

Interest Link Roxburgh, YPS Presents “Diesel”

After many successful Pantomimes, the YPS members from Interest Link Roxburgh were excited to put on their very first Summer Show. A script was written by Graham Ford our Creative Director and was called “Diesel”, a take on the iconic musical “Grease”.

The script included the infamous Pink Lassies, and their connection with the T Birds from High School. Olivia who played Sandie and Declan who played Danny had an idyllic Summer romance. When Summer ends Sandie encounters Danny again as she enrolls in High School. Danny reunites with his gang the T Birds and Sandie is taken under the wing of the Pink Lassies.

Graham added a touch of humour to the script and included many diverse characters into the story. He cleverly created roles for all the group members who chose to be on stage. He also created opportunities for other members to be part of the creative, technical and backstage team.

The group members have spent many years together as a friendship group. Being given a chance to be able to work together on another Show was a great opportunity for members to challenge themselves once more. Working on a project together offers our members a unique opportunity to enhance self esteem, promote personal growth, be socially included and continue friendship connections.

Some of our older members have already gained a huge number of skills whilst being part of Panto Productions in the past. They have not only grown in confidence over the years but have become proficient in more demanding and complex acting roles. Staff, volunteers and sessional workers have witnessed personal growth, self expression, and cognitive development in a creative, safe and supported environment.

These members now serve as experienced peer mentors and have had a profound influence on our new and younger members who have just started on their journey from childhood to adulthood. Being part of a show offered a wide range of essential life skills by performing on a stage together. Being part of a creative group allowed everyone to support each other in their roles. Putting on a show together as a group is a profound and emotional journey where members, volunteers and support staff share energy and a sense of accomplishment. It empowers our members by building self esteem and they relish in the pride they have for not only their own achievements but the success of others.

Graham our Creative Director played a vital role by continually challenging and motivating our members to fulfil potential. Graham translated his script into a visual and auditory experience for all to be part of and enjoy. Volunteers were the structural backbone and provided the support systems to enable our members to perform on stage. Parents and carers came along to support the cast and enjoy themselves.

Backstage

Backstage is where the action happens, the magic behind the curtains. It is where the support staff came into their own, and where our members were supported before going on stage.

The work carried out by our support staff was crucial and essential for the success of the performance. The backstage area is a highly organized and a shared area where our members congregated and where the nerves were alleviated.

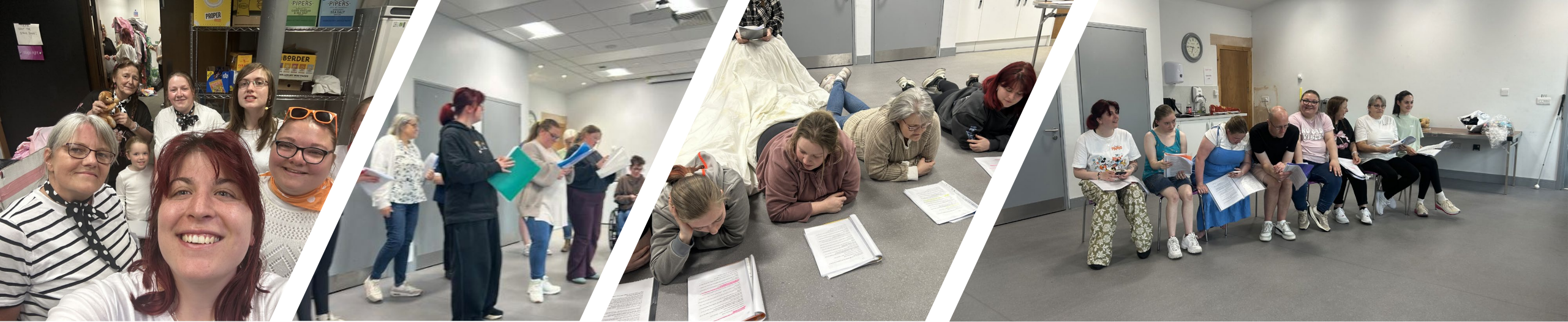
It was a space where members were encouraged and congratulated as everyone was feeling nervous, anxious and excited.

