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## **BUSINESS PORTFOLIO**

MOONBEAM THEATRE LTD

Company No. 13051088

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## INTRODUCTION

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### Mission Statement

“ Moonbeam Theatre is dedicated to creating innovative multi-sensory theatre for young individuals with special educational needs and/or profound and multiple learning disabilities; providing them with opportunities to explore and discover in a playful and engaging atmosphere. We aim to create work that is accessible; inviting audiences that may not always feel included by the arts to experience interactive and collaborative theatre.

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Our audience is at the heart of all we do, which is why we create shows that not only accommodate the needs of their audiences, but also incorporates each individual into the fabric of the performance.

We want to challenge mainstream views about theatre being passive, and show parents, teachers and carers the possibilities multi-sensory theatre provides to young people with SEN/PMLD.

We are currently Resident Artists at the University of Kent.

## OUR GOALS

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**Creativity for all** – we believe everyone has a creative potential and everyone should have the opportunity to express themselves in a creative and safe environment. We aim for our work to create an environment where audiences feel comfortable to freely express themselves and feel inspired.



**Inclusivity and accessibility** - our work is centred around bringing accessible and inclusive theatre to our audiences. We tailor our work to each participant, ensuring they are included and can fully immerse themselves in the experience. We aim for all audiences to come away with a positive experience.



**A Creative Community** – we aim to form a community of SEN schools who will provide cultural enrichment for their students. Theatrical engagement will improve children’s wellbeing and creative education; by providing this year on year we aim to boost the mental health of the pupils we reach.

## MEET THE TEAM

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**Elyse Hall**  
Co-Founder and  
Artistic Director



**Colette McLoughlin**  
Co-Founder and  
Artistic Director



**Maddie Rigby**  
Artistic Director



**St Nicholas School**  
Partnership  
School



**The Wyvern School**  
Partnership  
School



**Danecourt School**  
Partnership  
School

## OUR PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

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- University of Kent
- Frozen Light
- Moving Memory Dance Theatre Company
- Mantell Associates
- Square Pegs Theatre
- Adam Patrick Audio
- The Noise Next Door
- More Than Words Charity
- Gulbenkian Arts Centre
- Olivia Brytz Media
- St Nicholas School Canterbury
- Danecourt School Gillingham
- The Wyvern School Ashford
- Five Acre Wood School Maidstone
- Kent and Medway Progression Federation SEND Progression Partnership
- Herne Bay's East Kent Mencap group
- Target Lifts

## OUR FUNDERS

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Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

University of  
**Kent**



**CROWN**  
CHARITABLE FUND



## PAST PROJECTS

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**Moonbeam Minis** - This series of short videos, filmed during lockdown, included story telling, Makaton signing, multi-sensory exploration, singing and crafting for families to take part in from the safety of their homes. All episodes are available to watch for free on our [youtube channel](#).

**Between The Trees** - This virtual production saw four magical Pixies inviting audiences to join them as they explored their forest home and the creatures they shared it with. With Makaton sign, story telling, singing, music and multi-sensory exploration, this experience brought the forest to life in people's homes and classrooms. Subscriptions sold to schools and families nationally with unlimited viewing for a year - selling 140% more family tickets than estimated, and surpassed our 10 SEN school target. The trailer is available to watch on [youtube](#) or visit the Between the Trees page on our [website](#).

### **Scuba-Dee Scuba-Daa (SDSD) - School Workshops**

We facilitated six research and development workshops at our partner school, St Nicholas Canterbury. The themed workshops incorporated a variety of sensory activities, songs and crafts which gave us valuable facilitation experience and provided participants with opportunities for imaginative play and exciting tactile experiences. The workshops were evaluated in order to develop a touring performance (*Scuba-Dee Scuba-Daa*) and our approach to creating accessible arts activities.

### **Scuba-Dee Scuba-Daa (SDSD) School Tour**

*Scuba-Dee Scuba-Daa - School Tour* was an interactive multi-sensory touring performance, transporting participants to an aquatic wonderland through sensory exploration. This 10 week project consisted of a 5 week rehearsal period followed by a 5 week tour to SEN schools in Kent and Essex. The tour included a 30 minute workshop and a 30 minute performance and was influenced by our previous workshop program at St. Nicholas School, Canterbury. Visit the Scuba-Dee Scuba-Dee page on our [website](#).

