



Sole Purpose Productions

Annual Report April 2016- March 2017



Chairperson's Welcome & Overview

In 2017 Sole Purpose entered its 20th year in operation, a tremendous achievement and a tribute to its founders Dave Duggan and current Artistic Director Patricia Byrne. Despite cuts in funding and economic hardship Patricia has managed to maintain an imaginative and comprehensive programme.

I was privileged to accept the post of Chairperson in December 2016 after the former Chair Maoliosa Boyle took over the Directors post at Rua Red Gallery in Dublin. Our loss is Dublin's gain! Dr Pauline McClenaghan also resigned from her post as Treasurer in December and we wish both women the very best indeed!

We lost our Administrator Nicola Schnurr in June 2017 who, for nine years kept a very steady ship and whose contribution to the overall running of Sole Purpose is immeasurable. We wish Nicola the very best. Caoimhe Mc Nulty has been appointed as our new Admin person and we are delighted to have her on board.

Edel Murphy left the Company after completing her six months contract where she was tasked with delivering the Sustainability Project and a three year Business Plan. The resultant reports were detailed, creative, and ambitious and are very much welcomed by the Board.

2016/17 saw the addition of three new Board Members and the Company is very pleased indeed to welcome Maureen McLaughlin, Ciara O'Connell and Lisa Fitzpatrick.

It's been another hectic year which saw vast creative output highlights which include: The Invisible Theatre Project in partnership with The Rainbow Project in May 16 the aim of which was to increase visibility around the lives of LGBTQ people in the North West; Trans Tales – a Transgender Art Project in association with Affirm NI which saw rehearsed readings of Transgender and non-binary plays in progress and a photographic exhibition by Alexia Henderson and Lisa Lynch for Foyle Pride 2016.

Sole Purpose also continued developing work with Syrian refugees through The Sharek Project and The Marhaba Project whereby the new residents of the City taught the local community about Syrian culture, language, poetry, song; this also resulted in the creation of a very successful and welcomed Arabic Café.

In Spring 2017 the highly acclaimed play Blinkered by Patricia Byrne and directed by Shauna Kelpie completed a successful national tour of Ireland where it was very well received.

A Special Theatre Lab event took place in March 2017 to celebrate 20 years of Sole Purpose. Dave Duggan was a guest facilitator where writers, directors and actors get the chance to read, act and develop new works.

I would like to thank all the funders and partners who make this amazing work possible.

Jim Doherty, Chairperson



Sole Purpose Productions is a multi award winning professional theatre company that exists to use imagination to investigate and illuminate social and public issues. We aim to produce new theatre that contributes to social change, explores the dynamics of human relationships and promotes good relations. We bring art to the heart of the social, economic and creative life of communities locally, nationally and internationally.

Staff & Board Biographies



Patricia Byrne - Artistic Director and Co-Founder

Patricia is a producer, director and writer. She has written seven plays for the company including the most recent *Blinkered* which toured Ireland in early 2017 to great acclaim. She has produced and managed many productions which have toured extensively through Ireland and the UK, and have been staged in the USA.



Ciara O'Connell - Vice Chair

Ciara is a senior solicitor at the firm of Caldwell & Robinson wherein she is head of Civil Litigation. Ciara obtained her degree in Law and Politics at the University of Ulster and completed her legal training at the College of Law, Chester. Ciara practised as a Solicitor in England at international firm, Hill Dickinson LLP for a number of years before seeking dual qualification and returning to her native, Derry.



Caoimhe Mc Nulty - Administrator

Caoimhe joined the Sole Purpose team after spending the past few years working on various stage and TV productions since returning to Derry in 2013 for the UK City of Culture. She includes in her professional highlights working on the UK wide 14-18 NOW contemporary memorial 'We're here because we're here' by Turner Prize winner Jeremy Deller as well as receiving the Technical Theatre Bursary in Production Management from Theatre NI this year.



