

# LAKE SIDE THEATRE

**ANNUAL REVIEW 2014/15**

**“Stunning theatre and music space in Colchester”**

Trip Advisor reviewer

The year of the University's 50th Anniversary has seen a proliferation of events and activities happening in and around the Lakeside Theatre. Students, staff, alumni and professional theatre makers have been brought together in this creative hub to share ideas, experience events and create performances together. The Lakeside offers a truly interactive cultural exchange between the diverse range of communities on campus.

This year Lakeside Theatre has welcomed over **200 professional visiting artists from around the world**. The performance and workshop programme that they have contributed to has been a catalyst for an unprecedented amount of student generated work. This year there have been **100 student productions and performances** happening

in and around the Lakeside, involving over **400 student participants** playing to **audiences of over 14,000**. During term time an average of **6 different events per week** have taken place in the theatre.

To celebrate Essex's 50th anniversary the Lakeside mounted a year-long project: **Home From Home**, making **50 plays about the 50 years of life at Essex** engaging with an estimated **2,000 participants** including, performers, back stage crew, youth theatre, writers, professional facilitators and audience.

The Lakeside Theatre contributes to the University's **Employability** agenda by providing over **30 jobs for students** throughout the year and an **extensive workshop programme** offering them the ability to develop **vital communication skills** and to make **industry links**. The partnerships with professional companies have yielded several internships and work experience opportunities for Essex students and graduates in the Creative and Cultural sector.

Lakeside Theatre supports the university's **Excellence in Education** agenda by providing space and technical

support to courses on the curriculum and by offering students from all subject areas the opportunity to develop projects independently, by providing administrative and technical mentorship and the facilities to research, play and experiment with intellectual, political and performative ideas.

Lakeside Theatre supports the university's **Excellence in Research** agenda by providing space and technical assistance to courses on the LiFTS curriculum and by offering students from all subject areas the opportunity to develop projects independently. By partnering with academics Lakeside Theatre supports funding applications, offers creative consultation and helps enable them to realise the **impact of their research**. This year we have been working with academics from Sociology, Essex Business School and Law, piloting and developing research projects and supporting funding bids.

The Lakeside Theatre plays a key role in **Recruitment** at Essex, not only does it contribute to Open Days, Visit Days and Recruitment Days by providing bespoke events it also programmes activities that

target young people to give them a taste of campus life, to encourage aspiration and instil a habit of nurturing curiosity and artistic self-expression.

Through the delivery of all of these activities the Lakeside Theatre embodies the **Essex Spirit**. Lakeside Theatre creates friendships networks, reflects its Global Community and initiates debate around international performance.

The Lakeside Theatre supports Essex events beyond its own programme. This year it has provided facilities for **PIL lectures**, the Dudley White Memorial Lecture, Holocaust Memorial Week, **TEDx Talks**, Alumni Children's Comedy, **The Third Degree**, Accommodation Conference, Todd Landman Magic shows, Peter Hulme Valedictory lecture, Gareth Thomas Show, **The Essex Book Festival**, Colchester Institute Creative Performances and **Graduation Live Streaming**.

Barbara Peirson  
Artistic Director



**“A university is a place of creativity and discovery, and it ought, we believe, to find a place for the creative artist as well as for the critic.”**

Sir Albert Sloman, Founding Vice Chancellor, University of Essex

**“You get to meet so many people not on your course and people who have different life experiences, it's vibrant, open and inclusive”**

Fahima Ghoni, 3rd year drama student



2

## VISITING PERFORMANCES

This year we have delivered a packed programme comprising a broad array of touring companies who brought a rich variety of work of the highest quality to the Lakeside Theatre to celebrate and explore the diversity of cultures on campus and to extend and diversify audiences. There were **50 visiting productions**, including drama, dance, live art, spoken word, music, comedy improvisation and family theatre.



### 2.1 THEATRE, DANCE AND PERFORMANCE ART

The theatre season began with a moving and uplifting bi-lingual performance of ***Near Gone*** by Two Language Destination winner of the low-carbon Suitcase Prize at the 2014 Pulse Festival. ***Pendulum's Bargain Emporium*** was an anarchic critique of consumerism and sweatshops. New versions of **classic texts** including ***The Government Inspector***, ***A Doll's House*** and ***The Pearl Inspector*** attracted large **and new audiences** augmented by the addition of an **accompanying seminar programme** delivered by academics from LiFTS.

A double-bill of ***Dressing for Breakfast*** and ***Odd Shaped Balls***, with attendant Q&A seminars, show-cased work by **Essex Alumni** who have spent the intervening years creating their own theatre companies. Their visit was inspiring to current students who are planning careers in the creative industries.

Sonia Sobri performed ***Jugni*** an explosion of **dance and music** based on Sufi poetry and Punjabi folk music. Our continuing **partnership** with Brazilian

choreographer Jean Abreu collaborated with sculptor Elisa Bracher in our laboratory to research into notions of balance and produced ***A Thread*** which offered students the opportunity to be in the rehearsal room as they spent time developing the work before its premier performance at the Lakeside. ***The Happiness*** saw a joyful **immersive** performance exploring the elusive nature of feeling good and ending with a euphoric interactive performance with oceans of torn newspaper.

