

Annual Report 2025



Our Purpose

Jersey Arts Centre exists to foster the development and celebration of the arts Islandwide and beyond.

Our Aims

- To enrich the quality of life for all residents and visitors
- To encourage participation in the performing, visual, literary and digital arts
- To educate, inspire and encourage debate

This is achieved by providing exciting, innovative, wide ranging, challenging, professional and community arts in welcoming, high quality and accessible environments.

Jersey Arts Council, renamed 'Jersey Arts Centre Association' on 28 May 1993, was incorporated on 5 June 1970 under the 'Loi (1862) sur les teneures en fidéicommis et l'incorporation d'associations' (as amended on 28 May 2014).

Honorary Patron (2023 - 2027)

TIM CROUCH

Honorary Life Members

Valentine Aitken
Sir Philip Bailhache
Ray Banks, FRSA
Mark Blanchard
Tony Carter
Pat Dubras

James Horsfall
Graeme Humphries
Peter Hunt
Denise Ibbotson
Rod McLoughlin
Jacqueline Mézec

Michael Munz-Jones
Billie Newey
Busick Pemberton
George Ritchie
Ian Thomas
Robert Tilling, MBE, RI

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Jersey Arts Centre Association

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

The Management Committee 22 May 2024 - 21 May 2025

Honorary Chair	Jacqui Patton, BA (Hons), ACIM
Honorary Treasurer	Callum Webb, BSc (Hons)
Honorary Secretary	Richard Pedley
Members	Valentine Aitken, Natalie Graves Boyte, Jacqueline Mézec, Nathan Nirmalan, Dorothy Perks

The Management Committee 21 May 2025 - 20 May 2026

Honorary Chairman	Richard Pedley
Honorary Treasurer	Natalie Graves Boyte
Honorary Secretary	Jacqueline Mézec
Members	Valentine Aitken, Andrew Goodyear, Michelle Le Hérissier, Nathan Nirmalan, Callum Webb

Exhibitions Sub-committee

Chair	Mark Blanchard
Members	Valentine Aitken, Tim Ashton-Barnett, Daniel Austin, Angela Crowcroft, Sara Job, Jackie Monticelli, Wayne Stewart

Jersey Arts Centre Staff

Director	Daniel Austin
Deputy Director (Administration & Marketing)	Graeme Humphries (until June)
	Jordi Sunier (from August)
Deputy Director (Stage & Events)	Steven Laffoley-Edwards
Deputy Stage Manager	Jason Kenyon
Finance Assistant	Nick Poingdestre
Marketing Manager	Nick Carver
Press and Marketing Assistant	Nicole Twinam
Exhibitions Coordinator	Wayne Stewart
Education and Outreach Manager	Hettie Duncan
Education and Outreach Assistant	Victoria Gordon
Administrative Assistant	Sarah Owens (from November)
Administrator / Box Office Manager	Jordi Sunier (until July)
Box Office Assistants	Taisie Humphries, Esther Corfield
	Kate Meadows, Martha Williams
Assistant Stage Manager (Apprentice)	Nic Rolland (until June)
	Siena Kilby (from June)

In August 2016, the duties of the Finance Manager were outsourced to Grant Thornton.
In August 2023, the duties of the Cleaner were outsourced to Prospero.
The post of Caretaker is temporarily frozen.

This page: Adam Flood: *Ay Up It's Standup*
Front Cover Image: *The Red Balloon*



2025 in Summary

Jersey Arts Centre delivered the following events, activities and experiences throughout 2025:

- 267 ticketed performances with 29,489 attendances
- *playdays* Children's Festival: 34 events, 78 performers, 1,500 attendances/engagements
- 14 exhibitions in the Berni Gallery
- 14 exhibitions in the Bar Gallery
- 32 public courses and workshops (86 sessions) with 306 participants
- 10 workshops in 9 schools for World Book Day with 212 participants
- 9 workshops in 9 schools for Liberation Day with 247 participants
- 40 workshops at Mont à L'Abbé School with 12-30 participants weekly
- 2 youtheatre productions: *Great Expectations* + *Heavy Weather*
- 2 ACT projects: *Murder at the Oriental Express* + *Oliver Twist*
- 1 Junior Drama project with two groups: *Show & Tell*
- 1 community production: Gerald Durrell's *My Family and Other Animals* for *playdays*
- 1 touring production in April to L'Hermitage in Brittany: *Je Suis Votre Mémoire / And You Are Mine* by ARTcomedia in association with Jersey Arts Centre
- 1 touring production in September to the Ionian Island of Corfu: Gerald Durrell's *My Family and Other Animals* in association with Dr Lee Durrell and Corfu Literary Festival
- 3 Commissions: *Entangled Realities: Quantum Impressions* in the Berni Gallery + *Sam the Sword* by Company Many + *Echo & the Bloop* by Mezzanine Productions
- 4 Residencies: *Florence Nightingale: The Lady with the Hammer* by Oddsocks Productions + *Sam the Sword* by Company Many + Ariel Lanyi (pianist) + *Echo & the Bloop* by Mezzanine Productions
- Our 23rd consecutive year of assisting with the Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony
- 5 of JAC's community theatre companies ran throughout the year
- 67 Arts in Health Care Trust concerts over 4 tours across 31 Island care settings
- JAC Advent Calendar online in December
- Our 10th Community Christmas Production: Anthony Clark's adaptation of Albert Lamorisse's Oscar-winning *The Red Balloon* with 1,508 attendances over 16 ticketed performances with a BSL Interpreted Performance by Andrew Higgins and a Relaxed Performance
- 10 workshops in 8 schools with 234 participants exploring *The Red Balloon* story
- 15 events at Coronation Park in August
- The 12th Polish Film Festival
- The 21st Human Rights Festival
- The hosting of 8 Project Trident students
- 42 Busking Permits processed

Online Participants:

- **Website Sessions: 260,469**
- **Page Views: 258,793**
- **Unique Users: 84,205**

Our thanks extend to everyone for their support, enthusiasm and social and cultural engagement...

Image: Oddsocks Productions - *Florence Nightingale: The Lady with the Hammer*



Chairman's Report

Dear Members

Just as there is no typical day at Jersey Arts Centre, there is no typical year between AGMs. And just as there is no single person responsible for any performance, any and all achievements are a team effort, from the Committee, Arts Centre team, the Director, and Government.

The Director's report will focus on the performance side, the Treasurer will deal with the financial position, while I can give you an insight into the less glamorous, but nevertheless essential, parts of our job. This will also give you an insight into the matters that keep us awake at night.

To pick out a couple of examples of how this year was both business as usual, and an introduction of new initiatives, we have *playdays* and World Art Day (15 April 2026). In 2024, with Government support, *playdays* was started as a world-class festival dedicated to engaging children and young people with the arts, as audience members, performers, and even working behind the scenes. This aligned with the Government's Children, Young People and Family Plan 2024-2027, a rolling programme designed to involve and engage young people with Island life.

After a hugely successful launch in 2024 helped by a significant Government grant, 2025 presented a challenge when financial pressures meant that funding was withdrawn. The Director, with our support, felt that despite this, *playdays* was a valuable addition to our calendar, and should still take place in 2025. We knew that this would mean taking on a much greater financial burden, but we wholeheartedly agree with the initial aims of the Government's four-year plan.

I'm delighted to say that *playdays* 2026 will be going ahead, again with financial support from the Government. It joins a healthy and varied selection of annual events, which include the Christmas show, Oddsocks visiting at least once, the Amici Artium classical concerts, the Jersey Festival of Words and 13th Parish International Film Festival.

The second example is World Art Day, a fresh addition to the calendar, with 21 free events and workshops. This was, again, a great success, and was especially pleasing to see people attending who would not normally come to Jersey Arts Centre events.

That's the fun side of things. Now to the insomnia issues. We have said on many occasions that the Committee's main concern has been the infrastructure of Phillips Street. This has been discussed for years, but we now have made concrete progress, literally. Due to the commercial success of the last couple of years, we have been able to take action which significantly reduces our exposure to risk. The first half of the drainage project has been completed with the second half scheduled for later this year. This also gives us a chance to refurbish and refresh several areas of the building that desperately need it.

This is also the last AGM when you will be sitting on these seats. They are now beyond the end of their expected lifespan and we have run out of ways to repair them as the parts are no longer available. New seating has been ordered and should be installed before next year's meeting, together with new carpeting.

Those are examples of the more visible work that has been done, and there are many more that ensure Jersey Arts Centre continues to provide what it has done since 1983; a world-class programme of events, opportunities for people of all ages to engage and be involved with the arts, workshops and exhibitions.

It has been a privilege to be the Chairman for the past year, and to the team at Jersey Arts Centre, led by the Director, the volunteers, members and committee, I thank you for your work and passion.

We are incredibly fortunate to have so many people who have so many talents and capabilities. This is what makes the whole enterprise viable.

RICHARD PEDLEY
HONORARY CHAIRMAN



Financial Report

For the first time, the Management Committee approved and signed the 2025 Jersey Arts Centre's financial statements earlier than anticipated.

Jersey Arts Centre recorded total income of £1,370,645 and total expenditure of £1,424,866 for the year ended 31 December 2025, resulting in an operational deficit of £54,221. This compares with an operational surplus of £129,811 in 2024. The deficit reflects a combination of reduced grant and box office income alongside increased operational and administrative costs.

THE KEY POINTS FOR 2025

Cash balance: £575,080 compared to £757,313 in 2024 which makes a cash movement decrease of £182,233.

Debtors: £39,459 compared to £50,277 in 2024.

Creditors: £172,253 compared to £341,453 in 2024 a reduction of £169,200 showing a large fall in deferred income. Partly due to the prior year adjustment for *Elf the Musical* in note 13. With volatility in the use of our ticketing platform the most significant reason. With the absence of the previous grant of £150,000 in 2024, the *playdays* Children's Festival successfully took place in 2025 with the cost of delivery reduced to £67,898 providing 34 events. Compared to the cost of £155,946 in 2024 which saw 67 events taking place. Proving that the Jersey Arts Centre can still provide a successful event for local children.

Part of the reduction in income is also due to a drop in ticket sales of £87,693 with 7,257 less attendances but also 13 less ticketed performances.

The prior year adjustment for the proportion of income from *Elf the Musical* increased hirings income in 2025 by £59,244 but resulted in a decrease in retained earnings of this amount.

Membership income remained stable at £22,481 compared to £23,202 in 2024.

The designated fund for the Phillips Street building remains unchanged at £178,756, ensuring continued provision for long term building maintenance.

Operational costs rose from £184,056 to £194,257 due to increases in cleaning, insurance and utilities.

Administration costs also increased by £25,415 with computer software contributing to £11,556 of this.

Finance costs decreased from £83,725 to £62,862 largely due to lower bank charges and depreciation. We have less bank charges due to the reduced engagement in the ticketing platform.