Maureen McLaughlin - Treasurer

Maureen is an industrial professional with over 20 years' experience in manufacturing; most recently as Operations Director of Diamond Corrugated. Maureen has a wealth of experience in all aspects of running and managing successful organisations and has a strong sales and marketing focus. Maureen currently sits on the board of Arts & Business NI, an organisation that sparks new partnerships between commerce and culture and connects businesses to arts organisations. She has a lifelong passion for the arts.



Jim Doherty - Chairperson

Jim has a background in 'live' arts and worked at the ICA in London for 12 years. He has worked with Foyle Pride and the Foyle Film Festival, and coordinated the political and historical programme for the Gasyard Feile until 2012.



Lisa Fitzpatrick - Secretary

Lisa is Senior Lecturer in Drama at University of Ulster Magee, and a founding member of the Irish Society for Theatre Research. Her research focuses on violence in performance, women's writing, and feminism in Ireland, and her current work is on the performance of rape on stage. She teaches Irish Theatre and North American Theatre.

20 Years of Sole Purpose Productions

As I look back over 20 years of Sole Purpose Productions I am amazed that we are still here. The work we have created over the past 20 years is outstanding. We have been to every nook and cranny in Ireland, North and South, bringing professional theatre to communities that are marginalised and mainstream, urban and rural. We have tackled issues that are difficult and sensitive. We have also taken work to the UK and the USA.

Dave Duggan and myself set up the company in 1997 to make professional theatre that exists to use the discourse of imagination to investigate and illuminate social and public issues. We hoped that in some small way, we could contribute to making the world a better place, through good quality theatre.

We have addressed a hugely wide spectrum of issues including peace and reconciliation work in the early years with the Peace Process Trilogy by Dave Duggan which took us to locations all over Ireland, the Writing on the Wall Festival in Liverpool, the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and New York. Dave wrote four other plays for the company dealing with many issues including the Saville Inquiry in Scenes From an Inquiry 2002 and the changing face of work in The Recruiting Office 2004. Dave left the company in 2008 to focus on full time writing. You can follow his work on Facebook [DaveDugganWriter](#) and Dave's blog [breathingwithalimp.blogspot.co.uk](#).

Since 2008 Sole Purpose has continued to address many themes that are important and relevant in people's lives. In my own work I have addressed gender issues which were explored in such plays as: Don't Say A Word – a one woman play on domestic violence; Snow White – The Remix – a feminist fairy tale for all the family where Grumpy learns how to cook and Snow White saves the Queen from the plastic surgeon. Don't Say A Word toured Ireland for 10 years. It was nominated for an Amnesty International Freedom of Expression Award at the Edinburgh Festival

Fringe in 2008, and it toured Scotland in 2009 including a performance in the Scottish Parliament for the Cross Party Group Against Violence Against Women.

Productions that have toured schools and address issues relating to young people include: A Wee Taste - a play on underage drinking; Every Move You Make – a drama on relationship abuse among young people and Blinkered – a play on mental health and suicide. Blinkered completed a seven week tour of Ireland, North and South, in Spring 2017. A school group from Roosevelt High School in Seattle saw Blinkered in Derry, they were on an exchange trip with Oakgrove Integrated College. They had suffered two suicides of their peers in the previous year. The play had a huge impact on them, it gave them permission to talk about their feelings for the first time. As a result I was invited to work in Seattle with students on the themes addressed in Blinkered. We developed Scenes of Intervention which illustrated in dramatic scenes ways to talk about suicide. This was presented at a youth mental health awareness event in Seattle.

Work with older people includes the play See No Evil which I wrote in 2008. This play explores a situation of financial abuse of an older person living in a rural area in Ireland. It toured to care homes, community centres, hospitals, schools and theatres in 2008/9. An organisation in Canada, Sken:nen A'Onsonton (To Become Peaceful Again), which works with the Mohawk community on the Kahnawake Reservation in Quebec, have adapted See No Evil to use as part of their Restorative Justice Programme on issues of elder abuse. The play was adapted with their elders.

