



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 teneurs en fidéicommiss 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
Peter Hunt
Denise Ibbotson
Rod McLoughlin
Jacqueline Mézec

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

Contents

Summary	4	youtheatre / ArtsCentreTheatre	16
Reports	5	Junior Drama	17
Performances	8	Our Residencies	18
Statistics	10	Our Commissions	19
Exhibitions	12	playdays Children's Festival	20
Courses & Workshops	13	Christmas Production	22
Island Animations	13	Human Rights / Polish Film Festivals	23
Partnerschaft (Twinning)	14	Arts in Health Care Trust	24
Education & Outreach	15	Eco-Active	24
		Partnerships and Thanks	25

Jersey Arts Centre Association

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

The Management Committee 24 May 2023 - 22 May 2024

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 22 May 2024 - 21 May 2025

Honorary Chair	Jacqui Patton, BA (Hons), ACIM
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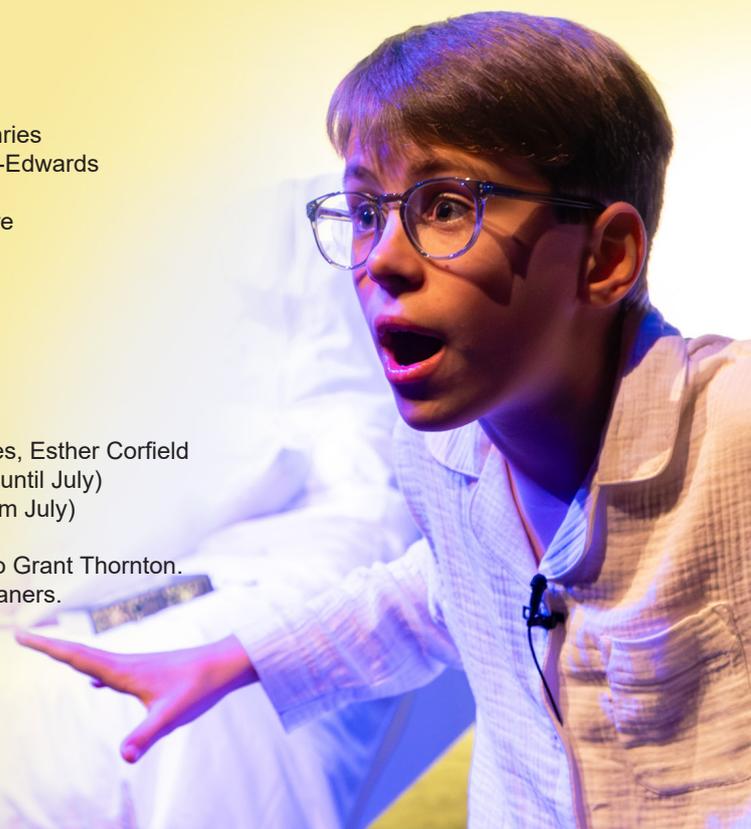
Exhibitions Sub-committee

Chair	Mark Blanchard
Members	Valentine Aitken, Daniel Austin, Sara Job, Jackie Monticelli, Wayne Stewart

Jersey Arts Centre Staff

Director	Daniel Austin
Deputy Director (Administration & Marketing)	Graeme Humphries
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	Vacant
Administrator / Box Office Manager	Jordi Sunier
Box Office Assistants	Taisie Humphries, Esther Corfield
Assistant Stage Manager (Apprentice)	Codie Lockyer (until July)
	Nic Rolland (from July)

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 JCF Cleaners.
The post of Caretaker is temporarily frozen.



2024 in Summary

Jersey Arts Centre delivered the following events, activities and experiences throughout 2024:

- 277 ticketed performances with 36,746 attendances
- *playdays* Children's Festival: 67 events, 164 performers, 4,058 attendances / engagements
- 14 exhibitions in the Berni Gallery
- 12 exhibitions in the Bar Gallery
- 27 public courses and workshops (88 sessions) with 252 participants
- 9 workshops in 8 schools for World Book Day with 244 participants
- 7 workshops in 7 schools for Liberation Day with 175 participants
- 60 workshops at Mont à L'Abbé School with 30 participants weekly
- 2 youtheatre productions: *Electra* + *The Wardrobe*
- 2 ACT projects: *Dracula* + *An Unholy Trinity*
- 1 Junior Drama project: *The Twits*
- 1 community production: *6 Heroines*
- 3 Commissions: *Hi-Viz* by Dr Adam Perchard + *My Friend Jung* by Wayne Stewart + *playful* Exhibition
- 5 Residencies: *Sometime, Somewhere* by Simon MacDonald + *Annivèrsaithe* by Ballet d'Jèrri + *Don't Worry, Be Happy* by Frank Wurzinger and John Wright + *Project #2* by Mezzanine Theatre + *Sam the Sword* by Company Many
- Our 22nd consecutive year of assisting with the Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony
- youtheatre readings at the Former Internees 79th Liberation Day Anniversary at the War Tunnels
- 15 events at Coronation Park in August
- The 11th Polish Film Festival
- The 20th Human Rights Festival
- The hosting of 8 Project Trident students
- The sponsoring of the JAC Award for Excellence in Performing Arts at Highlands College
- 5 of JAC's community theatre companies ran throughout the year
- 120 Arts in Health Care Trust concerts over 6 tours across 35 Island care settings
- JAC Advent Calendar online in December
- Our 9th Community Christmas Production: Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* with 4,405 attendances over 19 ticketed performances with a BSL Interpreted Performance by Andrew Higgins
- 23 workshops in 16 schools with 582 participants exploring the *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* story

Online Participants:

- **Website Sessions: 317,907**
- **Page Views: 317,038**
- **Unique Users: 103,835**

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



Chair's Report

Dear Members, Artists, Visitors, Team and Government

As I come to the end of my second and final year as Chair of the Jersey Arts Centre Association, I want to take a moment to reflect on what we've achieved, and the serious decisions that lie ahead.

2024 has been a record-breaking year. We exceeded our targets across the board: in number of performances, workshops, exhibitions, and community engagement. Our membership grew to pre-covid levels, and our Christmas show was a sell out and huge commercial success. This is an incredible feat for our small team, and we have exceeded our government targets once again.

The launch of *playdays*, Jersey's first Children's Festival, was a great success and a new initiative, with 67 events and over 4,000 attendances / engagements.

playdays 2024 laid strong foundations for a world class event and is a great example of how Jersey Arts Centre continues to serve our Island community.

But *playdays* is also a good example of the pressures we, as the Island's only open theatre, and the arts and culture sector in Jersey as a whole, are under.

playdays was meant to receive funding for a number of years to help us build an ultimately self-sufficient and world-class festival dedicated to engaging children and young people with the arts. However, Government have now declined funding for 2025.

I am very proud of Daniel and the team for committing to running *playdays* 2025 regardless of this decision.

playdays 2025 will be smaller in scope, but still provide a range of performances, events and experiences that shows our commitment to making this, like our Christmas show, a regular event for Jersey.

