

A MOMENTS PEACE



A Moment's Peace Theatre Company SCIO

**Annual Report
2019/20**

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Chair's Statement

2019/20 was a pro-active year for **A Moment's Peace Theatre Company**. The focus of our work over this period was Creative Action: a series of research and development periods that allowed us to zoom in on new ideas and generate platforms for our future projects. This programme of work built on our commitment to widening access to arts practice and prioritising widespread energising engagement with the issues that matter for the communities we work within.

In May 2019 we undertook the first R&D of our forthcoming project **Resisters**, which will see us partner with Glasgow Women's Library and Tramway to deliver a large-scale performance piece created with women across the city of Glasgow. At the same time, we worked alongside Social Bite to develop and deliver **Stories to Survive to**, a new writing project with their women's group which culminated with a zine and an audio performance, in addition to the live event we hosted to present their collective work at SYT. I was honoured to be able to attend this event and shared in a wonderful evening of storytelling.

This period also allowed us to reaffirm our commitment to long-term participatory engagement, and we now have two ongoing regular groups we are working with. The **Women's Creative Company**, established in 2011, is our longest-standing project and were involved in **Stories to Survive to**, and will be integral to **Resisters** as it grows into a full project. **Shared Space** is our newest group, meeting monthly across 2019 as well as hosting Sunday afternoon scratch events every four months. Both these groups provide safe, inclusive spaces for individuals often structurally excluded from the wider cultural landscape - and are facilitated with care, creativity and joy. In addition to the creative activity happening, we are in the process of seeking to secure financial and partnership support for future work with both groups.

We are very grateful for the support of our funders and supporters who continue to recognise the significant impact of our work. I would also like to thank my fellow board members for their continued commitment and insight in supporting the organisation to meet its strategic aims.

As we move into 2020/21 and, along with the rest of the world, try to adjust to the shifting times, the organisation is faced with new challenges. Huge thanks must be extended to our Artistic Director Catrin Evans and Producer Sara Marshall who work incredibly hard behind the scenes and whose contribution is hugely valuable. Thanks also to Kae Sakurai, our bookkeeper. I would like to thank each and every freelance practitioner who have joined us for these projects. As always, **A Moment's Peace** could not continue to thrive without the people it works with. We would like to extend our gratitude to our participants. Your commitment and enthusiasm are what makes **A Moment's Peace** the company it is.

Chair: Emma McKee



Programme of Work

Stories to Survive to: 24 Creative Workshops, 8 Volunteers, 29 Participants, 1 Public Sharing Event and 80 Audience Members

This project brought together our oldest group the **Women's Creative Company**, and our newest collaborators Social Bite's Women's Group. Between March and June 2019, the two groups worked with Fringe First Award winning playwright Lynda Radley to create and present short pieces of new writing that tell stories of resilience and hope; that celebrate the strength of women pushed to the margins. This project saw our first partnership with Social Bite, an organisation on a mission to end homelessness in Scotland. Within Glasgow, Social Bite operates a social enterprise café, which puts its profits and space back into working with those affected by homelessness, as well as those with social and financial vulnerability. The Social Bite Women's group aims to provide a safe space for women who have experience of homelessness, to come together, share a meal and reflect on their strengths and mutual support.



The project focused on developing the participants imaginative voices, crafting individual and collective experiences into performative stories. Our aim was to connect the women with a creative project that facilitated them to craft their experiences, develop a creative voice and strengthen confidence in expressing ideas and concerns. A zine publication of the works was created and launched at a public sharing event at Scottish Youth Theatre in June 2019.

"I met many people I never met before and I am proud that they think I can write something. . . I am alive, I have some breathing space."
Participant

"Seeing my work performed and being well received by the audience made me have more self belief in my ability to write. It also gave me confidence and a sense of worth." Participant

"Coming here has really helped my mental health. When I first started coming I was really depressed but meeting all these amazing women has really helped me... I'm the only women of colour in this group and they accepted me no problem. I really appreciate that." Participant

Work created through the project, and our final report can be viewed through the project's webpage: <https://www.amomentspeace.co.uk/stories-to-survive-to>

Shared Space: 11 Creative Workshops, 50 Participants, 26 Artists, 3 Public Sharing Events 132 Audience Members and 3 Volunteers.

Our newest group launched this year with the ambition to establish a new and accessible mixed art-form company that specifically focuses on engaging and making work with individuals affected by the complex and hostile UK immigration system. The space focuses on exploring and expanding creative practice through artistic play and experimentation.