Our LGBT work has included: Galatea by Lawrence Aronovitch; Pits and Perverts (For the Love of Comrades) by Micheál Kerrigan, on which I developed the script; Life and Love: Lesbian Style by Hilary McCollum and Trans Tales: Tales from the Mirror – rehearsed readings by a number of

writers including Jennifer Clifford, Sheelagh Bradley and Luke Brown. Our LGBT work has been a great success. Pits and Perverts toured the UK in 2014 and was staged at the New Conservatory Theatre Centre in San Francisco in 2015 for a five week run; Life and Love: Lesbian Style was staged at the International Dublin Gay Theatre Festival in 2014 where it won the Eva Gore Booth Award for Best Female Performance. Sole Purpose received the Noel Walsh Freedom Award in 2012 and the Helen Harris Freedom Award in 2014 for furthering the equality agenda for LGBT people through theatre.

The work is wide and varied, it has reached many audiences and touched many people in many ways. It has raised awareness of issues that affect people's lives, issues that are important and relevant. I would like to thank all the people and organisations that have supported our work over the past twenty years. Thank you to Nicola Schnurr who was our Administrator for nine years and who gave above and beyond. A big heartfelt thank you to Shauna Kelpie and Debbie Caulfield who worked on many productions and have been a great support to me through thick and thin. Thank you to our Board of Directors for their endless support. Thank you to our core funders the Arts Council of Northern Ireland who have supported our work for the past 20 years. Thank you to all the partner organisations, too many to name, that have worked with us and made the work possible. Thank you to all the actors, writers, technicians and designers who have brought their creative insight and professionalism to the work. And a huge thank you to the audiences that come to see our work and the people that take part in our workshops, we couldn't do it without you.

Next year will be 21 years of Sole Purpose, we will be holding the Sole Purpose 21 Years Festival of Theatre for Social Change 21st – 24th February 2018 to celebrate the anniversary. We are very excited to be hosting Red Ladder, Collective Encounters and Smashing Times, and sharing our work with many new audiences.

Here's to the future.

Artistic Director, Patricia Byrne.



“Congratulations to Sole Purpose on reaching their milestone 20th anniversary. This company has continually produced high-quality, impressive work, often engaging with marginalised communities in the creation and staging of new productions. Sole Purpose has contributed significantly to the support of new writers in the region through its Theatre Labs and LGBT Theatre Labs and in 2016 the Arts Council was delighted to support the highly successful tour of the play ‘Blinkered’, a powerful production about the issues of depression and suicide experienced by young people, around the island of Ireland, Seattle and New York. The Arts Council is proud to support Sole Purpose through National Lottery and public funding and wish the company every success for the future.”

**Noirin McKinney,
Director of Arts Development,
Arts Council of Northern Ireland**



“This was a groundbreaking attempt to bring LGBT issues into the public domain and demonstrated that this engagement with the public can instigate ongoing conversations about such issues. An excellent and thoroughly enjoyable project to be involved in!”
Jennifer Clifford



Invisible Theatre Project

For six weeks during April and May 2016, Sole Purpose worked in partnership with The Rainbow Project to explore current real life experiences for LGBT people through theatre. A group of people came together to create scenes that made LGBT lives visible in Derry Londonderry, Strabane and Limavady. These scenes were acted out in public places during LGBT Awareness Week 16th - 20th May, but the public didn't know they were acting! This method is the Invisible Theatre process which was developed by Augusto Boal in the 1970s as part of his Theatre of the Oppressed methodology. Augusto Boal developed these methods as a means of promoting social and political change.

The project was coordinated by Maeve O'Neill, Health and Wellbeing Officer at The Rainbow Project and facilitated by Patricia Byrne. Mel Bradley and Kieran Smyth assisted with facilitation. We brought in actors Gemma Walker and Micheal McDaid for the performance week to help out with acting roles.