Our continuing partnership with production company **Fuel** led to innovative and **experimental** theatre productions with additional practical workshops: ***This Last Tempest***, ***The Red Chair***, ***Fiction*** (performed entirely in the dark). The highlight was notably ***Phenomenal People*** which transformed Art Exchange into a garden providing a **site-specific** arena for a series of performances from UK **leading artists**, celebrating inspirational women and which included a **unique commission** by Essex's **Professor Pamela Cox**.

**“I used to come to Youth Theatre at the Lakeside and got to love the campus so I thought why not study Engineering at Essex?”**

Jack Smith – Electronics Engineering undergraduate

**“Phenomenal People was a spellbinding performance! ...Congratulations. This kind of thing is one of the main joys of working at a university!”**

Alex Seabrook - Faculty Manager

**“Wonderful, minimalist, storytelling. Allowed the language to carry tension, joy and sadness. Great play!”**

Audience feedback, *Operation Crucible*

The year culminated in a collection of performances which focussed on **Human Rights** issues. ***White Rabbit Red Rabbit***, a play by Iranian playwright Nassim Saliemanpour, where Essex born actor Claire Foster was invited to perform never having seen the script before, it was an astounding and unnerving experience addressing notions of freedom and autonomy. ***Bloominauschwitz*** was a remarkable **award winning** tour de force bringing to life James Joyce's Leopold Bloom from Cambridge based Menagerie Theatre Company. Working in partnership with some of the UK's pre-eminent theatres, we brought the **Freedom Theatre** from Palestine to the UK to perform ***The Siege*** to a full house. The Lakeside Theatre used subtitles, as the play was mainly spoken in Arabic and this attracted many audience members who were visiting the Lakeside Theatre for the first time - it was a delight to hear the Arabic speakers laughing at the jokes as they heard them, a few moments in advance of the English speakers.



## 2.2 LIVE MUSIC

Music at Lakeside Theatre has responded to student demand for **alternative**, acoustic and **out of the ordinary** performances. There are usually three gigs a term, appreciated by audiences as being of high quality and **great value**. This season saw a mix of local and internationally recognised talent. East Anglian indie bands **Jonathan Marriott** and **The Painted Birds** and soul artist **Mirror Signal** shared the programme with world famous UK rock band **The Wave Pictures**, breakthrough Gothenburg singer **Sumie** and Leeds based surrealist outfit **Biscuithead and The Biscuit Badgers**, who opened the season with their inimitable **anarchic** surrealism in Welcome Week, **Schwervon** a two piece rock band from New York and **Lilac's Daughter** from Copenhagen supported **Kevin Pearce** with his soaring **soulful** voice.

## 2.3 COMEDY

Lakeside Theatre has a strong reputation for putting on upcoming and established **stand-up** comedians through its relationship with Comedy Central Live. This year we've seen some top upcoming UK comedians headline including the **hilarious Noise Next Door, Suzi Ruffell** and **Nathan Caton**. The highlight of the year must go to the **improvised comedy *Austentatious***: an improvised Jane Austen novel which played to a **packed house** of lovers and lonely hearts on Valentine's Day.

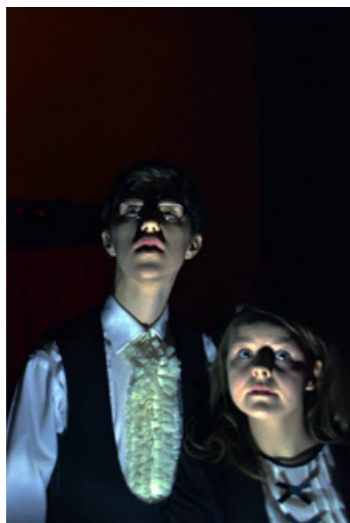
## 2.4 FAMILY THEATRE

Lakeside Theatre has continued to offer theatre for students and staff with families. We have received shows from leading young people's theatre companies **Norwich Puppet Theatre, Theatre Centre** and **House**. Shows included: *Red Riding Hood, Chicken Licken, Arthur's Dream Boat* and *The Pied Piper*.

***"The Seige!* Not only was the play brilliant, but hearing the playwrights, director and actor during the Q&A really opened my eyes to how Palestinians are trying to become**

**creative agents in a place that constantly challenges their freedom. I really thank you for giving me the opportunity to attend this event"**

Yusur Al-Saman, 3rd yr Sociology and Politics



Perhaps the most **exciting development** in the Lakeside Theatre's programme this year is the increase in quantity and quality of work produced by our own community of students and staff. Part of the Lakeside Theatre's vision is to enable students to gain skills; to research and develop ideas through **creative experimentation**; to encourage self-expression and to reflect through performance their culture and the world around them and thereby to realise through research and practice the **transformational power** of performance. This has led to the exciting development of the Homegrown Programme.

### 3.1 STUDIO SHOWS

Since early 2014 the Lakeside Studio Theatre has become a **student centred laboratory** and performance space, the quality of the work has grown exponentially throughout the year culminating with two student productions which went to the **Edinburgh Festival fringe 2015** supported by donations at the box office and other fund raising strategies.

Simulating professional process and practice, students are invited to **propose and pitch** for a production slot with emphasis on a coherent production plan and an objective to mount significant classics, modern classics and new work. This year **16 proposals** were submitted resulting in with **8 student studio productions**. Performance research and experimentation has been at the core of the endeavour. **Two student theatre companies** have emerged from the experience and have gone on to produce further work under their new banners: **Restless Advocates** who make physical theatre pieces and **Trial and Error** whose emphasis is on the ensemble.

