



Media Release

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Citizens Theatre puts care experienced young people centre stage

The Citizens Theatre has been awarded £110,000 from Scottish charity the Life Changes Trust to support care experienced young people to get more creative.

They will use the funding to provide young people with the opportunity to learn all aspects of professional theatre-making in a positive and empowering creative space. They will also be supported to develop their talents and ideas, so that they can tell the stories which are important to them.

The Citizens Theatre applied for funding from the Life Changes Trust with the aim of creating a unique Theatre Company for the many diverse voices of care experienced young people, enabling them to be heard, listened to and celebrated.

The project will encourage care experienced young people's aspirations and ambitions, as well as increase their access to employment, education and training opportunities within the creative arts and related fields.

More than one hundred care experienced young people aged between 18 and 26 will have the opportunity to directly engage with the Citizens Theatre through taster workshops, and some of these participants will become part of the new care experienced Theatre Company.

They will then have the opportunity to explore all aspects of professional theatre-making, from acting, directing, playwriting, theatre design, and stage management, to marketing and communications as they work on developing and performing their first commissioned play.

This will allow them to share their theatrical work with diverse audiences, giving an insight into the lives and experiences of young people, and helping to challenge negative attitudes and break down barriers.

The Citizens Theatre funding award is one of fourteen awards made by the Life Changes Trust under the banner of 'Creative and Active Lives', with a funding total of £1.75 million.

The funding awards aim to improve the physical and mental well-being of care experienced young people by increasing their participation in creative and physical activities. Each of the fourteen funded projects will focus on growing opportunities across a broad range of creative and active pursuits, so that care experienced young people can engage with their peers and increase their skills, wellbeing and social connections.

Citizens Theatre's Associate Director (Citizens Learning) Guy

Hollands said, "The Citizens Theatre has a long-established reputation for pioneering outreach work and for building strong links with the diverse communities here in Glasgow. So we're very pleased to have the support of the Life Changes Trust in order that we can provide much needed opportunities for care experienced young people to engage with the performing arts and to access the benefits that they can deliver. Care experienced people have important stories to tell and this initiative will nurture their ability to give creative expression to their thoughts and feelings."

Heather Coady, Director of the Trust's Care Experienced Young

People Programme said, "Care experienced young people have often told us that they would love more opportunities to be active and have fun, developing their interests and trying out new things in areas such as music, art, sport and crafts. In fact, research shows that these activities can boost physical and mental wellbeing.

“Care experienced young people don’t often have ready access to opportunities like this, and we very much look forward to watching them flourish as they develop and grow as individuals.”

The Life Changes Trust was set up with a Big Lottery Fund endowment of £50 million to improve the lives of two key groups in Scotland: people affected by dementia and care experienced young people.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

The Life Changes Trust was established by the Big Lottery in April 2013 with a ten year endowment of £50 million to support transformational improvements in the quality of life, well-being, empowerment and inclusion of people affected by dementia and young people with experience of being in care.

As of 31 July 2017, there were 14,897 looked after children and young people in Scotland.

The Citizens Theatre is Glasgow’s major producing theatre and one of the leading theatre companies in the UK. Based in a beautiful Victorian theatre dating from 1878 in the Gorbals area of Glasgow, it is led by Artistic Director, Dominic Hill and Executive Director, Judith Kilvington.

The Citizens has a distinguished history spanning over 70 years and has built an international reputation for producing dynamic and innovative work, centered on bold new interpretations of classic texts. Productions on stage are presented alongside a highly regarded programme of participatory and education work, with a special emphasis on work with children, young people and socially excluded adults. As its name suggests, the Citizens Theatre believes that theatre can enhance and transform the lives of people of all ages, cultures and social backgrounds.

The theatre is currently planning and fundraising for a transformative £19.4 million building redevelopment which will be the first comprehensive, integrated redevelopment of the building in its 140-year history. From June 2018, the Citizens Theatre Company will move out of the building for the first time since 1945. For two years, productions will be presented at nearby venue Tramway, and other venues across Scotland, with Learning activity taking place at Scotland Street School Museum. For the latest information on all Citizens Theatre shows, learning and participation activity and the forthcoming theatre redevelopment project visit citz.co.uk