The participants were Jennifer Clifford, Kerri Henderson and Sheelagh Bradley. Emmett Friel was not able to participate in the workshops but he did write one of the scenes which we played out during the performance week. Luke Brown came to one of the workshops and wrote a scene that depicted a conversation between a young transgender man and his mother. Unfortunately Luke was not able to take part during the performance week due to other commitments.

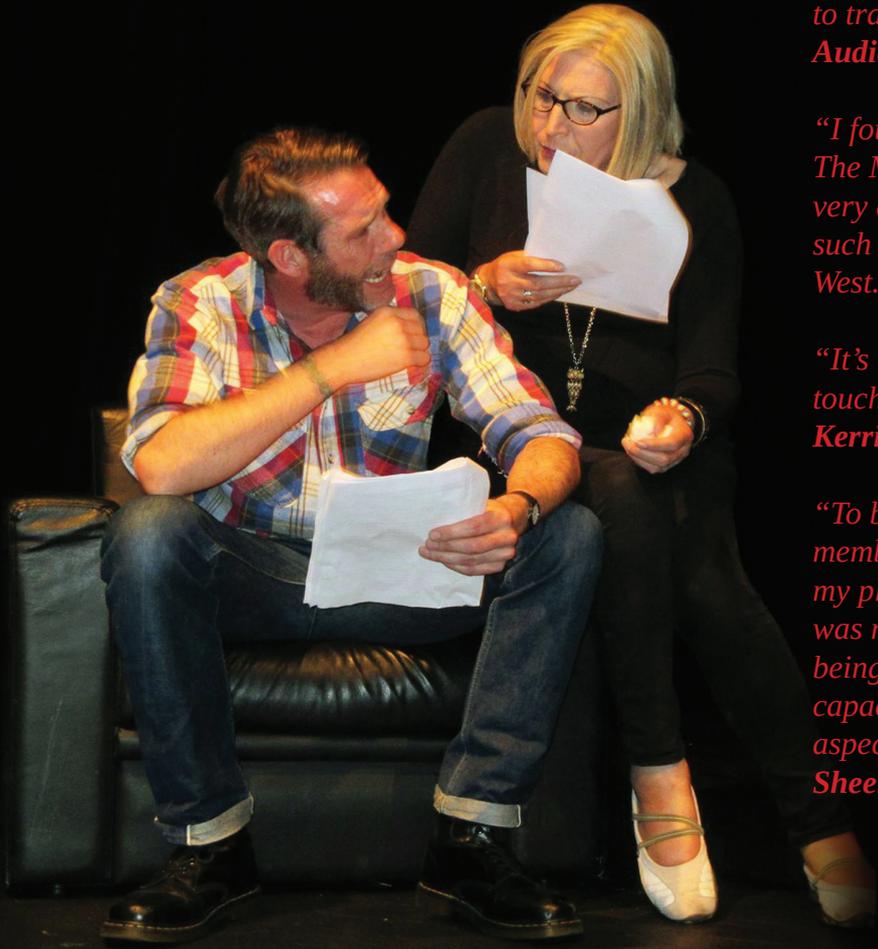


Five scenarios were developed which included: presenting issues around gender neutral toilets; same sex parenthood; a trans story book for children; a same sex couple argument and we even had a same sex public marriage proposal! The whole week was a great success with many preconceptions being challenged in an upbeat and mischievous way in public spaces.

The Invisible Theatre Project was supported by Arts Council of Northern Ireland Small Grants through The Rainbow Project.

“In general we had positive responses, curiosities and lots of attention. And in some locations, no one paid attention at all. This shows the level of work on visibility that groups, such as The Rainbow Project, Sole Purpose and Foyle Pride have established” **Mel Bradley**

“The Invisible Theatre week was thoroughly enjoyable. A great team of people with brilliant ideas and well written scripts looking at important contemporary issues. It was a successful project and gave us all lots to think about.” **Gemma Walker**



“Well done to Sole Purpose Productions for doing this challenging work, giving a much needed voice to trans people with such respect and dignity”

Audience feedback

“I found working on the Trans Tales: Tales From The Mirror project very enjoyable, emotional and very educational. I did not know that there was such a thriving trans community here in the North West.” Muire McCallion

“It’s rare but wonderful when we hear words that touch our soul and give us shivers.”