Overall, 2025 was a challenging year for Jersey Arts Centre with the reduced *playdays* grant and box office income and rising operational costs. Despite these pressures, Jersey Arts Centre remains financially stable, supported by strong unrestricted reserves and a protected designated building fund to continue the necessary maintenance.

The Management Committee remain dedicated to delivering exceptional arts experiences to the Jersey community and ensuring Jersey Arts Centre's sustainability for years to come.

My thanks to the Management Committee for their support as I took on the role of Honorary Treasurer for the first time and navigated my way through the year. It has been a rewarding experience for me that I hope to continue with in the next year with new challenges that await us as a committee.

I would like to thank our staff, volunteers, supporters and the Government of Jersey for their ongoing commitment and contribution to Jersey Arts Centre's success.

NATALIE GRAVES BOYTE
HONORARY TREASURER

Director's Report

The Statistics and Key Performance Indicators

Jersey Arts Centre (JAC) has a Grant Agreement (January 2025 – December 2027) with the Government of Jersey's (GoJ) Department for the Economy (ED) within which are key performance indicators (KPIs). As you will see from the summary on page 4, and on pages 10 + 11, our achievements were once again unparalleled. JAC exceeded its 231 target for ticketed performances by 16% and its target of 95 for hirings by 58%. The latter was once again due to the industrious activity of our local groups and societies. There were 52 weeks of exhibitions in the Bar Gallery and 51 weeks of exhibition in the Berni Gallery (target: 48 for each). We also exceeded the target of 47 for courses and workshops by 220%, bringing the total for both public and schools to 103. Our membership target for 2025, whilst being set at 720 (with 1,280 individual members) totalled 685 memberships, falling short of 35 memberships (with 1,111 individual members).

Governance

JAC is governed by its Constitution (available on the Membership page of our website) and its Management Committee (MC) met 11 times in 2025 to guide and monitor both the artistic, operational and financial challenges of our busy community Arts Centre. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 21 May 2025 to discuss, propose and adopt the Financial Statements and the Annual Report for 2024. JAC's Strategic Plan: 2024-2028 v.2 was updated in July 2025 and the Register of Interests of the MC updated in May 2025. The Director and the Chair report to ED on a quarterly basis and minutes, management accounts and quarterly KPIs are shared at this time. JAC also completes the Government of Jersey's Governance Checklist, updated in December 2025, and within which we outline our Safeguarding Policy. This policy is updated annually and was updated in January 2025 and March 2026; it can be found on the policies page of our website (at the foot of the home page), and on all relevant participatory pages.

Risk Management

JAC updated its Risk Management Framework in November 2025. It is available on request, is shared with ED and GoJ, and identifies eight risk categories: property, process, technology, people, data protection, financial, business change and strategic. Our principle high risk area, in terms of impact and likelihood, remains in relation to property, and the Phillips Street building, and was made more acute with the withdrawal in 2022 of the Fiscal Stimulus £2.9 million and the risk of infrastructure failure. This was partly mitigated by a grant of £150,000, secured from ED and GoJ in October 2022 and received in June 2023, to enable a new feasibility study – delivered to the Minister in April 2024 – with the remainder of this grant being used for immediate repair works which was partly spent in 2024 and 2025 but will be exhausted in 2026.

Staffing

There are the equivalent of twelve full-time members of staff at Jersey Arts Centre with a further five on contracts of less than 18 hours a week. In June 2025, Graeme Humphries, Deputy Director (Administration & Marketing) retired after almost 27 years' service and we wish him and his family a very happy retirement. Jordi Sunier was appointed to this post one month later and then in November 2025 Sarah Owens was appointed our Administrative Assistant. JAC also enjoyed the work of Nic Rolland as Assistant Stage Manager (Apprentice) from July 2024 to June 2025 and of Siena Kilbey from June 2025 to June 2026.

playdays Children's Festival

JAC delivered its second Children's Festival between 10-26 July. There was no grant awarded for *playdays* by ED for 2025 despite the award for £150,000 in 2024. However, a grant for £30,000 has been awarded for 2026. *playdays* was named by children; children delivered the key speeches; children sold tickets at the Box Office; children were on the *playdays* festival Jury; and 55 children performed at the 2025 festival. There were: 22 public performances; 9 street theatre performances; 2 ceremonies; 1 exhibition; and 2 residencies. There were 34 events in total, 78 performers, and 1,150 attendances at these events, with 350+ engagements during the street theatre performances. See pages 20 + 21 for further information!

Special Thanks

Our special thanks extend to: Stuart Fox and Sandrine Frojd at Fox International for their 42nd year of sponsorship of *The Fox Open Art Competition* and to the GoJ and the ED department for their continued financial support in the form of our revenue grant and the *playdays* grant for 2026. Special thanks also extend to our Honorary Treasurer, Natalie Graves Boyte, for her sponsored walk in September 2025 and for raising £715 which was allocated to the BSL Interpreted Performance of *The Red Balloon* at Christmas. And also to the Parish of St Saviour for £1,000 towards the work of our Junior Drama group.

This Annual Report is a testament to all that has been achieved in, with and for the community during the past 42+ years by the many volunteers, tutors, staff, committee members, individuals and sponsors who have made Jersey Arts Centre their home. In fact, if we go back to 1970 when the Jersey Arts Council was formed, our work now spans 55+ years! Thank you all so very much for your continued support. Here's wishing everyone a safe, peaceful but adventurous 2026.

DANIEL AUSTIN, BA (Hons), MA, ACA
DIRECTOR

Image: The Spikedrivers



Performances

Throughout 2025, Jersey Arts Centre was vibrant with performances that championed the full spectrum of the performing arts. From innovative theatre and boundary-pushing contemporary dance to folk music, jazz ensembles, spoken word and puppetry, each season brought new ideas, new stories and new audiences through the doors.

A blended mixture of professional and community productions made up the varied programme, with audience members of all ages able to discover performance experiences that educated, inspired and encouraged debate.

The popular Oddssocks Productions performed twice in 2025, delighting audiences with their unique mixture of relaxed storytelling and laugh-out-loud comedy. In January, the company detoured from their usual retelling of a classic story to presenting something brand new: *Florence Nightingale: The Lady with the Hammer*. This theatre piece told the story of Florence Nightingale's life, combining humour with moments of reflection, and was enjoyed by 1,017 audience members over five nights. The company also returned to their summer home of Coronation Park in July and August, presenting nine performances of the fantastical Shakespearean classic *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. 2,093 members of the audience packed their picnics and enjoyed some al-fresco family fun.

Jersey Arts Centre's professional theatre programme once again provided the island with varied performances from both established and emerging companies and performers. The year began with the return of celebrated dancer and theatre maker Wendy Houstoun with her astounding performance of *Watch It!* (30 attendances). February saw a two-night cabaret extravaganza from performers Dr Adam Perchard, Georgi Mottram, Robert Hazle and Joe Morose. *The Show Must Go On*, a celebration of the work of Noel Coward, entertained 263 audience members over two nights. Theatre-maker Yojanda Mercy visited Jersey Arts Centre for the first time in the spring with the tour-de-force one-woman show *failure project* (69 attendances), and multidisciplinary artist Robert James Anderson presented *An Open Book*: a live reading of his own personal notebooks documenting years of creativity (57 attendances).

The year continued with the return of Dr Adam Perchard and the staggering *Liberation Sensation!* This celebration of all things Jersey was a true cabaret sensation and both entertained and moved 369 audience members over two nights in May. Jersey Arts Centre also programmed two nights of comedy in the autumn, with Adam Flood and Rhys James performing one-night-only works-in-progress. These hugely talented stand-up comedians drew a combined 299 audience members over their two gigs. The year was rounded off by a return visit from spoken-word raconteur Luke Wright, who brought his new show, *Pub Grub* to the island. 71 audience members were captivated by his audacious rhymes and big-hearted storytelling.

Tavaziva Dance made a welcome return to Jersey Arts Centre in the spring season with *Greed*, a dynamic and powerful dance piece inspired by the Seven Deadly Sins. Performed by a cast of five stellar dancers, 140 dance fans were treated to this challenging and fast-paced performance.

2025's professional music programme was just as diverse as its theatrical counterparts, with concerts showcasing many genres taking place throughout the year. Classical music was a prominent part of this programme of eight Amici Artium concerts: the Doric String Quartet (126 attendances), Steven Osborne (88 attendances), Will Duerden (72 attendances), Ignas Maknickas (115 attendances), Ariel Lanyi (63 attendances), Kasparas Mikuzis (66 attendances), Irene Duval and Mishka Rushie Momen (85 attendances) and Samrat Majumder (88 attendances). String quartet, piano, violin, double bass and classical guitar were all represented.

Other genres of music were also programmed, with blues group The Spikedrivers performing as part of The Robert Tilling Series (61 attendances), a concert from folk musicians Christina Alden and Alex Patterson (54 attendances), two shows from local band Retro Gramophone (259 attendances), an atmospheric concert from The James Owston Trio in partnership with Jazz en Jërri (141 attendances), a wonderfully energetic night of marimba music from Otto and the Mutapa Calling (149 attendances) and another special concert of contemporary music from Mind Jersey (183 attendances) in the autumn season.