Our volunteers and support staff managed emotions and reassured all our members that they would be amazing.



Behind the Scenes





The Pink Lassies

The Pink Lassies in Diesel are the iconic girl gang, known mainly for their attitudes and matching pink satin jackets. As the new girl in town, Langlee played by Olivia befriends the group she adopts different ways to fit in and becomes part of the inner circle. Her sister Tweedbank played by volunteer Gordon have a love-hate relationship and constantly invade each others personal space.

Script writer Graham created an individual name for all the Pink Lassies that corresponded to street names in the town. Using local dialect and referencing familiar landmarks in Hawick helped not only connect the show with our audience but built trust and authenticity, By adding comedy he was able to resonate with the local audience.



The Pink Lassies

The Pink Lassies worked very well together. This was quite a complex scene as there were a lot of lines from the script that had to be learnt. Volunteers, Judy, Carmel, Katie, Amy and Sarah supported members Abby, Siobhan, and Olivia on stage. There were challenging costume changes, but the girls had many practice sessions, and all went to plan.

It was important that our volunteers supported the members on stage as two of our members have only been on the stage once or twice.

It is early days for our new members who felt nervous on stage for the first time. It takes many years of performing to be more confident. Posture and spatial awareness on stage comes only with experience. Once people feel more confident these barriers are broken down and acting roles and stage presence becomes much more natural.

Performers who have learnt these skills are vital to support new members and it is always important for our volunteers to have support systems in place to enable members to learn and become more confident.



T Birds

The T Birds are the famously rebellious leather jacket wearing gang and counterparts to the Pink Lassies. Craig, Ryan, Scott, and Blair were fabulous in their roles as they supported Declan`s character, Danny on stage. Declan has become very proficient at acting and has, mastered the art of active listening. Declan took time this year to study his character, he learnt lines and memorised words to songs.

Ryan has grown in confidence and has contributed by adding value to the show with his technical skills. Craig is a great peer mentor to others as he continued to show empathy, share advice and lead by example throughout the process.

Blair`s concentration has improved immensely and has been encouraged to listen and learn from others. Scott learnt his lines and it paid off. He is a talented singer and performed two songs in the show.

Scott and Blair were supported on stage by volunteer Arran. Arran provided a safety net on stage as he prompted our members with their lines. He also encouraged the members to act out their lines on stage with expression and confidence.

Our five male members worked effectively as a team and worked collaboratively together to work on acting skills. They had mutual respect and supported each other throughout the show. They all put their trust in Graham and Arran as they both supported them with lines on the stage.





Priceless Dedication

Volunteers and Support Staff made the dream come true.. Their support and attention to detail was noticed. Our volunteers are the most amazing people at interest link Roxburgh as they share our creative vision. They are active force as they encouraged our members to fulfil their potential.

They encouraged, congratulated and motivated our members to do their very best. They were challenged individually as they took on acting roles themselves. Carmel, Judy, Gordon, Tamzin, Sarah, Katie, and Amy believed in our members, and their abilities and that self belief was evident on the night.

They celebrated success and empowered our members to do their best. They instilled confidence, taught new skills and offered a comprehensive support system to individual members. Volunteers enable our members to make a valuable contribution to their community making them feel valued and comfortable in a safe environment. We certainly couldn't do without them.

Creative Team

Jane Creative Designer, and Paula with her seamstress skills led on the Creative Team with added talent from Beth and Seren.