Kerri Henderson

“To be able to speak comfortably to audience members about the inspiration and reason behind my play as a gender-fluid and non-binary being was relaxing and although I was nervous for this being my first play ever to be shown in any public capacity it has made me be more confident in every aspect of my life.”

Sheelagh Bradley

Trans Tales: Tales From The Mirror



On Monday 22nd August, as part of Foyle Pride 2016, Sole Purpose staged an evening of rehearsed readings of scripts in development by Jennifer Clifford and Sheelagh Bradley. This was part of a project that developed from our LGBT Theatre Labs. We worked in partnership with Affirm NI, an organisation dedicated to helping Transgender, Intersex and Non Binary people and their families through peer support, advocacy and training. The project was developed to create awareness of the lives of transgender people and create greater visibility.

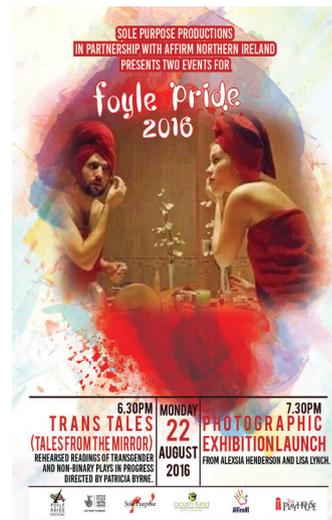
Trans Tales: Tales From The Mirror included two scenes from Alyce's

Diary by Jennifer Clifford which is the story of a woman with a transgender history told in an entertaining Bridget Jones' Diary format. Jennifer and Glen Tilley brought these scenes to life with such sensitive performances which visibly moved the audience.

Kieran Smyth and Muire McCallion performed Sheelagh Bradley's Ghost in the Mirror which is a powerful piece about the pain of being in a body that does not feel like it is the right gender. This piece made a strong impact. Luke Brown, a young transgender poet read his poem An Alternative Heaven for Lost Youth, which had some people in tears.

The performances were followed by the launch of a photographic exhibition of portraits of transgender people, with work by Alessia Henderson and Lisa Lynch. Kerri Henderson and Jennifer Clifford spoke at the launch. The exhibition was held in the plaza of The Derry Playhouse and ran for a week.

The evening overall was a great success, it affirmed the experiences of Trans people and made their lives more visible in Derry Londonderry. The project was supported by the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland through the Acorn Fund.



The Sharek Project

Arabic Language and Culture Project

This project ran from 7th September 2016 for ten weeks culminating in a very successful Arabic Cafe and showcase event on 12th November. The aim of the project was to raise awareness of Arabic language and culture for local people to enable them to be welcoming to Syrian refugees arriving in Derry Londonderry, and also to help refugees with integration with the local community. Arabic speakers facilitated the workshops including some of the newly arrived Syrian families, this was a very important aspect of the project. The project was facilitated by Jo Bird and Fadl Mustapha, with overall management by Patricia Byrne. The workshops covered many aspects of Arabic language and culture including music and dance, poetry and books, Islam and New Year, Arabic films, songs, family histories and stories, and fashion and clothes.

The project increased knowledge and understanding of Arabic culture and created a new self-sustaining Derry Arabic friendship society called Arabridge which is now a social enterprise. The workshops were really popular, offering educational and quality cultural experiences, and good engagement from Syrian families. It demonstrated the need for a project like this on a longer term basis and has the potential to be replicated in other areas where refugees are settling. It demystified the culture and helped forge friendships and links between different communities.

The Sharek Project was funded by Derry City and Strabane District Council.