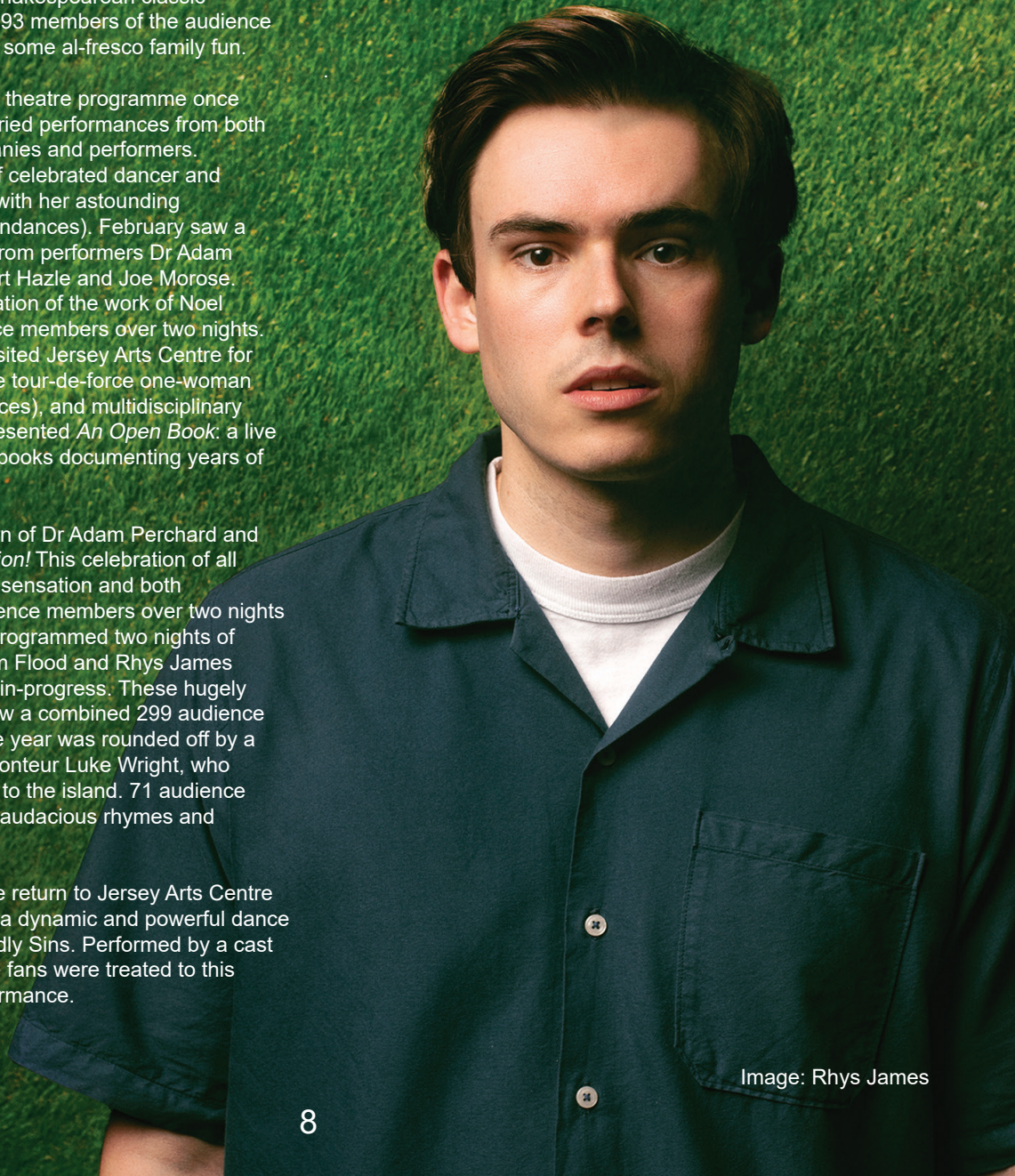


Image: Rhys James

Performances (continued...)

Jersey Arts Centre once again teamed up with Music Managed to present another fantastic series of concerts in Coronation Park throughout August, which certainly got audiences up on their feet and dancing along! Six concerts were presented in total: *Disco and Funk*, *Midnight Joanna*, *Country Fest*, *Botown: The Soul of Bollywood*, *Party in the Park* and *Magic of the Musicals*. Overall, these concerts saw 1,821 people come along to enjoy an evening (or two!) of live music from both visiting and local musical talent.

Cinema is an important part of Jersey Arts Centre's programme, with the Monday Matinée series of screenings proving to be as popular as ever. 12 afternoon films were shown with genres as diverse as movie musicals and modern animated classics, to music biopics and 1960s sci-fi. The series began in January with a screening of *The Miracle Club* (2023) starring Maggie Smith and Kathy Bates (83 attendances) and ended in November with *A Complete Unknown* (2024) which starred Timothée Chalamet as a young Bob Dylan (62 attendances). Throughout the year, 539 cinema fans spent their Monday afternoons at Jersey Arts Centre enjoying both new and classic films. This programme was complemented by the Jersey Film Society screenings, who presented 25 films in total, beginning with *Kneecap* (2024) in January, and finishing in November with *The Last Showgirl* (2024). There was also a special Sci-Fi Weekend presented in February in which eight films were shown. Overall, 2,146 film fans enjoyed these diverse screenings.

Several local amateur societies and groups supplemented Jersey Arts Centre's performance programme by presenting plays, musicals and pantomimes throughout the year. The JADC returned to their traditional January slot with their pantomime, *Jack and the Beanstalk* (1,818 attendances) and presented the musical *Avenue Q* later in the year (942 attendances). Jersey Green Room Theatre Company presented three monologues from Alan Bennet's acclaimed *Talking Heads* (295 attendances), and TC Productions presented the modern comedy *The Unfriend* (655 attendances).

Jersey Overseas Aid hosted three free talks throughout the year, highlighting humanitarian issues from across the globe including themes around disability and age and relief during complex crises. These talks had a combined audience number of 356.

As always, an important part of the theatre programme comprises productions presented by local schools and youth companies that allow children of all ages the opportunity to perform on Jersey Arts Centre's stage. Jersey Youth Performing Arts presented *Beauty and the Beast JR* (1,129 attendances), and Beaulieu Convent School presented two productions: *The Wizard of Oz* (1,422 attendances) and *Frozen JR* (654 attendances). St Michael's Preparatory School also made Jersey Arts Centre their home twice in 2025, with performances of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (311 attendances) and *Annie JR* (475 attendances). Two special productions of the Liberation-themed *Make Do and Mend* were presented in May by two Island primary schools: St Mary's Primary School and La Moye Primary School. Over a combined five performances, 1,017 audience members were transported back to the 1940s!

Finally, in the autumn, Victoria College produced their annual House Drama Competition which saw 201 keen audience members come along to see which House would be victorious.

Three festivals were once again included in the 2025 programme, with one being Jersey Arts Centre's second *playdays* Children's Festival (more information about this festival can be found on pages 20 + 21). Jersey Festival of Words programmed 16 events at Jersey Arts Centre, including talks and workshops, which brought 922 visitors to Phillips Street. The 13th Parish International Festival returned for four days in May, presenting 18 films, schools' screenings and talks to 1,099 film enthusiasts.

As the above numbers demonstrate, Jersey Arts Centre had another extraordinary year in 2025. It is committed to delivering a diverse range of performances, courses, workshops, exhibitions, community projects and schools' workshops that engage the community and inspire Islanders to embrace their creativity, and it is only through audience members, volunteers and its staff that the above is possible!

Do make sure to come and visit Phillips Street in 2026!



Image: Yolande Mercy - *Failure Project*

Statistics

Promotions at Jersey Arts Centre could be broken down by art form as follows:

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Drama	23	17	22	16	34	18	27	18	23	25	16
Classical Music	17	17	22	16	13	13	4	6	10	9	12
Jazz + World Music	17	10	13	20	14	13	31	26	16	15	22
Dance	2	3	-	6	-	-	4	-	2	4	2
Comedy	-	2	5	2	2	4	-	2	4	3	3
Literature / Lectures	6	14	5	4	4	9	-	6	4	5	4
youth <u>theatre</u> + ACT + Junior Drama	11	9	9	12	9	4	19	10	7	7	7
Other	24	28	24	24	24	39	15	32	34	32	34

The Monday Matinées from 2009, and other music events, which do not fit into classical, jazz or world music genres have diversified the programme. Jersey Arts Centre's youththeatre, ArtsCentreTheatre (ACT), Junior Drama, the Human Rights Festival and the Polish Film Festival have also produced a broader programme. The pandemic reduced conventional activity during 2020 and 2021.

Looking at the number of ticketed performances for promotions and hirings, the statistics are thus:

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of Promotions	116	109	112	116	114	55	110	129	123	137	129
Number of Hirings	100	110	114	98	118	51	58	107	116	140	138
Performances in Schools	2	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Ticketed Performances	218	250	226	214	232	106	168	236	239	277	267

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Performances at BMT	192	198	210	195	216	106	150	207	223	254	247
Performances at Other Spaces	16	21	16	19	16	-	18	29	16	23	20
Performances in Schools	2	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Ticketed Performances	218	250	226	214	232	106	168	236	239	277	267
Total Tickets Sold	21,252	26,549	25,291	25,553	25,242	9,855	9,759	24,572	27,720	36,746	29,489
Average Audience	98	106	112	119	109	93	58	104	116	133	110

Benjamin Meaker Utilisation:

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Benjamin Meaker Promotions	47	46	45	49	48	52	61	55	51	49	44
Benjamin Meaker Hirings	53	54	55	51	52	48	39	45	49	51	56

As stated in previous reports, there are inherent dangers in viewing figures as percentages because some of the smaller events attracting what seems like a relatively low percentage turnout may be extremely successful in their own right. However, once again, a broad overview is achieved with the above figures.

It should be noted that there were Theatre-in-Education performances in 2004, 2005, 2007, 2013, 2014 and 2016 together with the Durrell storytelling project in 2009.

It is important to note that up until September 2013 and July 2016, St. James and the Old Magistrate's Court, respectively, were used for: Theatre-in-Education rehearsals; one, two and three week residencies; a week each for the February and October Half Term Drama Schools and the Summer Drama Schools; various Courses and Workshops; and that Jersey Arts Centre's *youth*theatre, ArtsCentreTheatre (ACT) and Junior Drama were based at both St. James and the OMC with more than 140 rehearsals taking place at various times throughout each year.

Jersey Arts Centre moved out of St. James and the Vicarage in September 2013 to offices at Charles House, Charles Street, and to the Old Magistrate's Court at St. Helier Town Hall. From October 2016, Jersey Arts Centre no longer had use of the Old Magistrate's Court and moved to offices at 3 Charles Street.

During 2025 there were a further 18 non-ticketed hirings - comprising rehearsals, seminars and workshops - at Jersey Arts Centre.

A further 6,471 tickets were sold for Samarès Players and for two Jersey Green Room Theatre Company productions at other venues.



Exhibitions

Jersey Arts Centre's Berni Gallery was once again a home for both local and international artistic talent throughout 2025. The Berni hosted 14 exhibitions throughout the year with multiple mediums being showcased.

January began with the last few days of *Pure Imagination*, curated by Wayne Stewart. This photographic collection celebrated Jersey Arts Centre's 2024 Community Christmas Production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and gave audiences a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the rehearsal process as well as action shots from the production.

This was followed by exhibitions from two local secondary schools: Victoria College's *Space*, and *Threads of Expression* from Jersey College for Girls. These exhibitions featured student work in mediums such as oil paints, chalks, textiles and mixed media. In March, Jersey Arts Centre's latest time-constrained exhibition turned the Berni Gallery into a cornucopia of colour and creativity, using the themes of reality, time and space as stimuli. *Entangled Realities: Quantum Impressions* saw Louise London, Rosina Evans, Ben Misson, Max Livesey and Corey Ceccarelli commissioned to create artwork straight onto the gallery walls in just 40 hours. More information about this exhibition can be found on page 19.

The final exhibition of the spring season was a special celebration of the centenary of the Barreau Art Scholarship. Presented by Société Jersiaise, this diverse retrospective showcased many of the artists who have benefitted from the scholarship over the years, and how this support has made an impact on the local artistic scene.