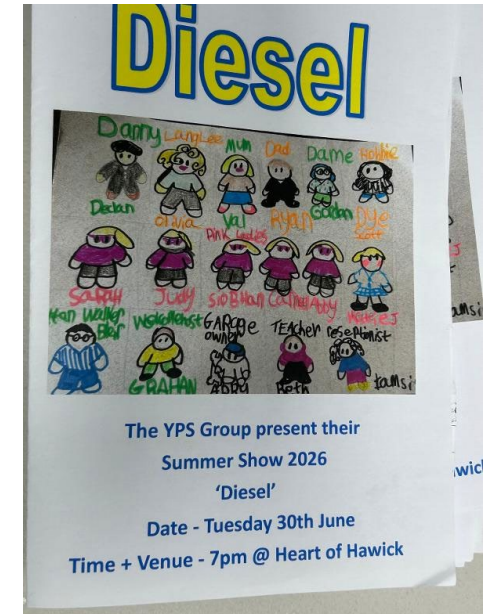
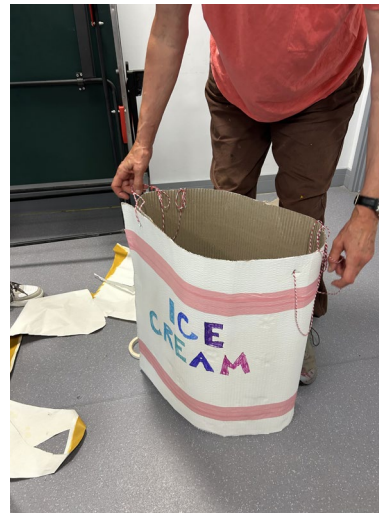
They all shared the creative vision and had the skills to create props and pick out costumes for each actor and bring them to life on the stage.

Teamwork was vital as they planned props, resourced materials and worked together creating colourful items for each scene.

Characters personality shines through with the right costume and prop.

Beth has created many props for shows in the past and designed all the posters for all our Pantos. Beth dipped in and out of the team adding value but concentrated mainly on perfecting her very first acting role in the Summer Show.

Seren is a new member to Interest Link and has become a popular and talented member of the team. Seren designed the poster for "Diesel" this year and listened to the brief that was required for her to complete a colourful poster representing each character in the show.



Craig

Craig has been with in our YPS Group since he was 16 years old and remembers the first production that the group presented 10 years ago. It was a Drama production and a take on the popular TV series “Still Game”. A video camera was used to film every character saying a line or two. The scenes were then edited which took many hours of hard work.

Many years later and Craig is now a fabulous actor. He is brilliant at learning lines; and takes his acting role very seriously. He meticulously works on his acting skills to perfect his performance on live stage.

Craig can improvise and is a perfect role model for all our younger less experienced members.

Graham`s Feedback:

Craig – “You absolutely embrace everything the group is about. The man who never says no. Craig will take on a request and come back with bells and whistles attached. Your first steps into choreography was a joy to watch, no inhibitions, just leading from the front.

You also work so hard at making new members feel part of our family and your rapport with the audience is top drawer, you also take stage direction so well”





Declan

Declan has grown in confidence this year. He played the lead role in this year's show and did it with conviction. Declan has always been hard on himself and got upset when he forgot his lines over the years.

This year he has gained so much more confidence and worked hard on acting skills. He was able to improvise much more effectively. He found that by concentrating on this aspect his true personality shone through. He owned the stage and did a fabulous job.

He portrayed the character of Danny so well evoking emotion as he fell in love with Sandie.

Graham's Feedback:

Declan – Your progress both as a person and as a performer in recent years has simply been remarkable. You have grown into a man, and your skill level and enthusiasm literally bursts out when you are on stage.

Your energy and encouragement throughout the entire season lifted everyone. You are an absolute inspiration, and I firmly believe whatever you do in life, you will achieve.

What a Partnership

An acting partnership on stage is a dynamic, collaborative relationship built on trust, active listening and mutual respect.

The chemistry between these two characters was quite amazing. They have built a strong bond with each other, and may we witness many more shows in the future where these two young men have an opportunity to continue their onstage chemistry.

The kindness they show each other is something magical.

They are compassionate, kind and giving to others. Traits that are inherent and valuable when working on the stage together.





Scott

Scott is a very talented young man with a twinkle in his eye. Scott has grown in confidence. During practice sessions Scott he has learnt to listen, take on board instruction and practiced words for songs and lines at home with support from his carers.

Scott is a great entertainer and sings on stage. Scott performed beautifully in the live show and had the audience tapping their feet as they sang along to a couple of iconic Grease songs.

