

# Youth Arts Open Fund Case Studies



## Glass Performance



**YouthLink  
Scotland**



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

# Glass Performance

## About us:

Glass Performance is a multi award-winning company that has been engaging Scottish communities in the arts for over 18 years.

We aim to create more opportunities for people living in Scotland to access the arts through:

- Producing high quality, arts projects and events, creating a platform for the voices and stories of individuals, families and communities to be heard and valued.
- Promoting the view that participating in the arts can have a significant impact on the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities.
- Creating opportunities to access the arts and to participate in creative activity with others, offering pathways for those that would ordinarily not engage with cultural programming.

The majority of our projects are delivered with young people and designed to provide further opportunities in education, community justice and criminal justice through which individuals can express themselves and reach their full potential. We engage in activity for the ongoing development of artists, teachers and facilitators through workshops, training and mentoring. Projects are delivered in a variety of contexts and with a range of partners but all of them seek to provide opportunities for people who may not ordinarily access the arts to have high quality creative learning experiences.



## Our Project:

The funding supported a programme of productions by Polmont Youth Theatre (PYT), the only youth theatre based in a Scottish Prison and two informal sharings of work by Theatre Lab, a project for young people in the protected population. The project was delivered in partnership with Barnardo's Youth Work team and the Scottish Prison Service and performances were attended by families, guests and the wider prison community.

December 2023: Two performances of a Christmas Cabaret attended by 25 people, including Polmont staff, young people, and Glass supporters.

May 2024: Two performances of "Winner Winner," an awards-style show attended by 55 audience members, including 38 family members and prison staff.

December 2023: Two performances of The Wizard of Oz performed for 60 audience members, including families, friends, and the wider prison community.



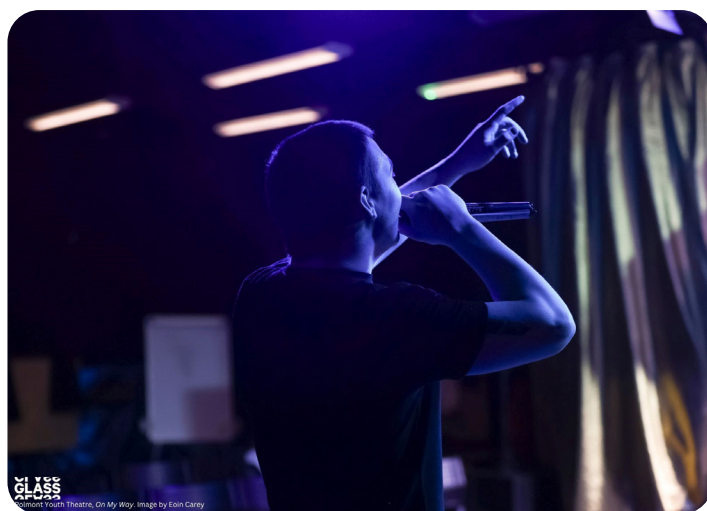
June 2024: Two performances of a newly devised work, "On My Way", presented to 50 audience members, including families, friends, and the prison community.

Making the performances from scratch was a collaborative process where the group shared their own ideas, thoughts and inspirations to make something new together.

The devising process was flexible and worked on the basis that everyone is involved equally and has something to offer. Everyone could bring their own individual skills into the mix, and these were valued and nurtured. During weekly sessions we used games, exercises, and discussions to identify individual interests and strengths which went on to inform the creation of new material and supported each individual's learning journey.

Taking part in regular weekly activities led by the same artists helped to promote stability in one part of the participants' lives and encouraged them to become more included socially as part of the group and in the wider community.

Polmont Theatre Hub is an area of work we are passionate about as it serves a community who are underrepresented in the wider public arts sector.



## Impact:

The project supported 37 young people facing additional barriers to access artistic and creative activities. They reported the following outcomes:

- Feel better connected to their peers and communities
- Feel better able to express themselves through involvement in arts activities
- Improved mental health and wellbeing through their participation in artistic and creative activities.
- Feeling empowered through their involvement in youth-led activities and that their voices are amplified.
- Increased confidence, self-worth, and emotional resilience.

The programme offers a vital escape from the pressures of prison life, fostering a sense of accomplishment and joy that extends beyond the sessions.

Participants like Simon and Darren (pseudonyms) have also emerged as leaders within the group, contributing positively to their community. Simon has taken on key roles and inspired others with his positive attitude and ideas, while Darren has shown remarkable growth, embracing leadership and artistic expression. Their stories highlight the programme's success in empowering young people to build resilience, express themselves, and connect with others, ultimately helping them build towards a positive future.

"It has opened my eyes to what's possible... I think this is the best thing in here the noo. Gen up. I don't think there's anything in here that beats this."  
(young person)

