



**DREAM  
ARTS**



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

CHARITY REGISTRATION 1162525

*'DreamArts is like a whole other world of freedom'*  
Molly aged 11

[www.dreamarts.org.uk](http://www.dreamarts.org.uk)

# CONTENTS

## Annual Report

The Chair's Message	2.
Friends of DreamArts	3.
Reference & Administration	4.
Structure, Governance & Management	5.
About DreamArts; Charitable Objects and Programmes	6.
Outcomes and Impacts during 2018-19	7.
Express	8.
Experiment	11.
Expand	13.
DreamArts Star Case Study & DreamArts Star	15.
Financial Review	17.
Looking Forward	18.

## Annual Accounts

Report of the Independent Examiner	19.
Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2018	20.
Balance Sheet	21.



Members of Experiment present an al-fresco performance of *Arlo the Alien* at Paddington Central



## THE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

DreamArts has come a long way in the past two years. Not only have we survived the toughest period ever faced by the charity sector without cutting services or losing staff, we increased our quality and scope.

For example DreamArts pushed forward Express Plus which is the only free therapy service of its kind in Westminster and gives a safe space for young people and in some cases their parent to address issues including domestic violence, sexual abuse and suicide isolation. And we initiated projects with young carers who have no other equivalent support.

Furthermore in 2018/19 we moved from survival to consolidation and growth. We're proud that the quality of our work transforming young lives through arts and therapy has been recognised by financial growth of 50%. This helped us empower young people from Experiment to devise their own acclaimed immersive theatre piece entitled *Red Ribbons*, working in collaboration with international theatre company Les Enfants Terrible, DreamArts' first theatre-company-in-residence.

Young people generating incredible creative work is only part of the story at our Experiment weekend companies. An even greater cause for celebration is evidenced by our Outcome Stars which rose an average of 15% compared to last year. 100% of participants stated they had improved their ability to share their ideas and learn new skills, raising their self-esteem which transfers to the home, school and future workplace. Their mental wellbeing improved as 100% stated they got to explore and their thoughts and feelings, and social isolation was reduced as 88% made new friends and creatively problem-solved as a team.

DreamArts is setting the standards for fusing creativity and therapeutic arts, recognised by significant longer-term funding. This includes major new grants from The Mercer's Company and we are delighted to have been chosen by William Jackson Food Group, owners of Abel & Cole, to receive sponsorship over 3 years. This builds on support from Christie's and I was thrilled to have been part of staff fundraising efforts which raised £10k to support DreamArts.

DreamArts' reputation for excellence is reflected by new commissions from Westminster Early Help Service to deliver innovative projects that enable us to reach those most in need, including primary school pupils at risk of school exclusion. DreamArts has also been commissioned to develop and co-deliver City Lions, Westminster City Council's flagship initiative launched in summer 2018 which has supported over eight hundred 13-16 year olds to access creative opportunities on their doorstep.

Our achievements are credit to our outstanding team of practitioners and volunteers led by our CEO Graham Whitlock and our Programme Director Anne-Marie Reid Cofie. A big thanks also to our dedicated board of Trustees, a group strengthened by the appointment of David Mumeni who is himself testament to the impact of DreamArts – David was a DreamArts participant and then a leader who trained at Drama Centre and is founder of Open Door which helps talented young people without the financial support to gain a place at one of the UK's leading drama schools; Open Door was awarded School of the Year by The Stage Newspaper who also listed David in their Top 100 Theatre Most Influential.

**POLLY KNEWSTUB, Chair**







Members of *Experiment* perform at Madame Tussauds to launch The Young Westminster Foundation

### FRIENDS OF DREAMARTS

The following members of the DreamArts Family kindly donated to the charity during 2018-19;

<i>Ovation</i>	Jon Gyngell   Harriet Sutton   Sean Dennis   John Hyatt   Mark Bunyan Zaffer Raniwala   Asif Raniwala
<i>Applause</i>	Johannah Hogg   Ed Lascelles   Anne Reyersbach   Osahon Orchard Naomi Roper   Lana Guascone



## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION

**Full Name:** DreamArts

**Status:** Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIO) registration number 1162525 (please note that between November 1997 and 31 April 2017 DreamArts operated as a charitable trust, registration number 1070614. From 1 April 2017 assets were transferred from the Charity to the new CIO).

<b>Trustees</b>	<i>Date of appointment</i>	<i>Date of resignation</i>	<i>Serving in financial year ending 2019</i>	<i>Trustees on date of Accounts approval</i>
Ian Dougal (Secretary)	Nov '13		Yes	Yes
Toni Medcalf	Sept '15		Yes	Yes
Jodie Dalmeda	Feb '16		Yes	Yes
Naomi Roper	Feb '16		Yes	Yes
Elsa Madrolle	Nov '16		Yes	Yes
Asif Raniwala (Treasurer)	Feb '17		Yes	Yes
Polly Knewstub (Chair)	June '17		Yes	Yes
Jeffrey Sampson	April '18	Oct '19	Yes	No
David Mumeni	March '18		Yes	Yes

**Primary Office:** Unit 122, Great Western Studios, 65 Alfred Rd, London W2 5ES  
From Dec 2019; 2 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH

**Principal Officers:** Chief Executive – Graham Whitlock  
Programme Director – Anne-Marie Reid-Cofie

**Bankers** The Cooperative Bank      **Payroll** Willow Pay Ltd, Kingsway Business Park, Hampton TW12 2HD

**Fundraiser** Sue Crow  
The Future Is... Ltd      **Independent Examiner** Albury Associates  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor 1 Hobbs House  
Bessborough Road  
Harrow HA1 3EX



Members of *Carers Express* on their City Break residential



# STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

## Governing Document

The Charity is a Charitable Incorporated Company (CIO - registration number 1162525). From April 2017 we began transferring the existing Charity's assets and liabilities to the CIO and the existing Charity will be wound up.