The summer exhibition programme began in May with a community photography project commemorating 80 years since Jersey's Liberation. The project invited Islanders to submit pieces that reflected on time, memory and change. This was followed in June by the visiting exhibition, *Dementia Darnings*. This startling and moving selection of works from artist Jenni Dutton was created in response to her mother's dementia diagnosis and featured delicate hand-stitched portraiture on bobinette netting.

In June and July, as part of the *playdays* Children's Festival, a creative response to the idea of growing-up and transformation was displayed. *Traces* featured work created by young people in a workshop setting and was full of colour, nostalgia and imagination! This was followed in July and August by Mick Humpage's *Brutiful*, a selection of pieces embodying cityscapes and dreamscapes, exploring the push and pull between brutalism and beauty.

The Original Student Art Exhibition returned in August, celebrating the talents of Degree level, foundation and equivalent level student artists from Jersey. The winner of the 2025 competition was Aimee Cast, whose colourful and humorous pieces brought joy and whimsy to the Berni Gallery! The other selected artists were: Molly-Ann Cook, Joe Gouzinis, Neamh Perchard, Sammy McMahon and Fern MacFirbhisigh.

The autumn season began with a wonderful display of pieces by the Fox Open Art Competition Judge, Tom Wood. His still life compositions were full of muddy greens, strident yellows and deep purples, showcasing beautiful texture and technique. This was followed by the Fox Open Art Competition in October which attracted over 130 entries! The winning piece – Rob Allen's *Dwellers on Taut Lines* – was described by Tom Wood as "very much a painter's painting."

The penultimate exhibition of the year was Matt Sharp's extraordinary photographic series, *Wild Hope*. The collection captured scenes in Antarctica that showed viewers a landscape of extremes – vast, fragile, yet full of hope.

The final exhibition of 2025 was *Words in the Sky*, a literary exhibition inspired by themes in Jersey Arts Centre's 2025 Community Christmas Production of *The Red Balloon*. Featuring poems and short stories from both children and adults, Words in the Sky turned the Berni Gallery into a constellation of voices, both playful, poignant and entirely unique.

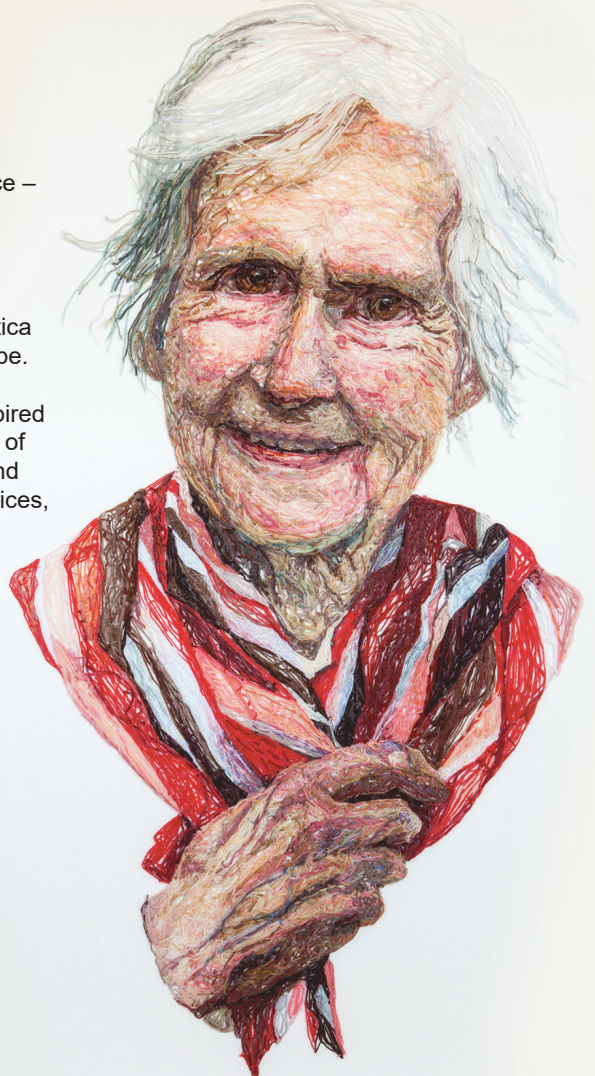
The Bar Gallery was busy and vibrant in 2025, with 14 exhibitions on display throughout the year. These included work from local organisations, festivals, artists and charities.

Jersey Arts Centre would like to extend its very special thanks to its Exhibition Sub-Committee for all their hard work in curating, sourcing, programming and hanging the 2025 exhibitions.

The Exhibitions Sub-Committee:

**Mark Blanchard (Chair), Valentine Aitken, Tim Ashton-Barnett
Daniel Austin, Angela Crowcroft, Sara Job
Jackie Monticelli, Wayne Stewart**

Image: Jenni Dutton: *The Dementia Darnings*



Courses & Workshops

Spring Season: 125 Participants

Yoga for Beginners	Karen Le Mottee
History of Art	Lisa Oxenden-Wray
Improv with Allan	Allan Gardner
History of Renaissance Art	Lisa Oxenden Wray
Half Term Drama Morning	Hettie + Jordi
Half Term Drama Morning	Hettie + Jordi
Half Term Drama Morning	Hettie + Jordi
Beginners Yoga 2	Karen Le Mottee
Introduction to Astrology	Jemma Warner
History of French Revolution Art	Lisa Oxenden- Wray
History of French Revolution Art	Lisa Oxenden-Wray
Easter Drama Morning	Hettie + Jordi
Easter Drama Morning	Hettie + Jordi

Summer Season: 98 Participants

Learn to Draw (Adults)	Jamie Willow
Yoga for Beginners	Karen Le Mottee
Half Term Drama Morning	Hettie + Jordi
Half Term Drama Morning	Hettie + Jordi
Half Term Drama Morning	Hettie + Jordi
Learn to Draw 2 (Adults)	Jamie Willow
Learning BSL	Heather Armstrong
History of Art Overview	Lisa Oxenden-Wray
Yoga for Beginners	Karen Le Mottee
Summer Drama School	Hettie + Jordi

Autumn: 83 Participants

Half Term Drama Morning	Hettie + Wayne
Half Term Drama Morning	Hettie + Wayne
Half Term Drama Morning	Hettie + Wayne
Hallowe'en Horror Make Up	Gayle Jones
Skeleton Hallowe'en Makeup	Gayle Jones
Introduction to Astrology	Jemma Warner
Rubber Stamp Making	Charlotte Compton
History of Renaissance Art	Lisa Oxenden-Wray

Total Number of Public Participants: 306

Total Number of Public Sessions: 86

Total Number of Schools Participants: 751

Total Number of School Sessions: 71

Total Participants: 1,057

Total Number of Sessions: 157

Island Animations

Holocaust Memorial Day Ceremony / 27 January

During the Holocaust Memorial Day Ceremony, four youth~~theatre~~ members delivered readings and laid the 21 roses for the Jersey 21.

Image: Heather Armstrong - Learning BSL

In 2025, Jersey Arts Centre had an exciting year of courses and workshops, both for the public and for schools as part of our outreach program. All of these events ensured that there was a range of artistic opportunities for the community to be involved in. We had a further increase on our participation from 2023 and 2024.

Our programme included some of our popular courses that have run in multiple seasons. Examples include our Introduction to Astrology courses run by Jemma Warner, as well as our increasingly popular History of Art courses led by Lisa Oxenden-Wray, which have now been running at Jersey Arts Centre for 8 years. We also continued with our Drama Mornings and Summer Drama School which saw several workshops sold out. These will continue into 2026.

We also had a range of new offerings this year, including our Learning to Draw courses run by local artist Jamie Willow @drawnbyjamie. These courses both helped participants start on their drawing journey and developed skills for those who had already practiced the art form. We had wonderful feedback from these courses and look forward to working with Jamie on other art projects for the community in 2026.

The summer season saw a new course of Learning BSL with Heather Armstrong. Over the course of five weeks Heather taught participants British Sign Language and tailored the classes to what the participants wanted to learn. This course was in high demand and so we are glad to be offering it once again in the summer of 2026.

As well as its public offerings of 32 workshops, Jersey Arts Centre also delivered 31 workshops as part of our Education and Outreach program for schools, plus 40 Mont à l'Abbé workshops taking our total participants for courses and workshops attendees to 1,057 participants.



International Touring

JE SUIS VOTRE MÉMOIRE / AND YOU ARE MINE by ARTcomdia in association with Jersey Arts Centre - Brittany, France

Between February 2023 and November 2024, Jersey Arts Centre worked with Bertrand and Véronique of ARTcomdia to develop an original story based on the lives of the company members. The piece was first presented in November 2024 at Jersey Arts Centre where 162 people enjoyed stories about memory, music and the brain! The piece was revived in spring 2025 at the Salle de Spectacle Le Vivier in L'Hermitage, Brittany. There were three performances, with superscript translations into French, between 11-13 April where 175 people applauded the company on their arrival on stage and refused to leave the theatre space afterwards!

THE PLAYERS

Bertrand Larmet / Véronique Martinez / Kate Meadows / George Perkins / Directed by Daniel Austin

MY FAMILY AND OTHER ANIMALS by Gerald Durrell in association with Dr Lee Durrell & Corfu Literary Festival - Corfu, Greece

In 2007, Jersey Arts Centre presented the very first stage adaptation of Gerald Durrell's 1956 story which toured all of Jersey's primary schools, some parish halls, Guernsey, Sark and the Ionian Island of Corfu. The production was revived for Christmas 2020 and again in May half term the following year. As part of the centenary celebrations of Gerald Durrell's birth throughout 2025, the production was once again revived, played 6 performances during the *playdays* Children's Festival in July, with 499 attendances, before returning to Corfu in the autumn. There were two performances, with superscript translations into Greek, at the Rena Vlachopoulou Amphitheatre at Mon Repos, between 9 + 10 September, where 570 people enjoyed the nostalgic and comic-opera adventures of the Durrells.

THE PLAYERS

Andrew Davey / James Edey / Charlie Flynn / Cameron Lucas / Fynn Mason / Kate Meadows / Oscar Shaw / Jordi Sunier

THE TOURING PRODUCTION TEAM

Daniel Austin (Adaptor & Director) / Dr Lee Durrell (Producer) / Steven Laffoley-Edwards (Lighting Designer & Stage Manager / Matt Keywood (Deputy Stage Manager) / Hettie Duncan, Rob Lucas & Ben Shaw (Chaperones)



Image: *Je Suis Votre Mémoire / And You Are Mine*

Education & Outreach

Throughout 2025, the Education and Outreach department continued to deliver a multitude of workshops in schools.

In March, Janette Froud, who has delivered numerous workshops for Jersey Arts Centre, returned to deliver our ever-popular World Book Day Workshops. Over the course of a week, Janette delivered 10 workshops in 9 schools with 212 participants. The workshops allow the participants to explore their favourite children's stories through discussion and performing extracts.