Behind the scenes, the team has worked hard to keep things running in spite of ongoing risks to our building. Urgent ad-hoc repair works were carried out in line with our feasibility study, and we have continued our conversations with Government about the investment needed to secure the future of Phillips Street.

Without continuing support, we face real risks to our ability to keep operating safely in the years ahead. However, with this in mind the Management Committee have made changes to our accounting processes to create cash reserves to ensure we have the ability to mitigate building challenges in the future.

The commercial success of 2024 has allowed us to do this, and as I leave my post as Chair, I urge the team and Management Committee to keep the commerciality of Jersey Arts Centre front and centre to help us support our ailing building.

What Jersey Arts Centre delivers - day in, day out - for the people of Jersey is clear. It is our job as a community to make sure that work is protected and supported. I remain hopeful that, with the right conversations and Daniel's leadership, we will find a solution.

To the team, volunteers, artists, performers, members and committee, thank you. The energy, care and talent you bring to Jersey Arts Centre is what makes it so unique. It's been an honour to be your Chair, and I know it's in safe hands for whatever comes next.

With thanks

**JACQUI PATTON, BA (Hons), ACIM
HONORARY CHAIR**



Image: Luke Wright - JOY

Financial Report

Jersey Arts Centre Association's financial statements reveal a profit of £189,005 for the year ending 31 December 2024. The key drivers relate to an increase in the number of ticket sales for third parties and the volume of attendees for ticketed performances. Whilst a sincere grant of £150,000 for the *playdays* Children's Festival was provided in 2024, this offset incremental expenditure for delivering the event of £155,946, rather than add profit.

Cash at bank rose from £554,082 at the start of the year to £757,313 by year-end, this marking an overall cash movement of £284,827 since January 2023. Note 5 illustrates a 46% increase in net finance costs (finance costs less interest earned). This is largely activity-based, with costs associated for handling tickets on behalf of organisations. However, income from ticket platform services increased from £118,083 in 2023 to £180,429 in 2024. This makes apparent that the ticketing option is being actively endorsed by local arts organisations, whilst cash movements stay within the Island and its cultural sector.

The Association's tangible assets decreased to £583,920 from £595,834 in 2024, primarily due to depreciation of old assets, including the aged air conditioning. Of the £27,482 additions over 2024, the most notable was a replacement of the lighting board, necessitated by the previous one being rendered unable to see out the production week of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* after nine years of service.

As of year-end, several grants remained earmarked for specific initiatives. The carried-forward balance of £60,867 from the £150,000 grant provided in 2023 remains, as per Note 2, with the restricted use of covering building maintenance costs. A Theatre-in-Education grant of £60,000 also remains within the deferred income of Note 11.

Following the AGM in 2024, the Management Committee took consideration of various options of safeguarding funds that align to the longevity of our operations and the long-term equipment we will have to maintain. The Management Committee has since decided upon a maintenance reserve on the balance sheet of £238,000. This is taken from a repurpose of £48,000 from the Capital Donation Fund, alongside a ring-fencing of £190,000 of 2024's surplus.

After an enriching three-year tenure as Honorary Treasurer, I have decided to step down from the role, transitioning to that of an Ordinary Member. This decision stems from my desire to observe and support the inputs and actions of a new, enthusiastic Honorary Treasurer. By doing so, I'm not only able to provide direct guidance where needed but also to learn from their fresh perspective. I believe this change will foster not only my personal growth but maintain the continuity within the Management Committee, ensuring a collaborative environment.

CALLUM WEBB, BSc (Hons)
HONORARY TREASURER



Director's Report

The Statistics and Key Performance Indicators

Jersey Arts Centre (JAC) has a Partnership Agreement (January 2024 - December 2024) 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 record-breaking for 2024. JAC exceeded its 231 target for ticketed performances by 20% and its target of 95 for hirings by 47%. The latter was once again due to the industrious activity of our local groups and societies. There were 48 weeks of exhibitions in the Bar Gallery and 51 weeks of exhibitions in the Berni Gallery (target: 48 for each). We also exceeded the target of 47 for courses and workshops by 194%, bringing the total for both public and schools to 138. Our membership target, whilst being set at 720 (with 1,280 individual members) was achieved with a year-end total of 722 memberships (an 11% increase on 2023) (with 1,193 individual members).

Governance

JAC is governed by its Constitution (available on the Membership page of our website) and its Management Committee (MC) met 10 times in 2024 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 22 May 2024 to discuss, propose and adopt the Financial Statements and the Annual Report for 2023. JAC's Strategic Plan: 2024 - 2027 was updated in both March and November 2024 and the Register of Interests of the MC updated in both April and November 2024. 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 May 2024 and January 2025, and within which we outline our Safeguarding Policy. This policy is updated annually and was updated in January 2025; 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 March 2024 and November 2024. It is available on request, is shared with ED and GoJ, and identifies nine risk categories: property, process, technology, people, data protection, COVID-19 (but not for 2024), financial, business change and strategic. Our principle high risk area, in terms of impact and likelihood, is in relation to property and this 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 Feasibility Study – delivered to the Minister in April 2024 - with the remainder of this grant being used for immediate repair works which will be exhausted in 2025.

Staffing

There are the equivalent of ten full-time members of staff at Jersey Arts Centre with a further five on contracts of less than 18 hours a week. In April 2025, Graeme Humphries, Deputy Director (Administration & Marketing) resigned, having reduced to a four-day week a year earlier, and thus leaves the Association in June 2025 after almost 27 years' service: we wish him and his family a very happy retirement. JAC also enjoyed the work of Codie Lockyer as Assistant Stage Manager (Apprentice) from July 2023 to June 2024 and of Nic Rolland from July 2024 to June 2025.

playdays Children's Festival

JAC delivered its first Children's Festival between 11-24 July. The ED grant of £150,000 was used to research, programme, administer and deliver the festival. *playdays* was named by children; children delivered the key speeches; children sold tickets at the Box Office after training; children were on the *playdays* festival Jury; and 112 children performed at the festival. There were: 25 public performances; 4 schools' performances; 19 street theatre performances; 13 workshops; 3 ceremonies; 1 exhibition; and 2 residencies. There were 67 events in total, 164 performers, and 3,058 attendances at these events, with 1,000+ engagements during the street theatre performances. See pages 20 + 21.

Special Thanks

Our special thanks extend to: Stuart Fox and Sandrine Frojd at Fox International for their 41st year of sponsorship of The Fox Open Art Competition; to our Amici Artium sponsors; and to the GoJ for its continued financial support in the form of our revenue grant and the *playdays* project grant.

This Annual Report is a testament to all that has been achieved in, with and for the community during the past 41+ 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 54+ years!

Thank you all so very much for your continued support. Here's wishing everyone a safe, peaceful but adventurous 2025.

