

Giant – Vision and Mission

Giant believes that every child - irrespective of impairment, disability or background - needs, deserves and has the right to participate fully in an artistic and creative life.

We have a distinctive vision of the values and practices which will achieve this. Children and families affected by disability or ethnicity operate within a complex network of discriminatory practices. We recognise that perceptions of disability and different cultural backgrounds are shaped by widely-differing experiences, identities and practices, and are permeated by many differing forms of barrier.

Our mission is to identify and challenge these barriers and it is our vision to **enable all children** to achieve self-fulfilment through a shared artistic and creative process. There are organisations in Scotland which address **some** of these issues, either through customer care or building access. **Giant goes further** than this and is committed to making the whole experience, from first point of contact through creating and experiencing art to going home accessible, inclusive and enjoyable.

By establishing a new aesthetic in children's arts through art form development, we will not only enable children to achieve and value their own creativity and have it valued by others, but **we will significantly contribute to the development of Scotland's cultural, creative and artistic life.**

We use the phrase 'inclusive arts' to describe our work. We believe **our work is an intensification of creativity** and not a dilution. It involves aesthetic exploration, symbolic thinking, two-way communication through the senses and **most of all gives pleasure and fun to our young audiences.**

We define 'inclusive arts' as art form experiences which are devised and delivered to enable **all children, to engage in the creative process in the same space and at the same time as their peers.**

For us, inclusion is not an "add-on" but the driving force behind everything we do. This involves a more intense use of all the senses

and includes: devising shows which enable a high level of interaction to take place between the performer and the audience; developing sensory lighting in shows and employing multi-sensory techniques in visual arts workshops; using aromatherapy both in performance and workshops; integrating Makaton communication system in performance and as an aid in workshops, and finally **developing the content, timing and structure of our programme to embrace the diversity of our audience.**

Young children are at the centre of all our work. We are committed to providing creative adventures for a wide range of kids with different needs and a wide range of experience of the world. As a company we try to understand how they understand the world and reflect this in the way we develop our work.

Children are innovators, creators and artists. We value and respect their individual and collective creativity. We learn so much from them during the creative process and we are inspired by their curiosity, inventiveness and originality.

Our work at **Giant is unique in Scotland.** We are breaking new ground in children's arts. Through our art form developments we include children who are otherwise excluded from participating fully in an artistic and creative life. As well as developing new work, **we are confident and committed to passing on these experiences and skills to others** through our training programmes. In addition we are able to apply what we learn in order to develop previous work.

We are challenging in our approach to achieving the universal goal of social inclusion through artistic inclusion. **We know of no other arts organisation working in this way in Scotland.**