In May 2025, to coincide with the 80th Anniversary of Liberation Day, the in-house Education and Outreach team delivered drama-based workshops to Year 6 students. Over the course of a week 9 schools attended 9 workshops, with a total number of 247 participants, which was an increase of over 70 participants from the previous year. During these workshops the participants learnt about the Occupation of Jersey, the Jersey 21 and the wider World War II context.

2025 marked the 9th year of Jersey Arts Centre's Community Christmas Show workshops in schools. This year's workshop, based on Albert Lamorisse's *The Red Balloon*, had a different structure from previous years, in which students were able to perform their own section of the story through shadow puppetry. We delivered 10 workshops in 8 schools with 234 participants. We had some wonderful feedback including participants who previously had found it challenging to engage with text based work, really enjoying, and engaging with, the shadow puppets.

As well as the schools' workshops we also had animations as part of our *playdays* Children's Festival. SWANK, a company who has worked with JAC several times for animations, returned to Jersey Arts Centre with their *Austerity Party Times*. The feedback was so positive that JAC invited SWANK to be the official *playdays* Patron. We look forward to welcoming them back in July 2026!

Throughout 2025, we continued to work with the students at Mont à l'Abbé facilitating drama workshops related to communication, commitment and concentration. These were delivered to 3 groups a week for the spring and summer term. Building on our work from the previous years, in autumn 2025, we began work on a devised piece *The Four Seasons* which will be performed in the *playdays* Children's Festival in July 2026. For the autumn term we worked with 13 students from Mont à l'Abbé who came and participated in the workshops at Phillips Street.

In addition to these, we were pleased to welcome secondary school pupils for backstage workshops with JAC's Stage Department. These behind-the-scenes workshops enabled students to learn about the technical side of theatre including: lighting, sound and stage management.

In 2025 we had 28 participants from two schools.

For 2025, there were a total of 31 workshops as part of the Education and Outreach programme in schools with 721 participants, plus 40 Mont à l'Abbé workshops.

We also organised visits for primary school children to watch 13th Parish films with 290 attendees.

Jersey Arts Centre also hosted 8 Project Trident students during 2025.

We are looking forward to continuing these initiatives in 2026 and also to the new initiatives that we have planned.



Image: Mont à l'Abbé workshops

Junior Drama

Our Junior Drama group for 8-13 year olds has now been running for 20 years, having started in January 2006 with two senior members of our youththeatre taking participants through the disciplines of communication, concentration and commitment. Since that time, 17 former members of the youththeatre have taught Junior Drama: Francesca Duncan, Jonny Liron, Jack Speckleton, Andrew Oliveira, Jenny McCarthy, Jacqui Wagner, Sheri Burt, William Howell-Jackson, Hettie Duncan, Craig Hamilton, Raoul Crosby, Ellie Donohoe, Joss MacDonald, Lucy Abraham, Peter Jones and Fynn Mason. Daniel Austin returned as Director of the company in September 2015 and has since co-directed with Fiona Marchant (2015/16), Peter Jones (2016/17), Fynn Mason (2018/20/21) and Hettie Duncan (2020-21). Jordi Sunier (2021-24) was an original Junior Drama member and youththeatre member. In May 2023 Victoria Gordon joined Jordi as Co-Director and, from September 2024, Victoria is now Co-Directing with Wayne Stewart who is also a former member of youththeatre.

Between January 2025 and June 2025, 32 young people explored, rehearsed and helped devise *Show and Tell* written by Wayne Stewart. Each team devised their own unique *Show and Tell* tales, using their wildly creative imaginations. These stories were then carefully woven together by Wayne Stewart. The shows premiered in June 2025 with each group giving two performances, in an energetic double bill.

The success of Junior Drama and the high demand for participants means that Junior Drama has continued to keep both classes each of which is 90 minutes long. Over the past 20 years the group has presented 17 productions, including: David Holman's *Whale* (2006), Lynne Reid Banks's *The Travels of Yoshi and the Tea Kettle* (2009), an adaptation of *The Jungle Book* (2010), Nigel Williams's adaptation of William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* (2011), *Granny Big Pants* – created by the group (2012), the ancient classic *The Odyssey* (2013), *Gargling with Jelly* (2015), *something theatre* (2016), Roald Dahl's *James and the Giant Peach* (2017), *this untitled thing* (2018) which was again created by the group, *The Art of War* (2019), three stories from *Grimms' Tales* (2022), Georgia Christou's *BRIGHT. YOUNG. THINGS* (2023) and Roald Dahl's *The Twits* adapted by David Wood (2024). The group has also worked on Bertolt Brecht texts, devised and improvised along the way, and made presentations of short pieces.

VICTORIA GORDON + WAYNE STEWART JUNIOR DRAMA CO-DIRECTORS



Image: Junior Drama - *Show & Tell*

ArtsCentreTheatre

In 2025 ArtsCentreTheatre (ACT) provided theatrical opportunities both on and offstage to 22 members, with 15 taking part in both of its projects. The year's projects, as always, gave them plenty to get their thespianic teeth into.

July saw the return of director Jason Kenyon's comic creation, the Society of Amateur Dramatics - SAD for short - an eclectic collection of disaster-prone amateur thespians, in what may prove to be their final outing: *Murder At The Oriental Express*. As the title suggests this was an affectionate pastiche of the works of a certain Ms Agatha Christie as well as a window into the shenanigans that can occur at the last night party of an amateur production. The four performances saw 507 members of the public take their seats to enjoy the antics of the fictional cast and crew of SAD's latest show, *Murder Ad Infinitum*, descend upon their director's favourite Chinese restaurant to celebrate the conclusion of its performances and almost immediately begin dropping like proverbial flies from a plethora of lethal cocktails, oversharps chopsticks, carnivorous canines and improvised explosive devices.

November saw ACT's second production of the year take to the stage of the Benjamin Meaker Theatre: a new adaptation of the Charles Dickens classic *Oliver Twist or The Parish Boy's Progress*. The adaptation ignored the many versions that had preceded it (whether musical or otherwise) and returned to the source material for an original take on the tale of perhaps the most famous nine-year-old waif in literary history; it was unique in that at no point did the titular waif actually appear. His story was instead told through a series of monologues and duologues, each directed by different members of ACT. The finished product was seen by 450 people over four performances.

JASON KENYON ARTSCENTRETHEATRE (ACT) DIRECTOR



Image: ACT - *Oliver Twist or The Parish Boy's Progress*

youtheatre

2025 was another enjoyable and inspiring year for Jersey Arts Centre's youtheatre. The company presented their usual two productions: one in the spring season and one in the summer season, culminating in a series of workshops in the autumn season.

The year began with the 15-strong company launching straight into rehearsals for the February production of *Great Expectations*. Nick Bartlett's atmospheric adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic tale of dreams and regrets followed the story of Pip, an unlucky orphan whose life is changed forever by a chance meeting in a graveyard and the emergence of an unknown benefactor. Windswept marshes, Miss Havisham's lair and the streets of Dickensian London were all brought to life over three performances in February half term, which was enjoyed by 504 audience members.

After a short break, the company reformed in March to start work on the summer project: *Heavy Weather*. This contemporary piece, written by Lizzie Nunnery, explored themes of climate change, the power of young voices and the worries of young people in today's changing world. Soundtracked by iconic political songs with a set comprised of colourful wooden blocks and protest signs, the cast of 12 young actors performed to 145 audience members over three nights.

In addition to rehearsals, performances and workshops, at the beginning of the year, four members of the youtheatre company provided readings at the Holocaust Memorial Day Ceremony at the Tapestry Gallery on 27 January.

Jersey Arts Centre youtheatre is committed to producing unexpected, innovative and, above all, entertaining productions for family, friends and the wider Jersey Arts Centre community.

Look out for future projects in 2026 and beyond!

NICOLE TWINAM, BA (Hons), MA
HETTIE DUNCAN, BA (Hons)
YOUTHEATRE CO-DIRECTORS



Image: youtheatre: *Great Expectations*

Our Residencies

Residencies continued to play an important part in the programme of Jersey Arts Centre throughout 2025. As a cultural hub, Jersey Arts Centre is committed to providing space, resources and opportunities for research and development for both established and emerging artists, with each residency ultimately resulting in public performances for all to enjoy. Jersey Arts Centre has been offering its residency programme since 2010, and it has produced diverse and inspiring pieces across many artistic disciplines.

First up in 2025 was Oddsocks Productions, who created a new piece of theatre in January: *Florence Nightingale: The Lady with the Hammer*. Jersey Arts Centre has cultivated a strong relationship with Oddsocks Productions over the past 30 years and counting and was delighted to offer the company rehearsal space and support in the creation of their new piece. Though a departure from their usual winter offerings, *Florence Nightingale* told the story of the iconic healthcare reformer using Oddsocks' usual inimitable humour and performance style, resulting in an informative and, in places, moving, performance. *Florence Nightingale: The Lady with the Hammer* performed for five nights from 21 – 25 January and was enjoyed by 1,107 audience members. Jersey Arts Centre was the first venue to host this production, and, as of 2026, the production has been booked at several venues across the UK.

May saw emerging classical pianist Ariel Lanyi in residency, as he rehearsed for his upcoming concerts. Supported by Amici Artium, Ariel performed a selection of Beethoven, Schumann and Bartok on 30 May to 63 audience members. It was a delight to have the corridors of Phillips Street accompanied by the sound of Ariel's accomplished playing!

Having first visited Jersey Arts Centre in 2024 to begin the residency process, it was wonderful to welcome back Company Many as they began to prepare *Sam the Sword* as part of the 2025 *playdays* Children's Festival. The company were in residence for a week in April to continue the research and development process, then returned in July to perform the world premiere of *Sam the Sword*!

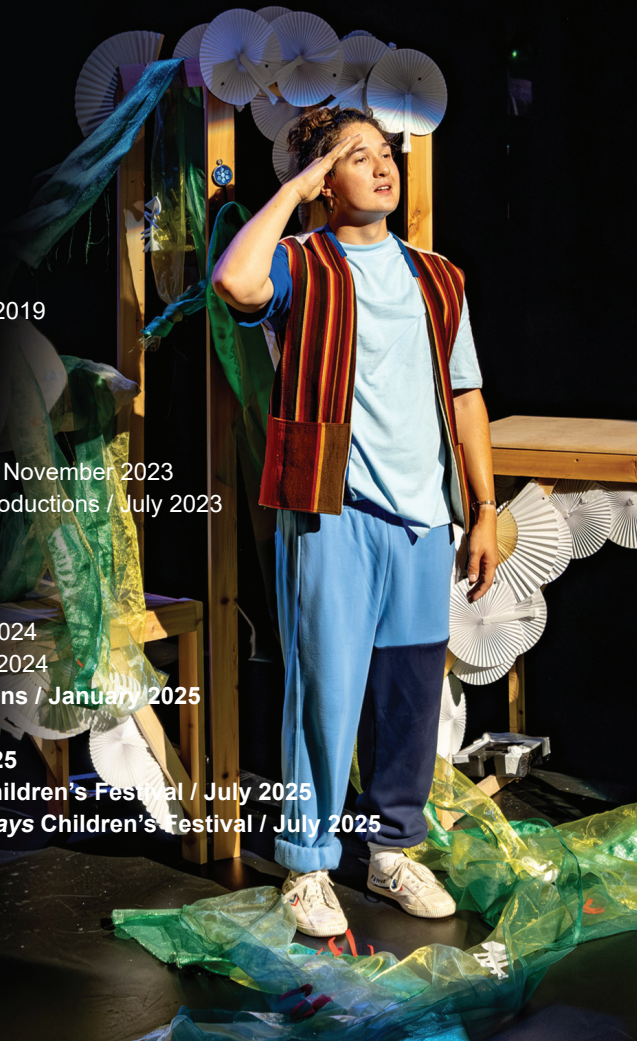
Mezzanine Theatre also returned to perform in *playdays*, having begun the creation process in residence in 2024. *Echo & The Bloop* had its world premiere at the end of the festival, and was an enchanting cacophony of puppetry, storytelling, live music and more!