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

Image: Dr Adam Perchard - *Hi-Vis*



Performances

2024 was a truly jam-packed year at Jersey Arts Centre! As always, a complementary mixture of both professional and community productions made up the contemporary programme, with a diverse range of performance genres on offer: from theatre to classical music, from dance to spoken word, and from musical theatre to fascinating talks about all sorts of subjects.

Friends of Jersey Arts Centre, the inimitable Oddsocks Productions, returned to their regular January slot with the hilarious *Roger Radio attempts: Frankenstein*. Over six nights, Oddsocks' radio-play-style theatre piece had 631 audience members laughing-out-loud with their warm sense of humour and ingenious foley sounds! The company also returned to their summer home of Coronation Park in July and August, presenting nine performances of the Shakespearean classic *Julius Ceasar* - though with some expected Oddsocks changes of course! 2,053 members of the audience packed their picnics and enjoyed some al-fresco family fun.

Jersey Arts Centre's professional theatre programme was full of thought-provoking and entertaining pieces that certainly educated, inspired and encouraged debate! Mark Thomas visited Jersey Arts Centre twice in 2024, firstly with the kaleidoscopic odyssey *England & Son* in January (60 attendances), then with his stand-up show *Gaffa Tapes* in September (153 attendances). Vamos Theatre returned to the Island with their full-mask show, *The Boy on the Roof* (361 attendances over two performances) which delighted audiences with its sensitive storytelling and impressive physicality. Jersey Arts Centre's Honorary Patron, Tim Crouch, returned in March with the award-winning *An Oak Tree* (103 attendances), which featured a memorable performance from local actor Jenny McCarthy. The spring season also saw celebrated theatre-maker Nassim Soleimanpour perform his audacious new piece *NASSIM* (38 attendances). Nassim was joined on stage by local actor Andrew Davey in this striking theatrical demonstration of how language can both divide and unite.

Dr Adam Perchard presented the wonderfully dazzling *Hi-Vis* in May, which saw 224 audience members spellbound by the intimate evening of laughter, reflection and scintillating songs! Finally, the autumn season saw the return of celebrated poet Luke Wright, as he presented his new piece: *JOY*. This celebratory collection of new works was enjoyed by 57 members of the audience in September.

Dance was well represented throughout the year, with three performances from local contemporary dance company Ballet d'Jèrri. In March, the company presented *Annivèrsaithe* (780 attendances over four performances), which celebrated the one-year anniversary of the creation of the company. In June, Ballet d'Jèrri were joined by Maltese dance company, ZfinMalta, for *Geographers of Solitude* (677 attendances over four performances): a stunning full-length piece of contemporary dance in which twenty dancers combined to explore what unites the two islands. Finally, there was the return of *Carte Blanche* in October: (408 attendances over three performances) a specially created dance performance allowing the dancers to present

their own work alongside work choreographed for the company, which showcased their talent and athleticism.

The professional dance programme was complemented by two local dance schools who performed live on stage in 2024: Central School of Dance presented *Keep It Under Your Hat* in March (241 attendances) and Etoile Studios presented *Once Upon a Time* in July (396 attendances).

Jersey Arts Centre produced 8 in-house productions during 2024 (including the annual Christmas production)! ArtsCentreTheatre and youththeatre presented two productions each, and Junior Drama presented two performances of *The TWITS* during the *playdays* Children's Festival. The sixth in-house show was *Six Heroines*, an evening of six monologues presented to mark International Women's Day. These monologues, based on characters from Ovid's *Heroines*, were written by six female and non-binary playwrights, originally commissioned by Jermyn Street Theatre, London, and were performed by six local actors in March. 172 audience members saw iconic characters such as Ariadne and Penelope brought to life in both classical and contemporary pieces of writing with important messages.

The final in-house production of 2024 was *Je Suis Votre Mémoire / And You Are Mine*: a collaboration between Jersey Arts Centre director Daniel Austin, and Bertrand Larmet and Véronique Martinez from ARTcomedia. Performed by Bertrand, Véronique and two local young actors, the piece combined theatre and music to explore ideas about memory, the brain and music. Over three nights in November, 162 audience members were transfixed by the piece's charm and thoughtful storytelling.



Image: Vamos - *The Boy on the Roof*

Performances (continued...)

2024's professional music programme was just as diverse as its theatrical offerings, with concerts spanning many genres taking place throughout the year. Classical music was an important part of this programme, due to the generous sponsorship of Amici Artium. This sponsorship allowed the programming of 7 concerts: the Marmen Quartet (94 attendances), Aaron Azunda Akugbo (130 attendances), Aleksey Semenenko (135 attendances), DOMNIQ (82 attendances), the Dudok Quartet (83 attendances) and Amiri Harewood (74 attendances). A special Amici Artium concert was also held in October, featuring performances by Alina Ibragimova and Cédric Tiberghien, in association with the National Trust for Jersey. This concert celebrated the life of Michael Munz-Jones; founder and pioneer of the Amici Artium concert series, which had 206 attendances.

Other genres of music were also represented, with bluesy / rock group The Spikedrivers performing as part of The Robert Tilling Series in the spring (61 attendances), the return of folk trio The Canny Band (61 attendances), and a special concert of contemporary music from Mind Jersey (128 attendances) in the autumn season.

Jersey Arts Centre once again teamed up with Music Managed to present another popular series of concerts in Coronation Park throughout August, which certainly got audiences in the party spirit! Six concerts were presented in total: *Rockin' the Park* (303 attendances), *Country Fest* (399 attendances), *Jazz in the Park* (326 attendances), *The Soul & Blues Revue* (379 attendances), *Party in the Park* (400 attendances) and *Magic of the Musicals* (400 attendances).

Jersey Arts Centre continued to offer varied and enjoyable cinematic output throughout the year. 11 Monday Matinée screenings were shown, beginning with the classic musical *Carousel* in January, and ending with the cult sci-fi drama *Logan's Run* in November. 324 audience members attended these screenings that included both modern, classic, and musical movies. They also enjoyed a free cup of tea or coffee and biscuits afterwards! Jersey Arts Centre's matinée output was complemented by the Jersey Film Society screenings, who presented 25 films in total, beginning with *EO* in January, and finishing in November with *The Holdovers*. There was also a special Hitchcock Weekend presented in February. Overall, 2,088 film fans enjoyed these varied screenings.

Several local societies supplemented Jersey Arts Centre's performance programme by presenting plays and pantomimes throughout the year. The JADC returned to their regular January slot with their pantomime, *Rapunzel* (2,145 attendances) and presented the stage version of the popular sitcom *Blackadder Goes Forth* in October (1,488 attendances).

Jersey Green Room Theatre Company also performed in 2024, presenting *Stepping Out* in September (981 attendances).