Audience Responses...

"I have gained more understanding of the lives of the refugees and their family customs. This understanding will support me to be more aware of our shared human condition"

"I met great people who I will say 'Hi' to around town, including some refugee families."

"What a wonderful afternoon at the Arabic Cafe! This is true peace building!"



The Marhaba - Hello Project



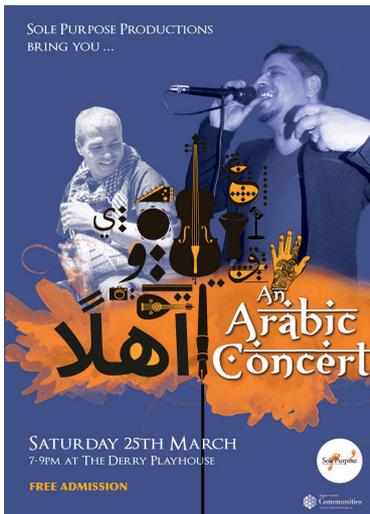
The Marhaba - Hello Project aimed to share Arabic culture with host communities based in Derry Londonderry. As part of the project cultural activities were delivered by Syrian refugees in partnership with Sole Purpose Productions. This project built on the success, learning and working relationships already established by The Sharek Project.

There were four elements to the project. These were an Arabic concert held on Saturday 25th March 2017 in The Derry Playhouse led by Mohamad Noor and his band. A series of Dabke dancing workshops led by Mustafa Algodooa which culminated in a performance during the concert.



A children's songs and lullaby workshop, led by Mohamad Noor and Brendan Brady with children's songs in Arabic, Irish and English and an Arabic Cafe, led by Syrian cooks, at the Nerve Centre on 11th March.

The project was facilitated by Jo Bird and Asem Sweidan and managed by Patricia Byrne. It was funded by the Department for Communities. The project helped further the integration of Syrian families into the cultural and catering sectors of the North West, through its activities, partnership working and engaging artist-translators. It is an excellent way to develop the growing sense of community cohesion.



“Excellent way to develop the growing sense of community cohesion.”

“I saw Blinkered with my students and I was BLOWN AWAY. The subject is dark yet we felt a sense of optimism after the workshop that made us feel there is light at the end of every tunnel no matter how dark it may initially seem.”

Fiona Gallagher, Teacher Donegal VEC

“Blinkered was hands down the most powerful and emotionally intense show I have ever seen.”

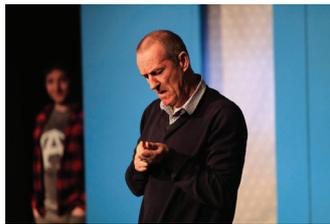
Natasha Brown

“Blinkered was more than I ever expected. It is an absolute credit to the whole production team and actors. Beautiful work and so worthwhile.”

Audience member

Blinkered

by Patricia Byrne
Directed by Shauna Kelpie



Following the success of its first tour in 2016, *Blinkered* went on the road again in February and March 2017. This time we toured to fifteen theatres and schools throughout the island of Ireland, a total of thirty performances. This tour marked 20 years of the groundbreaking work of Sole Purpose.

Blinkered is a hard hitting piece that follows the story of Ryan, a young man who seems fine on the outside but on the inside he is suffering from depression and suicidal thoughts. It is an insightful and poignant play that was developed in consultation with:

Conor McCafferty, Manager at Zest NI; Siobhan O'Neill, Professor of Mental Health Sciences at Ulster University; Bridie Sheridan former Manager of Youthlife and Barry McGale, Director of the National Suicide Research Foundation.

The play is accompanied by an interactive theatre workshop where the audience are encouraged to explore alternative scenarios.

The performances had a strong impact on all who saw it. We ensured that there were suicide prevention counsellors and

members of the Samaritans present at each performance should an audience member need to speak about issues raised in the play.