In this pilot year A Moment's Peace, together with project partners Küche and renowned arts venue Tramway, hosted monthly sessions from April 2019 to February 2020. **Shared Space's** multidisciplinary workshops were delivered by a range of arts practitioners and were a place where food was shared, where conversations about best practice on accessibility and ethics were held, where barriers facing artists within the immigration system were dismantled and where every third session culminated with a public open mic session/scratch event for participants and audiences, including professionals and amateurs, to showcase their work and ideas. **Shared Space** worked with a total of 50 participants from over 10 different countries and speaking over 9 different languages. Project participants included both men and women between the ages of 18 and 75.

'One thing I like most about this group is I am able to forget about my worries; my circumstances for some time and spend time with people who are coming from different cultures and different backgrounds. But also I feel more confident to share my stories in the storytelling workshops and I feel like I can speak and feel proud how this group involve us and thinking about us. I enjoy and feel proud to be part of this group. This group reflect on my life.'

Participant

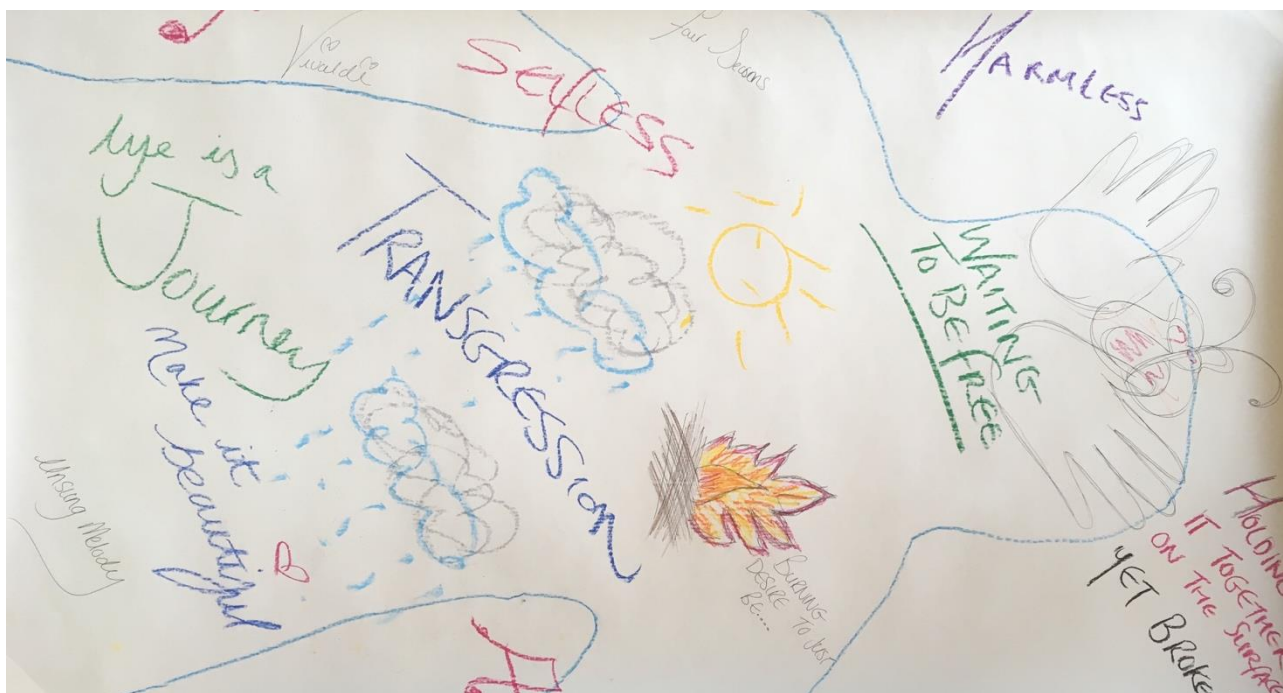


*'When I arrived in the UK I was alone and had no family or friends. I had no community around me... I was feeling that this loneliness brings my level of confidence down. Then someone tell me about **Shared Space** so I came joined and welcomed by everyone... I started feeling that now I am in my home and with my family. I found different and very informative activities here which increased my knowledge, enhanced my experience and quality of life. I will always be very thankful to all here...'* **Participant**

More about this project, including our Year One report can be viewed through the project's webpage: <https://www.amomentspeace.co.uk/sharedspace>

Resisters: In May 2020 lead artists Catrin Evans, Sara Sharaawi and Claire Willoughby undertook a ten-day R&D developing thematic, narrative and aesthetic ideas for our next major live production. Across the 10 days we worked closely with Glasgow Women's Library, exploring their archives and seeking out inspiration from the network of women connected to the library. As part of the R&D we delivered 3 taster workshops with women's groups, reaching 18 women in total, who showed an interest in the joining the project. In these workshops we explored the concept of resistance, began writing short pieces of performance work in response to resistant women in our lives, as well as undertook a visual exploration of how resistance within women manifests. The creative world that has emerged from this work is inspired by the rich and dark world of magic realism.