Young performers also had the chance to perform live on Jersey Arts Centre's stage (many of them making their stage debut!), as several primary schools, secondary schools and youth performing companies presented the final outcomes of their hard work. The Theatre Workshop Jersey performed the celebrated modern musical *Six: Teen Edition* in February (1,179 attendances) and presented their Advanced Academy and Summer Showcase in the summer season (603 attendances). Jersey Youth Performing Arts showed their theatrical talents in *Cinderella* (589 attendances) and Jersey's Girl Guides travelled to Neverland with *Peter Pan Jr.* (776 attendances). Four local schools also showcased their performance prowess: Beaulieu Convent Schools's GCSE and A Level Performance Exam evening (65 attendances); Helvetia House School's *Finding Nemo Jr.* (436 attendances); Beaulieu Convent School's *Aladdin Kids* (674 attendances); and Victoria College Jersey's House Drama Evening (153 attendances).

Three festivals were also included in the 2024 programme, with one being Jersey Arts Centre's first ever *playdays* Children's Festival (more information about this programming milestone can be found on pages 20 + 21). Jersey Festival of Words programmed 14 events at Jersey Arts Centre, which brought 982 visitors to Phillips Street. The 13th Parish International Film Festival returned for four days from 23 - 26 May, presenting 15 films and talks to 680 film enthusiasts. This festival was a superb addition to Jersey Arts Centre's cinematic offerings and presented some unexpected gems!

Once again, Jersey Arts Centre would like to extend its thanks to all those engaged with its programme throughout 2024: those who visited the theatre, attended a course or workshop, watched a film, enjoyed an exhibition in the Berni Gallery, attended *playdays* Children's Festival or indeed joined us in the magical world of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*!



Image: Amici Artium - Dudok Quartet

Statistics

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

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Drama	20	23	17	22	16	34	18	27	18	23	25
Classical Music	13	17	17	22	16	13	13	4	6	10	9
Jazz + World Music	15	17	10	13	20	14	13	31	26	16	15
Dance	3	2	3	-	6	-	-	4	-	2	4
Comedy	3	-	2	5	2	2	4	-	2	4	3
Literature / Lectures	6	6	14	5	4	4	9	-	6	4	5
youtheatre + ACT + Junior Drama	12	11	9	9	12	9	4	19	10	7	7
Other	28	24	28	24	24	24	39	15	32	34	32

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 youtheatre, 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:

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of Promotions	126	116	109	112	116	114	55	110	129	123	137
Number of Hirings	116	100	110	114	98	118	51	58	107	116	140
Performances in Schools	27	2	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Ticketed Performances	269	218	250	226	214	232	106	168	236	239	277

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Performances at BMT	209	192	198	210	195	216	106	150	207	223	254
Performances at Other Spaces	20	16	21	16	19	16	-	18	29	16	23
Performances in Schools	27	2	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Ticketed Performances	269	218	250	226	214	232	106	168	236	239	277
Total Tickets Sold	31,169	21,252	26,549	25,291	25,553	25,242	9,855	9,759	24,572	27,720	36,746
Average Audience	116	98	106	112	119	109	93	58	104	116	133

Benjamin Meaker Utilisation:

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Benjamin Meaker Promotions	44	47	46	45	49	48	52	61	55	51	49
Benjamin Meaker Hirings	56	53	54	55	51	52	48	39	45	49	51

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 youthatre, 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 2024 there were a further 20 non-ticketed hirings - comprising rehearsals, seminars and workshops - at Jersey Arts Centre.

A further 9,501 tickets were sold for Samarès Players and for two Jersey Green Room Theatre Company productions at other venues.



Image: Tim Crouch - *An Oak Tree*

Exhibitions

Jersey Arts Centre's Berni Gallery hosted 14 exhibitions throughout 2024, with an incredibly varied programme of both local and international artists showing work using a vast array of mediums.

The year began with the end of *Our Favourite Things*, celebrating our previous Christmas shows, followed by *Coming Together*, an impressive collection of work from GCSE and A level students studying Art and Textiles at Jersey College for Girls. Mark Brown's visually stunning *The Car In Art* was up next in February.

The latest time-constrained commissioned exhibition, *playful*, turned the Berni Gallery into a colourful playground in March. Commissioned as part of the *playdays* Children's Festival, Lisa MacDonald, Katherine Cadin, Anna Shipley and Will Bertram created work straight onto the walls of the gallery in just 40 hours, and presented some truly inspired pieces.

The final exhibition of the spring season was *Melange de Misfits*; a showcase of work from the Art and Design tutors of Highlands College. Mediums presented included print, ceramics and illustration, and demonstrated the talent of local tutors!

The summer exhibition programme began in May with the moving and informative *Life Behind Barbed Wire*. The exhibition, produced by Jersey Arts Centre and curated by Gisela Rothenhäusler of the Bad Wurzach Partnerschaft Committee, showed watercolours and drawings created by internees in Bad Wurzach during the Second World War.

A special collection of pieces by Edmund Blampied came to the gallery in June, celebrating the work of one of the most eminent artists to come from the Channel Islands. In this collection of Children's Books and Illustrations, twelve original watercolour paintings from his famous interpretation of *Peter Pan* were featured.

A literary exhibition was up next in July, as *This World!* – part of the *playdays* Children's Festival – was displayed for all to enjoy! This collection of creative writings created by local children, teenagers and adults was displayed directly on the walls of the gallery, and provided a striking backdrop to the other festival activities. This was followed by an eclectic Private Collection that was on display from the end of July and into August.

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 2024 competition was Minna Pemberton, who impressed with her collection of drawings and illustrations. The other selected artists were Molly Bree, Zara Le Cornu and Alexander Matheson.

The autumn season began with a beautiful display of pieces by the Fox Open Art Competition Judge, Mick Armson. This was followed by the *Fox Open Art Competition* in October which attracted nearly 150 entries! The winning piece - Jean-Luc Almond's *Shadow* - was described by Mick Armson as "small and intimate, yet monumental in its presence".

Marc Medland's *10 Projects* was up next in the Berni Gallery in November. This striking collection of short films, collage, animation, architectural drawings and physical models showcased extraordinary parallel worlds.

The final exhibition of 2024 was *Pure Imagination*, curated by Wayne Stewart. This collection of photography celebrated Jersey Arts Centre's Community Christmas Production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and brought viewers into the heart of a chocolate-covered Christmas!

The Bar Gallery was again busy in 2024, with 12 exhibitions on display throughout the year. These included work from local artists, organisations and students, and showcased many mediums.

Jersey Arts Centre extends its very special thanks to its Exhibitions Sub-Committee for all their hard work in curating, sourcing, programming and hanging the 2024 exhibitions.

