



Annual Report
year ended
31st March 2010



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for the year ended 31st March 2010

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'I learnt to express myself.' - participant



'Being able to interact with other children in a creative way is always good development' - parent

Mission Statement & Aims

Green Shoes Arts facilitate innovative drama and creative arts projects that give participants the opportunity to go on a **journey**. As co-explorers on this journey individuals determine their own **path** into the landscape opened up before them. As they travel, our artists are there to provide guidance and the artistic tools and knowledge to help them along their **chosen** route. The aim is that along the way, individuals will learn more about themselves and about the **world** around them. They will make **new** connections with the places they **discover** and in doing so broaden their **horizons**. Green Shoes Arts want to provide an **inspiring** and safe space in which it is possible to **challenge** assumptions and see with **fresh** eyes.

***'I think at the end of the project,
I got more than I expected to have achieved.'***

Green Shoes Arts is a non-profit arts organisation, which aims to:

- give opportunities through the arts for people to reach beyond the expected;
- support people through the arts to develop their personal and social skills and consequently their ideas and ways of perceiving the world around them;
- encourage people to develop their own personal approach to growth through experiential creative learning.

'I would just like to say a big thank you... I really enjoyed it and I'm so happy and proud of what my group had put together .. I would like to say a massive massive thank you for taking the time out to come and teach us and show us that **there's more to us that we didn't know...'**

Directors' Statement

We are pleased to say that Green Shoes Arts has had a very successful first year!

In September 2008, the founders began setting up Green Shoes Arts. Our idea was to explore the field and establish ourselves as a provider of arts activities which would focus on specific needs and gaps in the field, combining our experiences and expertises.

The organisation started to grow after our official launch in January 2009 by becoming a Community Interest Company. After making our services available to a range of partners, local authorities and schools, we came to realise that Barking & Dagenham had become our community. We always wanted to establish ourselves as community providers, to make strong links with local residents and potential participants in order to provide services that they are interested in. Therefore we set up our first office, here in Dagenham in October 2009. And it is with great pleasure that we walk around the neighbourhood recognising faces and participants. We have worked hard to provide consistently high quality arts projects in Barking & Dagenham and neighbouring boroughs and the enthusiastic feedback from participants and audience members have shown that we are on the right track.

We can now say that Green Shoes Arts focuses its work in East London, and it aims to provide programmes that prepare young people for 'change', exploring their expectations and concerns and building their confidence and self-esteem. Our main scheme of work is our Arts Leadership Programme; it is designed to be delivered in a range of formats in order to develop young people's arts and leadership skills by training them as future Arts Leaders.

It has been hard work, but to date we have surpassed our initial expectations. And this has only been possible due to the support of Green Shoes family, friends, freelance artists, volunteers and everyone who believed in our journey. It is also due to the hard work and creativity of the children, young people and families involved in our projects.

A very heartfelt thank you to all of you.

Lauren, Marilia & Miles

Community



Arts Leadership Programme

aims to engage young people in positive activity, offering accreditation and professional advice. This project is offered in a range of formats and its **core objective is to develop young people's arts, leadership and facilitation skills** by training them as Arts Leaders. Within the programme they have the opportunity to plan and deliver their own workshop.

Barking & Dagenham Arts Leaders

From August 2009 to March 2010, a group of 15 young people met weekly to develop their drama and leadership skills. The weekly workshops included team work, vocal, script, physical theatre and devising techniques. Through those techniques, the group explored a range of youth issues identified by them from drugs & alcohol to teenage pregnancy. The group also received visits from organisations and local agencies to offer them advice on Relationship, Self-Esteem & Body Image, Sexual Health and Drugs.

'It was easier speaking about these issues with people our own age.'

Every Arts Leader developed, planned and delivered an issue based workshop to a group of young people. They have communicated well with other young people as leaders and built positive relationships with others.



'I have learned skills in drama and the confidence to put myself out there rather than let others take over.'



During this project, the group have also visited Goldsmiths College - University of London, been on work placements of their choice, seen a range of theatre performances and been on a backstage tour of the National Theatre - London.

