

SMALL GRANTS CASE STUDY



PROGRAMME

CR/CD Small Grants Scheme

ORGANISATION

Powerstone Entertainment

PROJECT NAME

Little Stranger

LOCATION

Dungannon

COUNCIL AREA

Mid Ulster District Council

GRANT AWARD

£1,743

OVERVIEW

Powerstone Entertainment in partnership with DU Dance (NI) and Tinderbox Theatre Company delivered a 4-day project bringing together a multi-cultural group of young dancers, aged 6 years to 18 years, from the Dungannon based Sutemos and Suteminis groups. These are ongoing youth engagement projects run by DU Dance (NI) with the purpose of bringing together young people from different cultures and backgrounds living in Dungannon.

This project was led by three experienced facilitators from each of the organisations involved. The participants explored a variety of themes and storylines focused on a child's experience of migration. The workshops took place during February half-term 2020 in Ranfurly House Dungannon. The project culminated in a short public showcase with a facilitated discussion around the themes raised. The ultimate goal is to develop this project as a full-scale work for public performance.



T:BUC THEME, AREA OF WORK AND DELIVERY METHOD

1. Key Priority 1: Our Children and Young People
2. Cultural Diversity (Promotion/celebration of diversity), Challenging Sectarianism/Racism and Multicultural/Minority Ethnic (Promoting cultural diversity, integration, etc.)
3. Dance/physical theatre workshops, performance and facilitated discussions.

IMPACT

- A total of 23 young people, aged between 6 and 18 years old, directly engaged in the project. Participants came from: Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal, Russia, Poland, and Northern Ireland. Languages spoken: Lithuanian, Russian, Latvian, Polish, French, Irish, Spanish, Portuguese, and English.
- Participants gained an acute sense of identification with each other and of others who left their home countries. They all expressed the hope that the work could be developed into something larger and more public.
- The creative team reported how they were heartened by the way the young people worked together and exchanged ideas; they noted: "Dance involves trust and self-confidence, it was inspiring to witness the way in which the participants gained in imagination and mutual support. It's hoped that these are qualities which they will take out into the wider world."
- 100% satisfaction level was measured among participants and their families, some of whom were meeting for the first time. Families who come from the local area were warm in their praise for the project and the high quality work carried out by the creative team.

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I was in Paris on one of the coldest nights of last winter. In a street near the Arc de Triomphe I saw, huddled together on the pavement, a refugee family – father, mother and two children. I stopped to speak with them for a few minutes. As I said my goodbyes, the little girl put out her hand, with a smile that could have lit up the city.

This piece has been conceived for her and for children like her, who desperately need the support and understanding of privileged countries like ours.

**Jane
Coyle**
Project
Writer

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