at Someplace Theatre, we mean it. Our courses are open to everyone. Some who study with us have never achieved meaningful accreditation or qualifications before, while others are academically gifted. It is this mix that benefits everyone.

Significant numbers of our students have been segregated from or marginalised in mainstream education and spent their time either in special schools, pupil referral units, separate education provision, or have been educated at home. Whether through disability, behaviour problems, mental health or other barriers that have excluded them, many of these young people do not have access to the same qualifications that their peers achieve through mainstream education.

However, in our society, these qualifications are required of young people when they take their first step into training or employment. That is why our qualifications are accredited; ensuring that our young people leave here with both a valuable experience and a

“We could not be prouder of the young people who study here.

While, on average, 66% of our students would not meet the criteria to study elsewhere, 95% go on to receive a nationally-recognised qualification – and 73% progress to higher education, training or employment.”

JOE SMITH, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION & TRAINING

recognised qualification. We do this by working in partnership with education organisations and providers who validate our programmes and ensure that our courses are delivering an experience that meets the expectations of a nationally-recognised qualification.

**Murat** is severely dyslexic and came to Someplace Theatre without qualifications. Through his studies he has been able to embark on a successful career in education, and is now Inclusion Support Officer at St John's Primary School in Someplace.

*"Someplace Theatre has been the best platform for me in my own life and my career. By studying and working with the company it's given me the tools and the understanding to work with an inclusive approach and from this now I am the Inclusion Officer in a primary school where I support families and children to make sure they get the best out of the education system with no labels attached."*

– Murat

Our tried and tested inclusive approach makes it possible for everyone to learn, create and contribute together. By allowing young people to study in this way, we open doors to those who may have been 'written off' - young people with complex learning challenges who, with the right support, have been able to achieve a BA degree.

## THE COURSES WE RUN

### BTEC EXTENDED DIPLOMA IN PERFORMING ARTS

A two year full-time course, nationally-recognised as equivalent to three A-levels.

Someplace Theatre tutors are professional performers, experienced theatre practitioners, role models and mentors, as well as talented and passionate educators.

### FOUNDATION DEGREE IN INCLUSIVE PERFORMANCE

A two year, full-time course. It is a nationally-recognised qualification, and a pathway to a full BA qualification.

The 'wrap around' care and support we provide for students is an essential part of our process, ensuring that all students have the educational, practical and emotional support they need to succeed in their studies. For many of our most disadvantaged students, they need the right support structures to help them stay in their education.

### THE BA (HONS) IN INCLUSIVE PERFORMANCE

A top up year, and a full time course, which gives students greater independence and encourages them to devise challenging issue-based work.

Our courses are challenging. Students take part in lessons, practical workshops and rehearsals, and their schedule is demanding in comparison to many other colleges and universities.

The content of our courses can also be challenging, often issue-based, and as part of their courses the students devise their own performances for diverse and demanding audiences in schools, hostels, community centres, theatres and other venues.

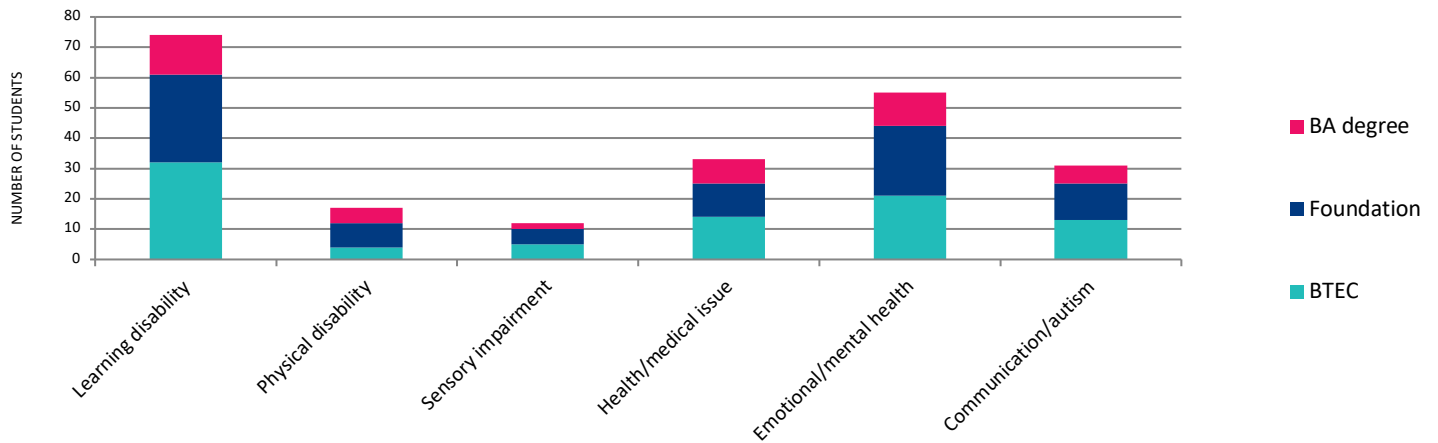


**OUR STUDENTS**

On average, we have 150 students enrolled across our BA, Foundation Degree and BTEC programmes every year.