The group performed *Junctions* at TheBroadway in March 2010, the overall message that the group wanted to convey is that young people face many difficulties and this needs to be acknowledged by the adults around them, and also that as a young person you should be yourself and not follow the crowd. The group felt that this encapsulated the answers to many teenage problems such as drug use, teenage pregnancy and bullying.

‘I had so many compliments! They meant it honestly!’

The group themselves felt that the performance was a great success which was very positive for their confidence and self-esteem, and enabled them to feel a great sense of achievement. The audience members were also excited by the high quality of the performance.

**‘The energy was really good!
Everyone tried really hard.’**



**‘The quality of the performance
was really high! Excellent
piece of theatre.’**



The B&D Arts Leaders group have applied to the *B&D Youth Opportunity Funding* to run their own Youth Theatre for local young people, and they are now waiting for their final respond.

For the past year, Green Shoes Arts has been establishing itself as a local organisation in Barking & Dagenham and neighbouring communities. We are constantly exploring new ways to build bridges between individuals and their communities, and for that reason we are constantly working alongside local groups, organisations and charities.

[with PACT - Parents of Autistic Children Together](#)

‘Improved co-operation, listening skills and ability to take turns.’

Our first partnership with PACT was the development of a Pilot Project for our *Social Skills & Drama* Project aimed at young people with ASD- Autistic Spectrum Disorder. The pilot project was a success and after thoroughly evaluating it, Green Shoes Arts is introducing the project to SEN Schools and other settings. The Pilot Project Evaluation Report is available upon request.

‘I liked the drama and building a new civilization, there was nothing I did not like but I was not good at the circle game.’

This pilot project lasted for six months, including the meetings with partners, a family workshop to introduce the project, pre-project meetings with parents/carers and the actual project. The achievements of this project were dependent on key elements, including a strong partnership between the organisations and the families and a greater value being placed on personal development over the final artistic product.

Green Shoes Arts continues working in partnership with PACT, including running periodical drama workshops at their Youth Club Sessions.

Social Skills & Drama

aims to create a safe space in which young people with ASD - Autistic Spectrum Disorder, can develop and practise social skills through the use of drama and other arts based activities. It enables participants to make positive progress in their social interaction and social communication skills.



with The Vibe

We have been supporting The Vibe's Volunteering & Leadership Programme for NEET young people - not in education, employment or training, since its first cohort.



We work closely with the project's members in order to tailor make activities that are of personal relevance through the use of art forms that they are interested in. Both of the groups we have worked with in 2009/10 showed interested in music and photography, so they have developed short photo stories with background music created my them. The partnership showed to be a great success, with young people disclosing the significance of realizing their strengths and potential.

'I have more confidence than I thought.'

'I enjoyed getting to know more about myself through playing the games and working in teams...'



'[I've learnt] that I'm smarter than I thought I was...'



During the School Holidays 2009 we have been spreading our footprints around Barking & Dagenham. **We've delivered a series of projects in partnership with the Arts Development Team, Neighbourhood Management Team and Summer Uni.**

'I learnt to be more creative and that any weird thing can be a story or a great play.'

'My daughter thoroughly enjoyed the experience. It will benefit her a great deal.'



During *Make a Play Junior, Get A Move On, Shout Out, Arts Drop In Days* and many other arts programmes, participants built on their creative arts skills as well as their social and communication skills. These holiday projects enhanced friendships between the participants and increased their confidence and self-esteem, opening new possibilities for their futures.

'[I most enjoyed] everything! It was exciting!'



'I personally learnt a lot and hopefully will continue with dancing.'

[What could have been better about the project] 'More Me!!'

'I learnt that I'm actually good at drama.'



Many of these projects included a final sharing/performance for a guest audience. The groups worked really hard to create performances they were proud of. They all invited friends and family members to watch ... Some participants also gained accreditation through the Arts Award.

'I had fun these past days making new friends ...'

'I think the workshops were excellent for the children, they really enjoyed it. It gave them something fun to do during the holidays. I also enjoyed watching the shows at the end of the day to see what they had done.'