Productions include: *Cradle Me, Everyman, The Trial, Prosaic Poems, Early Birds, Crave, The Yellow Wallpaper, My Name is Rachel Corrie.*



### 3.2 MAIN HOUSE SHOWS

The Lakeside Main House accommodates larger scale **productions made by students**, including the **Essex Dance Show** and the **Afro Caribbean Society** Heritage Show. **East 15** contributed an evening of performance during Holocaust Memorial Week. **The Centre for Theatre Studies** Summer Production this year was *The Disorderly Women*. The **Theatre Arts Society** comprising students interested in drama from all subject areas produced **five shows** on the main stage: *The 24 hour Show, The Snow Queen, 'Tis Pity She's a Whore*, directed by professional theatre director Tony Casement, *Oh What a Lovely War* and *The RAW Festival*.

### 3.3 SITE SPECIFIC AND OUTDOOR PERFORMANCES

In response to the 50th Anniversary and with the support of the **Essex Fund**, the Lakeside Theatre mounted a year-long project: **Home From Home** and made **50 plays about the 50 years of life at Essex**. The project was launched at the **Homecoming Weekend** where several plays were piloted. Over that weekend and also during **Welcome Week** stories from imagination and memory were gathered from current students, staff and alumni.

The stories 'grew' on a 'memory tree' situated in the Lakeside Theatre Café. Visitors were invited to share a memory of their time at Essex by writing it on a tag to hang on the tree. People passing through the café could read them and be inspired to contribute more. When the stories 'blossomed' they were 'harvested' and throughout the year they were transformed into performances, written and devised by students, staff and graduates.

Assisted by **The Grand Theatre of Lemmings** and **Frequency Theatre**, the

**“I can truly say this has been the best experience of my time at Essex, this cast is my family - we will be friends for life”**

Cathy Wilson, Director: *The Trial*

**“Amazing!!!! All cast were breath-taking! Well done!! – plus live music!”**

Audience feedback - *'Tis Pity She's a Whore*



plays were created throughout the year culminating in a mammoth short play festival at the **Alumni weekend** in May 2015.

The buildings on campus and Wivenhoe Park served as a backdrop for the site specific performances.

**Fresher 87** was written and performed by Essex alumna Fiona Mason in the North Towers car park during the Homecoming Weekend. She recreated her first arrival on campus, as a Fresher in 1987, in her Wolseley 1100 by using a 1:50 scale model and a box full of keepsakes. Rooted in personal memory the performance glimpsed and shared a poignant moment of an arrival, a new beginning and a leave-taking that resonated with graduates and undergraduates throughout the 50 years who have all made similar journeys into a new life at Essex.

*Wednesday, 7th October 1987 – fresher’s week.*  
*My 23yr old self arrives on campus in a 1967 Wolseley 1100. My first car.*  
*Within: worn blue leather and walnut. Damp and rust.*  
*Without: towers and squares, concrete, utilitarian. The mothership. Home.*  
*Me: black dress, blue boots, purple sweater – my self-prescribed uniform.*  
*In the grey squall a patch of estuarine sand spirals into life.*  
*Cold hands clasp the wheel. Chin to knuckles.*  
*I’m an uprooted midland’s girl and by some miracle I’m here.*  
*I breathe and look out of the windscreen through brimful eyes.*  
*My tongue breaks the salt flow in its tracks but cannot stem the source.*  
*Endings. Beginnings. My heart beats a quickstep through time.*

Professional **writing and devising workshops** were provided by industry specialists to stimulate ideas and encourage creativity, so that even people who had never considered making a play were given the confidence to develop their ideas.

The performances took many different forms, from **monologues** to **large cast plays**, verbatim plays to puppet theatre. They took place in a host of different sites on campus: there were plays on stages, in the squares, in the parkland, in the car park, some in the very smallest theatres in the world and several were recorded as radio plays.

In all the 50 performances engaged with an estimated **2,000 participants** including playwrights, performers, back stage crew, youth theatre, facilitators and audiences.

**“Making the performance for the Homecoming Weekend was a very rewarding experience and has been a catalyst to me applying for and being accepted onto a PhD programme at Goldsmiths to research memory through life writing, fine art, philosophy and performance. I am a philosophy alumna of Essex and so in some ways the performance for Homecoming Weekend helped me to focus on my own notions of home and belonging, both themes that are pertinent to my research.”**

Fi Mason – Philosophy Alumna



**“The opportunities the Lakeside offers are amazing; I now have a play published on a website and on iTunes after deciding to follow an email on a whim. I’ve learned to recognise opportunity.”**

Scott Osbon, 2<sup>nd</sup> year drama student

**Get Involved** is the participatory section of the Lakeside Theatre programme which offers regular professionally led workshops in playwriting and stagecraft alongside the popular weekly Open Mic and Youth Theatre sessions.



## 4.1 WORKSHOPS WITH LEADING INDUSTRY SPECIALISTS

The Lakeside Theatre runs a rich programme of regular and one-off workshops and seminars which help develop skills and expertise in all areas of performance making and production, foster the **Essex Spirit** and link students to industry networks.