The stellar cast was made up of Patrick McBrearty, Gemma Walker, Cathy Brennan Bradley and Pat Lynch. Our dedicated production team included Fiona McLaughlin, Niall Cranney, Adrian Wall, Noel Hamilton, Mik O Connell, Chris Madden, and Helen Quigley. The voiceovers were done by Cassie Riggs and Peter Davidson.

The production toured to The Derry Playhouse, The Balar Theatre, The Lyric Theatre, The Alley Theatre, An Grianan, the Axis Theatre Ballymun, Hawks Well Theatre Sligo and Droichead Arts Centre as well as seven secondary level schools in the North and South of Ireland.

This tour of *Blinkered* was funded by the Arts Council of Ireland North South Touring Scheme and the ESB Energy for Generations Fund.

Theatre Lab

Theatre Lab with Dave Duggan for 20 Years of Sole Purpose

On 11th March 2017 Sole Purpose held a special Theatre Lab to mark 20 years of the company. The guest facilitator was Dave Duggan, founder member and Co-Artistic-Director from 1997 to 2008. It was an honour and a pleasure to have Dave work with us on this Theatre Lab. Dave is a dramatist and novelist, he wrote the Oscar-nominated *Dance Lexie Dance* and the Stewart Parker Trust Award winner *Gruagairí* and has directed 10 of his own stage plays.

On the day we had six scripts of different levels and covering many different themes. The writers were Edie Shillue, Joe Brennan, Luna Kalo, Maureen McDaid, Niall McGrath and Sam Burnside. The actors were Dessie Gallagher, John Mulkeen, Maeve Connolly and Cassie Riggs. This was an excellent workshop with a lot of experienced people in the room, it was very constructive and provided good support to writers in developing their work.





“I found the Theatre Lab of great benefit to my writing in general and in particular to the play I’m currently writing. Working with Dave was a real treat. The Theatre Lab is of such benefit to all writers and a real gift.” **Joe Brennan**

“I learned a great deal from everyone, because there was so much experience in the room and everyone was willing to share what they knew. It was the perfect environment for me to develop this work.” **Maureen Mc Daid**

“I cannot praise more highly the value of such an approach to assisting writers develop scripts and the writing methodologies in general.” **Niall McGrath**

The Sustainability Project

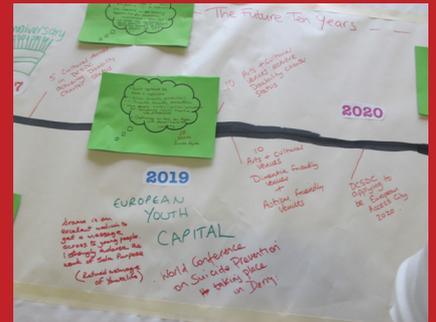
The Sustainability Project sought to deliver a process of permanent and significant change which will lead to long-term sustainability for Sole Purpose Productions. The company recruited Edel Murphy as a Company Development Manager on a six month contract to deliver this project.

Edel worked with Sole Purpose Productions to initiate and develop a number of strategies to support the strengthening and development of the organisation into the future. A key component of her role was to develop a business plan and to realise a strategy to implement the business plan. This was an exciting project building on a legacy of 20 years of work and seeking routes to sustain and inspire new growth.

Edel was a confident ambassador for the organisation, and successfully delivered a business, strategic and associated marketing plan consistent with the values of Sole Purpose Productions. She put in place funding for the Sole Roots Project to deliver workshops for underrepresented groups on the professional stage and for the Sole Purpose 21 Years Festival of Theatre for Social Change which will celebrate our place within socially engaged theatre regionally and nationally.

The company's new vision is ambitious and exciting, requiring significant new input from the Board, new partnerships, community consultation, diversity and innovation in Trusts and Charitable income and income through product sales and sponsorship. Achieving the three year plan will position this organisation strongly at the heart of socially engaged theatre in Northern Ireland.

The project was supported by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.



Behind the scenes....

None of our work would be possible without our dedicated production team and crew members. These talented individuals work tirelessly to ensure that every scene in each performance appears seamless. This year these people included.....

Fiona McLaughlin is a Stage Manager and Sound Technician. She has worked extensively with The Derry Playhouse and was the Stage Manager and Sound Operator for the tour of Blinkered.

Helen Quigley is a highly talented Costume Designer and Set Dresser. She designed the costumes for Blinkered and many other productions for Sole Purpose.

Niall Cranney is the Technical Manager at An Grianan Theatre in Letterkenny. He has worked on many productions for Sole Purpose. This year he was the Lighting Designer for Blinkered.

Mik O'Connell is a Sound Engineer and Producer. A Creative Media Trainer at the Nerve Centre, he worked on Sound Design on Blinkered.

Adrian Wall is a technician at An Grianan Theatre. He worked on sound and lighting on Blinkered.

Noel Hamilton builds sets for the Millennium Forum and other local theatre companies. He built the set for Blinkered and many other handyman jobs.

Chris Madden is a Sound Engineer & Stage Technician for Festival Productions, The Millennium Forum, Savilles AV, Seamus Heaney HomePlace & The Waterfront Hall. He toured with Sole Purpose Productions on the Blinkered Irish Tour 2017.



Activity – April 2016 to March 2017

April/May 2016	Invisible Theatre Project
July 2016	LGBT Theatre Lab with Patricia Byrne
August 2016	Trans Tales: Tales From The Mirror
September – November 2016	The Sharek Project
February - March 2017	The Marhaba Project Arabic Concert, with Dabke dancing, Children's Lullaby Workshop Arabic Cafe
February - March 2017	Blinkered by Patricia Byrne The Derry Playhouse, St Michaels College Enniskillen, Balor Theatre, Lyric Theatre, Alley Theatre, St Ciaran's College Ballygawley, An Grianan Theatre, Crana College Buncrana, St Patricks School Cavan, Royal School Cavan, St Mogue's School Cavan, Axis Theatre Ballymun, Hawks Well Theatre Sligo, Droichead Arts Centre Drogheda.
March 2017	Theatre Lab with Dave Duggan

Past Productions

By Patricia Byrne
Every Move You Make
A Wee Taste
Don't Say A Word
See No Evil
Camden Tales
Under The Carpet

By Dave Duggan
Riders to the Road
AH6905
The Recruiting Office
Scenes from an Inquiry
Waiting.....
Without the Walls
The Shopper and the Boy

By other writers

The House by Edie Shillue

The Maidens' City: A Herstory of the
Walled City by Anne Crilly

Galatea by Lawrence Aronovitch

Clouds on a Mountain Road by
Orna Akad

Did You Come by Boat?
By Elly Omondi Odhiambo and Patricia Byrne
The Shadowmen
by Debbie Caulfield and Rea Curran

Thank You

Our core funders: Arts Council of Northern Ireland

Our programme funders:

An Chomhairle Ealaíon (Arts Council of Ireland) North South Touring Fund
Department for Communities
ESB Energy for Generations
Derry City and Strabane District Council
Community Foundation for Northern Ireland Acorn Fund

Our partners this year:

The Samaritans
Affirm Northern Ireland
The Rainbow Project
Foyle Pride
Arabridge

We would like to say a special thank you to Tom Bradley for coordinating all the Samaritans volunteers and to all the suicide prevention counsellors who worked with us on Blinkered: Conor McCafferty, Bridie Sheridan, Siobhan O'Neill, Barry McGale, Cassie Riggs, Micheal Egan, Colette Ramsey, Wendy McCloskey, Caroline King, Andrew Lipczynski, Nicola Cole, Catherine Healey, Hazel Leahy.

The Derry Playhouse, thank you to all the staff for their continued support.

Photography Credits: Gav Connolly, Alexsia Henderson and Rik Walton



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Sole Purpose is a company limited by guarantee
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Financial statements are available on request.