The R & D period also allowed us to consolidate our partnership with Tramway, who have committed to staging the show in Tramway 1 in 2021 as well as offering significant in-kind support throughout the project. Throughout the project we also developed a strong partnership with Glasgow Women's Library, with a commitment to housing the first phase (research stage) of the long-term project and working closely with us to deliver the satellite projects that will culminate with an exhibition to run alongside the production.



Horizons: This is an ambitious intergenerational performance piece reaching across families, geographies and cultures. With support from National Theatre of Scotland and Creative Scotland we were due to undertake our first R&D in April 2020, where we planned to gather scholars, arts practitioners and activists who we felt might be key to bringing this project to life. We also hoped to work with our first family to create a work-in-progress version of one of stand-alone performances. Due to COVID-19 we have sadly had to delay our plans and are currently in the process of working out what is possible.

Treasurer's Statement and Annual Accounts

Our activities this year have been substantially supported by the Creative Scotland Open Project grant we secured in 2018/19. It has allowed us to regularly employ AMP's Producer and Artistic Director in project specific roles and has enabled us to deliver a rich and varied programme of development work. In addition to the Women's Fund for Scotland from the Tampon Tax Community Fund (via Foundation Scotland) which was also secured in 2018/19 for work to be carried out in this current year, we were successful in securing support for this programme through Glasgow City Council and Glasgow Life. Finally, we were invited to access the second year of our three-year funding grant from Robertson Trust.

A Moment's Peace Theatre Company SCIO
Registered Charity Number SC044000
Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Year 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020

| | Unrestricted | Restricted | 2020 Total | 2019 Total |
|--|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Income | | | | |
| Box Office and Performance Fees | 0 | 0 | 0 | 205 |
| Glasgow Culture and Sport | 0 | 2,500 | 2,500 | 1,875 |
| Office Contributions Associates | 2,815 | 0 | 2,815 | 4,338 |
| Glasgow City Council | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6,135 |
| The Robertson Trust | 0 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 7,000 |
| Creative Scotland – Open Project | 0 | 7,206 | 7,206 | 36,035 |
| Donations | 0 | 0 | 0 | 60 |
| Foundation Scotland | 0 | 80 | 80 | 8,521 |
| National Theatre Scotland | 0 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 0 |
| Phosphorus Theatre | 0 | 266 | 266 | 0 |
| Total Income | 2,815 | 16,552 | 19,367 | 64,169 |
| Expenditure | | | | |
| Core Costs | 0 | 20,826 | 20,826 | 11,677 |
| Research and Development | 0 | 6,618 | 6,618 | 0 |
| Project Costs including Access | 0 | 20,537 | 20,537 | 6,318 |
| Production Costs including Access | 0 | 1,658 | 1,658 | 888 |
| Marketing Digital Press including Access | 0 | 4,344 | 4,344 | 230 |
| Documentation and Evaluation | 0 | 2,531 | 2,531 | 0 |
| Total Expenditure | 0 | 56,514 | 56,514 | 19,113 |
| Net Receipts / (Payments) | 2,815 | (39,962) | (37,147) | 45,056 |
| Funds Carried Over from 2018/19 | 4,543 | 44,918 | 49,461 | 4,405 |
| | <u>7,358</u> | <u>4,956</u> | <u>12,314</u> | <u>49,461</u> |
| Transfer between Funds | 295 | (295) | 0 | 0 |
| | <u>7,653</u> | <u>4,661</u> | <u>12,314</u> | <u>49,461</u> |
| Closing balances | 7,653 | 4,661 | 12,314 | 49,461 |
| Statement of Balances as at 31 March 2020 | | | | |
| Bank | 7,360 | 4,661 | 12,021 | 49,453 |
| Cash | 293 | 0 | 293 | 8 |
| | <u>7,653</u> | <u>4,661</u> | <u>12,314</u> | <u>49,461</u> |
| Balance as at 31 March 2020 | 7,653 | 4,661 | 12,314 | 49,461 |

Specific notes on accounts

Reserves and Unrestricted income: As with previous years, the majority of our income is restricted and focused specifically on project related spend. We have managed to increase our unrestricted reserves this year, with the ongoing contributions made by office associates. However, given the unknown nature of the year ahead we anticipate these reserves will be required to support some of the core costs associated with day-to-day activity. That said, in 2020/21 we will continue to prioritise building up reasonable unrestricted reserves as and when we can.