The Exhibitions Sub-Committee:
Mark Blanchard (Chair)
Valentine Aitken
Daniel Austin
Sara Job
Jackie Monticelli
Wayne Stewart

Image: *The Original Student Art Exhibition*:
 Detail from work by winner Minna Pemberton



Courses & Workshops

Spring Season: 68 participants

Yoga Intermediate - Karen Le Mottee
Yoga Beginners - Karen Le Mottee
Holocaust Memorial Day Poetry - Juliette Hart
Hoops and Glitter - Helen Bartholomew
Crochet for Beginners - Karen Mcglinchey
Introduction to Astrology - Jemma Warner
Easter Drama Mornings 1 - Hettie Duncan + Jordi Sunier
Easter Drama Mornings 2 - Hettie Duncan + Jordi Sunier

Summer Season: 112 participants

Yoga Intermediate - Karen Le Mottee
Yoga Beginners - Karen Le Mottee
Yoga: Beginners 2 - Karen Le Mottee
Half Term Drama Mornings 1 - Jordi Sunier + Wayne Stewart
Half Term Drama Mornings 2 - Jordi Sunier + Wayne Stewart
Half Term Drama Mornings 3 - Jordi Sunier + Wayne Stewart
Blackout Poetry - Juliette Hart
Poetry: Childhood - Juliette Hart
Puppetry: Making - Andy Heath
Puppetry: Performing - Andy Heath
My Friend Jung Workshop - Wayne Stewart
Summer Drama School - Hettie Duncan + Jordi Sunier

Autumn Season: 72 participants

Learning Languages: Latin - Diana Mezei
Yoga for Beginners - Karen Le Mottee
Drama Mornings 1 - Hettie Duncan + Jordi Sunier
Drama Mornings 2 - Hettie Duncan + Jordi Sunier
Drama Mornings 3 - Hettie Duncan + Jordi Sunier
Zombie Makeup (13-17 years) - Gayle Jones
Zombie Makeup (8-12 years) - Gayle Jones

Total Number of participants: 252
Total Number of sessions: 88
Total Number of different tutors: 11

2024 saw another exciting year for Jersey Arts Centre's community Courses and Workshops programme, which provided for the public a range of artistic opportunities in which to take part. The year saw another increase in participants from 2023 and 2022 which is a pattern that looks to continue into 2025.

The programme had a range of courses and workshops that are staples in our seasons such as Yoga (for both beginners and intermediate) led by Karen Le Mottee. These popular courses were offered in all three seasons of 2024 with plans to continue in 2025. Theatre opportunities were also offered with Drama Mornings and a Summer Drama School – all of which were very well attended.

A selection of new courses were offered for 2024, with some making up part of Jersey Arts Centre's first *playdays* Children's Festival. During July 2024, Juliette Hart delivered a 'childhood' themed poetry workshop in which participants were able to explore and write poetry based around childhood memories. Additionally, Jersey Arts Centre had the exciting opportunity to work with puppeteer extraordinaire Andy Heath who ran two workshops in which participants were able to make and then learn how to perform with puppets. These were very well attended with 23 people attending across the two workshops.

Other new courses this year included Zombie Makeup, led by Gayle Jones. Over two afternoons, Gayle taught participants how to use professional makeup in order to design and then create zombie makeup looks, just in time for Hallowe'en. Using liquid latex, face paints and stage blood, participants were taken through doing their own makeup and left looking incredibly spooky!

As well as its public offerings, Jersey Arts Centre also delivered 43 schools workshops throughout 2024 and 60 Mont à L'Abbé theatre workshops, making the total participants overall for courses and workshops 1,566 attendees.

Island Animations

Holocaust Memorial Day Ceremony / 27 January

During the Holocaust Memorial Day Ceremony, five youththeatre members delivered readings and laid the 21 roses for the Jersey 21. The keynote speaker for the event was Smajo Bešo.

Ex-internees Ceremony at Jersey War Tunnels / 28 April

Three youththeatre members delivered readings for the Ex-internees Ceremony at the War Tunnels.

Image: Andy Heath - *Puppetry: Performing*



Partnerschaft (Twinning) with Bad Wurzach

Jersey Arts Centre has been organising cultural exchanges with St Helier's twin town of Bad Wurzach since 2003 as part of the peace, reconciliation and friendship initiative that began with the official twinning in 2002.

Since this time we have toured seven youththeatre productions to the Kurhaus in Bad Wurzach and performed both a schools and a public evening show on each occasion. Two of our Theatre-in-Education productions have also toured to the Realschule and to schools in Biberach and Kisslegg. On each occasion, members of both the youththeatre and Theatre-in-Education companies have been hosted by German families and enjoyed unparalleled hospitality during their stay and delivered practical drama workshops on concentration, communication and commitment at each school. Members of the youththeatre have also now reciprocated on seven separate occasions when they have hosted groups in 2005, 2008, 2010, 2013, 2015, 2017 and 2019. On each occasion c.15 young people have travelled to the Island.

In 2005, and for the Liberation 60 Celebrations, ex-internees, youththeatre members and young people from Bad Wurzach performed the *Opportunity Drama* for Her Majesty The Queen in Liberation Square on Liberation Day. The Berni Gallery also hosted an exhibition of the work of Sepp Mahler from Bad Wurzach between 10-21 May with the assistance of both Egon and Gisela Rothenhäusler of the Leprosy House in Bad Wurzach, where Sepp Mahler's work is housed – 20 of his pieces were brought to the Island over the Liberation Day Celebrations. At the preview, Hermann Bilgeri was presented with the Silver Seal of the Island by the then Deputy Bailiff. In the December of 2005 our second Theatre-in-Education project, *Secret Weapons*, performed at the Realschule and the Salvatorkolleg, and in Biberach, with the company delivering a number of practical workshops.

In January 2015, our fifth Theatre-in-Education project, *The Great Warrior*, performed back at the Realschule and also at a school in Kisslegg. There were a total of 262 attendances at these three performances with the company also delivering two practical workshops introducing the themes and issues in the play. On each tour, the St. Helier Partnerschaft Committee has contributed a grant towards the cost of Jersey Arts Centre's van travelling with set, costume, lighting and sound and for this we are hugely grateful.

On each exchange, youththeatre and Theatre-in-Education members are chaperoned by parents without whom the journeys would not be possible. Jersey Arts Centre's stage team has also allowed for the professional delivery of these productions, in style, with Steven Laffoley-Edwards playing an instrumental part in the success of the tours.

Our thanks also extend to the former Head Teacher at the Realschule: Frau Blaschko, who has made these exchanges possible, and seven of her teaching staff who, over the years, have been instrumental in machinating the details of the exchanges: Ingeborg Ege, Volker Jedelhauser, Heidi Maier, Franziska Gsteu, Ralph Schulz, Stefanie Henkel-Hagman and Franziska Matischok. Danke schön.

However, Hermann Bilgeri is the one person over the years who has believed in the Partnerschaft initiative and ensured our well-being, safety and itineraries and thus facilitated the phenomenal success of these adventures. Hermann: Danke schön.

Jersey Arts Centre's commitment to these cultural youth exchanges these past 21 years has been pioneering and unparalleled in terms of cultural diplomacy and in cementing peace, reconciliation and friendship. Members of the youththeatre and Junior Drama groups hosted a group of 15 students from the Realschule (school) for a week in July 2024.