## 4.2 LAKESIDE THEATRE WRITERS

Monthly workshops in playwriting skills led by established playwrights and literary managers including Diane Samuels, Steve Waters, Jacqui Honess-Martin, Even Placey, Rob Drummer, Rich Chilver, Nicola Werenowska and Vicky Donaghue.

## 4.3 ROLLING WORKSHOP AND SEMINAR PROGRAMME

This year we have welcomed a host of practitioners and experts to deliver a wide range of workshops:

**Out of Joint** – verbatim theatre acting workshop with Max Stafford-Clark and Stella Feehly

**Out of Joint** - Nina Steiger – Literary management writing workshop

**Melanie Wilson** – devising with autobiography and sound

**Freedom Theatre** – informal seminar

**Ice and Fire** – acting workshop and rehearsed reading for Human Rights Week led by Freddie Machin

**David Rosenberg** – sound workshop

**Sarah Crompton** – producing workshop

**Maison Foo** - Clothes Swap and networking event

**Phenomenal People** - Lemonade Tea Party – networking event

**Eggs Collective** – devising workshop

**Shane Shambu** – embodied leadership

**Frequency** – radio play workshop

**Clod Ensemble** – devising workshop

**Flintlock Theatre** – informal seminar hosted by Clare Finburgh

**Uninvited Guests** – sound workshop



## 4.4 TAKE THE STAGE

Every other Tuesday the Creative Corner take over the Lakeside Stage to develop and hone their performance skills. They focus on **self-expression** through **Performance Poetry, Rap, Hip Hop, Spoken Word** and **Music**. The workshops attract students from over **ten different subject areas** and over **twelve different nationalities**. At each session original work is written, performed and shared. Workshops are facilitated by the Artistic Director, assisted by students and a masterclass was led by performance poet **Malika Booker**.



*“Take the Stage has been such an empowering experience – not just for me, but for everyone that has participated... people from all backgrounds, all ages and mixed abilities have been united through this experience... We have seen that there is a great demand for people to have a space to express themselves creatively... I have witnessed people stepping out of their comfort zone and really challenging themselves to try new things in the workshops”*

Zoe Garshong - Economics undergraduate

**“Max Stafford-Clarke is awe-inspiring; to be able to see and learn from this distinguished theatre maker whose ethos is to “broaden horizons and investigate our times” has been of the greatest value to me.”**

Sofia Zervudachi – Arts Marketing Intern

4.5 THE HOOK

The Hook Open Mic provides a platform for the University’s **student performers** to play regularly in public. Every Friday night the Lakeside Theatre Café is transformed into a music venue with atmospheric lighting, excellent sound and a lively bar. **Hundreds of people** have passed through the venue this year and around 50 student artists have performed for the first time.



4.6 LAKESIDE YOUTH THEATRE

Every Saturday morning the theatre becomes the home for over thirty **young people** from the ages of 8–18 to play, have fun and express themselves. Sessions are **led by Essex graduates** and **current students**. This year the Lakeside Youth Theatre groups have presented a range of pieces to invited audiences. This has included a promenade site-specific performance, as well as interpretations of Roald Dahl’s short stories and William Golding’s **Lord of The Flies**. The Youth Theatre team have recently carried out successful **taster workshops** at Old Heath Primary School and new members continue to join. Through the frontrunner and frontrunner plus schemes, University of Essex students are able to offer invaluable support to Lakeside Youth Theatre and gain critical **employability skills**. The students play a highly **active role** in the **planning** and **delivery** of the weekly sessions, contributing ideas and leading activities where appropriate.



5 EMPLOYABILITY

The Lakeside Theatre could not operate without our fantastic team of **students working backstage** and **front of house**. All staff receive **industry standard training** and gain invaluable work experience. Some students then **progress to careers in arts** marketing, arts management, technical theatre and theatre admin. Students develop workplace skills interacting with the public and learning about the day to day running of an arts venue.



This year we have employed:  
**7 Frontrunners**  
**14 Front of House staff**  
**2 technical assistants**  
**15 volunteers**



This year we have received financial support from **Internships** to employ two marketing and publicity Interns and one technical theatre intern for three months and funds from **Essex County Council** for one Technical Theatre Intern for six months.



“I was lucky enough to work with Fuel for six weeks this summer as their Operations Intern. I was thrown headfirst into a role that made me

a part of the team and gave me a real insight in how a contemporary producing company works.”

Becca Houlihan Broad, MA Playwriting

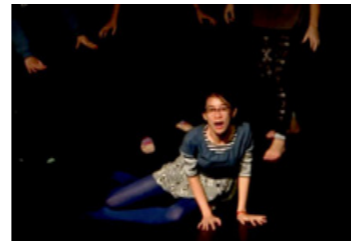
“Working at the Lakeside and seeing from the inside how a small team works professionally and me being a small part of that team has given me the confidence to start my own projects now and to see a way forward with my career.”

Dave Burn, Technical intern

6

## RECRUITMENT

Lakeside Theatre supports recruitment by organising bespoke events for **Open Days** and promoting curricular and extra-curricular drama activities on **Recruitment Days** and **Visit Days**. As well as actively encouraging school parties to attend relevant professional performances, we programme **events for schools and young people** in the region which helps them to become familiarized with the campus. These include: Shakespeare for Schools Festival (run by Essex graduates), Colne Bank School of Dance, Theatre Fun, Lakeside Youth Theatre and Play in a Week.



