

Celebrating the Big Give Christmas Challenge and your support

Your donation to Dash Arts during the Big Give Christmas Challenge was matched £1 for £1 and had double the impact - **thank you!**

Since 2020 we have run the campaign for one-week at the end of November/ beginning of December, and have raised **£14,609** from **65 donations** ranging from £1 to £450.

Read on for how your support of Dash Arts through the Big Give Christmas Challenge has made a huge difference...



In 2020, Big Give donors supported four drama workshops as part of the creation of *The Great Middlemarch Mystery*, an immersive retelling of George Eliot's much-loved novel and commissioned as part of Coventry's City of Culture year. We worked in close collaboration with 30 Coventry residents experiencing social disadvantage, and their insight and input helped shape the characters, movement and script. The majority of our workshop participants went on to play crucial roles in the final production cast as 'Middlepeople', part-actor and part-audience steward.



"This was the best experience possible for me, giving me confidence. It gave me memories that I will treasure, and hopefully friendship with some excellent actors. We came, we learnt, we grew as a family. I loved the chance to do this."

Participant

In 2021, donations helped fund the national tour of *Dido's Bar* - an immersive musical theatrical experience, taking audiences on a powerful journey exploring migration and freedom. Premiering in London's historic Royal Docks in September 2022 and then touring to Manchester, Leicester, Portsmouth, and Oxford, the show was experienced by 1,750 people. It felt so good to be back presenting our work to live audiences again after the devastating hiatus of Covid-19.

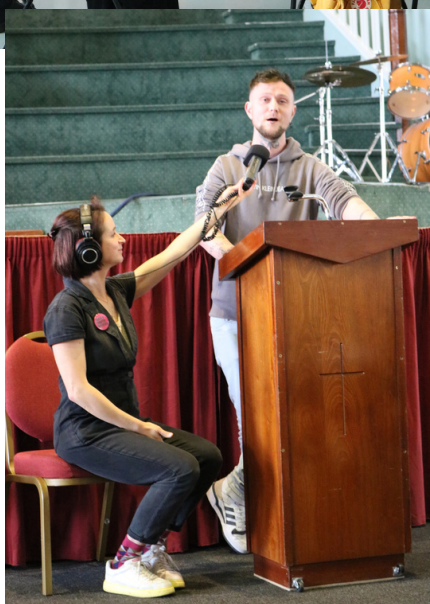


**"I saw my whole life
through your theatre"
Iraqi Kurdish refugee,
Leicester audience**

***"Go and experience this moving, sensitively written,
expertly directed and brilliantly-acted, epically
relevant story whilst you can"***

THE PLAY'S THE THING

In 2022, the Big Give campaign supported the Speech! Speech! project with ten community workshops from Manchester to Redruth, where we worked with 121 participants - including prisoners, the deaf community, students and schoolchildren - to make political speeches about what matters to them and how things should change. You can read more about this important and powerful project in [this article](#) from The Guardian written by Alan Finlayson, our academic partner on the project.



***“Take a deep breath in, now think about the future you want”
from participant speech in Redruth, Cornwall***

In 2023 we need your help again!

It is one year since the announcement from Arts Council England that our regular funding was not being renewed and your philanthropy is now needed more than ever. Donate via the **Big Give Christmas Challenge** from Tuesday 28 November and 5 December for your donation to be doubled until we reach our goal of £5,000.

This year, your funding will support the creation of a new theatre production, ***Our Public House***, which has been meticulously researched and developed, galvanised by *Speech! Speech!* our political speechwriting workshops and events across England.

Set and created within an English Pub, ***Our Public House*** will hold up a mirror to the country, reflecting who we are and how we talk about ourselves. In 2024, we'll develop the script in community workshops to ensure real voices are amplified and we will provide unique opportunities for our orators to be part of the 2025 touring show.

Dash Arts has to raise £200,000 each year from generous Trusts, Foundations, Dash Lights and donors. This is more critical than ever as we navigate a future without ACE's annual funding. Fortunately, because of regular and generous support from donors like you, we are confident that we can continue to move forward in new and creative ways.

Thank you!