The Tours

2003: *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare

2005: *The Last Voyage of Philip D'Auvergne* by Simon Crowcroft

2005: *Secret Weapons* by Daniel Austin

2008: *The Women of Troy* by Euripides

2010: *Life of Galileo* by Bertolt Brecht

2012: *The Conversation* by youththeatre members

2015: *The Great Warrior* by Daniel Austin

2016: *Matchbox Theatre* by Michael Frayn

2018: *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, adapted by Ian Wooldridge



Education & Outreach

In 2024, Jersey Arts Centre's Education & Outreach department continued to deliver workshops in schools across the Island.

The popular World Book Day workshop offerings ran again this year. Over the course of a week, 9 workshops were delivered in 8 schools to 244 participants. The workshops explored different popular children's books, through discussion and the animation of these texts. These workshops were aimed at students in Year 5 and gave them a chance to engage with characters from their favourite works of literature and were delivered by visiting practitioner, Janette Froud.

In May 2024, the in-house team delivered workshops ahead of the 79th anniversary of the Liberation of Jersey from Occupation. 7 workshops in 7 different schools were offered to 175 participants in which they learnt about the context of World War II, the Jersey 21 and the Occupation. The children were hugely engaged in learning about the history of the Island.

A new initiative was introduced in 2024 to coincide with Jersey Arts Centre's first *playdays* Children's Festival, related to the word exhibition entitled 'This World'. Jersey Arts Centre's Director, Daniel Austin, delivered four workshops in three schools with 100 participants in which Daniel encouraged them to write pieces to be submitted for selection for the exhibition. Daniel explored different writing forms and possible themes about the students' experience of the world in which we live. There were 65 submissions in total with 29 being selected for the exhibition in the Berni Gallery.

As well as the public courses and schools' workshops, the Education & Outreach team programmed 19 street theatre performances during the month of July in order to highlight to the public the performances happening as part of the *playdays* Children's Festival. SWANK, a company that has worked with JAC for many years, entertained visitors to St Helier with their *Girl Guides* act along with their very popular and vibrant *Austerity Party Times*. Frank Wurzinger's *Treefellas* were also a highlight.

November 2024 saw the opportunity to offer workshops connected to Jersey Arts Centre's Community Christmas Production: our 8th year in doing so! This year we ran workshops based on Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. The students were able to engage with this popular children's story through different activities, ranging from learning an Oompa Loompa Dance to performing extracts from the book. Over the course of four weeks the Education & Outreach team delivered 23 workshops in 16 schools with 582 participants.

Throughout 2024, we continued to work with the students at Mont à L'Abbé facilitating workshops related to communication, commitment and concentration. Through warm-up games and theatre activities, the students were able to explore playing and engaging with other members of their class. On a weekly basis we worked with 30 students. This initiative has continued into 2025.

There were a total of 138 workshops with 1,566 attendances as part of our Education and Outreach programme, a significant increase on 2023. We look forward to continuing our initiatives and developing more in the year ahead!

Jersey Arts Centre also hosted 8 Project Trident students during 2024, and was the proud sponsor of the Jersey Arts Centre Award for Excellence in Performing Arts at the Highlands College PRIDE of Highlands Ceremony.



youth~~eat~~re

In 2024, Jersey Arts Centre youth~~eat~~re continued with an exciting period of creativity, with two productions and two animations of Island ceremonial events.

The youth~~eat~~re's spring production, which had 11 cast members, was Nick Payne's haunting adaptation of Sophocles' tragic masterpiece *Electra*. The piece, based on the classic myth, presented *Electra*, a young woman bound by grief and unable to forgive the murder of her father by her mother. This powerful grief propels her towards revenge. Over three performances from 13 - 15 March, the cast performed to 128 audience members.

The summer season saw a 12-strong cast deliver Sam Holcroft's *The Wardrobe*. This series of short playlets took audiences on a gripping journey through British history, using the setting of an antique wardrobe as a common thread. From royal marriages, to impending plague, to a modern-day museum trip, the play was a captivating exploration of how the country was shaped, and the role that young people might have played in these important historical events. Over three performances from 7 - 9 May, the cast performed to 177 audience members.

After an exciting year of productions, the youth~~eat~~re once again began a period of workshops and rehearsals for the spring 2025 project. From September - November, 17 young actors explored acting techniques, character discovery and began rehearsals for Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*, adapted by Neil Bartlett.

In addition to the productions, rehearsals, and workshops, the youth~~eat~~re were involved in animations at two ceremonial Island events. Five members of the company provided readings at the Holocaust Memorial Day Ceremony on 27 January, with three members at the Bad Wurzach Liberation Ceremony in April at the War Tunnels. The youth~~eat~~re hopes to be able to continue to animate these important Island events for the foreseeable future!

**NICOLE TWINAM, BA (Hons), MA
HETTIE DUNCAN, BA (Hons)
YOUTH~~EAT~~RE CO-DIRECTORS**



Image: youth~~eat~~re - *Electra*

ArtsCentreTheatre

In 2024, ArtsCentreTheatre (ACT) provided theatrical opportunities both on and offstage to 23 members, with 13 taking part in both of its projects. The year proved to have a slightly gothic tone for ACT with both its projects delving into classic tales of horror; tales that remain as popular with the public now as they were when first published with both projects proving to be critical and financial successes.

July saw Director Jason Kenyon's adaptation of *Dracula* grace the stage of the Benjamin Meaker Theatre with Michelle Hervieu in the titular role; glaring down upon both cast and audience alike from her castle shaped platform at the back of the stage throughout the performance. Ignoring the many adaptations that have proceeded it on stage and screen, ACT's production returned to the source material that inspired them: Bram Stoker's epistolary tale of the Transylvanian vampire, his enemies and his victims. Their letters and diary entries were brought to life by a talented cast whose performances were enhanced by a plethora of theatrical lighting and sound effects as well as an original score composed by ACT member Matt Le Marquand in a production that was attended by 439 members of the public over five performances.

The October project coincided with Hallowe'en and so a second evening of demonic shenanigans ensued with not one, but three one act plays based upon classics of gothic literature once again adapted by the group's hardworking Director: Edgar Allan Poe's *The Tell-Tale Heart*, W. W. Jacobs' *The Monkey's Paw* and Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. With each piece featuring a small cast of between four and seven actors these tales of cursed appendages, shambling zombies, murderous landladies and Victorian physicians with decidedly questionable ethics gave plenty of dramatic roles for both new and established members of the group to get their thespianic teeth into – roles that they tackled with a relish; their performances being enjoyed by 460 people over four performances.

**JASON KENYON
ACT DIRECTOR**



Image: ACT - *Dracula*

Junior Drama

Our Junior Drama group for 8-13 year olds has now been running for 19 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 2024 and July 2024, 32 young people explored and rehearsed *The Twits* by Roald Dahl, adapted for the stage by David Wood. *The Twits* opened our *playdays* Children's Festival in July, with two performances, both having sell out shows.