## Appointment of Trustees

Trustees are nominated by serving members of the Board, and are appointed at Trustees Meetings and retire by rotation or are eligible for re-election. Trustees serve for a 3 year term, after which a Trustee is eligible for re-election for a further 2 terms of 3 years and up to a maximum of 3 terms.

**Officers:** The Board nominate and elect the Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

**Observers:** Board of Trustee Meetings are attended by the Chief Executive and Programme Director, with other team members regularly invited to share the work they've been delivering.

## Trustees Induction and Training

New Trustees undergo a meeting with the Chair and the Chief Executive to brief them on their legal obligations under charity law; the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association; the financial performance of the charity; and aspects of the charity's work. Where possible a visit to see DreamArts' work in action is arranged. Trustees are encouraged to attend as many DreamArts projects throughout the year as they can.

## Organisation

The Board of Trustees can have up to 15 members meeting at least 6 times per year and administer the charity's strategy, finance, audit and compliance. To facilitate effective operations the Chief Executive has delegated authority for operational matters including finance, employment, policies (including safeguarding), and service delivery.

## Related Parties

DreamArts is a partner within the **Early Help Partnership**. This is a collaboration between Westminster's statutory young people's services and children's centres and is working alongside charities and voluntary agencies.

We have also been designated a core partner of the **Early Help Targeted Service**, Westminster's statutory service that supports families in need, and as a result we are commissioned to deliver work including supporting primary school pupils at risk of school exclusion.

As an outreach organization DreamArts has an **extensive referral and partnership network** through which we share and contribute to the work of a large number of voluntary and statutory agencies that provide a range of services to children and young people.

## Risk Management

The charity has a risk management strategy which comprises;

- an annual review of the risks the charity may face;
- establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the plan; and
- implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should these risks materialise.

This work has identified the need to mitigate **financial risk** by the setting of a reserves policy to cover costs in the event of the charity ceasing its activities. **Child protection** issues are central to the charity's work, with all staff and volunteers undergoing safeguarding training in Child Protection, Boundaries and Disclosure, and those leading direct work with young people checked through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). Key staff also receive annual Safeguarding and Welfare training to keep up to date with requirements and best practice.





# ABOUT DREAMARTS

## CHARITABLE OBJECTS

Our CIO **Memorandum and Articles of Association** state our object is;

*‘To advance in life and help children and young people in the London Borough of Westminster and other Greater London Boroughs by providing support and creative activities which develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals’.*

**Mission:** To transform young lives fusing arts and therapy.

**Objectives:** To empower young people to:

- Explore who they are
- Strengthen relationships
- Make positive life choices

**Outcomes:** Our Theory of Change provides a framework for the difference we want to have on the lives of participants and helps focus our current work and shape our future direction. The six core outcomes our projects aim to achieve are;

- Develop positive relationships with peers and adults
- Explore their views, thoughts and feelings
- Share ideas and skills with others
- Take a creative risk
- Take a creative lead
- Be open to learning new skills



*DreamArts Carer's Express participants create sculptures exploring 'home' at Tate Britain.*

## PROGRAMMES

DreamArts achieves its charitable objects by delivering three programmes of work;

### EXPRESS

Creative and therapeutic arts projects for those facing particular challenges in their lives, delivered in partnership with other charities, social services, with parents and, most importantly, with young people themselves.

**Express Collective** enables young people to choose an issue and a creative medium in which to explore solutions. DreamArts delivers a tailor-made project to meet their needs, empowering them to make positive choices. Projects include *Carers Express*.

**Family Express** enables parents and children to create, share and learn together as equal partners and form stronger relationships.

**Express Plus** provides individual, parent-child and family arts therapy for those finding it difficult to manage their feelings and behaviours. It is the only free therapy service of its kind in Westminster and enables clients to explore their challenges and strengths and build a greater sense of self-worth.

### EXPERIMENT

Weekend Creative Labs enable 7-19 year olds to explore and unleash their talents. Our skilled professionals empower participants to create their own work which leads to better self-exploration - from new musicals to radio plays and short films. Experiment reduces social isolation and builds positive relationships with peers and adults. No other equivalent affordable arts programme exists in Westminster, the heart of UK Theatre land.

### EXPAND

Our leadership schemes expand young people's professional skills and horizons, empowering them to lead their peers and run their own projects, becoming creative entrepreneurs and a positive force within their community.



## OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS DURING 2018-19

DreamArts projects engaged 340 participants. 74% live in the 5 most severely deprived wards in Westminster, a borough which has the 5<sup>th</sup> highest level of child poverty in the UK. Two-thirds of participants came from Black Minority Ethnic backgrounds including 25% from Arabic-speaking communities, and 65% were female.