Closing Balance: This year, AMP carries over £12,314 with a percentage of this restricted to the final costs associated with Creative Action. We recognise this is considerably smaller closing balance than previous years, but it also represents an inevitable aspect of our financial situation, which is dependent upon securing large project grants which can spread over a number of accounting years.

Our Annual Accounts were certified by Benham Conway & Co Accountants.

Summary

We end 2019/20 with a continued commitment to securing our financial position. We still have our final year of support from Robertson Trust, and we are awaiting multiple funding decisions. However, in light of the COVID-19 crisis, **A Moment's Peace** is conscious that we are working within an exceptionally difficult funding climate. We will continue to explore ways to seek funding to deliver our project and strengthen the infrastructure and sustainability of the organisation in an increasingly challenging funding landscape. Whilst this remains a priority, we also recognise that we need to continue thinking innovatively about how we raise income, whilst remaining true to the strong ethical line we take regarding who we will work with.

Treasurer: Maree Aldam



Looking Forward

We enter 2020/21 at a very turbulent global moment. With COVID-19 bringing a lockdown to everyday life, the theatre and wider arts sector is going to be substantially impacted long-term, and of course in the short-term we are unable to meet any of our groups in the ways in which we are used to doing. **A Moment's Peace** will need to be strategically dexterous, and operationally imaginative as well as compassionate in order to work out how we can best survive – and help others survive – this unknown landscape.

We are acutely aware of the way in which this public health crisis will affect individuals and communities very differently, especially in respect to digital access. We are committed to making sure that the individuals we work with have access to the practical support they need and access to platforms where their experiences and concerns can be seen and heard. This will underpin how we reimagine the plans for all of our ongoing and future projects, a task that we are in the process of taking on as we complete this report and plan for this AGM.

We remain committed to regularly engaging with the **Women's Creative Company, Shared Space** and the women's group at Social Bite. We have already begun *At A Distance Together*; a bespoke digital project that allows us to stay in touch with participants regularly and encourage people to utilise their creative practice to reflect and process these changing times. We hope this will help us remain alive to how this time is affecting those we work with and allow us to co-create small-scale response projects.

While we won't be able to begin work on the full **Resisters** project as scheduled, we are working with Tramway and Glasgow Women's Library to generate a creative plan for how the project might happen under the restrictions born out of this global pandemic. In addition, we hope to support **Shared Space** Associate Artist Najma Abukar to develop her response piece to her work on the project, a photographic inquiry into *Artists and Exile*.

More than ever we are committed to contributing to engaging our creative practice in the struggle for social, economic and racial justice. Moving forward we pledge for our work to be at once art, grassroots activism and a form of solidarity.

Thank You

As a priority we must extend our gratitude to the freelance staff, artists, partners and volunteers that joined **A Moment's Peace** during the delivery of our work this year. Without their creativity, hard work and commitment to embedding the company's values into all of our work we wouldn't be able to create the projects that we make. In particular we'd like to thank:

Sara Sharaawi, Claire Willoughby, Lynda Radley, Carolina Perez, Belle Jones, Elizabeth Malner, Saffa Khan, Jenny Seop, Patricia Panther, Stephen Rae, Maryam Hamidi, Fiona Jones, Jassy Earl, Ewain Black, Marzena Farana-Sherlock, Laura Stewart, Deborah May, Najma Abukar, Omar Affif, Amadu Khan, Paria Goodarzi, Farah Salah, Layla Roxanne-Hill, Rebecca Tantony, Lucy Cathcart-Froden, Christine Cooper, Matt Elliot & Pete McGinty.

Partners and Funders: Küche, Social Bite, Glasgow Women's Library, Tramway, Glasgow Life, Glasgow City Council, The National Lottery through Creative Scotland, The Robertson Trust, National Theatre for Scotland, Phosphorus Theatre, The Tampon Tax Community Fund, Foundation Scotland

We, of course, would also like to extend a thank you to all our participants and audience, for whom **A Moment's Peace** continues to create projects for and about. Your creativity and support towards our projects is what inspires us to constantly pursue new ways of working and to search for the most imaginative way to share each unique story.

Thank you to all the partners, funders and supporters of the company and specific projects. We thrive off collaborating with external organisations and continue to learn and be inspired by those we work with.

To find out more about our work and previous projects you can visit us at:

www.amomentspeace.co.uk

Contact us on:

[**info@amomentspeace.co.uk**](mailto:info@amomentspeace.co.uk)

And join us via:

