

BLAST

BIGLITTLE Arts Support Trust

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES

Welcome to our first BLAST Newsletter!

The trustees would like to thank all our wonderful members for their patience and support during our first year. As volunteers, it has taken us a while to set up BLAST and master new skills in areas such as web design, Mailchimp, Facebook and Instagram... Now we are in the swing of things we hope to be in touch more often by email (we have realised that a number of our members do not do social media where we have focussed our communications). We hope that you enjoy reading our news!



SO WHAT'S AROUND THE CORNER?

We have finally reached the 'Annual Turnover' required to apply for charity status. We are now working through the application. Once this is done we can start to apply for charitable grants and claim gift aid on all donations.

We are excited to be running the first **Alumni Reunion** event in July at The Marsham Court Hotel and in October this year we will host a very special event at the **Regent Centre** in Christchurch—more details to follow in the summer....

Also, between Easter and **Broadway Showtunes 2023** we will be running our '**Flashback Friday**' which is a series of photos from the past on social media, so that our alumni can reminisce about their happy times at BIGLITTLE Theatre School.

At **Broadway Showtunes 2023** we will be selling programmes front of house, so please stop by and say hello (and buy a programme of course!). Hopefully you all took advantage of the **Broadway Showtunes 2023** pre-sale to BLAST members and secured your favourite seat! If not, head to the [BH Live web site](#) now to grab it!

And finally, we pray for sun for **Glastonbury Festival 2023** where a group of stewards will be raising funds for BLAST!



BROADWAY Showtunes

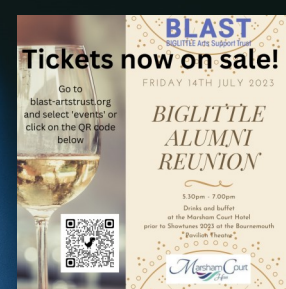
HOW ARE SPENDING THE MONEY RAISED?

At the last trustee meeting we approved two applications for funding:

One of the things that makes Broadway Showtunes so unique as a youth theatre show, is the size and quality of its live orchestra made up of top professional musicians. Year after year it becomes harder to fund this, and as one of BLAST's charitable objectives is to support the wider performing arts industry, what better way to do this than fund the costs of a **live orchestra for Showtunes 2023**. The trustees believe that spending some of their funds in this way, supports both the BIGLITTLE Theatre School Youth Theatre students whilst also supporting musicians in the industry.

The second area that we plan to fund this year is an '**Outreach**' project. We hope to identify a number of pupils from local schools, whose teachers feel have potential and a love of performing, but **do not have access to any training in the arts**, to attend a **BIGLITTLE summer school week**. Funds spent in this way will benefit both the local community and BIGLITTLE Theatre School.





OUR ALUMNI

We are slowly building the alumni gallery on the BLAST website, the Facebook Alumni group has 165 followers now, and we are getting to grips with our new Instagram account. The public BLAST Facebook page is where we have been posting about the onward journeys of the wonderful BIGLITTLE Alumni and wishing them well. And WOW! Haven't they been busy!

We have been delighted to hear about **Nick Hayes** being cast in 'Out of the Box' and more recently 'Groundhog Day', **Dan Partridge** as Danny Zuko in 'Grease', **Georgie Haskell** in 'Three Billy Goats Guff' and 'Three Little Pigs' and **Inez Budd** in 'Dirty Dancing'.

At Christmas we spotted **Connor Keetley** in the 'Peter Pan pantomime' and **Josh Power** at 'Lapland UK' before he moved on to a job with 'Universal Studios' in Japan.

Mark Houston appeared to have a fabulous time performing on the 'Ultimate Boyband Tour 2022' and **Diana Chrisman** (one of the original BIGLITTLE kids) has continued her TV career starring in 'The Ponymsitters Club' and 'Titans', amongst other things. More recent Alumni **Sophie Clark**, after a year at LSMT, has landed herself a place in 'The Show Team' on P&O Cruises, **James Hilton-Foster** has shared his performances in 'A Chorus Line' (final show at ArtsEd from where he has now graduated) and he was spotted (well his hair was!) when he performed at the Olivier Awards with the ArtsEd Choir. **Maddie McKinnon-Wardell** has performed in some fabulous productions at Exeter University, and in Feb 23 performed in 'Little Women' at the Shotgun Theatre in Exeter, exactly 4 years to the day after appearing in the same show with PDP at BIGLITTLE.

On the comedy side of things, **David Fenne** is making people chuckle with London based 'Pinch Punch Improv' and **Andrew White** is doing well touring with his career in stand up comedy.

It's been great to see some former students doing well in their other careers with **Ella Perkins** and **Maddie Daley-Brown** in the fitness world and **Ella Thomas** now running her own theatre school in London.

In other news we sent our best wishes to **Piers Bate** on his engagement to Olivia Moore and to **Maddie Daley-Brown** on her engagement to Sam Barrett.

We would love to hear from more of the Alumni—particularly those that have taken their skills into careers off of the stage!

CASTAWAYS

Thank you to Emma and Beckie for raising £375 from selling pre-loved uniform to raise funds for BLAST!



THE HOSPITALITY CREW

BLAST are extremely grateful to all the volunteers that have given their time to provide hospitality at BIGLITTLE events such as 'A Chorus Line' and 'ArtsFest', and for organising and running the Christmas Party.

Every small contribution helps bring events together so THANK YOU!

The Hospitality Crew's next event will be the Summer Soiree for those students who have singing lessons at BIGLITTLE to showcase their work.

Across all events so far this school year, the Hospitality Crew have raised a massive £3718.00.

We hope that you have all had fun meeting other BIGLITTLE parents and being part of the team.

Keep up with all our news on our

[Website](#)

and on

[Facebook](#)