### Outcomes

Participants told us they achieved the following outcomes:

- **95% learned new skills**
- **82% said they had developed positive relationships**
- **85% explored their thoughts and feelings**
- **79% shared their ideas**
- **79% showed their skills**
- **70% took a lead**

We undertook a snapshot survey completed by 58 of our Experiment members asking them what they thought about our services:

- **100% said staff made everyone feel welcome and are friendly and approachable**
- **100% said they made new friends**
- **96% said they developed their communication skills and developed their confidence**

Parents get involved in our evaluation too, answering questions based on our Outcome Star. A total of 28 parents and carers responded:

- **100% would recommend DreamArts**
- **100% said their child had improved their ability to share ideas**
- **100% felt their child was better able to express their views and feelings**
- **96% had improved their ability to take a lead.**

### The DreamArts Way

DreamArts has an ethos of 'yes you can, so let's do it together'. We invest in our skilled staff who learn to combine arts-based practice with aspects of attachment, systemic and neuroscience theories. This creates rich, secure and understanding relationships that encourage those who have complex needs and emotions to engage and reflect upon themselves. Core to this 'DreamArts Way' is PACE (Playful, Accepting, Curious and Empathetic), an attachment based relational model that aims to make participants feel safe and encourages trust. We believe we are the only organisation applying PACE within a youth arts setting and as part of our culture of evidencing our work we are collaborating with The Centre for Youth Impact to explore this approach. In addition our core team recently completed Trauma Informed Training which will further enhance our wellbeing impact.

*"I have learned to be more kind."*

*"Doing DreamArts has helped me learn about me".*

*"I agree with people's ideas more now."*

*"It helped me express my feelings through camera."*

*"I am proud of learning my cues, my confidence, my lines, my feelings, and making friends."*

*"We are very grateful for DreamArts for building D's confidence. He has learned to express himself much better after just 1 term with DreamArts"*





## EXPRESS

Express engaged with 151 participants.

**Express Plus:** Since re-launching in January '17, Express Plus has brought on board 4 trainee arts therapists to work alongside our Programme Director. This has increased our capacity from 4 clients to 26 enabling us to support individuals and provide parent-child sessions for those finding it difficult to manage their emotions and behaviours. The service is being delivered after school at children's centres in the North West, North East and South areas of Westminster, giving a safe space to address issues including domestic violence, sexual abuse and suicidal ideation.

**Family Express** involved 34 children and 18 parents in Church Street and Westbourne, the wards with the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> highest levels of child poverty in London. 11 families were referred by Gateway Primary School, The Portman Family Centre, and Westbourne Park Family Centre, and highlights included a trip along the Regents Canal on The Electric Barge.

*"DreamArts sessions helped build good relationship and strengthen family units. Some (parents) were very hard to engage with their children. They improved a lot and are now more able to engage with their children".*

*Lana Alwaily, Portman Family Centre*

**Express Collective** saw the launch of Creative Campaigns at St Gabriel's School based on the severely deprived Churchill Gardens Estate. This initiative is commissioned as part of Westminster's School Inclusion Pilot supporting pupils at risk from exclusion and 29 pupils become peer-educators, engaging positively within their school. Over 12 weeks they produced four

short films around themes they chose looking at the impact of physical activities on mental and emotional well-being, and were presented to the whole school at a Family Sharing Assembly.

*"My class has a high (30%+) proportion of children with special educational needs and, in addition, a high proportion who have additional social and emotional needs that can present as challenging behaviour. Therefore, the skills and experiences were extremely valuable and the outcomes, in terms of the work they produced, were amazing.*

*When I talked to children about what they enjoyed about DreamArts they said things like, "it helped us to work together as a class", "it helped us to think about things that were important to us" and "it was so fun, I never thought I could do it but when I had the chance I was determined to make it work".*

*Julia Kukiewicz, Year 5 teacher, St Gabriel's School*

Express Collective delivered an 8-week Dance and Film project at Churchill Gardens Youth Club between January and March engaging 11 participants aged 7-13 using Tik Tok inspired movements and vlogging material to improve team working and communication skills. Participants moved from struggling to engage and support each other to working together and producing a film entitled Normal Day.



## EXPRESS FOCUS: CARERS EXPRESS

Carers Express brings together young people aged 11-19 who provide emotional or practical support to a loved one. They have a chance to share their experiences creatively, have their voices heard about issues that affect them, and 'be a kid'. The project offers 1 to 1 support with young carers and their families and regular group sessions ranging from theatre trips to fashion or film-making.

Young people have ownership to design a service to reflect their needs; they and their parents fed back that overnight holiday projects provided important respite, creating opportunities to go places and do things they would never otherwise be able to. In response DreamArts organised a London City Break hosted at Westminster School, enabling access the City's cultural riches. This included workshops at Somerset House, a trip to see WICKED, a movie and group meals.

Carers Express also went on a mini-holiday outside of London, a 2-night residential at Kingswood Activity Centre. Most didn't know anyone beforehand but developed close bonds as they engaged with zip-wire and drama activities exploring their sense of identity, drawing themselves as superheroes. They explored their concerns ("Friends used to come to my house and hide from my brother and that used to upset me") as well as strengths and what makes them proud ("My power is to be happy. I'm proud because I help who I care for").

