

TTA | The Brewhouse Theatre & Arts Centre

Q3 report | July – September 2020 | Cllr B. Allen

Following the extended National Lockdown due to the COVID19 Pandemic, The Brewhouse reopened in July, the staff and volunteers having worked tirelessly to welcome audiences safely. The following operating processes were amended:

- Box office issued electronic tickets only
- Our auditorium capacity was reduced by 2/3 to ensure people were seated 2m apart
- Arrival times were staggered to reduce the risk of bottlenecks
- A one-way system was put in operation to ensure people could stay 2m apart, with extensive signage installed to explain the new system, and a requirement that face coverings were in use in the foyer and auditorium
- Our bar operation was amended to ensure social distancing was maintained, and a new payment system ensured electronic transactions only
- Staff and volunteers were equipped with PPE and training for the new operating system
- Hand-sanitisation stations were installed throughout the foyer
- Cleaning was increased to ensure public areas were addressed regularly

With little or no live performance touring in the UK, the film programme was prioritised, with mainstream, independent and event cinema on offer for audiences.

We worked outdoors during the summer months with special Take Part activity that included a community mural project, walkabout performance with The Natural Theatre Company, and a community-made willow sculpture that now sits in front of our main entrance. We also moved a majority of our regular Take Part classes online, which was especially important for our older participants who were particularly at risk in the health crisis. In addition to our regular classes, we ran a series of Youth Masterclasses over the school holidays.

We applied for and were successful in our bid to Arts Council England's Emergency Response funding, which enabled us to upgrade our digital capacity as well as commission four regional artists and companies to create new work as part of *HomeBrew*, which also featured a virtual community gallery of visual art work. We also applied for ACE's Culture Recovery Fund during this quarter, and in October, learned we were successful in our application for £194k to support our core costs and invest in our organisation's development and communication strategy.

Behind the scenes, our staff undertook the huge administrative task of rescheduling many months of events and performances, supporting our customers during this period of uncertainty. We continued to work in partnership with others, including Wassail Theatre, Take Art, GoCreate, and others to support regional creative activity.



Amy Bere

Chief Executive

26 November 2020