Graham`s Feedback:

Scott —"It was so nice to have you back in our family. Your progression this year from who I worked with ten years ago, quite simply was stunning. You have grown to be so brilliant, your ability to learn lines and songs, and your stage presence is amazing.

Your happy, cheery personality at every rehearsal was always such a positive, warm experience".

Ryan

Ryan has been part of Interest Link since he was 14 years old. Ryan has made so many friends in the group and looks forward to seeing everyone.

Ryan has a job as a Business Support Advisor with Borders College and has always been able to add value to the Shows and Pantos by advising Graham on technical and digital aspects of the show.

This year particularly Ryan worked on a collaborate level with Graham on different scenes, advising him about sound effects, backdrop photos and much more. Ryan now effectively sends over vital digital images when required.

Graham`s feedback:

Ryan – I know when we first started doing drama several years ago, it wasn't your thing. But you have grown into it, and similar to everything you do.

You now embrace it, bring your character and personality into it, and have embraced the creative opportunities. You genuinely helped the two other T-Birds.

You also came up trumps in writing your first script and assisted in providing the sounds clips for the show. Ryan you are an integral part of our group.





Olivia

Olivia is such a delight to be around. Her enthusiasm shines through when acting on stage. Her positive, kind nature is what makes her a popular character.

Olivia takes her role on stage very seriously, she learns lines quickly and her singing voice is simply beautiful. Olivia conveyed raw emotion on stage and as an actress she was able to connect with the audience. Her singing voice created tension and vulnerability throughout the show.

Olivia is a kind and giving individual and always sees the best in other people. She is never short of praise for others and acts as an inspiring mentor to the younger members.

Graham`s feedback:

Olivia – “When you first joined the group you were a little girl, often hidden in the shadows of your sisters. Our group has changed that; you stood in the spotlight and sang your heart out. You sang in front of around 100 people.

Never doubt what you can now achieve because you achieved one of the biggest challenges in live theatre. You work so hard behind the scenes, you quickly learned your lines and that certainly encouraged others to up their game.

Continue to reflect on what you have achieved whenever you may experience self-doubt, it will take you to a positive happy place”.

Siobhan

Siobhan joined the YPS Group a 2 years ago and has established friendship connections with our group. Siobhan has always been interested in acting and really enjoyed Drama at school.

Siobhan has always been diligent with her lines and got rid of her script very early on. Siobhan enjoys every aspect of Drama including dancing. Siobhan listens to advice and even although anxious she can listen to volunteers as they give her tips on how to reduce anxiety before the show.

Graham`s feedback:

Siobhan –” Only your second year with the group, it feels like you have been with us forever. Such a happy person, you also are so good at learning your lines and as you remain with the group you will continue to learn your stage craft.

You are very talented and it is incredible how quickly you have gelled into the group. Watching your confidence grow will only escalate in the coming years and anything is possible for you”.



Abby

Abby is our newcomer and is thoroughly enjoying getting to know everyone. Without any hesitation Abby put herself forward for a part in the show.

Abby is beginning to come out of her shell and embraced the challenge of a small acting part. Abby was worried about retaining her lines, but she was reassured that she would be given full support on stage to help her.

Abby concentrated on her acting and took on board all the advice she was given.

Graham`s feedback:

Abby – “Your personal development, in just under six months, is what our group is all about. You joined the group shy, quiet and rightly nervous. Our family worked their magic, the drama season worked its magic, and you embraced it all.

I spotted your ability quickly and wasn't afraid to give you two roles because I knew you could do it. What I never knew was how you would react to performing in front of an audience, the result was brilliant”.



Beth



Beth has been with the group since she was 14 years old. Beth never talked when she first came along to the group 10 years ago. During one of the Panto sessions Beth began to speak and has never stopped since that day.

We love how she chats about everything now and interacts with others in the group. Beth has been part of the Creative Group as she chose not to be on the stage. Last year Beth decided to go on the stage with a volunteer in a non- speaking part and she did a great job with support.