DreamArts is working with Westminster Early Help Service to develop a unified offer of support for young people with caring responsibilities and their families. A primary outcome is to support engagement with other services; this has included 2 young carers receiving parent-child therapy through Express Plus; 3 joining Experiment; and 2 have joined Tate Britain's Circuit programme aimed at connecting young people with galleries.

*"It gave me a huge confidence boost and allowed me to be honest - with myself and my feelings. Also to be open instead of keeping them to myself."*

*"This group is the only space I feel comfortable talking about it (my caring role)."*

*"It's just time to relax and be yourself."*

*"Carer's Express is a fantastic organisation which offers young carers a space of their own to be the young people they are and leave their caring responsibilities at home. I have referred a young person who has had an amazing time trying new things, being creative and having fun with other young carers. From taking the plunge on a zip wire, to going backstage at a West End musical and having a safe space to share feelings and worries – these are experiences he will treasure and learn from. Staff go the extra mile to understand each young person's needs and make them feel welcome. My young person sums it up best: 'it's a place you can talk about your emotions and no one judges you.'"*

Alice Yglesis, Social Worker



## Case Study

J aged 12 attended our outdoor activity residential. Referred by the family social worker, J supports his dad who has Parkinsons and his younger brother. He has a lot of problems integrating at school and controlling his anger which frequently leads to him getting 'isolation detention'. As a result he was denied the opportunity to go on a school trip to a similar activity centre. The Carers Express trip enabled him to have a similar experience to his classmates in a smaller group, and prove to himself that he could participate in group activities.

J opened up about his caring role;

*"Out there I don't talk about it, but in here it feels normal. I managed to do a lot of scary challenges like zip wire. I am proud of being a carer here because I get more respect and self-esteem."*

In contrast to his school life, he displayed no behavioural problems during the trip. On seeing the photos of John at the residential his mum said 'It's so good to see him happy' because she often sees his 'angry side'. We will work closely with J and his social worker to continue supporting his development of life skills that impact on the home and school.





## EXPERIMENT

Experiment Weekend Company gave 105 7-19 year olds living in some of the UK's most severely deprived areas the chance to express themselves by creating their own work. Our grass-roots outreach efforts engaged a cross section of young people of whom 63% stated they are from families on benefits whilst half come from homes with English as a second language.

On Saturdays in South Westminster and on Sundays in Church Street participants developed teamwork and communication skills, learning from top creative professionals. Between October '18 and March '19 they created and performed their own original work including 4 new musicals and an original immersive theatre piece. Members were invited to perform at the launch of Young Westminster Foundation at Madam Tussauds and to write songs for and performed on Westminster's New Year's Day Parade float.

### New Musicals & DreamArts Gala

During October-November '18 participants were introduced to skills in how to devise their own work, from character development to improvisation skills. This was a significant challenge for those who had never created their own work, and involved developing a strong sense of trust within the group and nurturing reflection, risk-taking and confidence in communicating ideas. Our Support Practitioners played a key role in enabling participation from those who normally struggle to engage in a group.

Participants chose themes they wanted to explore which included bullying, friendship, loss, and feelings of isolation. By the end of the first term each group had the skeleton for their musicals including sketches for songs which they presented in a peer-sharing session which included giving critical appraisals of each other's work.

From January-March groups refined ideas and developed leadership skills, leading peers during warm-up exercises and taking responsibility for staging and choreography. This climaxed at the Gala with performances at Paddington Arts for 180 family, friends and members of the wider community.

All ages developed pieces that were moving, hard-hitting and thought-provoking. Each reflected their concerns and highlighted how in-touch they are with social and political issues including state control, reliable/fake news, the impact of technology (good and bad), the plight of new arrivals, and the power of myth and popularity. Pieces included:

Help!: The 7–9 year old Saturday group created a story about a Mermaid Fairy Princess losing her tail and gaining a new perspective on life.

Phaedra's Friends: The 10–13 year old Saturday group created a story about two sisters in search of their brother that took place across London, Jamaica and India in the 1930s against a backdrop of a jewel heist, where the characters learned the strength of families and the importance of honesty.

I Heard it in the Playgroup: The Sunday 7–9 groups created a story about a school detention where students discover all their teachers are aliens in disguise. It explored the importance of sharing your feelings.

Hold the Line: The 10–13 year old Sunday group created a futuristic physical theatre piece inspired by the perils of reality TV, exploring the price of fame and greed.

*"I have achieved to not be shy and now I share my ideas."*

Participant aged 9

*"I have achieved working in big groups and my teamwork has improved."*

Participant aged 11



## Red Ribbons immersive theatre

Our Performance Company aged 13-19 devised and presented *Red Ribbons*, an original immersive performance collaborating with international award-winning theatre company Les Enfants Terribles (LET). The project culminated with 3 promenade performances reopening St Mary Magdalene's Church on the Westbourne Estate.

Participants shared their views, thoughts, and feelings on what's important to young people today. Three main themes came out: mental health, class, and time. These were then explored through improvisation exercises and forum theatre, informing the final piece in which characters from different time periods and classes connect to share their experiences with mental health issues and ultimately solve a mystery.