7

## SUPPORTING EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH



Lakeside Theatre supports research in a variety of subject areas and a variety of ways. This year we have partnered with Prof Mike Roper and Dr Rachel Duffet from **Sociology** to develop a project for them to further their research into the psychological, financial, emotional legacy of the World War 1. Using their collections of testimonies from the families of WW1 veterans, students have worked with Common Ground Theatre in a

pilot workshop to explore the material and are awaiting a funding decision from a Heritage Lottery Fund bid.

Plans have begun with Dr Youseph Farah to work with **Law** students to develop a production about the global textile industry with a funding application for an Artist in Residence submitted to the Leverhulme Trust.

We are assisting Ann-Christine Frandsen from **Essex Business School** who is planning a research project to work with a choreographer exploring dance as accounting, and accounting as dance.

The Lakeside Theatre has supported two playwrights in residence this year to develop new plays. Students have been involved throughout the development process via one-to-one surgeries, workshops and rehearsed readings. The focus on supporting the development of new writing has been key in the newly formed partnership between the University and the **Mercury Theatre** to create a county wide Essex Playwriting Competition.

**“I chose to study Drama at Essex after my school brought us to Shakespeare for Schools Festival – as soon as I walked in I knew that this is where I wanted to be”**

Sean Warren, Drama undergraduate

**“Yesterday was fascinating in all sorts of ways - it opened my eyes to what you can do with materials like ours and I’m keen to keep exploring ...”**

Prof Mike Roper. Sociology

The Lakeside Theatre supports and facilitates curricular activity for Drama students by providing space and technical assistance for four classes per week, ten examination performances, dress and tech rehearsals.



## Weekly class sizes:

**TH143: Text into Action, 36**  
**TH142: Introduction to Technical Theatre, 36**  
**TH341: European Naturalism and After ,21**  
**TH345: Creative performance, 21**

## Provide Practical Exams spaces for:

**TH345: Creative Performance**  
**TH 347: Theatre & Education**  
**TH 244: Misrule**  
**TH141: Introduction to Drama**  
**TH142: Introduction to Technical Theatre**  
**TH341: European Naturalism and After**  
**TH143: Text into Action**  
**TH345: Creative performance**  
**TH343: Theatre and Human Rights**  
**TH346: Independent Practical Projects, 2**  
**MA Drama projects: MA by Research through Practice, MA Playwriting.**

The Lakeside Theatre's café is a thriving hub of convivial and creative interaction. This year we have collaborated with Campus Services, who manage the café in the day time, to provide a menu which reflects our programme and this has become very popular. To deliver both a successful café and box office service at busy times is challenging and it has been necessary to employ an extra member of staff.

Many creative events are scheduled to take place in the café including pop-up one-to-one performances, after show discussions and live music. It is a space where all communities from the University can spend time to share breaks or to have informal meetings. Students, academics and support staff all rub shoulders over a cappuccino or a doorstep sandwich.



**“The facilities the Lakeside Theatre offers to students at Essex beat any university I visited – after seeing it all at the Visit Day my mind was made up.”**

Kirby Gilsenan, Drama Graduate

10

A YEAR  
IN NUMBERS

**16,690** VISITORS  
TO LAKESIDE  
THEATRE  
EVENTS

**100** STUDENT  
PERFORMANCES

**200** VISITING  
PROFESSIONAL  
ARTISTS FROM  
AROUND THE WORLD

**6**  
DIFFERENT  
EVENTS A  
WEEK

**114**  
STUDENTS  
TAUGHT  
IN THE  
LAKESIDE  
THEATRE  
EACH  
WEEK

**38** JOBS  
AT LAKESIDE  
THEATRE FOR  
OUR STUDENTS

**400** STUDENT  
PARTICIPANTS  
IN PLAYS

**10**  
INTERNSHIPS  
AND JOBS FOR  
STUDENTS IN  
CREATIVE AND  
CULTURAL  
INDUSTRIES

**Facebook**

20% increase on previous year.

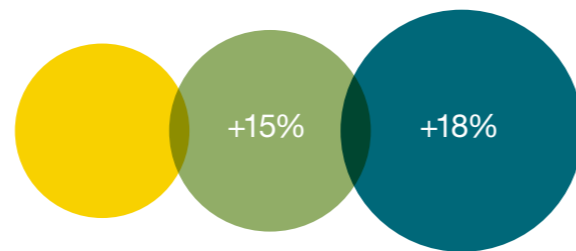
**Twitter**

The 2000 followers milestone was passed in April 2015.

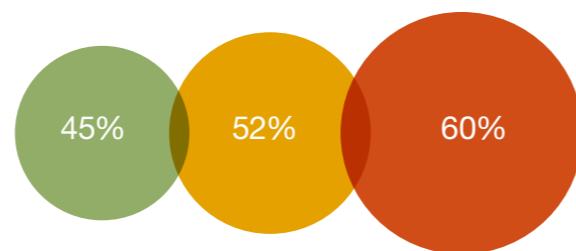
**Lakeside Theatre Website**

The Lakeside Theatre mobile responsive site was launched in March 2015 to allow simple bookings on mobile technology.

