

Environmental Policy 2020 – 2021

Middle Child are primarily a small-scale touring company, based in an old pub, “The Darley's Arms”, on the Thornton Estate in Hull city centre. The building is owned by the Goodwin Development Trust:

“A locally controlled and accountable organization, committed to improving the Quality of Life within communities through identifying and addressing the needs of local people and by working in partnership with them and with statutory, voluntary and professional organizations.”

Middle Child shared the building with a local radio station and various youth groups from 2012 – April 2018. In April 2018 we became the sole tenants of the full building. This is our base and a creative hub in the community until at least March 2022.

The five core staff members of Middle Child are based at Darley's. It has a hot desking space, a library, a creative space, a rehearsal room and general public space. It has a small car park and is a five minute walk away from the station. In April 2019 Silent Uproar, a similar scale company to Middle Child, became our company in residence and moved into the upstairs office.

We develop our shows in “The Darley's Arms”, rehearse in larger rehearsal spaces in Hull and then tour to local and national venues. We aim to reach audiences from a bare minimum of 50, based on our smallest tour venue in 2017 (I Hate Alone, The Darley's Arms, Hull) to 400 based on our largest venue in 2019 (Us Against Whatever, Everyman Theatre, Liverpool). This is by no means restricted and we aim to reach higher within the restraints of the company. We are in the planning process of three main shows per year from 2018 – 2022, as well as smaller projects within the community such as quizzes and scratch nights.

Middle Child is made up of five core company members who will all be based at “The Darley's Arms” full-time from April 2018:

1. Artistic Director and Chief Executive – Paul Smith
2. Executive Director – Lindsey Alvis
3. Audience Development Manager – Jamie Potter
4. General and Production Manager – Emily Anderton
5. Artistic Associate – Matthew May

In April 2020 we became a registered charity and our Board of Directors became Trustees.

There are also seven company members and a small group of associate artists that will use the building for their personal development.

Middle Child's motivation for taking environmental action comes from Arts Council England's announcement in June 2017 that we will be joining its National Portfolio. Therefore, we must review the categories of environmental data that we report on.

Middle Child's aim is to enhance our reputation and prove that even though we are a small company we can make a positive difference to environmental sustainability. It will also be highly beneficial to the company to start recording and comparing the data that contributes to expenditure, allowing us to reduce costs where possible.

We have not explored environmental data in relation to the company in such detail before, therefore we aim to start small. We will focus on one SMART objective per year while continually looking at ways to reduce negative impacts where possible, in relation to the everyday workings of our company and those of which our productions have.

We are a small-to-mid-scale touring company with very few resources and are based in a leased building, therefore we do not have access to the energy use reports. This doesn't mean that we do not aim to save energy where possible, it means that we can not record it.

Middle Child are committed to:

- Identifying our main environmental impacts by research how other companies record their data so that we can start monitoring our data and being able to identify areas for improvement;
- Reducing paper usage;
- Reduce energy usage;
- Introducing a reuse and recycle policy;
- Communicating and reporting our action plan.

We will do this by:

- Developing and reviewing our environmental action plan, ensuring compliance with current environmental legislation;
- Working with the landlords and potential funders to improve the building's sustainability;
- Educating all staff and freelancers on the Middle Child's environmental policy and action plan;
- Annually reporting our progress online with Julie's Bicycle.

Responsibilities

General and Production Manager

- To annually review and update the policy and action plan
- To pursue achieving the objectives set out in the companies environmental action plan
- To communicate relevant information to the rest of the Middle Child Core Staff

Middle Child Core Staff

- To communicate our policy to freelancers, associates and company members that may be using the building in their presence

- To communicate suggested improvements as an ongoing project to the General Manager

Environmental Action Plan

Middle Child have implemented an environmental action plan in relation to the policy which explains our commitments to environmental sustainability in more detail.

Middle Child's environmental policy will be reviewed annually and updated in relation to any changes in legislation.

Middle Child are continuously growing and making work on a larger scale than first intended, moving from small scale to mid-scale work within the first two years.