STARCATCHERS

DIRLIEBANE THEATRE COMPANY

LAAUNCH!

FEEDBACK REPORT 2024

Photo credit: Ben Winger

CREATIVE SCOTLAND

ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

Photo credit: Ben Winger

LAAAUNCH!

Starcatchers and Dirliebane Theatre Company present work-in-progress Laaaunch!, an adventure of galactic proportions, made especially for tiny humans. It's perfect for babies up to 12 months who truly understand the challenge, peril and pleasure of lying, rolling, stretching, sitting up and making it to standing. Join stellar adventurers Dot, Dash and Minim for an interactive and rhythmical journey of physical exploration, strength, excitement and determination that requires the expertise of your baby.

With a comfortable set that babies are free to explore, Laaaunch! is a non-verbal performance, filled with musical beats and comedy, where the babies can interact with the performers in their own way and in their own time.

CREATIVE TEAM AND CAST

Fiona Ferrier, Concept, and Direction
Rachel Colles, Concept, and Direction
Fiona Ferrier, Performer
Rachel Colles, Performer
Susan Appelbe, Composer / Musician
Rory Clark, Musician
Jade Adamson, Movement Support
Tim Licata, Creative Collaborator
Dayna Cummings, Stage Manager
Katie Innes, Set and Costume Designer
Kate Bonney, Lighting Designer
Fiona Fraser, Production Manager

DATES AND VENUES

Wester Hailes Community sharings at Starcatchers Baby Studio:
Wednesday 28th February: Wester Hailes nurseries
Thursday 29th February Expecting Something group
Friday 1st March: PEEP group

Studio at Edinburgh Festival Theatre:
Saturday 2 March at 11am, community sharing
Saturday 2 March at 2pm, a work in progress sharing

Perth and Kinross Community sharings:
Wednesday 6th March: Glenfarg Baby and Toddler Group (2 performances)
Thursday 7th March: Apple Tree Nursery
Friday 8th March: Intogether

Perth Theatre
Thursday 14 March at 10.30am
Thursday 14 March at 1.30pm (private sharing)
Friday 15 – Saturday 16 March at 10:30am & 1.30pm

235 AUDIENCE

15 PERFORMANCES

COMMUNITY PERFORMANCES

An important part of the Laaaunch! work-in-progress sharings was to share performances locally with community groups that might not otherwise engage with their local theatre. We reached out to local groups in Wester Hailes, Central Edinburgh and across Perth and Kinross, and brought **8** performances to local groups.

A BIG thank you to you all for coming to visiting InTogether earlier this month. It was such a special morning! We are all still talking about it now and looking at the photos and videos of the session.

You were brilliant in how you interacted with the children and went at their pace. It was incredible to see them engage in ways we had not seen before. It really showed us that taking a risk and doing something different is worth doing. Your ability to come to our space was crucial as it meant the kids were comfortable. One of the mum's said she was on a high for a week afterwards and it gave her hope that there are ways of connecting with her son. You also inspired the volunteers to try different ways of interacting with the kids. Don't worry we have not got as far as wearing dusters as slippers or wearing jumpsuits yet!

So thank you for coming and doing what you do!"

Intogether Group

AT Nursery
7 h ·

What a fun morning!!💗 A huge thank you to Starcatchers and Dirliebane Theatre⭐On Thursday morning we were a very lucky nursery to get a workshop with the amazing 'Laaaunch' artists Rachel and Fiona. They performed a creative experience for our Seedlings & Pips all about exploring, moving and changing. The children explored musical instruments from a small size to a HUGE size. We explored shakers, Bells, Trumpet and even a Horn Brass! The children got to explore these throughout the workshop and dance from start to finish!👏🏻 Even the ladies had a blast!🍎

“I have never seen my son so engaged in an activity. He was in his element and it was so special to see. The personalised engagement and interaction given to each child made all the difference and seeing the children's faces so happy makes my heart full.”
Parent

“It was fantastic, definitely not what I expected but from the moment is started all the babies just turned and looked, enthralled. The performers made sure to go to each and every child and involve them which was great as some kids would be shyer or less able to move. It really seemed to be fascinating for the wee ones so I would recommend it to others."
Parent

"It was such a lovely performance they did, the way it was set up was wonderful.

I spoke to them afterwards as they noticed that E seemed more involved than some of the younger babies, and they said that perhaps what they did was great for her age (9 months)

They engaged so much with the babies, I really thought it was a wonderful experience that they created, not too intrusive as to scare anyone, but engaging enough to keep everyone focused."
Dad’s Rock

PERFORMANCE FEEDBACK

Families were given a questionnaire to complete when leaving each performance of Laaaunch! 70 people filled out the survey.

- 84% of families said it was their first time attending live performance with their child.
- 99% of families would take their child to see another performance after seeing Laaaunch!

Families were asked to rate their experience from 1 (being the worst) and 5 (being the best)

  - 92% rated 5 for their experience
  - 97% rated 5 for feeling relaxed during the performance
  - 80% rated 5 saying they felt connected to their child during the performance
  - 92% rated 5 for their child enjoying the performance

90% RATED 5 FOR THEIR CHILD BEING ENGAGED IN THE PERFORMANCE

QUOTES FROM OUR AUDIENCE

"It showed me how to play with my wee one." **Parent**

"The show was excellent. All the babies were thoroughly engaged and loved the performance. The three performers were brilliant." **Parent**

"Loved that the actors learned my daughters name and remembered it throughout! First sensory type event and loved it! Loved how musical it was and the added touch of signing 'thank you' *to each baby at the end."* **Parent**

"*Thank you! I really loved the performance and the play section at the end. It was perfectly pitched with enough stimulation without being overwhelming. All the staff were very attentive also. I felt like I was being looked after as well as the baby."* **Parent**

Listen (and see!) more feedback from our audiences here including our youngest audience members.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Environmental sustainability is at the heart of Starcatchers' strategic priorities. We recognise that a socially-just operational model puts the welfare of both people and the planet at the centre of decision making, and that now more than ever we meaningful action is needed to protect our planet and Scotland's future generations. Read our Environmental Sustainability Policy on our website.

Whilst developing and touring work-in-progress Laaaunch!, we decided to take on the challenge of trialing the Theatre Green Book, an initiative by the whole of theatre to work more sustainably, setting standards for making productions sustainably. In consideration of our initial first steps with the initiative we worked with the baseline level. Discover the aims for this standard on page 28 of the Theatre Greenbook.

This was a huge learning experience for Starcatchers, and really opened our eyes to the changes needed to be made to make our work more sustainable. Production Manager, Fi Fraser, took the role of Green Champion on this production, and supported the Laaaunch! team through the process. As much as possible we followed a reuse/recycle policy for set and props, for example, recovering old bean bags and cushions, and borrowing equipment. In some instances, we were limited to buying new, for example, if manufacturers make only certain sizes for some items such as the flooring needed for the show. In those cases we couldn't use what we had and were forced to find alternatives. It highlighted issues with disposable materials like tape, and left us asking, what is the industry alternative to this? We are considering where we might source materials, such as wood, for future productions.

Time is also a very important factor to consider for our next production. Even with the extra time allocated to this process for Laaaunch!, as this is a new process, more time is needed to support this way of working.

Working with Dirliebane and supporting them in their engagement with their local audiences was a huge success, both for creating enriching artistic experiences in new communities, and also in helping to reduce carbon created by travel. By focusing on two areas, Perth and Edinburgh, and utilising Starcatchers' slow-touring model, we reduced carbon and strengthened relationships with local partners and venues.

Theatre Green Book
we're making theatre sustainable

Photo credit: Ben Winger