

Supporter **Spotlight**

As we prepare for our festive season, we're taking the opportunity to send heartfelt thanks to all our supporters for the immense impact you've helped to create this year.

BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME



In 2023 we've had so much to celebrate including our vital creative work in 44 partner schools, Curtain Raiser performances on the main stage and the showcase of young talent at Birmingham Weekender. It's only with your support that we can achieve this impact - thank you!

With the arrival of Rachel Bromfield as our Senior Individual Giving Officer, we're ending the year as a team of three which is apt since 'all for one and

one for all' neatly sums up our fundraising focus in this year's Big Give Christmas Challenge - more details overleaf.

See you in the theatre very soon!

Judith, Rachel and Anouk
Fundraising and Development Team



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Join us at one of our special experiences across our stages and sites:

- **WED 17 JAN 2024:** Backstage Tour at Pantomime
- **THU 18 JAN 2024:** Backstage Tour at Pantomime
- **THU 8 FEB 2024:** Gala Night at Matthew Bourne's Edward Scissorhands - SOLD OUT!
- **THU 15 FEB 2024:** Supporter Afternoon Tea
- **WED 20 & WED 26 MAR 2024:** Backstage Tours
- **THU 18 APR 2024:** Supporter Supper
- **WED 22 MAY 2024:** Fundraising Fish n Chips at Come from Away

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP



To help make your festive theatre visits all the more affordable, show your membership card to enjoy 20% discount on Front of House food & drink purchases. To see your latest Patron ticket offers check out birminghamhippodrome.com/patronshome

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Under the leadership of our award-winning Head of Creative Partnerships, Zaylie-Dawn Wilson, a key objective has been to create a clear pathway of creative opportunities for children and young people.

One fantastic example is Carden's journey. His potential was spotted during an audition at the Hippodrome for Frantic Assembly's Ignition programme after which he joined Hippodrome Young Advocates. Having been invited to work as Assistant Choreographer for the Motionhouse "Starchitects" Curtain Raiser we're thrilled that Carden has now joined our Learning and Participation Team!

My Ignition audition took place at the Hippodrome and the team were keen to stay in touch. My greatest achievement with the Hippodrome so far would have to be Birmingham Weekender. As Young Advocates we had spent time curating one of the stages. Getting to stand on stage for the festival closing and admire our hard work as a collective was so special. A personal highlight was getting the opportunity to speak about some of my experiences at B-SIDE hip hop festival launch. As a young person who grew up dancing hip hop to have my opinion valued by a room full of funders and Trustees was mind-blowing and a moment that made me realise that I can truly make a difference."

Thank you to our supporters, especially our Curtain Raiser Circle who have helped shape stories like Carden's. Look out for more Curtain Raisers in 2024!!

FUNDRAISING FISH N CHIPS

Join us on **Wed 22 May** for a Fundraising Fish n Chips Social alongside the multi-award-winning **Come From Away**.

Be part of a sociable community that helps us raise funds for creative opportunity.

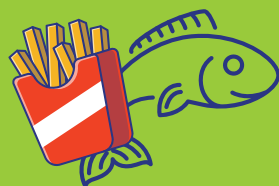
We invite you to get social over a tasty Fish n Chips supper and enjoy the show from the best seats in the house.

Our Fundraising Fish n Chips Social is perfect to enjoy with family and friends or entertain valued clients, treat your team and meet other theatre supporters.

GET SOCIAL
BOOK YOUR FUNDRAISING FISH N CHIPS PLACES NOW

Places are £110pp

Call **Anouk** on **0121 689 3068**



Supporter Success

Together, look at what we've achieved...



The latest **Curtain Raiser** at Alvin Ailey 2 was utterly uplifting. 20 young local dancers delivered their pulsating piece of original dance theatre, took their bow on the main stage and received a standing ovation from the audience. The young company's progress under choreographer and former Alvin Ailey dancer, Marcus Jarrell Willis was so significant that it prompted a congratulatory shout-out from Ailey Artistic Director Francesca Harper - way to go! The **Curtain Raiser** was made possible through generous support from our **Curtain Raiser Circle** and **The Oakley Charitable Trust**.

Thanks to our fantastic sponsor, Voice Fostering, premium bookers and on-the-night prize draw participants, we raised a roaring £22,500 for our youth programme at the spectacular gala dinner alongside Disney's *The Lion King*. Among the highlights of the night were our three young speakers describing the impact of their Hippodrome experiences, a specially choreographed performance from our Musicals Youth Theatre - they smashed it! - and the chance to mingle with members of the cast post-show.



Can you help us raise £30,000 in this year's **Big Give Christmas Challenge**? We want everyone to experience the thrill of live performance and magical "goosebump" moments. To expand our specially adapted Relaxed Performance programme to 6,000 disabled audiences in 2024-2025 we need YOUR HELP. Your Big Give donation will **DOUBLE IN VALUE** and help provide Relaxed Performance tickets to every Special Educational Needs school in Birmingham. Get ready to donate from midday on 'Giving Tuesday', **Tue 28 Nov**.

Getting behind our **Big Give Christmas Challenge** for the first time is **The Sebbie Hall Kindness Foundation**. In an amazing act of kindness Sebbie (pictured far right) has pledged his support alongside other fantastic donors. Having attended special schools and developed a love of theatre through Relaxed Performances, Sebbie's remarkable acts of kindness started during the pandemic. Alongside our fabulous panto stars including Matt Slack, Sebbie wants as many of you as possible to get behind our fundraising campaign - oh yes he does! birminghamhippodrome.com/biggive



Did you know you can **Name a Seat** in your much-loved theatre and help support our transformational work? A heartfelt dedication, a special occasion celebration, popping the question, a tribute to a local business or a shout-out to a loved-one, **naming a seat makes a perfect Christmas present or surprise gift!** Among this year's 14 amazing seat supporters is the family of Helen Willock pictured with their touching and amusing dedication to their theatre-loving mum and nan. These donations have made it possible for nearly 200 young people to attend a Relaxed Performance. How fantastic!

To help provide an enhanced welcome to deaf audiences and artists, Hippodrome teams are participating in d/Deaf Awareness training with David Ellington from Extraordinary Bodies, supported by British Sign Language (BSL) interpreters Selina and Olivia. Designed to raise awareness of the daily challenges that deaf people face and help reduce barriers between deaf people and the mainstream world, the session also explores the development of signing over the decades. Staff have enjoyed creating their own sign names and practiced signing useful phrases for a theatre setting.



To find out more about our fundraising activities, become a member or to book for an event, please get in touch with the team on **0121 689 3068** or email fundraising@birminghamhippodrome.com