For over 15 years, Jersey Arts Centre has hosted over 50 residences for one-, two- and three-week periods, in various Island spaces including: St. James Church, the Assembly Room at St. Helier's Town Hall, The Old Magistrate's Court, the Benjamin Meaker Theatre, Faldouet Dolmen, Noirmont bunkers, and sometimes the entire Phillips Street building! These residencies have assisted with the development of work in dance, music, drama and multidisciplinary processes that have been an important part of the public performance programme. Jersey Arts Centre is committed to providing artistic and technical support for more residencies in the years to come for both local and international artists and is always delighted by the varied and inspiring outcomes!

Our residencies have included:

- **Spaceman** by Dudendance / October 2010
- **13.7** by curious directive / May 2011
- **Archipelago** by Melvil's Diary / November 2012
- **Infinite landscapes: Poetic Origami** by ARTcomedia / October 2013
- **FREEZE!** by Nick Steur / Richard Jordan Productions / June 2014
- **Flesh! Lights! Camera! Action!** by The Brewing Company / March 2015
- **Laura Newey (on piano)** / July 2017
- **The Boiling Sea v1.3 (children of the rabbit god)** by wolf kid theatre / April 2019
- **Happy Hour** by Cristian Ceresoli / Richard Jordan Productions / July 2019
- **The Thirteenth Fish** by Dr Adam Perchard / September 2021
- **SHELL** by Martha MacDonald / June 2022
- **Sometime, Somewhere** by Simon MacDonald / April 2023
- **Joe & Jack** by KETCHUP Productions + Richard Jordan Productions / April + November 2023
- **All The Ways Without You** by one step at a time like this / Richard Jordan Productions / July 2023
- **Indigo Moon: Learning to Dance** by Wayne Stewart / September 2023
- **Anniversaïthe** by Ballet d'Jèrri / March 2024
- **Don't Worry, Be Happy** by Frank Wurzinger and John Wright / April 2024
- **Echo & the Bloop** by Mezzanine Theatre / research and development / July 2024
- **Sam the Sword** by Company Many / research and development / September 2024
- **Florence Nightingale: The Lady with the Hammer** by Oddsocks Productions / January 2025
- Ariel Lanyi (on piano) / 30 May
- **Sam the Sword** by Company Many / research and development / April 2025
- **Sam the Sword** by Company Many / performed as part of the *playdays* Children's Festival / July 2025
- **Echo & The Bloop** by Mezzanine Theatre / performed as part of the *playdays* Children's Festival / July 2025

Image: Mezzanine Productions - *Echo & The Bloop*



Our Commissions

Jersey Arts Centre has been committed to commissioning new work since 2002, with the creation of its inaugural Theatre-in-Education production of Brendan Murray's *Once Upon An Island*...

Since then, new and exciting work has been created on the Benjamin Meaker stage, on the walls of the Berni Gallery, songs have been composed and films made, mostly by, with and for our Island community. Importantly, these commissions culminate in experiences for the public, for one and all to be inspired by.

In March 2025, five local artists were commissioned to take part in Jersey Arts Centre's 12th time-constrained exhibition, *Entangled Realities: Quantum Impressions*. Louise London, Rosina Evans, Ben Misson, Max Livesey and Corey Ceccarelli had just 40 hours to create work straight onto the Berni Gallery walls, inspired by the themes of entanglement, uncertainty, wave-particle duality and the hidden forces that shape our reality. Each artist brought a unique perspective, fusing art and science in ways that challenged viewers' perception.

The Berni Gallery has hosted 12 time-constrained exhibitions – involving over 50 Jersey artists: *5x4* (2006), *Self Portrait* (2011), *Conflict* (2014), *Sporting Bodies* (2015), *woman/man* (2016), *Art 35* (2018), *the dance* (2019), *liberation* (2020), *Jersey and the Crown* (2022), *Spring Forward* (2023) and *playful* (2024). These exhibitions were commissioned to celebrate events such as the Island Games, Liberation 75, Jersey Arts Centre's 35th birthday, Festival 40 Weekend and *playdays* Children's Festival!

Jersey Arts Centre also commissioned two new theatre projects for the 2025 *playdays* Children's Festival – *Sam the Sword* and *Echo & The Bloop*.

Aside from the visual arts, Jersey Arts Centre also remains committed to commissioning new work from the performing and literary arts, allowing companies, individual artists, writers and musicians the chance to explore, compose, create, discover, and be inspired by their own creative process. Providing the creative space for the formation of this new work allows those generating it to experiment with new ideas and realise original, innovative work in and for the Island, enhancing Jersey Arts Centre's programme.

Jersey Arts Centre is excited to continue to commission work for the Island to enjoy – 2026 is sure to be an exciting year of innovation, exploration and creativity!

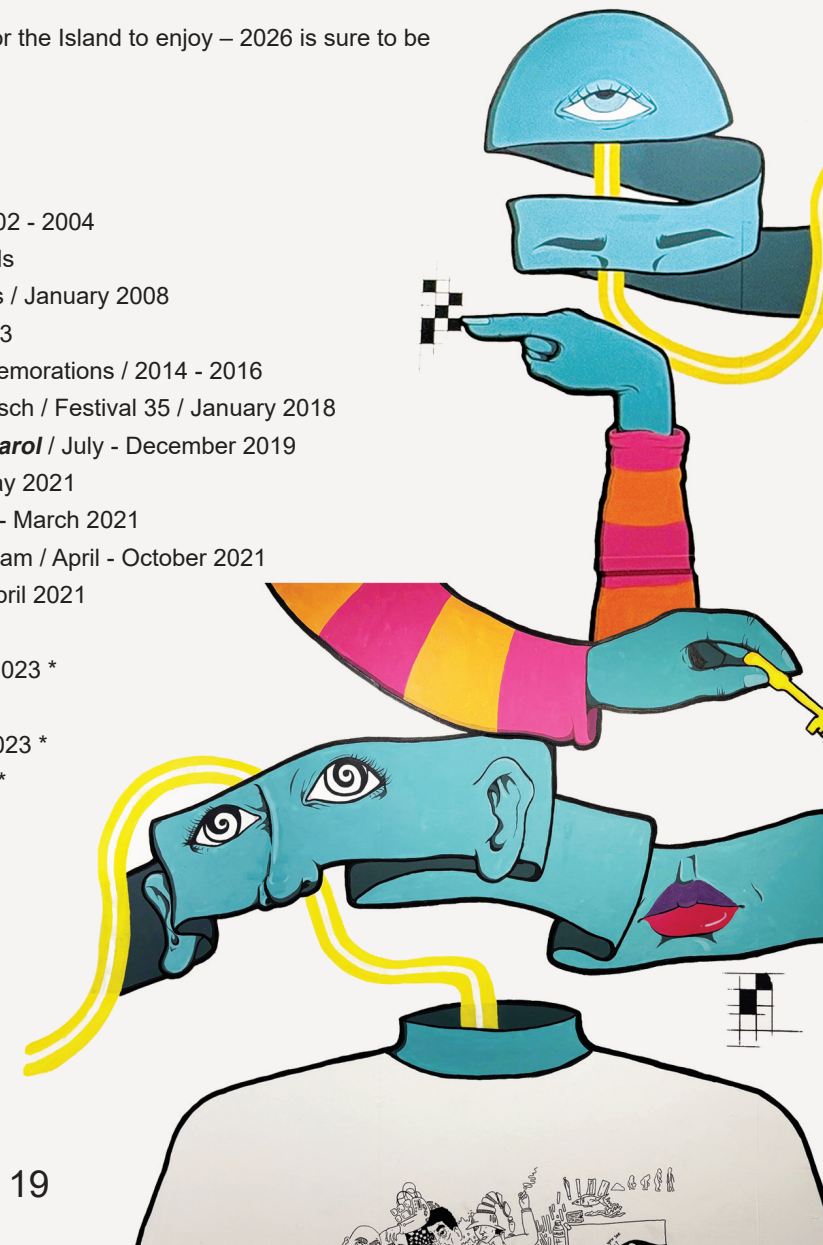
Jersey Arts Centre Commissions have included:

- *Once Upon An Island...* by Brendan Murray / September 2002 - 2004
- A further seven **Theatre-in-Education** projects / 2004 onwards
- *stage directions* by Jacqueline Mézec / Celebrating 25 Years / January 2008
- *Echo Wood* by Sir Andrew Motion / Festival 30 / January 2013
- 15 poems for *100 Poems* and the 2014 - 2018 / WW1 Commemorations / 2014 - 2016
- *#35 [insert title with meaning / in celebration]* by Nicky Mesch / Festival 35 / January 2018
- Music from ARTcomedia for our adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* / July - December 2019
- 17 poems for the *Liberation 75* Celebrations / May 2020 - May 2021
- *Scenes from a...* / 46 scenes from 9 Island writers / January - March 2021
- *Hiding Place* by Martha MacDonald / Directed by Lucy Abraham / April - October 2021
- *Bathtime for Britain* by Dr Adam Perchard / August 2020 - April 2021
- *CAHUN – a retrospective* by Jacqueline Mézec / July 2022
- *One of Those Streets* by Mezzanine Productions / January 2023 *
- *Bunburying* by Dr Adam Perchard / January 2023 *
- *The Other Side of Performance* by Juliette Hart / January 2023 *
- *MEANWHILE on their arses* by Juliette Hart / January 2023 *
- *Hi-Vis* by Dr Adam Perchard / May 2024
- *My Friend Jung* by Wayne Stewart / July 2024 ^
- *Sam the Sword* by Company Many / July 2025 ^
- *Echo & The Bloop* by Mezzanine Theatre / July 2025 ^

* Commissioned for Festival 40 Weekend

^ Commissioned for *playdays* Children's Festival

Image: Exhibition - *Entangled Realities: Quantum Impressions*



playdays Children's Festival



Summer 2025 saw Jersey Arts Centre deliver a Children's Festival for the second time!

