



Reporting guidelines for NCF-funded projects

All recipients of a Noël Coward Foundation grant are required to supply a detailed report on their project, including photographs where possible and appropriate.

The report should describe how the money was used, evaluate the benefit to the participants, and explain how the project fulfilled the Noël Coward Foundation's funding criteria.

Reports should be a PDF file, **maximum of 4 pages**, and should only include information about the supported project. There is no need to include information on your organisation's other activities.

Please be sure to include the following:

- A brief description of the project including its name and the number of participants.
- Whether the project was related to work of Noël Coward or if your organisation or participants have engaged with Coward's world in any way, e.g. by visiting the Coward Room or exploring his writing or composing as part of the project.
- Clickable links to any online content related to the project.
- A discussion of any challenges you faced in delivering the project.
- How the success of the project was evaluated.
- A description of any unexpected learning opportunities not just for participants but also for the organisers.
- The overall project outcomes including any information on whether participants intend to continue to engage with the arts.
- A selection of direct quotes and feedback from the participants.

Photographs:

If appropriate, the NCF would like to publish details and photographs of your project on our website together with a link to your organisation's work. To help with this, along with your report PDF, please supply any photos that you have permission to share as separate .jpeg files along with the name of the photographer to be credited.

Example:

Attached to these guidelines is a past report from Sadler's Wells that covers many of the points above and is an excellent example of a report that is thorough and helpful.

Sadler's Wells Trust Report to the Noël Coward Foundation Young Associates

With the support of the Noël Coward Foundation, we have been able to continue our important work with the Young Associates programme throughout the last year.



Vidya Patel – When Life Gives You Melons – photograph by Camilla Greenwell

The Young Associates programme supports talented 18 to 24-year-olds for two years, providing a first step into their career as choreographers. This year, the programme was extended an extra year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The artists receive a tailored course of professional development and support, including the opportunity to present their work as part of the Sadler's Wells artistic programme. It has been such a positive and exciting year for the Young Associates programme, with highlights including many visits to Sadler's Wells to attend Patrons' Nights and our 2021 Gala, multiple workshops, and a performance in our Lilian Baylis Studio. They are now rehearsing for their final show on the Sadler's Wells Theatre stage.

The Noël Coward Foundation's [REDACTED] was spent on a 1-year bursary for one of our Young Associate choreographers.

Outputs

In the summer of 2021, each Young Associate was paired with an Associate Artist to help them create a short film, commissioned especially for our Digital Stage. These four movement portraits are an introduction to the unique creative perspectives of Sadler's Wells Young Associates Olive Hardy, Vidya Patel, John-William Watson and Magnus Westwell. The films have now premiered, and you can find out more about each individual piece on our website:

- John-William Watson - [John-William Watson - Sadler's Wells Digital Stage](#)
- Vidya Patel - [Vidya Patel - Sadler's Wells Digital Stage](#)
- Magnus Westwell - [Magnus Westwell - Sadler's Wells Digital Stage](#)
- Olive Hardy - [Olive Hardy - Sadler's Wells Digital Stage](#)



Magnus Westwell - Landscape with Flying Man – photograph by Camilla Greenwell

The Young Associates' Mixed Bill took place in November 2021 in our Lilian Baylis Studio. This Mixed Bill was an evening with an eclectic and exciting programme, introducing audiences to the next generation of choreographers, with the first live performances of work created by the Sadler's Wells' Young Associates. They each presented a 20-minute piece that they choreographed but did not perform in - please find images of these performances throughout this report. The artists also self-managed their Research & Development process for these pieces with their dancers.

The Young Associates have had regular catch ups with their programme leaders, to ensure they feel as connected as possible to Sadler's Wells. They have taken part in several workshops and weekend residencies over the past year, from creative R&D sessions to a session on tax returns and finances for self-employment, run by Equity. A particular highlight was in February; they had an intensive weekend at Sadler's Wells, where they had check ins with their course leaders, workshops with the Development Team about fundraising for their own work, a workshop with the head of Producing and Touring about touring their work, and a workshop with Anthony Matsena, a previous Young Associate who is now creating work for Sadler's Wells Theatre, about his journey through the programme.