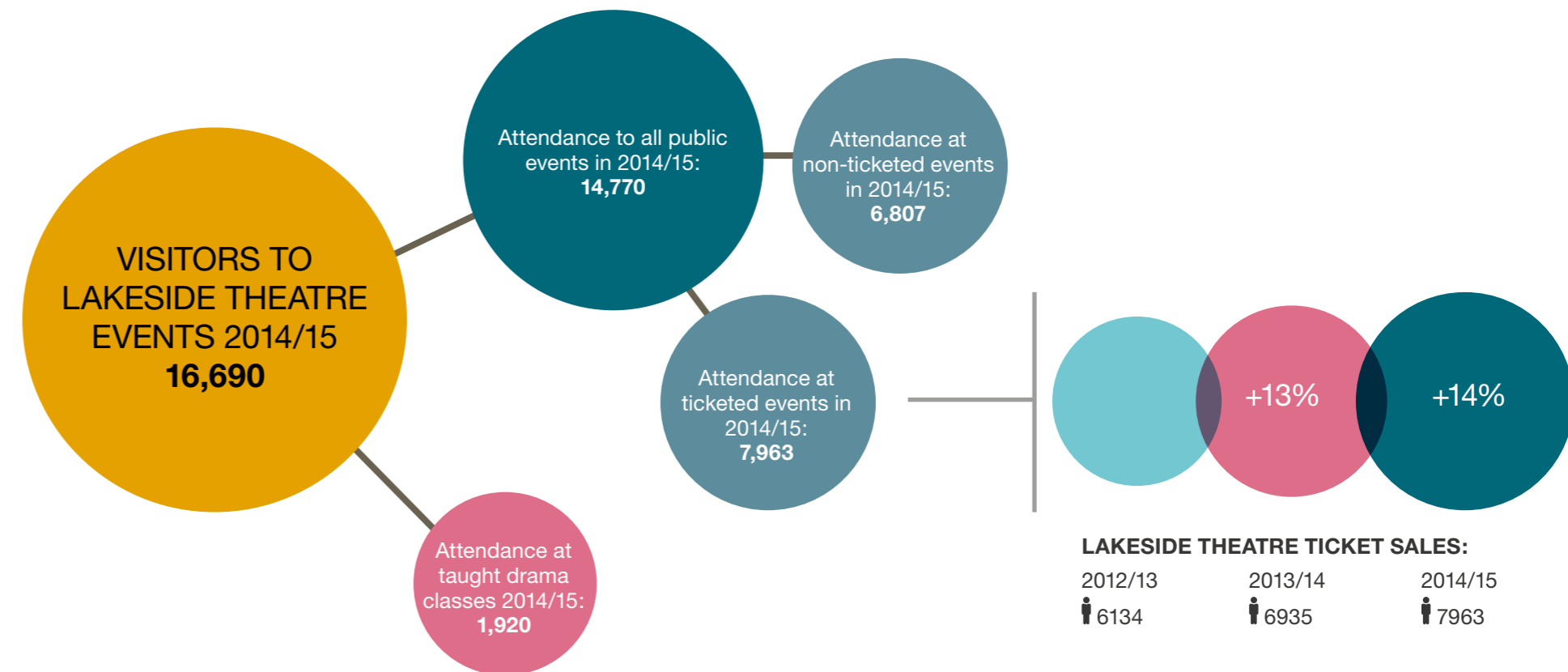
Since investing in Spektrix, an online booking system, 60% of ticket sales are now through the web.

**MAILING LIST GROWTH**

Year	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Followers	1805	2074	2441

