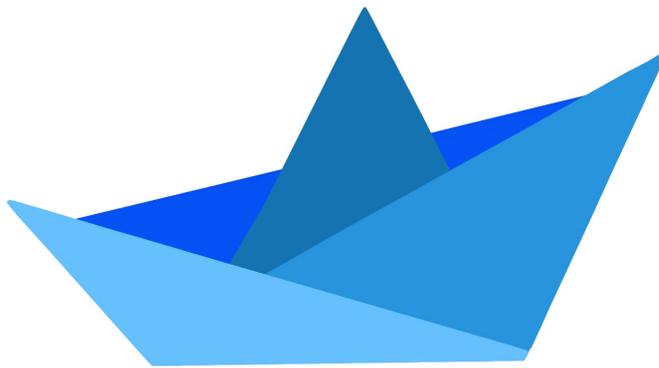


# Boaty Broadcasts

News from the Boat Shed!



— THE —  
BOATY THEATRE  
COMPANY

## 2020... What a year!

This year has challenged all of us in many ways. Some of these challenges have been unique to each of us, while others have been shared complications and frustrations that have united us.

Here's a round up of this memorable year as experienced by The Boaty Theatre Company!

## HAMLET AT THE LOWRY...

Back in January 2020 we took our merry little band of actors and set out to conquer Denmark... Well, not quite! Although, we did conquer *The Lowry* with a sell-out production run, despite this being our first visit to their Studio Theatre. We couldn't have been more delighted!!

**Thank you** to our amazing cast, crew & audiences for helping us achieve such a brilliant landmark on our Boaty Journey.



### Crafternoons!

Join our weekly craft group to learn new skills, have a cuppa and catch up.



### The Write Path

Join our weekly Writers' Cafe on Tuesdays to put your mind on the right path.



### Sunday Social

The perfect balance of relaxed jam session & reason to get out of the house and meet new people!

## Welcome To the Boat Shed!

In February 2020 we signed the lease on a brand new home for The Boaty Theatre Company. Taking on the former Job Centre corner community hub, we wanted to brief new life in to a building in the centre of Ellesmere Port that had been stood empty for at least three years.

The move came at the end of a year of being wondering nomads and we have been delighted with the transformation to what is now "The Boat Shed Creative Community Hub".

We are very grateful to all those that have supported us in the past, especially in helping us out with rehearsal spaces, etc. Now it is our turn repay that kindness and to continue to pay it forward, giving back to our community on greater scale than we were able to previously.



Boasting a versatile dance/drama rehearsal space, community coffee shop, art gallery, studio theatre space and recording studio, **The Boat Shed** is now home to a hive of activity, events and weekly classes, but is also available for hire at very competitive and negotiable rates for community and private functions. Please contact the team for more details.

Our vision for the future of The Boat Shed is that our community coffee shop will provide snacks and refreshments throughout our daily sessions and offer a free breakfast club for those in need. We are also working closely with local community leads and ROC Action initiative to bring life to the town for young people. While we already have a pretty busy schedule of weekly events booked in, please do not hesitate to contact us with ideas or suggestions for activities.

Check out our social media or [boatytheatre.co.uk](http://boatytheatre.co.uk) for all the latest information.

Our opening event was to host the "International Social Prescribers Day" for our friends and partners from Healthbox CIC, providing us with the perfect opportunity to welcome The Boat Shed into the world (and invite the world into The Boat Shed!) and to spread the word about the amazing work that the social

## NATIONAL THEATRE CONNECTIONS 2021 – ACTORS AND THEATRE MAKERS WANTED!!

We are looking for energetic young people to join us on our 2021 connections journey, its very different to previous years but the experience will be no less exciting, insightful and fabulous!

Our play this year is 'Look Up'. Concerned with making your own rules and building your own world free from adult interference, Andrew Muir's 'Look Up' inspires ideas for positive revolution... even if it is only on stage!

No experience necessary and it is completely free to join! As ever, we are looking for enthusiasm and commitment above all!



prescribing link workers are doing in our community to promote positive mental and physical wellbeing and to support people with mental ill-health. We look forward to working more closely with this awesome team in the coming months!

## The Boaty Summer Programme

Since we can remember, we have longed to produce a fully-packed summer activities programme for children and young people... and this year that dream finally came true!

While it may have been delivered a little differently and a little more creatively than we would have first planned, our summer programme was created in response to COVID-19 and the restrictions that were in place and ever changing. We were able to offer 15 places for youngsters from the age of 5 to attend in person at The Boat Shed, and also delivered our content online for others to join in at home.



Our programme ran five days a week for six weeks and included session on Drama, Art Therapy, Yoga, Songwriting, Puppetry, Mindfulness, Story Telling and Singing.

Our Covid Activity packs, Summer Programme, Food packages and Online Classes have been kindly supported by Cheshire Communities Foundation, Cheshire West and Chester Council, Arts Council England, ASDA, Elanco, Essar, The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust and The Arts Society

## Shakespeare at the Farm!

**We returned to Bridge Farm and Wellness Gardens for a SELL OUT run!**

In 2019, we established a wonderful friendship and partnership with Clair and the team at Bridge Wellness Gardens after returning from The RSC Gardens in Stratford-upon-Avon with our triumphant open-air Shakespeare adaptations. Whilst we were limited to what we could do this year due to the restrictions, we still managed to squeeze a few days at the farm to bring our take on "The Tempest" to life....and it certainly lived up to its name. Thank you to everyone that joined us and braved the rain!

### Our First Performance at The Boat Shed!

Despite the craziness that was 2020 we did manage to finally produce a play in our brand new shiny performance space. 'Edith In The Dark' by Philip Meeks now holds the honour of being the both first play to be hosted in The Boat Shed Theatre and our first ever live-streamed production besides! We are hoping to bring lots more live and live-streamed productions to you at The Boat Shed in 2021, so remember to stay safe and follow the rules; that way we can all get back to doing what we love to do sooner rather than later.

## The Boaty Saves Halloween

*“Please tell me you guys are going to save Halloween!”*

Well, when confronted by the potential of seeing so many disappointed children and families due to the cancellation of Halloween events this year, how else could we respond? We rose to the challenge by creating a Covid-Safe, Halloween, trick-or-treat walkthrough experience at The Boat Shed. The event

was completely free, 100% safe and we received so much positive feedback and love from the community!



We had so much fun in finally being able to welcome you all to into our new home, there was much to see and do, including an introduction to our new friend, Friedrich the Dragon and a host of other spooky pals.

Seeing so many smiles and happy children’s faces once again was the biggest treat of all! Thank you for joining us.

## A Special Thank You...

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people that have helped and supported us through these difficult times. We always say that we couldn’t do what we do without the support of our friends, family and local community, but in 2020 this proved more so than ever before!

We have received a life changing amount of funding this year from various grant givers including **Cheshire Communities Foundation and CWAC**, who helped to fund our **Creative Lockdown Survival Kits** which we were able to distribute to 400 families in Ellesmere Port. **Edsential** who funded our first ever **Summer Programme** which helped children grow in confidence before returning back to school after lockdown. **Essar** and **Elanco** who have donated to keep our community projects alive. And, finally to **The D’Oyly Charitable Trust** and the **The Chester Arts Society** for donating to help towards our youth theatre projects.

On top of this, we would like to say a massive thank you to **Arts Council England** and **National Lottery** for the grants that have helped us secure the lease of our building and have provided funds to enable us to support other creatives and get them back on their feet in these dark times for our industry.

We are so happy to know that, no matter what, we will be secure in our new home for the foreseeable future and we can’t wait to see you all in 2021!