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 18 years the group has presented 15 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), and Georgia Christou's *BRIGHT. YOUNG. THINGS* (2023). The group has also worked on Bertolt Brecht texts, devised and improvised along the way, and made presentations of short pieces.

JORDI SUNIER
VICTORIA GORDON
JUNIOR DRAMA CO-DIRECTORS



Image: Junior Drama: *The Twits*

Our Residencies

Although committed to programming established work from internationally renowned creatives, Jersey Arts Centre is also passionate about offering local and international performers, writers, artists and musicians the chance to create and explore with its successful residency programme. This long-running programme provides rehearsal space, technical and artistic support and funding for new work, culminating in public performances, and allowing audiences the opportunity to experience innovative ideas and artistic viewpoints.

2024 saw five groups make Jersey Arts Centre their home. First up in January was Wayne Stewart who revived his solo show, *Indigo Moon*, which had initially been created in 2023 as part of the residency programme. A celebration of dance, storytelling and what it means to be creative, *Indigo Moon* was brought to life again for one-night-only, and was enjoyed by 32 audience members.

Next was Simon MacDonald in March, who, like Wayne Stewart, was in residence working on a piece initially created at Jersey Arts Centre in 2023. *Sometime, Somewhere*, written by Simon and performed by Alice McCracken, is the story of Allie; a hairdresser whose best friend Nina goes missing after a scandal in their local community. This second chance to see *Sometime, Somewhere* saw 63 audience members experience this clever and often moving piece of new writing.

March saw Ballet d'Jèrri spend a week at Jersey Arts Centre creating a new piece of work; *Annivèrsaithe*, which marked the one-year anniversary of the creation of the dance company. *Annivèrsaithe* presented a selection of choreographic works developed by the company and allowed audiences to appreciate the athleticism and artistry of the dancers. There were four performances of *Annivèrsaithe* overall, which was attended by 780 audience members.

Later in the year, two theatre companies were invited to spend some time at Jersey Arts Centre to work on performance pieces that will be programmed in the 2025 *playdays* Children's Festival. Mezzanine Theatre, made up of members of the local MacDonald family, spent a week during the 2024 *playdays* Festival developing *Echo & the Bloop*; a new performance piece combining visuals, storytelling, puppetry and more. Also creating work for *playdays* 2025 was Drew Taylor-Wilson and their group of creatives who spent a week at Jersey Arts Centre in September in research and development for *Sam the Sword*. Look out for these exciting new shows at *playdays* Children's Festival 2025!

Since 2010, Jersey Arts Centre has hosted over 50 residencies 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 Philips Street building! These residencies have assisted with the development of work in dance, music, drama and multidisciplinary processes that have been an invaluable part of the work of Jersey Arts Centre and have spawned shows that have performed in the Island and beyond. Jersey Arts Centre is committed to providing support for more residencies in the years to come for both local and international artists, and delights in the varied nature of their 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
- **Overdrive** by Linda Marlowe / Richard Jordan Productions / July 2018
- **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
- **Annivèrsaithe** 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

Image: Ballet d'Jèrri - *Annivèrsaithe*



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 everyone to be inspired by.

The Berni Gallery has hosted 11 time-constrained exhibitions – involving over 45 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!

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 and 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 - 2025 is sure to be an exciting year of opportunity, creation and exploration!

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 ^

* Commissioned for Festival 40 Weekend

^ Commissioned for *playdays* Children's Festival



Image: Wayne Stewart - *My Friend Jung*

playdays Children's Festival



Summer 2024 saw Jersey Arts Centre deliver the Island's first Children's Festival

playdays was funded by the Government of Jersey with a grant of £150,000 through the Department for the Economy and the Creative Island Partnership

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 was about play, adventure and discovery and we wanted everyone to be able to participate

Winners of the Awards



the Jersey Arts Centre Award
for Festival Discovery
Bertrand et Véronique of ARTcomedia



the Charlie Lowe Award
for Spirit of the Festival
Joe and Jack



the *playdays* Award
for Festival Adventure
Nicole & Martin and the White Tent

The  Jury comprised three members:
Juliette Hart – a grown-up poet
Tess Barnes – a 15 year old student
Theo Robson – a 12 year old student

Moderator:
Daniel Austin
Jersey Arts Centre Director



PLAYDAYS

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

There were:

- **25 public performances**
- **4 schools' performances**
- **19 street theatre performances**
- **13 workshops**
- **3 ceremonies: the opening, the awards and the exhibition**
- **1 exhibition: 65 writings submitted with 29 exhibited in the Berni Gallery**
- **2 residencies**
- **67 events in total**
- **164 performers**
- **2,268 attendances at public performances, workshops and ceremonies**
- **790 complimentary attendances at schools' performances and workshops**
- **3,058 total attendances**
- **82 complimentary Article 31 tickets issued to families through five organisations**
- **1,000+ engagements during the street theatre performances**

"I would just like to say thank you again for choosing us to share in the wonderful experience of 'Handa's Surprise'. It was a magical performance that the children loved. They have been telling everyone all about it back at school. For so many of our children, this is the first time they have been in a theatre and so it has been a very special experience for them."

"Our little one loved it! He has never been to anything like that before and asked if he could go again - thank you so much!"

"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."



Image: Joe and Jack

Christmas Production

'Pure Imagination' rippled throughout Jersey Arts Centre in December, as its ninth Community Christmas Company Production - Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* - was presented to Island audiences from 6 - 21 December.

19 performances of this classic family musical were delivered to 4,405 audience members, including a BSL interpreted performance by Andrew Higgins on 20 December. The creative team for this production remained similar to previous years, with the production being directed by Daniel Austin, the set designed by Graeme Humphries, the lighting designed by Steven Laffoley-Edwards, choreography from Victoria Gordon and costumes designed by Nick Carver with costume making by Denise Renouf.

The Jersey Arts Centre team was delighted to welcome back Bertrand Larmet (Musical Director) and Véronique Martinez (Vocal Coach) from French theatre company ARTcomedia. Bertrand's incredible musicianship, and Véronique's patient (and sometimes magical!) vocal coaching allowed the cast to find confidence, improve on existing skills and learn more about their vocal abilities. This production, being Jersey Arts Centre's second traditional musical produced by the Christmas Company, presented an even more challenging vocal demand from previous shows, and Bertrand and Véronique's expertise was vital to the success of the performances.

Auditions for children were held during the *playdays* Children's Festival in July, with over 100 aspiring Oompa-Loompas and Golden Ticket Winners attending; it was wonderful to meet so many new young people and be excited by new discoveries! The auditions were held in a relaxed, workshop format, and included input from the director, musical director, vocal coach and choreographer. Rehearsals began in September, including read-throughs of the script and three dedicated periods of singing weeks. There was a minimum of two evening rehearsals a week, together with all day on Sundays.

