

About half moon

Half Moon is a local organisation with a national remit, which gives young people from birth to 18 (or 25 for disabled young people) an opportunity to experience the best in young people's theatre, both as a participant and as an audience member. The company places an emphasis on engaging participants and artists who are often excluded from arts activity, such as those from BME communities, Deaf and disabled people, or those excluded due to socio-economic circumstance.

Half Moon specialises in new writing and artform development, working collaboratively with a wide range of partners. The company's expertise is in supporting young people and artists at every stage of their creative development, providing a gateway to engagement, offering pathways for progression and experimentation, then disseminating outcomes with the wider sector through performances, touring productions, open dialogue and continuing professional development. Uniquely, there is a synergy between Half Moon's participatory and professional theatre programmes, which have equal status and are mutually enriching.

Those who create, deliver and experience the activity, also evaluate it. The format of this evaluation changes as appropriate, in order to include everyone, such as those with limited communication. In addition there is often external evaluation by peer professionals and theatre critics. This feedback in turn feeds into future work.

Artform Development and Producing:

- producing and presenting the best professional theatre at the home venue and in other arts and youth spaces nationally
- nurturing and mentoring new artists, particularly those under-represented in the sector
- inspiring established artists to work in the Theatre for Young People sector.

Participatory Programme:

- providing an extensive education and outreach programme for groups and independent attendees
- placing children and young people at the heart of the creative processes to develop professional work
- giving children and young people representation in all aspects of the organisation.

Each year Half Moon works with new and established artists to push the boundaries of the theatre artform. In addition to writers, designers and other theatre creatives, this can encompass a myriad of skills, such as beat boxing, contemporary dance, digital media and poetry. The company presents over 20 shows annually, as well as hundreds of participatory sessions. This all demonstrates a desire to make a difference to the young people reached, the artists worked with and to the theatre for young people's sector as a whole. Each year the company engages with over 25,000 individual participants, with approximately 60% of users from Black and Minority Ethnic groups and 10% disabled, demonstrating a commitment to engaging those often excluded from cultural activity.



Half Moon is a regularly funded client of Arts Council England and receives annual grants (Arts and Education) from Tower Hamlets. Each year the company raises over 50% of its turnover from ticket sales and other earned income, charitable trusts, corporate support and individual donations.

Authored by Half Moon staff.