Article 31 of The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) states:
Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities

playdays is about play, adventure and discovery and we want everyone to be able to participate

Winners of the Awards



the *playdays* Award
for Festival Adventure
Company Many
Sam the Sword



the Charlie Lowe Award
for Spirit of the Festival
Tim Crouch
I, Peaseblossom

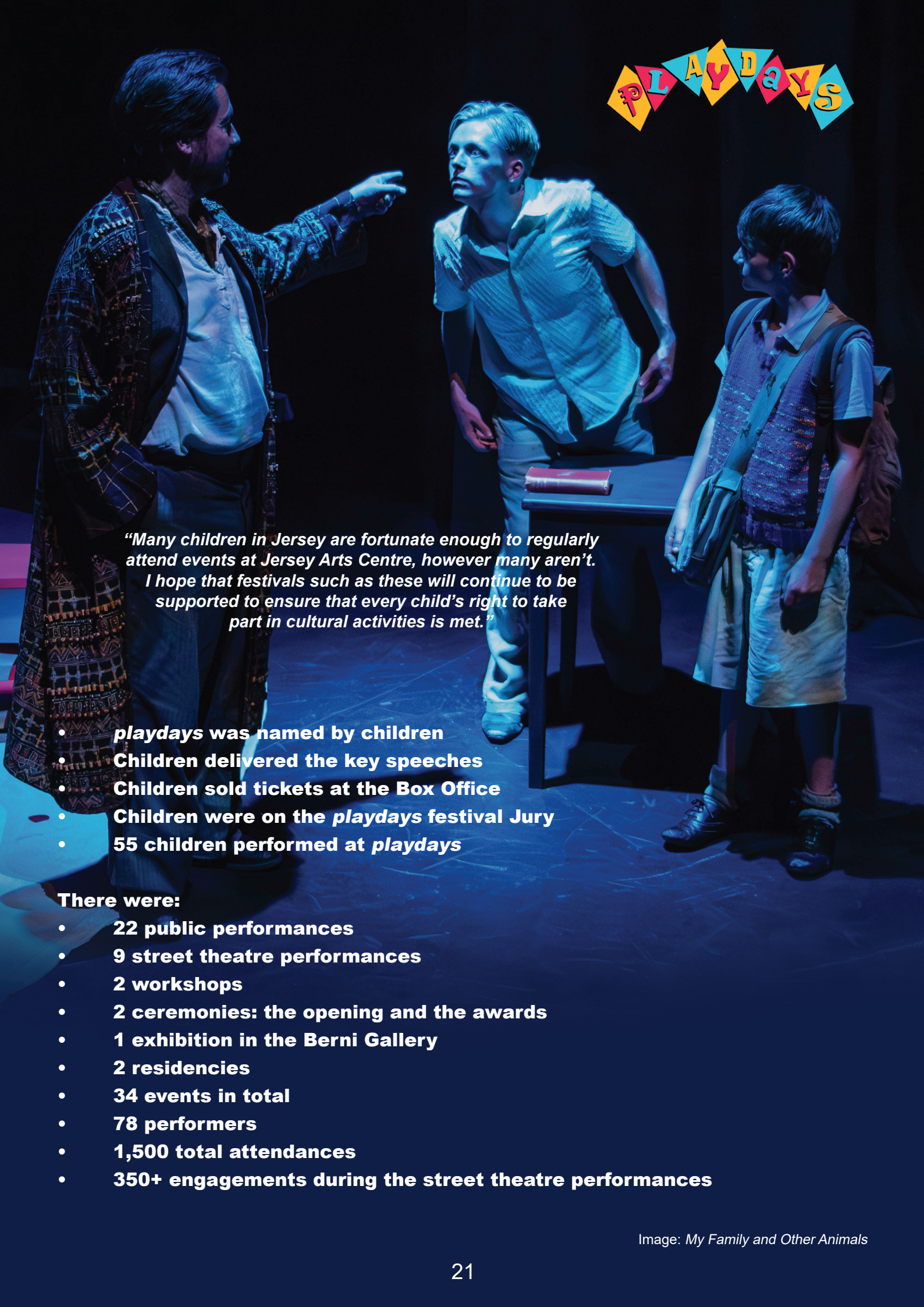


the Jersey Arts Centre Award
for Festival Discovery
Musical Originals
Simply Singing



The  Jury
comprised three members:
Juliette Hart – a grown-up
Teia Bedward – a student
Grace Perkins – a student

Moderator: Daniel Austin
Jersey Arts Centre Director



"Many children in Jersey are fortunate enough to regularly attend events at Jersey Arts Centre, however many aren't. I hope that festivals such as these will continue to be supported to ensure that every child's right to take part in cultural activities is met."

- **playdays was named by children**
- **Children delivered the key speeches**
- **Children sold tickets at the Box Office**
- **Children were on the *playdays* festival Jury**
- **55 children performed at *playdays***

There were:

- **22 public performances**
- **9 street theatre performances**
- **2 workshops**
- **2 ceremonies: the opening and the awards**
- **1 exhibition in the Berni Gallery**
- **2 residencies**
- **34 events in total**
- **78 performers**
- **1,500 total attendances**
- **350+ engagements during the street theatre performances**

Christmas Production

Jersey Arts Centre travelled to 1950s Paris for the tenth Community Christmas Production: *The Red Balloon*!

Based on the 1956 Oscar-winning short film by Albert Lamorisse, *The Red Balloon* told the story of Pascal, a lonely young boy growing up in Paris who befriended a mischievous red balloon. With live music, singing and some magical balloon-ography, 16 performances of this enchanting play with songs were delivered to 1,508 audience members, including a BSL interpreted performance by Andrew Higgins on 11 December and a Relaxed Performance on 14 December.

The creative team for *The Red Balloon* remained similar to previous years, with the production being directed and designed by Daniel Austin, the lighting designed by Graeme Humphries and costumes designed by Nick Carver with costume making by Denise Renouf. There was also a special committee formed – under the auspices of: Advisors to the Red Balloon – to help with magical balloon maneuvers, consisting of Dominic Egré, Richard Pedley and Steven Laffoley-Edwards.

Once again, Jersey Arts Centre was delighted to welcome back Bertrand Larmet (Musical Director) and Véronique Martinez (Vocal Coach) from French theatre company ARTcomedia. Bertrand's exquisite musicianship was showcased throughout the production, as he played live on the Model D Steinway throughout, and Véronique's vocal wizardry ensured that all performers sang healthily and to the best of their ability throughout the 16-show run. They also made vocal contributions to the performances themselves in several songs!

Rehearsals began in September, including readthroughs of the script and three dedicated periods for singing. There was a minimum of two evening rehearsals a week, together with all day on Sundays. For some members of the performing company, *The Red Balloon* marked their Jersey Arts Centre Christmas Show debut, and it was wonderful to welcome them into the company and meet some new people! Once again, heartfelt thanks go to the creative team mentioned above and our company of committed, concentrated and skilled actors, which included two teams of young actors – the Croissants and the Baguettes – and four adult actors. The performing company were:

JACK DAGGETT, SANTIAGO DA ROCHA, ANDREW DAVEY, AELIA FARROW, EMILIE-MAE GIMINEZ, ELOISE GOODCHILD, NOAH HOLLYWOOD-STAAAL, CAMERON LUCAS, JENNY MCCARTHY, KEVIN PALLOT, MATILDA PASHLEY, GRACE PERKINS, ALEXANDRA RABET, THEO ROBSON, OSCAR SHAW, SASHA SHEPPARD, GENIE SMITH, MARLEY SMITH AND NICOLE TWINAM.

Jersey Arts Centre's Director, Daniel Austin, would also like to thank the Management Committee for their ongoing and valued support throughout this initiative and for their commitment to this vital area of its programme. Jersey Arts Centre's Community Christmas Company is now in its tenth year, and this is no mean feat!

In tandem with production, as with previous years, our Education and Outreach team delivered a series of workshops in Island primary schools introducing students to the story and themes of *The Red Balloon*. These workshops, focusing on storytelling and puppetry work, were facilitated by Hettie Duncan and Victoria Gordon.

More detailed information about this outreach project can be found on page 15.

Jersey Arts Centre hopes that you will come along to the next Christmas Production in 2026!



Image: *The Red Balloon*

21st Human Rights Festival

Over the past 21 years, Jersey Arts Centre has committed to presenting a Human Rights Festival annually, usually in the autumn season, that highlights humanitarian and human rights issues both globally and closer to home.

2025 saw three films presented, focusing on various themes, that moved and educated audiences in equal measure.

First, on 30 September, was a screening of *Tree of Violence* (2024) which was directed by Anna Moiseenko. This insightful documentary followed the story of cartoonist Victoria Lomasko who has dedicated her life to documenting Putin's Russia using graphic reportage. Part motion picture, part animation, this feature was a stark reminder of current tyranny around the world and the bravery shown by those trying to reveal it.

The next screening on 1 October was *Bad Press* (2023). Co-directed by Rebecca Landsberry-Baker and Joe Peeler, this enthralling film explored themes of censorship and government corruption in the United States, centering around the Muscogee Nation. Following a lone journalist fighting a historically significant legal battle, *Bad Press* highlighted this important issue that continues to have ramifications across Native American nations.

The final film shown as part of the 2025 Festival was *We Dare To Dream* (2023) on 2 October. Directed by Waad Al-Kateab, this uplifting and inspiring documentary followed the stories of refugee athletes from Iran, Syria, South Sudan and Cameroon. The film portrayed their determination to train and succeed, whilst dealing with having to have fled their homes, families and countries of birth to start new lives.



12th Polish Film Festival

First programmed in 2013, Jersey Arts Centre's annual Polish Film Festival is now in its twelfth year. An important part of its yearly offering, the festival showcases the renowned excellence and innovation of Polish cinema, whilst offering the chance for native Polish speakers to enjoy films in their first language. Four films, all originally released in 2024, were shown over consecutive days, with varied genres and themes explored.

The first screening, *It's Not My Film*, was shown on 4 June. Directed by Maria Zbaska, this funny, touching and sometimes thrilling feature film followed a couple taking drastic action to try and save their relationship. Wanda and Janek, the film's protagonists, after much consideration, decide to walk the Polish Baltic coastline with strict rules: no phones and no whining. If they complete the course, they will continue their relationship... if they fail, they will break up.

The second film screened, on 5 June, was *Under the Volcano*, directed by Damian Kocur. A timely and thought-provoking piece, the feature film followed a family on holiday in Tenerife who find themselves unable to return to their home country of Ukraine due to Russia's invasion. This tense piece was submitted for Poland's official entry for the Best International Film category at the 97th Academy Awards in 2025.