**WEB SALES**

Year	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Sales	45%	52%	60%

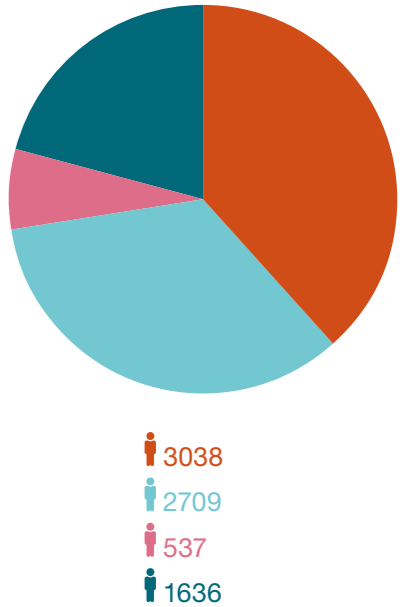
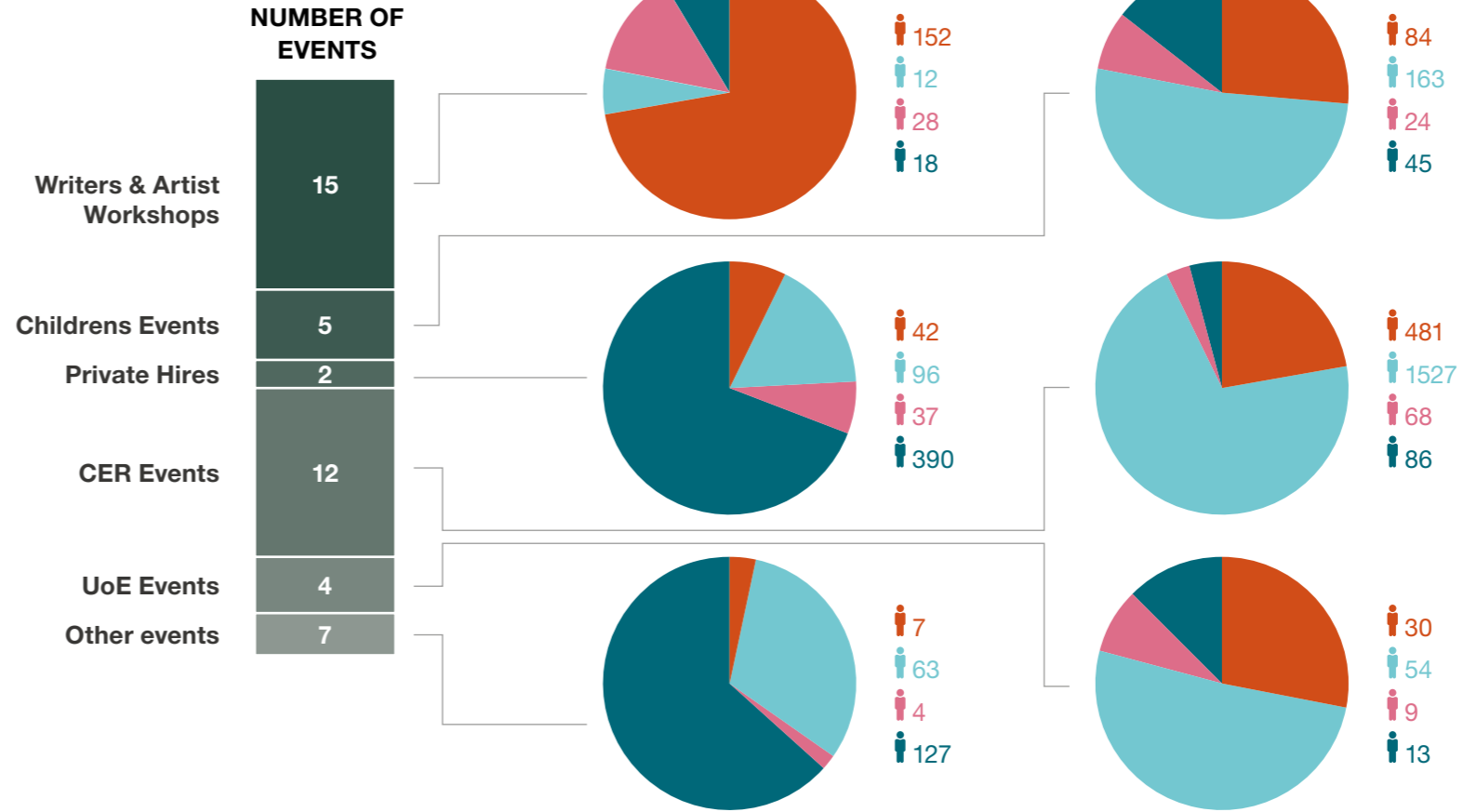
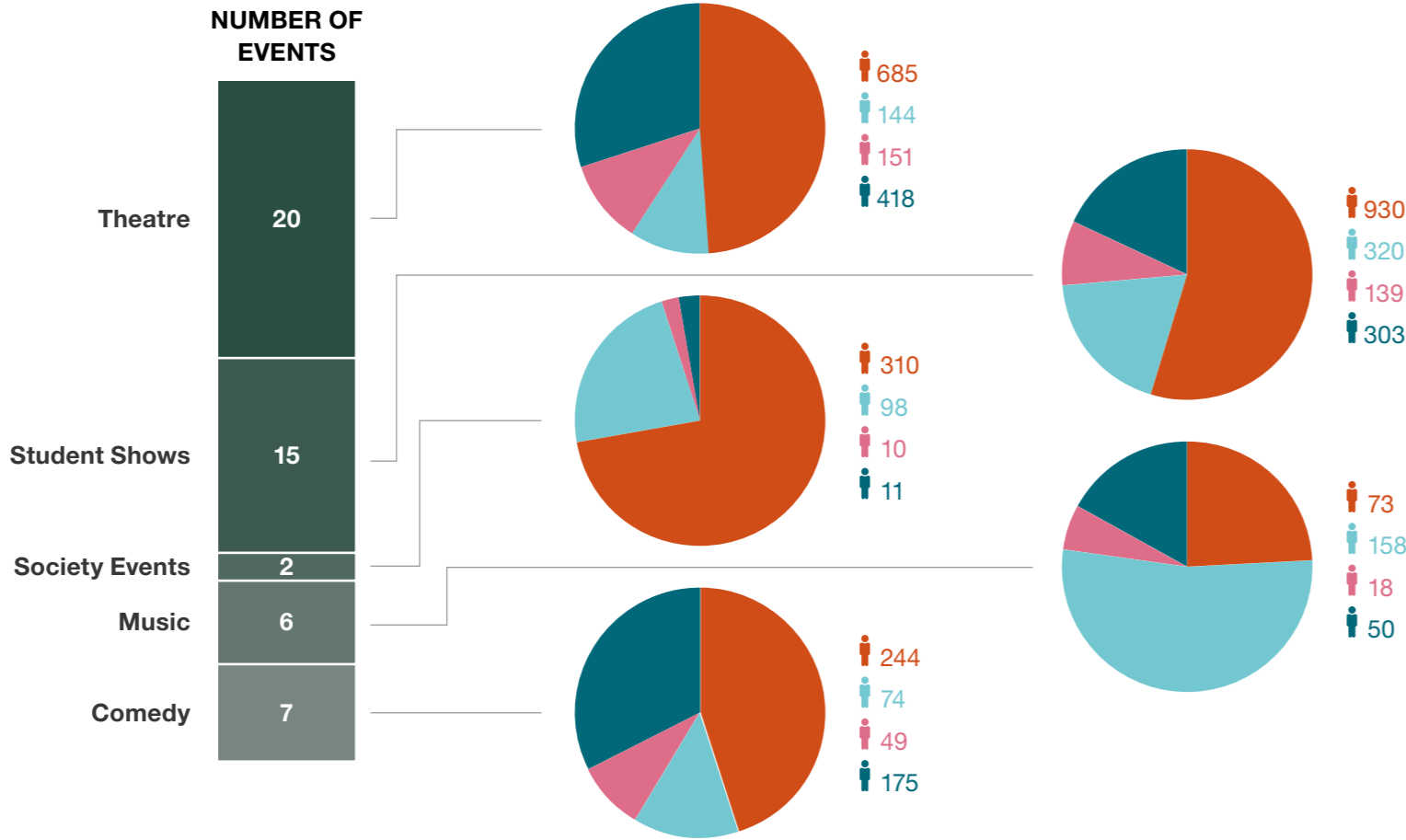