Young people took control at every level—writing dialogue and music through to choosing lights, set and making props, and deciding the routes the promenade audience would take through the building to experience their piece. They directed the majority of scenes supported by Joe Hufton, a director with LET whose award-winning productions include *Alice's Adventures Underground*. Participants were introduced to the LET method such as the concept of staggering the timings of scenes and changing their order and maintaining narrative structure within an immersive, promenade setting.

Performances were universally praised by audience members including Karen Buck MP, the Lord Mayor of Westminster, and theatre critic Michael Coveney. As a result of the project LET provided shadowing opportunities for participants on their professional productions, and will be returning to develop a new show with DreamArts in 2020.

*'The cast were remarkable in a work of political and cultural significance.'*

*Michael Coveney, Theatre Critic*

*"It's good to be able to share what's going on for me with others".*

*"One of the best things this year is that I have taken on a new task and perspective of performance; lighting".*



## EXPAND

### Step Up Leadership

DreamArts trained 17 aspiring young creatives to give them the skills and knowledge to become leaders and enabled 2 young people to run their own projects.

Sessions included the chance for trainees to explore the impact the arts can have on young lives, how to influence others and different approaches for being someone others listen to, as well as areas such as boundaries and equal opportunities. Masterclasses were delivered by industry professionals including DreamArts alumni Sylvia Darklwa Ohemeng who trained at Rose Bruford and has stage managed at The National Theatre and The Young Vic, and included a behind-the-scenes look at The National Theatre and tickets to their acclaimed production *Octeroon*.

100% of young people said they had developed their presentation skills, and four of our older members went on to volunteer and help younger members at Experiment on Sundays, supporting them to develop and rehearse their own musicals.

One Advanced Leader, Sean MacBarber, staged a Halloween cabaret programming aspiring talent. Another leader, Zhui Ning Chang, directed a play entitled *Inside Voices* which had 6 sell-out performances at The Vaults Festival, including attendance by 10 members of DreamArts Performance Company. The play is a three-hander and blends dark comedy and magical realism to shine a spotlight on Southeast Asian Muslim women, exploring feminism, faith and freedom, and the production is presented by an all-female, all-Asian cast and creative team.



*“With DreamArts there’s been a lot of great mentoring support and the funding has been great especially at the beginning when we didn’t know if we’d be able to do the play. It helped build my leadership and also my general communication skills and how to handle a project as big as this”.*  
Zhui Ning Chang, Advanced Leader, 21





## City Lions

DreamArts was commissioned to help develop City Lions, Westminster City Council's flagship project to support 13-16 year olds living in the borough's deprived areas to engage with creative opportunities on their doorstep. DreamArts CEO Graham Whitlock produced the programme plan and we were commissioned to deliver the pilot in June 2018. Working in collaboration with Somerset House we engaged 45 young people from Avenues Youth Project, St Marylebone School and King Solomon Academy. Participants visited Somerset House, took part in creative workshops and met artists with skills ranging from digital art to fashion and photography.

DreamArts continues to support delivery of the full City Lions programme and is commissioned to provide strategic support as well as a Creative Curator to lead holiday and school-based projects with young people who may not otherwise know about or engage with the arts. This is particularly important at a time when creativity is increasingly squeezed out of the school curriculum.

*"I thought art was just about painting. Now I know it's about so much more. It's about life."*

*"I think I could do this maybe, like be an artist, and say and make things that challenge people."*

*"I enjoyed interacting with people I wouldn't otherwise meet, as well as visiting places and doing activities I wouldn't go out of my way to do normally."*

## An Evening with Russell Brand

DreamArts received a surprise telephone call from Russell Brand. It transpired Russell had been supported by DreamArts founder Liz York as a teenager when she ran Pimlico Youth Project.

So in July 2018 Russell gave a special presentation to DreamArts members and friends, a scratch performance of his new show telling his story using monologues from Shakespeare. The evening included a Q&A with show director Ian Rickson (former Artistic Director of the Royal Court) hosted by DreamArts alumni Luke Wilson.



## MEMBER CASE STUDY

### The Boy Under the Table

This is the journey of a young person who has been supported by DreamArts Experiment. We'll call him Mark.

Mark spent his first and most of his second term at DreamArts hiding under tables. He preferred little eye contact and he'd remove himself from drama activities and even simple games like 'Stuck in the Mud', preferring to be under the table. He didn't seem to be able to listen or take a cue or say a line. We'd trained with our Programme Director on participation and what that meant, e.g. if you are listening outside the door of a workshop is that participation?

We decided yes it is. We decided to leave Mark under the table when he sought refuge there and slowly he began to contribute to the play. We developed a method of splitting lines into two so that even if his attendance was infrequent or if he wasn't going to say a line there was another participant who would support him by helping him with that line e.g. he would begin the line and they would finish it or they would begin the line and he would finish it so it didn't matter if he didn't quite come in because they could support him or indeed sensitively wait if he was going to say the line. That worked for everyone and the ensemble was very supportive and demonstrated empathy and kindness. In the end he did do the show, performing in a little trio with two other actors playing a similar role.