The penultimate piece chosen to be part of the festival was *Under the Grey Sky* and was directed by Mara Tamkovich. Screened on 6 June, this political thriller followed Lena, an anti-regime journalist who is arrested for livestreaming events of the brutal crackdown during the 2020 Belarusian election. Confronted with an impossible choice, her husband Ilya has to decide whether to continue to side with his wife, or to improve his own situation.

The final film screening on 7 June was *Simona Kossak*. Very different in theme to the other films chosen as part of the Festival, *Simona Kossak* was a biopic of pioneering scientist of the same name and was directed by Adrian Panek. After graduating university, Simona decides to leave everything behind and settle in the middle of a remote forest without electricity or running water. This enables her to study the flora and fauna in detail, but she is also forced to defend her ideals and her unusual way of life.

Over the four evenings, 97 film fans were able to watch Polish films on the big screen, and access innovative and inspiring cinema.

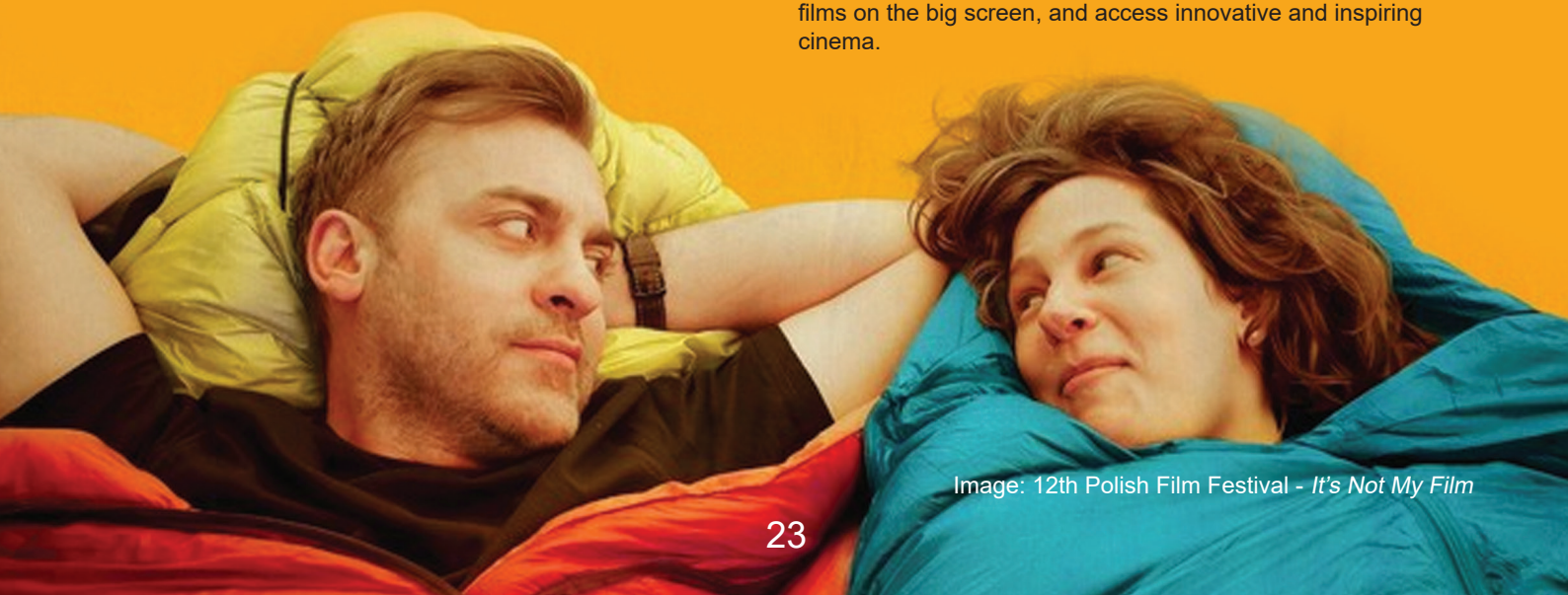


Image: 12th Polish Film Festival - *It's Not My Film*

Arts in Health Care Trust Eco-Active

Jersey Arts in Health Care Trust is a charitable organisation. Its purpose is to improve the quality of life for adults and children with all kinds of illness and disability, life limiting conditions, mental health issues and physical and learning disabilities, together with creating happy memories for families and health care staff, through the joy and therapeutic benefits of professionally performed live music and artistic displays.

Professional musicians tour the residential and care homes, day-care centres and hospitals in Jersey and, in some cases, perform by the bedsides of individuals too ill to be moved. The Trust was established to offer the benefits of the arts in their widest sense to those in a variety of health care settings both in the community and within the health service. It takes an holistic view of the healing process while concentrating its efforts, at any one time, in a number of key areas: provision of performances, under the aegis of Music in Hospitals, to residential homes (private and public), day-care centres and hospital wards; displays of the visual arts in local hospitals; encouragement of local performers within the health care system; dissemination of information on the wider benefits of the arts through residencies, workshops, training sessions and talks; advocacy of the value of the arts therapies, including the provision of public workshops and pilot projects; support for organisations and initiatives with common values or objectives.

Five tours were organised in 2025 but due to illness, one was postponed* to a future date:

Ruth & Tim: Acroama Duo (piano & flute)
toured 18 care settings between 17-22 February

Margaret Watson (harpist)
toured 17 care settings between 21-26 April

Margaret Ferguson & Rachel Steadman (vocals & piano)*
planned 22 concerts between 2-10 June

Peter & Moira (instrumentalists)
toured 17 care settings between 8-14 September

Mary Thorneloe (flautist)
toured 15 care settings between 20-24 October

It is worth noting that there were:

- 22 concerts in 2018
- 37 concerts in 2019
- 20 concerts in 2020
- No concerts in 2021
- 53 concerts in 2022
- 104 concerts in 2023
- 120 concerts in 2024
- 67 concerts in 2025



We aim for five to six tours being programmed in each year, lasting 8 to 12 days, visiting in excess of 35 care settings, with musicians performing two or three concerts per day. Membership of the Board in 2025 comprised:

- Rod McLoughlin – Honorary Chairperson
- Val Aitken – Honorary Vice-Chairperson
- Vacant – Honorary Secretary
- David Pett – Honorary Treasurer
- Fiona Speller
- Tom Dingle representing ArtHouse Jersey
- Daniel Austin representing Jersey Arts Centre
- Jordi Sunier (Tour coordinator)

Jersey Arts Centre first gained its Eco-active status in August 2009, and it was renewed once again in April 2026.

We maintained our commitment to offsetting our carbon footprint throughout 2025 which is usually achieved by funding a local project by one pence for every ticket sold throughout the year, regardless of whether it was a promotion or a hiring; we combined 2024 with 2025 to achieve this.

To celebrate our 40th Anniversary in January 2023 our staff joined with Jersey Trees for Life in planting more hedgerows from the 1p donation for each ticket sold throughout 2022. This project was started 16 years ago and provides shelter, wind breaks, prevents water evaporation, and encourages biodiversity in Jersey as well as carbon-locking.

With many of the 'simple' quick wins achieved over the years, but always under review, such as recycling and responsible purchasing, it continues to be a challenge to make improvements without specific funding. Much has been discussed about providing photovoltaic panels on the roof of the building, something that would feed directly into our electricity usage during the day, but again this needs additional funding before it can become a reality. And so this has been considered as part of our Feasibility Study submitted to the Minister in April 2024.

We continue to reduce our paper consumption by requesting members use the internet rather than a printed brochure and, despite a reduction of 80% in the brochure print since 2021, this has not affected ticket sales as we have now regained our pre-covid attendances. Only 7,000 copies of the brochure were printed in 2025: for JAC members and for those not comfortable with the internet. We continue to request that theatre goers use the QR code on their mobile phones to enter the theatre, where possible, reducing the requirement of printing tickets at home or using the thermal printed tickets from box office. We have found that sometimes the smaller changes, like this, can have the greatest impact.

Once again, and throughout 2025 all staff took responsibility to discuss, and find resolutions to, Green Issues as part of our fortnightly staff meetings.

Our aim, as always, is to:

REDUCE,
RE-USE,
RECYCLE -
as every
little helps
our planet.



Partnerships and Thanks

Jersey Arts Centre Association is grateful to the many organisations that gave assistance in the form of sponsorship or grants during the year, or who gave their support in kind.

Community Partners

13th Parish International Film Festival
ArtHouse Jersey
ARTcomedia, L'Hermitage, Brittany
Arts in Health Care Trust
Bailiwick Express
BBC Radio Jersey
CEYS
Creative Island Partnership
Jersey Zoo
Jersey Evening Post
Jersey Festival of Words
Jersey Film Society
Jersey Heritage
Jersey Library
Jersey Opera House
Liberate
Mind Jersey
Mont à l'Abbé School
National Trust for Jersey
Société Jersiaise
St. Helier / Bad Wurzach Partnerschaft Committee

Sponsors

Amici Artium
J. J. Fox International (Jersey) Ltd.

We received Grants from:

Department for the Economy (ED) - Government of Jersey

Staff, Volunteers and Members

The Management Committee would once again like to express its gratitude to the committed team of professional staff who work at Jersey Arts Centre and to the many volunteers (60+) and Members (1,111 - incorporating 685 memberships at December 2025), including our Patrons and Benefactors, who give their time so willingly to assist in the smooth running of the operation.

For the Government of Jersey:

The Bailiff's Chambers
Deputy Kirsten Morel, Minister for
Sustainable Economic Development
Connétable of St Helier Simon Crowcroft
Parish of St Helier and the Town Hall
Planning and Environment Department
Jersey Property Holdings
Charlotte Howe, ED
Chris Kelleher, ED
Victor Guerin, ED
Fiona MacAdie, ED

OUR THANKS

Thanks are due to many organisations and individuals for their assistance during the course of the year, including:

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Dominic Egré
Alison Goguelin
Jersey Green Room Theatre Company
Jane Mason
Denise Renouf
Dr Trish Tumelty
Wayne Stewart
Anna Shipley

For: *Je Suis Votre Mémoire / And You Are Mine*
ARTcomedia
The Perkins Family
The Meadows Family
Salle de Spectacle Le Vivier, L'Hermitage, Brittany

For: *My Family and Other Animals*
Rob Lucas
Ben Shaw
Dr Lee Durrell
Colin Stevenson
Matthew Keywood
The Municipality of Corfu

For: *The Red Balloon*
Laura Daggett
Pam Goodchild
Jacob Le Breton
Pam Robson
Theo Robson
Oscar Shaw

The *playdays* Jurors:
Teia Bedward
Juliette Hart
Grace Perkins

Image: Dr Adam Perchard - *Liberation Sensation!*

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Image: Amici Artium - Samrat Majumder