This year Beth wanted a speaking part and was the Teacher in the School scene. Beth independently learnt her lines, and we all hope she will choose to take on a more challenging role next year.

Graham`s feedback:

Beth – “One of the most amazing transformations of our group. Just the nicest person, talented at creating and crafting, continuing to take steps forward in your own personal confidence, and absolutely shining at everything to do.

It is people like you that I give so much to this group, because the difference we make to your life, and the joy you bring to ours is special”.

Katie

Katie has become much more confident. Katie enjoys being with her friends. Katie is really enjoying being on the stage, and has strong bonds with volunteer Amy, Sarah and others. Katie loves when they support her on stage.

Katie enjoyed dressing up as an Ice Cream Seller this year for the show and was very happy to try her costume on that was made by the Creative Team.

If Katie has the right support system on stage, she really enjoys the experience and has much more confidence knowing that someone is going to be with her all the way.

Graham`s feedback:

Katie Scott – “That smile and wicked sense of humour is always front and centre when you are with us. When you are on stage the smile grows brighter. Hopefully going forward we can get you to more rehearsals because I have more for you to do to continue your personal growth”.



Blair

Blair really worked hard on his concentration this year and was so attentive when given instructions. Arran worked with Blair and Scott this year and Blair delivered on everything he was asked to do. Blair concentrated on his lines and worked hard on delivering 2-3 words in each scene. Blair enjoyed working with everyone and he always come to the group with a smile and tells everyone what he has been up to.

Being part of the show, this year has been a positive experience for him as he has learnt to listen and concentrate on other people's lines and when his line fits in and is appropriate.

Graham`s feedback:

Blair – “My rule has always been if someone wants to play a part, they will. You listened well this year and your progress in saying lines on stage, listening to what you were to say and doing so was a huge step forward.

You also danced well, listened to Arran, and gained so much from being part of our group”.



Cory

Cory enjoys being with his friends and because of his Autism he finds it difficult to concentrate. The group talked about how Cory could feel valued and included in the show. It was decided that it was important that a strong support system was established very early on.

Arran, Paula and I made sure that Cory came onto the stage when he could cope. These scenes were less noisy, and he then could be an integral part of the group. Cory got his acting debut when he was supported on stage as a commentator at the Race Day.

The Creative Team made him a loudspeaker, and he reiterated the word “Roll up, roll up” just perfectly and on cue when asked.

It is always important to everyone working with our young people that every individual is given an opportunity to shine on stage. Cory was given that opportunity as the support system was put into place to enable Cory to be on stage with his friends.

Graham`s feedback:

Cory – “Our group is all about inclusiveness. We do that brilliantly. The progress you have made with us over 12 months is lovely. I know your family were so proud of your role in the show.

You were beautifully enabled and supported by Paula, Arran, Katie and Val. You were able to be yourself on stage and we as a family embraced that”.





Seren

Seren joined the group last year and has made many new friends. Seren didn't want to be on the stage but wanted to be part of the Creative Team.

Seren enjoyed creating our poster for the show and the programme. Seren worked hard with Beth and Jane on props and has a creative mind.

Seren is very kind to others in the group and always gives positive feedback to others in their acting roles.

Graham's feedback:

Seren – I may never get you on stage, but I will never stop presenting you with the opportunity. The door is open; it will be the making of you when you step through it.

Our family is about working together and supporting and encouraging each other. Your moment will come when ready, but your creative contribution to the group is also just as important.