We were aware Mark had witnessed domestic violence and that hiding under the table was his response to that trauma. We didn't see him in the October term but then a couple of weeks into the January term David our Project Producer came and said Mark had arrived and was outside, wanted to come in and had brought his little brother as well. We were

delighted. It emerged over the next few weeks that Mark, despite his trauma, had clearly been taking in absolutely everything we had been doing earlier in the year. We knew this because we thought we would have to start again with him. However he immediately knew how to navigate the stage, understood terminology and stage directions and had the most mellifluous rich speaking voice. We needed a role covered at the last minute and Mark stepped in. He was incredible. He became the person everyone relied upon if somebody was ill or absent.

Mark had been suffering trauma and the effects were such that if someone had walked into the drama studio in his first year with us they may have been forgiven for seeing a child with complex sensory needs, and they may even have wondered what the point was of Mark being there. By the end of his returning term Mark was nominated by all staff to receive the Liz York Special Achievement Award for contributing most to the group and their own skills. His face when he collected that award had the power to energise a charity for many years to come. Well done to Mark.



Experiment members present their new musical *On the Line*

## DREAMARTS STAR

### David Mumeni

David Mumeni recently became a Trustee of DreamArts, but it's a charity he knows well having joined as an aspiring performer in 2001 aged 14.

David was part of DreamArts' first new musical, 1001 Arabian Nights, which performed at The Royal Opera House and saw David learn how to dance with a sword! He went on to play lead roles in *Romeo n' Juliet* and *Battle of the Fairy Tales* before wanting to explore what it's like on the other side of the stage as a director working on *Metropolis*.

David Mumeni was part of DreamArts' very first Expand leadership scheme where he staged his own comedy night at The Cockpit Theatre. David continued his leadership journey and became an assistant director and a drama facilitator for DreamArts.

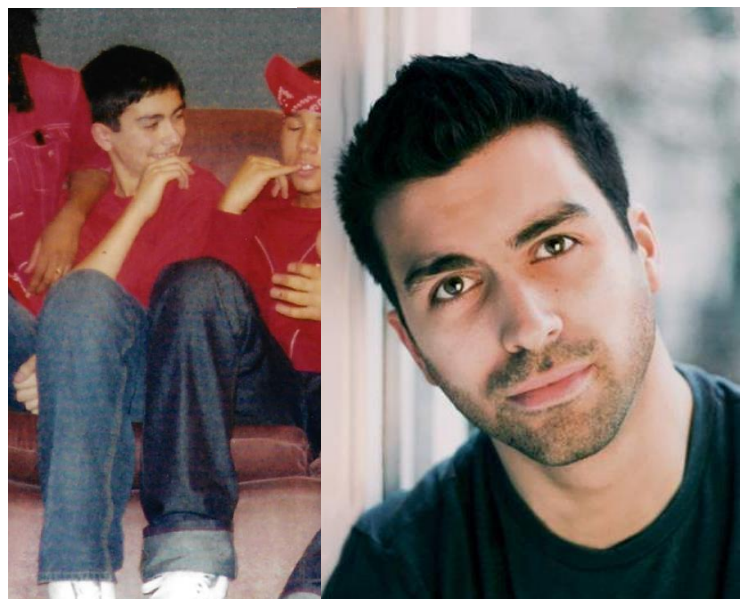
David went on to train as an actor at Drama Centre and has performed lead roles at The Royal Court, his TV work includes *Fresh Meat* and *The Windsors*, and film credits include *The Inbetweeners Movie* and *Mission Impossible 6*.

In 2018 David launched Open Door, a major new Arts Council-funded initiative to get young people who may not have the financial support or networks into the UK's leading Drama Schools. The initiative has had an amazing impact, featuring in the Big Issue Top 100 Change Makers and awarded School of the Year by The Stage newspaper who also listed David in their Top 100 Theatre's Most Influential. Open Door not only supports aspiring performers but also young people wanting to work behind the scenes, and last year their group of 51 young people received 65 offers, with a third of students starting at Guildhall coming via Open Door.

David came along to our Expand Leadership Scheme to pass on advice for future aspiring leaders;

*"I was lucky to have DreamArts growing up. It gave me a focus when most of my friends didn't have any and it taught me so much about myself. I come from a working class inner-city background and could never have afforded stage school.*

*I would urge young people to get involved in as much as possible. The DreamArts leadership training opened up a world of opportunities as a facilitator - when other acting graduates were working in bars I was able to get paid doing something I love, passing my skills to others with organisations like National Youth Theatre".*





## FINANCIAL REVIEW

**It is the opinion of the Board of Trustees that the charity remains financially sound.**

**Income for the year ending 31 March 2019 totaled £230,888 whilst expenditure was £221,773. This produced a year-end surplus of £9,115, leaving the charity with reserves of £34,583.**

Incoming resources rose 50% from last year at £221,773 (2018 = £165,024). Our main source of income this year has been grants applied for by the charity primarily to deliver its core programmes. The level of this funding source has risen to £171,766 (2018 = £142,836). This includes a major new 2-year grant from The Mercers' Company of £40k over 2 years towards our core costs, and a 3-year grant of £10k per annum from BBC Children in Need towards Express Plus in addition to their existing grant of £40k which supports Experiment.