12

BREAKDOWN OF  
TICKETS SOLD

Here's a breakdown of  
our Box Office sales.

- Student
- Full Price
- Concessions
- Other  
(Offers, comps etc)



TOTAL = 7963

The theatre produces its packed programme with a small core team:

**Artistic Director (part-time): Barbara Peirson**

The Artistic Director is responsible for the strategic and creative vision of the Lakeside Theatre and for curating its programme of performance, workshops, seminars and other live events. Barbara liaises with students, academics, artists and theatre companies to broker creative partnerships, develop talent, and facilitate joint projects which in turn attract funding and yield internships and work experience for students and graduates in the Creative Industries.

**Theatre Manager: Genine Sumner (Lauren Haubenschmid maternity cover)**

The Theatre Manager is responsible for the day to day smooth running of the front-of-house and bar. She recruits, manages and trains our team of casual staff, front runners and volunteers and ensures that the theatre is warm, welcoming and runs smoothly. She manages the day to day admin of the theatre,

liaising with companies, ensures that the bar is kept up to date with stock and that the box office, which is the interface with our audience, runs efficiently. She also mentors and assists students with managing the processes involved in mounting their own productions.

**Theatre Technician: Harry Harris**

Harry is responsible for the technical operation and maintenance of the theatre. He manages a team of frontrunners, casual staff and volunteers. He is responsible for the technical aspects of all events that take place in the main house and the studio. He liaises with theatre companies to plan and prepare the theatre for their visit and works with them to rig and operate their shows. He liaises with and mentors students to facilitate their projects and supports staff in the delivery of practical theatre modules on the curriculum.

**Marketing and Communications**

**Co-ordinator: Steve Goatman**

Steve works for both the Lakeside Theatre and Art Exchange and is responsible for marketing, publicity, sales and audience development. He manages a team of casual staff, frontrunners and volunteers who assist with promoting events, reaching new audiences and the evaluation of all activities. He also programmes the music and comedy events which take place in the theatre and the bar.

**Theatre Interns**

This year thanks to support from Essex County Council, Real Circumstances Theatre Company and Internships at Essex, we raised funds to support two Internships in Technical Theatre and one in Marketing and Publicity

**CASUAL STAFF**

The theatre runs with a large team of casual staff almost all of whom are students or graduates.

**Assistant Theatre Technicians**

All shows need more than one technician working on them and this offers the opportunity for students who are interested in working backstage to have a hands on learning experience. Under the tutelage of the Theatre Technician students quickly progress from sweeping the stage, to working at height, to being responsible for running the lights and sound on a show. A few students stay on after graduating to gather as many backstage skills as they can before heading on to careers in technical theatre and stage management.

**Duty Managers**

Duty Managers are responsible for the smooth running of the front of house, box office and bar when the building is open to the public. Trained in health and safety they ensure that the building and the people in it are safe. Gaining experience in this public facing role has assisted several students to progress their careers after graduating.

**Ushers**

Most ushers are volunteers, they help the audience to their seats, collect tickets and post show audience responses. Ushers are able to see performances for free and many progress to paid work in the theatre.

**Bar staff**

A rolling team of café/bar staff

**Marketing Assistants**

Marketing assistants help with the distribution of marketing material and collection of audience data.

**Youth Theatre Co-ordinator:**

**Lauren Haubenschmid.**

The Youth Theatre Co-ordinator plans and delivers the weekly activity for the Youth Theatre, she is responsible for admin and liaising with parents and carers. She also plans and delivers the annual Summer School for young people: Play in a Week.

**Youth Theatre Assistants**

Graduates and current students assist with the delivery of the Youth Theatre sessions, this can be invaluable experience for students planning a career in teaching.

**“Mind expanding  
wonderfulness!”**

Jess Rich, VP Welfare, University of Essex Students Union