Macaulay

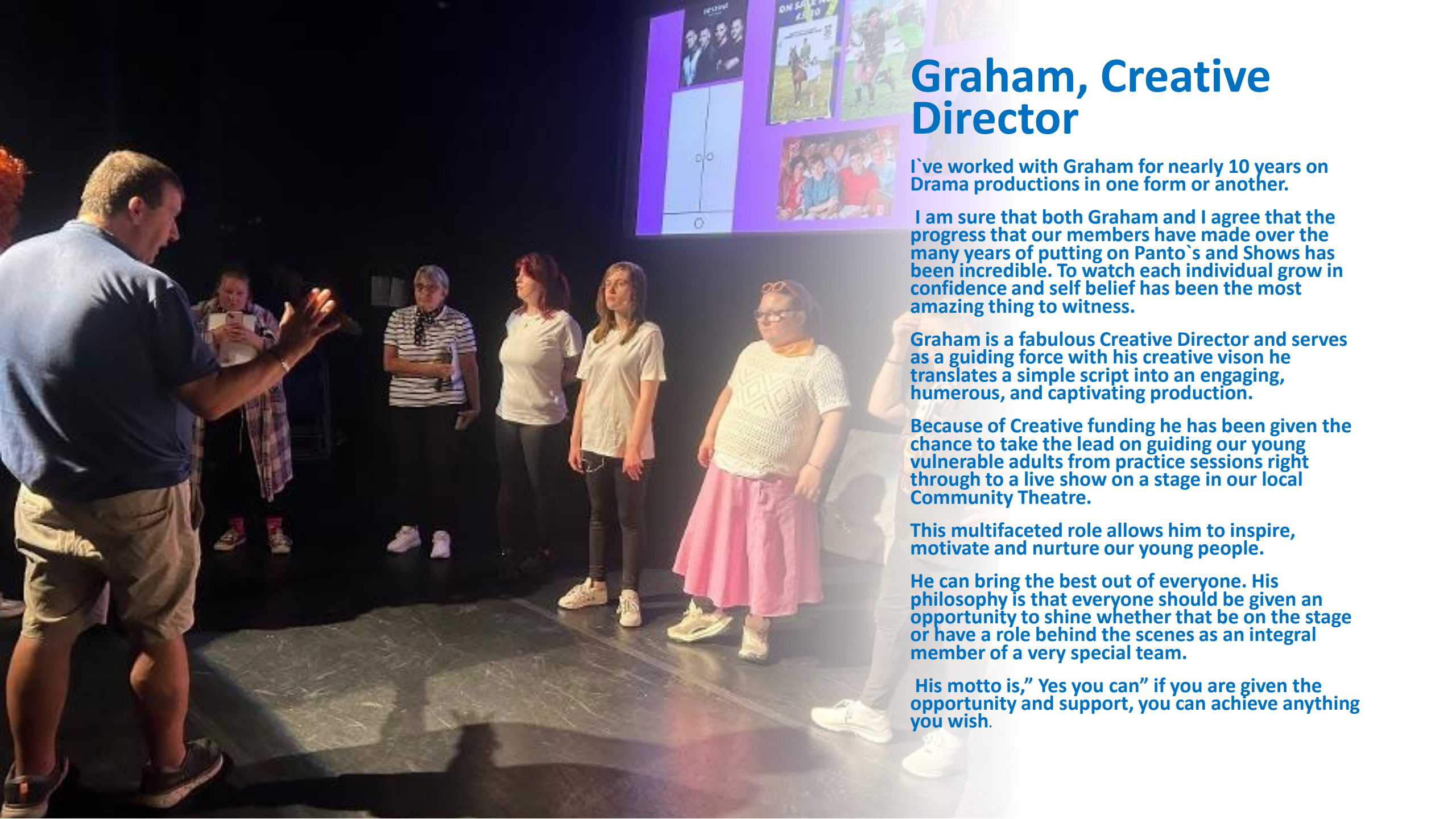
Macaulay was a member of our YPS Group many years ago and has now gone on to befriend a volunteer with our 1-1 service.

Macaulay is a reliable member and always comes back to help at our Panto's and Shows.

Macaulay's job is to give out the programmes, welcome the audience and guide them to their seats.

Macaulay is an integral part of the team and we love having him.





Graham, Creative Director

I've worked with Graham for nearly 10 years on Drama productions in one form or another.

I am sure that both Graham and I agree that the progress that our members have made over the many years of putting on Panto's and Shows has been incredible. To watch each individual grow in confidence and self belief has been the most amazing thing to witness.

Graham is a fabulous Creative Director and serves as a guiding force with his creative vision he translates a simple script into an engaging, humorous, and captivating production.