A significant number of these students have an additional support need, as demonstrated in the table in Figure 1 (below).

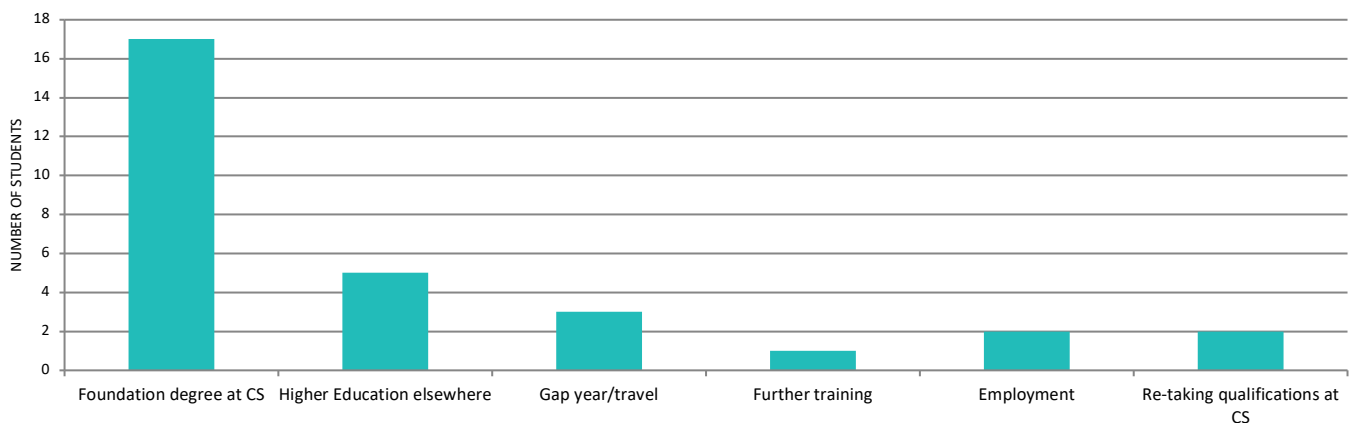
*Figure 1. Student Support Needs across all programmes.*



For these young people, Someplace Theatre gives them an opportunity to study inclusively, working alongside mainstream students.

**WHAT THEY GO ON TO ACHIEVE**

In 2016, 30 students graduated from our BTEC course; 19 of whom had additional support needs.



*Figure 2. Destination of BTEC Graduates*

Of these students, 17 have now progressed to Higher Education at Someplace Theatre and are now embarking on our Foundation Degree course. 5 have gone on to study at other Higher Education institutions; others are in further training or employment.

Many of these young people would not have otherwise been able to progress to further and higher education, and yet have been able to achieve degree-level qualifications.

## STUDENT BURSARIES FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IN THE PERFORMING ARTS

Due to the current legislation with Government Student Finance bodies, the maximum that can be loaned to people who study with Alternative Education Providers – such as Someplace Theatre – is £6,000. This is in a climate where much larger Universities can and do charge over £9,000.

While Someplace Theatre charges significantly less than other providers, unfortunately the minimum we should sustainably charge is £8,500 – which means that a gap of £2,500 still remains.

The only alternative for students and families, in order to bridge this gap, is to either pay the difference or take out an additional loan. However, for many low-income families, for students who do not have positive or indeed any family connections, this is simply not an option.

Historically, we sought to subsidise our fee requirement from our general charitable income. Now, we have established a bursary fund to support students who wish to study but are unable to meet the fees required.

We also have Inclusive Support bursaries, ring-fenced for those students whose additional support needs are only partially-funded by the local and higher education authorities – often with a very low proportion of extensive support needs met.

## COST OF PROGRAMME

	COST PER STUDENT	NUMBER OF STUDENTS*	TOTAL
COURSE TOTAL	£8,500		
BURSARY TO COVER THE COURSE FUNDING GAP	£2,500	80	£200,000
HIGH-NEEDS INCLUSIVE SUPPORT BURSARIES	£10,000	15	£150,000
SPECIFIC-NEEDS INCLUSIVE SUPPORT BURSARIES	£5,000	20	£100,000
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£450,000</b>

\* Figures are estimated, based on past student cohorts and the anticipated intake for the 2018/2019 academic year.

## FUNDING SECURED TO DATE

FUNDS RAISED TO DATE	£135,000
FUNDS PLEDGED	£10,000
GAP REMAINING FOR NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR	£305,000