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 12 children, three Charlie Buckets and eight adult actors, making for the largest company yet:

TYLER ALLARDICE, GRACE BIRCH, NICK CARVER, SANTIAGO DA ROCHA, JACK DAGGETT, MEGAN DE GRUCHY, JAMIE-LEE DOUGLAS, HETTIE DUNCAN, AELIA FARROW, ALLAN GARDNER, TOM GASSTON, EMILIE-MAI GIMENEZ, FLORA GODDEN, HATTIE HASLEHURST, JOHNNY JONES, CAMERON LUCAS, MAGGIE MANN, NINA MARZEK-KASPRZYK, ESTHER MASON, ROSIE McGOVERN, AVA MOLTON-HOWELL, KITTY O'PREY, FEARNE PALLOT, TILLY PASHLEY, LOREDANA RIZZUTO, THEO ROBSON, OSCAR SHAW, PHOENIX SORDA, WAYNE STEWART, ANASTASIA SURCOUF, MAGNUS SURCOUF, NICOLE TWINAM, KATIE WEBB, GEORGINA WILLIAMS, ABIGAIL JOY WILSON

Jersey Arts Centre's Director, Daniel Austin, would also like to thank the Management Committee for their continued and valued support throughout this initiative and for their commitment to this important area of our programme, and to those parents who chaperoned.

Complementary to the production, as with previous years, our Education and Outreach team delivered a series of 23 workshops in 16 Island primary schools (582 participants) introducing students to the world of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*! These workshops were facilitated by Hettie Duncan and Victoria Gordon; more detailed information about this outreach project can be found on page 15.

Now in its ninth year, Jersey Arts Centre's Community Christmas show has become an important festive tradition for Islanders - look out for the 2025 production!



Image: *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*

20th Human Rights Festival

2024 saw the Human Rights Festival reach its 20th year at Jersey Arts Centre! Over the last 20 years, speakers, films, performances, exhibitions, and outreach programmes spearheaded by Jersey Arts Centre have allowed audiences and Islanders the chance to learn about international human rights issues, as well as those closer to home, and shed light on lesser-known humanitarian crises across the globe. Jersey Arts Centre hopes that the last 20 years of programming have provided educational opportunities, awareness, and hope for the future.

The 2024 festival consisted of four film screenings between 30 September and 3 October, with two feature films and two documentaries comprising the programme. The first screening was *Inshallah A Boy* on Monday 30 September; a feature film set in Jordan. This powerful drama followed the character of Nawal; a woman who faced legal hardship after the sudden death of her husband and fights for her right to independence. Not only was *Inshallah A Boy* a beautiful piece of filmmaking, but the feature also highlighted the oppression of women in Jordan both in society and the country's legal system.

The next film screened was the documentary *Land of My Dreams*. Produced and made in India, this eye-opening film centred around the 2019 protests in India concerning the Citizen Amendment Act, which was widely believed to be discriminatory towards the Muslim population of the country. The documentary followed a group of intergenerational, multi-faith women who began a sit-in in a Muslim neighbourhood to challenge this Act, and how their brave actions began a nation-wide movement.

Next up was a screening of the feature film *Green Border*. This haunting drama from Oscar-nominated director Agnieszka Holland centred around the dangerous forests around the "green border" between Belarus and Poland, and how migrants from the Middle East and Africa found themselves trapped in this treacherous region.

Finally, on Thursday 3 October, the environmental documentary *We Are Guardians* was shown. This engaging and thought-provoking documentary told the story of Indigenous Brazilian forest guardians, and their struggle to keep their land safe from illegal loggers. This educational piece allowed audiences to bear witness to what happens when Indigenous rights, land stewardship and political corruption collide.

Overall, 65 audience members visited Jersey Arts Centre over four nights to watch these confronting and often hopeful films that carried a vital message.

11th Polish Film Festival

Now in its 11th year, Jersey Arts Centre's Polish Film Festival continues to serve as a highlight in the cinematic calendar, offering Islanders the chance to experience the depth and breadth of excellence in Polish cinematography, screenwriting, acting and directing. Three films were screened over consecutive days, with all showcasing diverse and interesting themes.

The first film, *The Secret of Little Rose (Rozyczka 2)*, was screened on Tuesday 18 June. This dramatic thriller starred Magdalena Boczarska as career politician Joanna Warczewska whose life is turned upside down by the sudden death of her husband. This captivating film was both moving and tense and brought to life the machinations of the Polish political scene.

The next screening was *Horror Story* on Wednesday 19 June. Expertly combining the black comedy and horror genres, this unexpected film followed the character of Tomek, a young man who arrives in Warsaw ready to start a career in finance, but who finds himself reeling from one disaster to another. This whip-smart film treated audiences to a unique take on the often-absurd rites of passage between adolescence and adulthood.

The final film in the 2024 Polish Film Festival was *Danger Zone*. This documentary feature shed light on the dark side of war-zone tourism, juxtaposing the experiences of tourists and their tour operator with the everyday lives of those who live and work in dangerous areas such as Somalia and Afghanistan.

Over the three screenings, 24 film fans were able to watch Polish films on the big screen, and access new and inspiring cinema.



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.

Six tours were achieved in 2024. In February, Robert Whitehead & Tom McConville (on Violin & Accordion with vocals) toured 19 care settings; in April, Christine Adams & Lissie Bayford (on Piano, Accordion & Fiddle with vocals) toured 20 care settings; in June, Martina (on Accordion with vocals) toured 22 care settings; in August, Paul Walker & Karen Pfeiffe (multi instrumentalists with vocals) toured 18 care settings; in October, Helen & Annie (on Harp & Violin with vocals) toured 18 care settings; and in November/December Bob Gessey (Guitar with vocals) toured 23 care settings.

It is worth noting that there were:

- 188 concerts in 2015
- 156 concerts in 2016
- No concerts in 2017
- 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



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 2024 comprised:

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

Jersey Arts Centre first gained its Eco-active status in August 2009, and it was renewed once again in April 2025.

We maintained our commitment to offsetting our carbon footprint throughout 2024 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 affect ticket sales as we have now regained our pre-covid attendances. Only 7,000 copies of the brochure were printed in 2024: 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.

Throughout 2024 all Jersey Arts Centre 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
Brighter Futures
BBC Radio Jersey
CEYS
Creative Island Partnership
Jersey Zoo
Holocaust Memorial Day Committee
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 (1,193 - incorporating 722 memberships at December 2024), 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
Paul Milbank, ED
Chris Kelleher, ED
Victor Guerin, ED
Fiona MacAdie, ED

OUR THANKS

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Denise Renouf
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Sweet Celebrations
Wayne Stewart
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Ross Baudains
Jordi Sunier
Taisie Humphries
Sophie Channing
Laura Daggett
Claire Farrow
Kirsty Haslehurst
Pam Robson

The *playdays* Jurors:

Tess Barnes
Juliette Hart
Theo Robson



Image: Amici Artium - Amiri Harewood



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