Stories In The Woods



aims to give children the chance to be outdoors, play in a natural environment and discover their creativity. The forest / woods is the ideal scenery to inspire their fantasy; through a range of stories and games the forest and its magic are brought closer to the children. Experiencing the forest in an enjoyable way at a young age helps children to build a sustainable appreciation, consciousness and respect for nature.

‘I really enjoyed because we did all different things...’

at Sydenham Hill Woods

During the past year, Green Shoes Arts have delivered two projects at Sydenham Hill Woods (Southwark) with local children age 6-11. **Throughout the projects’ intensive week**, participants had the opportunity to experience the woods with different eyes, creating characters and stories inspired by their surroundings. Both projects culminated with a final promenade performance for family and friends.



‘It is a great project for children to be outdoors , be creative and feel closer to nature.’



Education

At the end of our first year, we have established a partnership with Bishop Challoner School - provider of the Youth Service Contract for Local Area Partnership 3 & 4 within the borough of Tower Hamlets. Such partnership proved to be very fruitful. So far Green Shoes Arts have delivered three projects for local primary schools pupils on Year 5 & 6 through the Extended School Services. Projects aimed at easing pupils transition to Secondary School.



Voice Box Project

aims to empower participants through drama, movement and voice coaching exercises to develop their communication and social skills so they can approach important stages of their lives, such as transferring to secondary school, with added self-assurance, assertion and self-belief.

'I enjoyed learning to speak aloud with confidence.'

In A Positive Light Project

In a Positive Light project aims to use the creative arts to raise self-esteem and confidence in young women so that they approach the next stages of their lives with added self-assurance, assertion and self-belief.

at English Martyrs Catholic Primary School

'I honestly loved this programme.'

During the *Voice Box* Project participants increased their confidence and their communication skills, between each other and with the facilitators, and learnt useful techniques to use when presenting in front of an audience. The final performance in front of an audience of their peers was full of energy, focus and enthusiasm.

'I enjoyed working with other people and seeing what other groups came up.'

at St. Mary's & St. Michael's Catholic Primary School

'I have learnt to express my feelings...'

VoiceBox Project provided a safe space in which participants could practice their social communication and interaction skills and drama skills. The participants showed imagination in group storytelling activities and creativity in devising soundscapes. During the final session participants were encouraging of each other and supportive **of each other's work; particularly towards two girls who were reluctant to show their scene.** Also, showing good listening and decision-making skills.

'I have learnt how to become less shy.'

Green Shoes Arts facilitators noticed over the course of the project that a number of the girls were very quiet and reluctant to speak up; they engaged well with the activities but needed extra support in presenting with confidence. After expressing **this concern to the school, we've been commissioned to deliver** *In A Positive Light*, a girls-only project to focus on confidence and communication skills.

In A Positive Light Project was extremely successful; the girls engaged with a range of different team work games and confidence building exercises. They were able to gain, week by week, confidence in expressing their ideas, feeling comfortable with each other and learning how to engage positively with their peers. Their final devised scenes were extremely insightful in their positive development.

'I learnt that you should not judge people by their cover...'

Since Green Shoes first steps , Envision charity has been a brilliant supporter . Working in partnership with them brings us great pleasure. This **past year, we have supported Envision's WarmUp Event**, the Robert Clack Team and in more depth, The Newham College Team.

at Newham College

We have delivered a series of workshops focusing on communication and presentation skills with a group of ESL students .These workshops formed part of a wider project run by *Envision* in which the same group of students will plan and deliver a practical project that benefits their local or wider community during Summer Term 2010.



'I got to think in detail about issues and what to do next...'

By the completion of the project participants had further developed ways in which to work as a team and developed their communication, discussion, negotiation and decision-making skills. Participants had been introduced to and understood a number of practical methods of presenting issues to an audience and feeling confident about expressing ideas and using words associated with those issues.



'I thought that I [ESL Teacher] made a difference to my students but nothing compared to what you have done...'

Theatre Company



During our first year, the founders of Green Shoes Arts devised a performance called *A Step Inside*. After considering feedback from a guest audience on our open rehearsal at Goldsmiths College Drama Studio, we decided to perform to a group of Year 6 pupils at **St. John's & St. James's Primary School** in Hackney as a pilot project.



'Thank you. I really enjoyed the experience...'