A lovely touchpoint between the Young Associates programme and the Noël Coward Foundation in the last year was an organised visit to the Coward Room. The Young Associates, their Programme Leader Tim Casson, and some members of the Development team visited the Noël Coward archive room, where they got to see Coward's letters, scripts, unseen photographs and even use his typewriter - it was a brilliant way for artists and funders to connect. The Young Associates really enjoyed it, saying how inspiring it was to learn more about Coward's life, work and persona, whilst being able to see and physically touch so much of the archive. Thank you for organising this opportunity!



The Young Associates at the Coward Room – photograph by Katherine Sharp

Preparations and rehearsals are well underway for the Young Associate performances on the Sadler's Wells Theatre stage, taking place in October 2022, where they will be working with choreographer Ben Duke as an artistic mentor. Mentoring will focus on creating the work, but also on the practical elements needed to get a performance on stage, including marketing, production and technical aspects. There will be young creatives involved in every aspect of these productions eg. the technical teams will all be made up of recent graduates. They will choreograph material according to a brief. Invitations for this exciting evening will be with you soon.

Recruitment for the next cohort of Young Associates has just begun. Our team will hold a summer school based around open workshops, to make recruitment more accessible.



John-William Watson – This Is Not a Penguin – photograph by Camilla Greenwell

Outcomes

The Young Associates programme is designed to nurture the next generation of dance-makers and support them in developing their creative voice and choreographic practice at a crucial stage in their careers. The programme allows these artists to deepen their understanding of their own artistic practice, whilst gaining a valuable insight into dance production. It also has created a network, connecting them with each other and influential people in the dance industry, allowing them to seek out new ideas and collaborations. We also found that the extension of the programme was somewhat of a lifeline for these young artists during a period of uncertainty for the whole industry, caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. It drove them forward and allowed them to progress creatively, professionally and personally throughout the past year.

In order to evaluate and monitor the programme's outcomes further, we conducted written interviews, with very positive responses. Vidya told us: *'This programme has definitely provided a really supportive and safe group especially led by our programme leaders Tim & Lucy and Young Associates John, Magnus and Olive where we can openly share our ideas, experiment and gain clarity whilst learning from one another and developing collectively. I love the openness of the programme and space to grow without expectations.'*



Olive Hardy - I wonder if you know what I'm talking about – photograph by Camilla Greenwell

Olive: 'It's been so encouraging and empowering. I feel a huge sense of ownership and clarity of my practice and process. For me, it's been about valuing and trusting in the lenses I see the world through, and that sharing this creates the opportunity to resonate with others. I've also become much more aware of the many different options, possibilities and opportunities there are out there, that are involved in dance and creating, and not restricted to making work specifically for the theatre. I'm becoming more aware of the adaptable hats I can wear, in fact I feel like I've gained a whole new toolbox.'

Magnus: 'Through the mentoring with Tim Casson, I have learnt so much about being a freelance artist. The way that the SW team supports you, allows you to take yourself seriously - I now have much more confidence in what I do.'

Challenges

Adjustment as a result of the pandemic on a personal level has been an ongoing challenge for all creatives involved in the Young Associates programme, but on a practical level, we are pleased to say we have been able to return to 'normal' with many in-person events this year.

A challenge this year was that we were slightly short-staffed for a small period of time at Sadler's Wells. Due to maternity cover, there was a changeover in the role of Projects Producer in our Learning and Engagement team, therefore for a short while there was no permanent Producer for the Young Associates programme. However, this was only temporary, and the programme was successfully led and covered by dedicated members of staff.

Travel for internationally based artists also posed some challenges in the last year. It raised the initial budget for the Lilian Baylis Studio performances, which had already increased as we ensure that we pay all dancers a daily rate [REDACTED] (we are now able to include holiday pay). This is something we are adamant to maintain for these young artists, but due to the project budget, the Learning and Engagement Team have had to be stricter with other aspects such as length of the rehearsal period and how many dancers can be employed for upcoming showcases. The team also encountered complications with work permits, which was made trickier due to the UK having left the EU. The increase in administration to organise Certificates of Sponsorship for artists we have worked with throughout this programme has definitely been a challenge.

Conclusion

We are so pleased that, with the support of the Noël Coward Foundation, we were able to offer such a valuable opportunity to one of these talented young artists in the form of a 1-year bursary. As we have witnessed with our previous cohort, these choreographers will continue to flourish once they leave the programme. We hope to keep you updated on all the successes of their future professional work.

[REDACTED]

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