Because of Creative funding he has been given the chance to take the lead on guiding our young vulnerable adults from practice sessions right through to a live show on a stage in our local Community Theatre.

This multifaceted role allows him to inspire, motivate and nurture our young people.

He can bring the best out of everyone. His philosophy is that everyone should be given an opportunity to shine whether that be on the stage or have a role behind the scenes as an integral member of a very special team.

His motto is, "Yes you can" if you are given the opportunity and support, you can achieve anything you wish.



5-Star Feedback



‘Absolutely brilliant
show all round.’

Tracey, Craig’s mum

‘Honestly big well
done, have a great
summer and I’ll see you
all in August 😊👏’

Katie, Sessional
Worker

‘I enjoyed very much and glad we
get a bit of a break before we start
again next year.’

Siobhan member

‘Spending time working with the
group has had such a large and
positive impact on me. I've had so
much fun, and I will miss it very
much! Depending on when I am
free and visiting home, I would love
to join and see what’s going on. I
really appreciate it. ❤️ x’

Tamzin, Peer Mentor



'Absolutely fantastic tonight
you all. Make sure to keep
those smiles up and be
proud of yourselves and
what you've all managed to
achieve! It was lovely seeing
you all and will see you all
again very soon 😊',
Arran volunteer



'Well done everyone I am
honoured and proud to
be part of a sensational
team of beautiful and
inspirational interest link
friends 😄 🥰 🥰 🥰',
Carmel volunteer

'Just want to say you all
done amazing tonight
and should be so proud
of your selfs, we pulled it
off, hope you all have a
lovely summer and will
you in August 🤗🤗🤗,

Sarah, sessional worker

'We were very proud of him.
His first song was simply
amazing; second song was
great as he ad-libbed so well.
They all did an amazing job
especially with such a little
rehearsal time. Well done to
all of you.'

Colin Scott's carer

'I've never seen
anything like it- I am
astonished at how
much everyone was
part of the whole
experience. This was
the first show of ours
I've seen.'

Friend of Graham

'What a brilliant
team effort,
smashed it right
out the park 🙌'

Paula, volunteer



'Just brilliant'

Anne Adams,
Gordon's mum



'What a brilliant show
everyone should be
so proud of
themselves.'