'Overall a superb performance. Good mix of movement, storytelling and audience participation.'



A Step Inside

After the pilot project at the Primary School, with most of the pupils interpreting the theme of the **performance to be 'change'**, Green Shoes Arts decided to work with Year 6 & 7 pupils in order to develop the script, using ideas around their transition to Secondary School, including their expectations, issues and concerns. So far, a range of Primary Schools in Hackney and Tower Hamlets shown interested in the project.

'I think [the performance] was telling us that change isn't always bad, and not to be scared of change.'



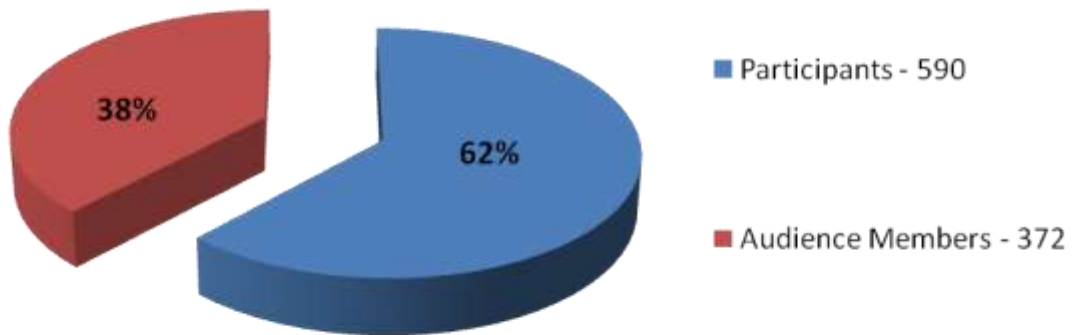
'I liked that you got to join in the activities. Got to use our imagination and our sense of feel and it was quite enjoyable.'



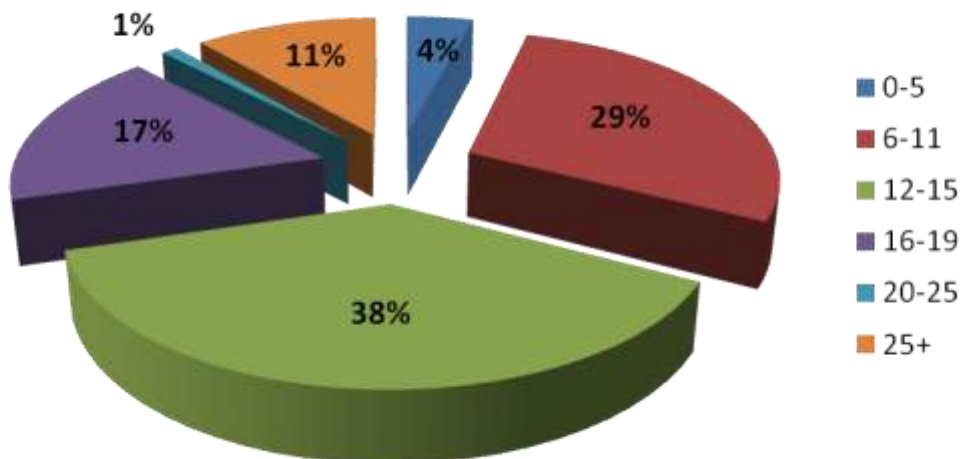
Beneficiaries

During this year, Green Shoes Arts have worked with a range of participants at different localities in East London and across London as well as presenting a variety of project performances. Our Theatre Company has performed *A Step Inside* Open Rehearsal and Pilot Project. In 2009/10 we have reached the following:

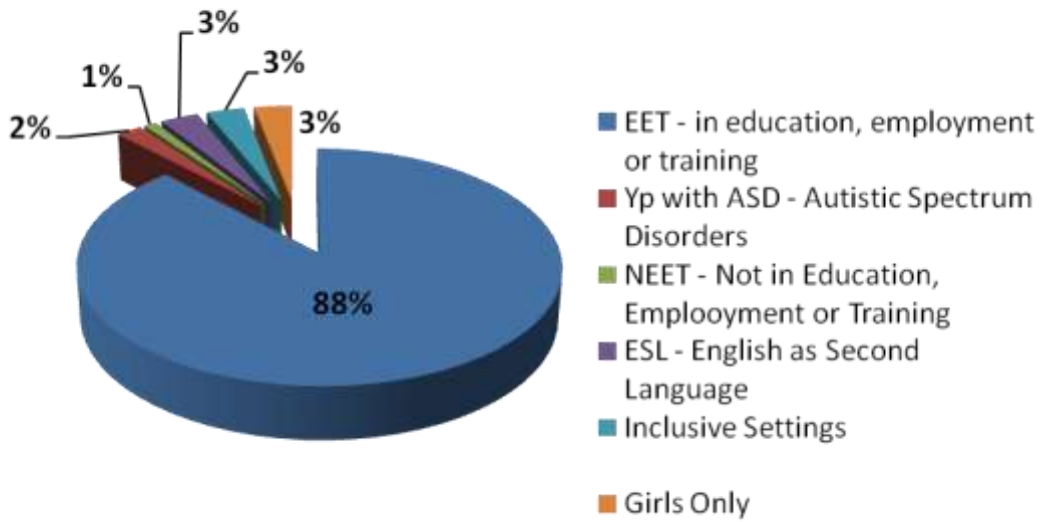
Total number of Beneficiaries



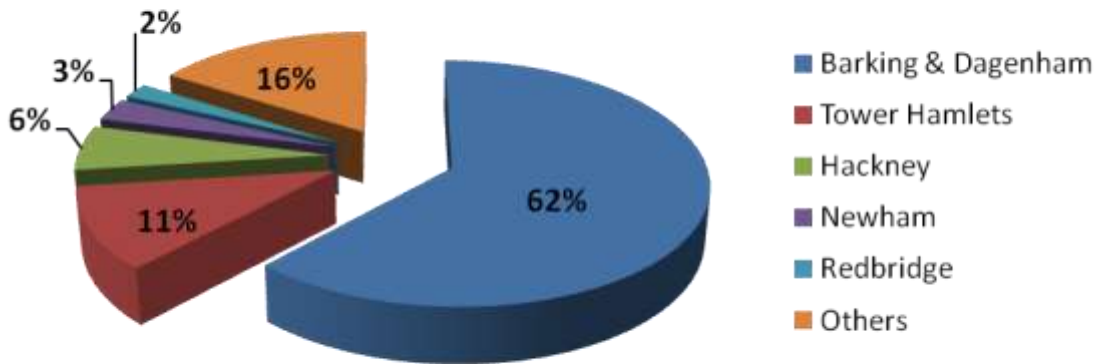
Participants - Age group



Participants - Specific groups



Participants - Boroughs



Green Shoes Arts Team

Marilia Lauria - Artistic Director

Marilia has worked with children and young people in a drama settings for over 10 years; both in her native Brazil and the UK. She has a wealth of experience in developing workshops and training programmes for children, young people and families where the focus is on their own views, needs and issues. Marilia was trained in mime and physical theatre and Stanislavski Acting Techniques.

Marilia is an actress, theatre practitioner, arts coordinator and workshop leader; she is enthusiastic and energetic.

Lauren Crowley - Community Director

Lauren is a multidisciplinary arts facilitator, combining theatre, creative writing, visual arts and crafts into her work. She specialises in working with young people, particularly in developing and facilitating workshops accessible to disabled young people, principally those with Learning Difficulties/Disabilities (LDD) or Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD).

Lauren is a multi-skilled facilitator: self-motivated, vibrant and considerate with highly specialised knowledge and an inclusive approach to drama practice.

Miles Openshaw - Education Director

Miles has over 8 years of experience of working with young people in a wide range of drama, theatre and educational settings. He is particularly interested in social inclusion work as well as working with children who are at risk of exclusion. Miles has experience of working in Pupil Referral Units with vulnerable young people, focusing on self-esteem and identity. He is also an experienced intergenerational arts facilitator and dramatist.

Miles is a writer, actor, producer and director, working in both theatre and film. He is a dedicated, thoughtful and dynamic dramatist with a diverse range of knowledge, experience and skills.

Overall Information

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