In 2017 our second main source of funding had been commissioned income of £20,832 which fell to £1,571 in 2018. In 2019 commissions rose to £39,906 which included developing and delivering aspects of City Lions, our Inclusions commission and providing creative elements to Westminster's New Year's Day Parade float.

Our income from donations has been hugely significant and generated £13,781 (2018 = £19,181). As part of this staff at Christie's generously donated £10k raised from a range of events including an auction of artwork created by staff, bringing their support for DreamArts to a total of £20k over the past two financial years.

Charitable expenditure was £203,042 (2018 = £153,125). £97,610 was expended on Express, £93,543 on Experiment and £11,888 on Expand. The costs spent on generating funds was £17,217 (2018= £12,070) which includes 25% of our Chief Executive's time. Our governance costs for the year were £1,514 (2018 = £720). Thus, we continue our policy of living within our means.

### Reserves Policy

Reserves at year end stood at £34,036 (2018 = 25,468). We have therefore achieved what trustees consider to be a satisfactory reserves level since the charity has no fixed liabilities beyond its core full-time staff team and is structured to be able to reduce its work if funding is not secured for a particular programme. As the charity grows we would like to achieve reserves levels of £40k to assist with our cash-flow.

### Supporters in 2018-19

BBC Children in Need  
The Mercers' Company  
William Shelton Education Trust  
Church Street Neighbourhood Keepers Fund  
Arts Council England  
Christie's  
Awards for All  
City of Westminster My Westminster Fund  
Young Westminster Foundation  
John Lyon's Charity  
Grosvenor Estate London Community  
Foundation Living Communities Fund  
Westminster Adult Education Service  
Deutsche Bank  
Strand Parishes  
Hyde Park Estate Charity  
Westminster Amalgamated Charity  
Pimlico Million  
Headley Foundation



## LOOKING FORWARD

The work of DreamArts has never been more important as the wellbeing needs of young people continue to rise. We have the vision and expertise to help meet these needs so that young people across Westminster can express themselves on their own terms, explore their challenges and build on their strengths so they can realise their potential.

In Westminster there are 5,000 young people living in poverty in our target wards. In 2018 we set ourselves the target of raising our income from £165k to £300k each year by 2021 so we can double our reach. We are on target to achieve this – in 2019 we secured £230,888 and worked with 340 participants, 74% of whom live in our target wards.

To continue it is critical we ‘shout about our success’ and create awareness and understanding of our work in order to:

- **Develop delivery partnerships that are deeper, stronger and longer-term.**
- **Secure commissions that enable us to reach young people most in need and provide us with key resources.**
- **Build a network of support from business and individual Friends to secure, sustain and grow our vision.**

New support from The Media Trust via John Lyons’ Charity will enhance our communications. This includes the launch of a new DreamArts You Tube Channel and appointing a Content Producer to support members to tell their stories and celebrate their success.

Our reputation for quality and innovation led Westminster City Council to commission us to develop *City Lions*, their flagship programme to help 13-16 year olds get involved in cultural and creative opportunities in Westminster. DreamArts delivers creative aspects of the 2-year pilot, enabling us to connect with

hundreds of young people in schools and youth provisions throughout the borough.

Having been chosen as a core partner by the Early Help Service, we are now being commissioned to deliver part of their inclusions pilot which supports 9-10 year olds at risk from school exclusion to form stronger, positive relationships at school.

Key priorities for the coming period are:

- Double our team of Qualifying Therapists so Express Plus can grow from supporting 26 individuals to 45 each year across the borough’s 3 Family Hubs.
- Build our Carers’ Express provision in a new partnership with Early Help so that young people and their families have wrap-around support to help meet their needs.
- Inspire members by enabling them to work with leading creatives, including continuing work with the award-winning Les Enfants Terribles as our Experiment company in residence.

### Future Fundraising

2018-19 saw DreamArts emerging from incredibly challenging times and into a period of sustainability and growth. An increase in our grant income by 32% over the past 3 years demonstrates our belief that Trusts and Foundations recognise the impact we have and want to invest in sustaining and advancing our work.

Becoming Christie’s Charity of the Year was an important step towards developing our links with business and we are delighted William Jackson Food Group have pledged 3 years of support. We believe many businesses within Westminster don’t know the level of child poverty suffered by those living right on their doorstep, but who would want to support young people and charities like DreamArts with the vision to empower them.



## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF DREAMARTS

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### Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Dreamarts

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Dreamarts (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 2019.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Kiran D Patel FCA  
Albury Associates Limited  
2nd Floor, One Hobbs House,  
Harrovia Business Village  
Bessborough Road  
Harrow  
Middlesex  
HA1 3EX

Date: 29 January 2020





**DREAMARTS**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019**

	2019	2019	2019	2018
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>	<b>Restricted Fund £</b>	<b>Unrestricted Fund £</b>	<b>Total £</b>	<b>Total Funds £</b>
Donations and Legacies	-	19,216	19,216	22,188
Incoming resources from charitable activity	146,766	64,906	211,672	142,836
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>146,766</b>	<b>84,122</b>	<b>230,888</b>	<b>165,024</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>				
Raising funds	-	17,217	17,217	12,070
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Express	55,448	42,890	98,338	68,121
Experiment	89,318	4,923	94,241	74,519
Expand	2,000	9,977	11,977	9,765
Other	-	-	-	720
<b>Total</b>	<b>146,766</b>	<b>75,007</b>	<b>221,773</b>	<b>165,195</b>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,115</b>	<b>9,115</b>	<b>(171)</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>				
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25,468</b>	<b>25,468</b>	<b>25,639</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>34,583</b>	<b>34,583</b>	<b>25,468</b>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 29 January 2020 and were signed on its behalf by:



A Raniwala - Trustee

**DREAMARTS**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AT 31 MARCH 2019**

		<b>2019 Unrestricted fund £</b>	<b>2018 Total funds £</b>
	Notes		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	6	<b>41,476</b>	35,811
Cash at bank		<b><u>9,277</u></b>	<u>4,283</u>
		<b>50,753</b>	40,094
 <b>CREDITORS</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	7	<b>(16,170)</b>	(14,626)
		<b><u>34,583</u></b>	<u>25,468</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
		<b>34,583</b>	25,468
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
		<b><u>34,583</u></b>	<u>25,468</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			
		<b><u>34,583</u></b>	<u>25,468</u>
 <b>FUNDS</b>	8		
Unrestricted funds		<b><u>34,583</u></b>	<u>25,468</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<b><u>34,583</u></b>	<u>25,468</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 29 January 2020 and were signed on its behalf by:



A Raniwala - Trustee

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

#### Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

#### Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

#### Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

#### Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

#### Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

### 2. RAISING FUNDS

#### Raising donations and legacies

	2019	2018
	£	£
Support costs	<u>17,217</u>	<u>12,071</u>

**12,071**

### 3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2019 nor for the year ended 31 March 2018.

#### Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2019 nor for the year ended 31 March 2018.



**DREAMARTS****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019****4. STAFF COSTS**

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	<b>2019</b>	2018
Full Time	<b>2</b>	2
Part Time	<b>4</b>	6
Freelance Project Staff	<b><u>12</u></b>	<u>8</u>
	<b><u>18</u></b>	<u>16</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

**5. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted fund £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>	
Donations and legacies	22,188
Incoming Resources from charitable activity	<u>142,836</u>
<b>Total</b>	165,024
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>	
Raising funds	12,070
<b>Charitable activities</b>	
Express	68,121
Experiment	74,519
Expand	9,765
Other	<u>720</u>
<b>Total</b>	165,195
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>	(171)
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>	
Total funds brought forward	25,639
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<u>25,468</u>

**6. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	<b>2019</b>	2018
	<b>£</b>	£
Trade debtors	<b>41,231</b>	35,566
Other debtors	<b><u>245</u></b>	<u>245</u>
	<b><u>41,476</u></b>	<u>35,811</u>

# DREAMARTS

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

### 7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2019 £	2018 £
Trade creditors	14,670	13,926
Other creditors	1,500	700
	<u>16,170</u>	<u>14,626</u>

### 8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/4/18 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/19 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	25,468	9,115	34,583
	<u>25,468</u>	<u>9,115</u>	<u>34,583</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>25,468</u>	<u>9,115</u>	<u>34,583</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	230,888	(221,773)	9,115
	<u>230,888</u>	<u>(221,773)</u>	<u>9,115</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>230,888</u>	<u>(221,773)</u>	<u>9,115</u>

#### Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/4/17 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/18 £
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>			
General fund	25,639	(171)	25,468
	<u>25,639</u>	<u>(171)</u>	<u>25,468</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>25,639</u>	<u>(171)</u>	<u>25,468</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	165,024	(165,195)	(171)
	<u>165,024</u>	<u>(165,195)</u>	<u>(171)</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>165,024</u>	<u>(165,195)</u>	<u>(171)</u>

# DREAMARTS

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

### 8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1/4/17 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/19 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	<u>25,639</u>	<u>8,944</u>	<u>34,583</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>25,639</u>	<u>8,944</u>	<u>34,583</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	<u>395,912</u>	<u>(386,968)</u>	<u>8,944</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>395,912</u>	<u>(386,968)</u>	<u>8,944</u>

### 9. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2019.



**DREAMARTS****DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019**

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	2019 £	2018 £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</b>		
<b>Donations and legacies</b>		
Donations	<u>230,888</u>	<u>165,024</u>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>230,888</b>	165,024
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Wages	103,098	70,203
Social security	18,763	13,113
Production & Project Costs	<u>49,857</u>	<u>39,562</u>
	171,718	122,878
<b>Support costs</b>		
<b>Management</b>		
Wages	16,197	21,965
Pensions	9,767	4,067
Support Costs	<u>22,741</u>	<u>15,565</u>
	48,705	41,597
<b>Governance costs</b>		
Accountancy and legal fees	<u>1,350</u>	<u>720</u>
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>221,773</b>	165,195
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<u><b>9,115</b></u>	<u><b>(171)</b></u>



*DreamArts members wrote original songs inspired by the theme 'My London' and performed them on the Westminster float at the New Year's Day Parade 2019*

DreamArts  
2 Grosvenor Gardens  
London SW1W 0DH  
[www.dreamarts.org.uk](http://www.dreamarts.org.uk)  
[info@dreamarts.org.uk](mailto:info@dreamarts.org.uk)