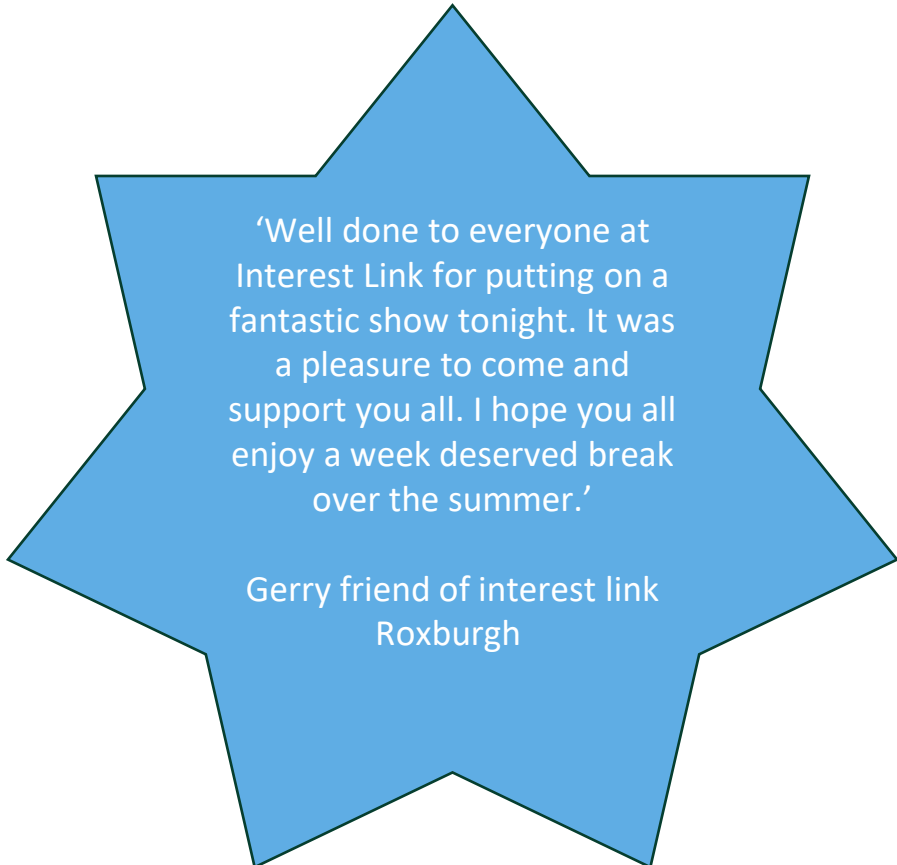
Viv Olivia's mum



'Wonderful show'
William Kacey's dad

'What a fabulous show well done
to all. '

Christine volunteer

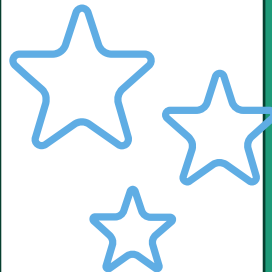


'Well done to everyone at
Interest Link for putting on a
fantastic show tonight. It was
a pleasure to come and
support you all. I hope you all
enjoy a week deserved break
over the summer.'

Gerry friend of interest link
Roxburgh

‘Enjoyed every minute of it. You should be very proud of yourselves, every one of you.’

Sandra Ryan’s Gran



‘The show was amazing well done to everyone. Well done to my son Declan. Every photo tells a story.’

Kim Declan’s mum

An amazing show well done everyone.’

Rachael , volunteer

‘Beyond proud of Olivia last night in her lead role in interest links summer show.’

Paula Volunteer

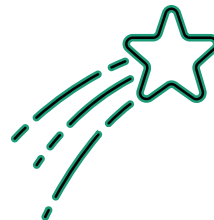


‘Could you please pass on to all the group members well done to all the cast and supporters. So much talent’

Ali, friend of interest link

‘We don’t think of you as just a group but one big family.’

Theresa Beth’s mum



‘Well done to you and the whole group it was a great show and a great laugh we and James laved every minute of it’

Mary Ann member and newshounds

L
'Lovely review Graham none
of it possible without your
writing and Val's direction
and helping us as it was very
out of our comfort zone and
roll on the next one it does
Judy well done everyone'

👏👍
Olivia member

'Fair to say I was out of my comfort
zone, seeing the work everyone had
put in I knew I just go with it and I
actually enjoyed it, 😊, bring on the
next one, each show gets better and
better the confidence in everyone is
growing and the talent is
shining through, well done
everyone 👏🎬'
Judy volunteer

'Was a pleasure and an honour to be on stage with this lot. A fab show I'm committed going forward can't wait.
Volunteer '

Gordon/Tweedbank

'That show last night was out of this world we have done a lot of hard work to the audience a fantastic time and we did it as team helping each other and supporting our friends.'

Craig member

'My work colleague would like to thank everyone for the wonderful show and to thank all for bringing smiles to his little girls faces who were so excited telling daddy how they enjoyed the show so much.'
Volunteer Carmel's friends

'Well done everyone! You all done such an amazing job - especially that we have new people who's never been on stage before!!'

Director Graham



Branch Coordinator

As a Branch Co-ordinator I have had the privilege to be part of a very special group of people. Over the years I have watched every group member grow in confidence. Creative funding has allowed my team of creative tutors, volunteers and staff to support our members to build on individual strengths by setting small achievable goals. It has given them an opportunity to act on a real live stage.

This stage has served to provide a powerful platform for self expression, empowering them to believe in themselves and experience what they can achieve with the right support.

The groups capacity for learning is huge and every year we see more progress and personal growth.

When the group get to act on stage the magic happens. When people unite with shared goals, they can achieve the very best outcomes. It boosts not only moral but inspires our members to work harder and believe in themselves.

“Coming together is the beginning, staying together is progress, working together is success”.



Thank you to our Funders