### **DIVE**

DIVE was an interactive multi-sensory underwater adventure which toured to over 50 schools and charities around the UK. Our immersive set transformed spaces into magical worlds transporting our participants to a place of fantasy. Within the performance, participants interact with the three 'Reeflings of Coral Cove' who take the divers on an adventure to explore their under-the-sea home. 'The Reeflings' interact with each child personally through dance, song and music. With lights, smells, textures and music our participant divers explore the ocean deep and are finally rewarded by visiting Coral Cove, a magical light-up paradise in which they can fully immerse themselves.

### **Edinburgh Fringe**

We brought DIVE to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2023, encouraging participation within the festival and enabling young people with PMLD to enjoy the arts and what the festival can offer. Our show was the second show in the festivals history that specifically catered to our demographic and aimed to show the fringe is for all. Hosted at the Bijou on George Street, DIVE welcomed sold out audiences.

## COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS ---

### Playing A/Part

Moonbeam Theatre were hired as creative research facilitators to work with autistic adolescent girls in schools on the: Playing A/Part project. The research explores the identities and experiences of autistic girls through creative practices. We were selected to be part of a specialist pool formed of theatre practitioners, academics and psychologists.

### East Kent Mencap - Jubilee Project

Hired by East Kent Mencap to be their partner artist for the Arts Council England's 'Let's Create: Platinum Jubilee Fund', Moonbeam Theatre devised 4 workshops in the Herne Bay Centre, working towards a final performance. The fund brought together artists and community groups, with the intention of delivering creative and cultural activity that their local communities would want to take part in. Moonbeam and the group explored both individual and British identity, culminating in a talent show, providing the opportunity for every participant to express their individuality and display their various talents (including line dancing, singing, playing the guitar), supported and encouraged by the rest of the group. View the short film of our project here: [Herne Bay Day Resource & Moonbeam Theatre](#)

### The Snowsmith Workshops

Hired by Half a String, a talented puppetry company, to develop and create a new schools offering for their Christmas production 'The Snowsmith.' This fun and engaging workshop was delivered to 6 schools in the area of Ware in Harlow and introduced the pupils to the characters and land of 'Thawmoor'. The workshop consisted of drama games, imagination/visualisation activities and junk modelling, where the participants used recycled materials to make their own weather catching machines. Explore [Half a String's - The Snowsmith](#)

### Creative Club

Hired by the Gulbenkian Theatre at the University of Kent as their featured artist for a term, teaching participants about multi-sensory theatre. This was a 10 week workshop series with 2 sessions per week, one for children aged 5-8 and one for 9-12's, exploring theatre that incorporated all the different senses and creating theatre that actively engages their audience. We explored costumes, set, sensory messy play, and crafting.



## REVIEWS

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### **Monika Theodosiou, Wyvern School Ashford, SDS**

*"Scuba-Dee Scuba-Daa was brilliantly interactive. It was a wonderful performance that was totally inclusive to all young learners. The children enjoyed the interactivity of the show, with individual attention to each child. They loved the singing, repetition, bubbles and many more sensory things made the children smile. More please!"*

### **Emma Brencher, Pen y Com, DIVE**

*"I can't express my gratitude enough for the attention to detail you provided with the social story and this wonderful resource pack. We have never had a company provide us with such incredible resources."*

### **Katy Neild, Millwood School, DIVE**

*"Absolutely magical, the Moonbeam team created a wonderful world for the children, full of multi-sensory experiences, beautiful voices and warmth, that both held and motivated the children to engage in their own ways. A truly magical experience for our children."*

### **Liz Boardman, Whitfield Aspen School, SDS**

*"We had children who are usually able to sustain attention for 10-15 minutes in class, able to stay for nearly the entire performance. The way you were able to move the performance to each individual child was amazing and whilst looking through the photos, I could literally see the engagement moving from no engagement to fully sustained throughout the performance."*

### **Parent, Between the Trees Film**

*"It's really well conceived, with lovely sensory experiences. Please devise another, my child has watched this show every Friday for the last year"*

### **Hayley Woods, St Nicholas School, SDS**

*"For a particular pupil in our class, who is and can be extremely anxious about any sensory or new experiences, it was rewarding to watch his confidence grow throughout the sessions and being given the time and appropriate experiences to want to engage."*

### **Teacher, Whitfield Aspen School**

*"Our pupils are constantly having to 'fit in' to activities that visit us, so it's really great to have something that is just for them. With Moonbeam, they can be themselves"*





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For more information and if you'd like to be involved or support Moonbeam Theatre's work, please contact the team on [moonbeamtheatre@gmail.com](mailto:moonbeamtheatre@gmail.com)

