



bamboozle Celebrating **30** Years

Pledge Pack

Fundraising in 2024
to mark 30 years of Bamboozle



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Help us celebrate!



Bamboozle began at the Leicester Haymarket Theatre in 1994, providing immersive and meaningful theatre experiences designed for disabled children with complex needs. In 2010, we expanded to include creative workshops for autistic children and young people.

Over three decades, we have succeeded in establishing both a national and international reputation for the quality of our work. We have also developed our unique Bamboozle Approach, which creates possibilities for children to find their own voice.

Over the last year, we've reached **over 700 children** in Leicester, Leicestershire and the Midlands, offering **84 free activities**. We've visited **57 schools**, performed **240 shows**, reaching **1440 children**.

We need your help to continue making a difference to children's lives by helping us to raise vital funds. Help us to bring families together, and to create a space where learning disabled children can express themselves, be heard, and feel valued.

Making a Pledge

To mark 30 years of Bamboozle experiences, we've launched our Pledge Pack. Throughout 2024, we're inviting Bamboozle supporters to create their own fundraising challenge involving the number **30!**

This pack has all of the info you need to get started.

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We create possibilities for disabled children

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The River Family Day 2023



Why do this for Bamboozle?

We create possibilities for disabled children



"Nothing brings hope and joy to our otherwise isolated families like a Bamboozle experience."

Kerry Nelson

We've been told by our families that nothing else exists like Bamboozle - a theatrical experience with their needs at the core. Whether in the muddy Bamboozle Backyard, or in the studio at Curve theatre, the time, focus and attention children receive is often transformative.

We are always over-subscribed for our activities and can't currently meet demand. With your fundraising support, we can do more to ensure disabled children have access to the high-quality theatre they deserve.

James' story - in Rachael's words

"Within his first year of life, our son James contracted a serious infection known as Meningoencephalitis twice. At just 5 months old, he was left with infantile spasms, Global Learning Delay, loss of skills and abilities. He needed daily medication, physiotherapy and multiple hospital appointments each week. Our whole lives changed overnight.

At only 11 months old, James fought for his life again in ICU. His infection damaged the visual cortex, making him blind, and scarring the speech part of his brain, making him nonverbal. He has Hypermobility, which alongside the seizures means he is a wheelchair user.

James suffers from seizures, which cause massive injuries as he falls heavily to the floor. He has broken his nose 5 times, had his chin glued and stitched back together 4 times (including under anaesthetic). James cannot free walk unless in a completely padded area. Moreover, James is a high risk of SUDEP, this stands for Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy.

Because he is drug resistant and due to the frequent seizures, his brain is in a constant state of Epilepsy. This is dangerous because his brain will eventually be too tired to fight. One day, we could put him to bed and he might not wake up, he could go to school and not come home. This is a constant worry - it's terrifying to prepare for or even think about it.

We need to fill our lives with positive experiences, make special memories and allow James to be a part of something amazing. Bamboozle is just that".

James is now 8, and he's has attended at least one show a year over the last 6 years.

James and artist Naomi at The River Family Day in 2023.

James' story - in Rachael's words

Finding groups that are suitable for James to attend with his family are few and far between. It can be quite lonely and isolating to not be able to go out as a family and enjoy shows together. As parents, it is wonderful that we have this amazing opportunity to witness the pure joy and happiness that James experiences with his Bamboozle journeys.

Watching James come alive with the music and the atmosphere is heart-lifting. They each get down to the children's level and include every child. The magic flows from there; James is relaxed and engaged from start to finish.

Words cannot describe how important Bamboozle's work is. It helps us to feel accepted as a family without the usual feelings of being excluded, panic, dread and embarrassment, when our needs don't fit the environment around us.

We've enjoyed afternoon tea together, walks in the forest, travelled back in time and played with a cheeky Mole. Each show was suitable to James's needs and his sister enjoyed the session too!

After each show, I have been quite emotional. I can't put into words all the feelings I experience, but when I watch James engage with the performers, I see that he is understood, valued, and included. And this rarely happens anywhere else. It is magical.

James gets so much from these sessions, it makes me feel like I am doing something right.

Bamboozle get it, they understand, and this is powerful. We get to sit back, have the pressures lifted and enjoy the happiness of the sessions.

So, on behalf of James and myself, thank you so much for your pledges and donations. These vital funds make such a difference to the lives of disabled children and their families".

Amy, Ben and Naomi singing goodbye to James at the end of the show.



Your pledge

Any amount you raise by taking on a pledge is money that makes a huge difference to the possibilities we can create...

£10 - £50

Helps us update our potion-making experience and crafting supplies at The Bamboozle Backyard



£100 +

Funds a family to experience time in nature with Bamboozle artists at The Backyard

£250 +

Helps fund an artist's visit to a family home, working 1:1 with a young person and their family members with a creative discipline of their choice; i.e. music, movement, multi-sensory environments.



£1000+

Helps to fund an immersive family residency for lots of children - and their families - at places like Curve Theatre.



How to register

Complete our sign-up form on our website to register for taking part.

We'll get in touch with the tools you'll need to start fundraising.

Collecting Donations

You'll receive a step-by-step guide on how to set up an online fundraising page for receiving donations and sponsorship.

This is a great way of collecting sponsorship. You can personalise your page by adding photos connected to your challenge or event, tell people what taking on the pledge means to you.

We will provide text and images to help you to communicate Bamboozle's work. It's really easy to promote your page using social media.

You'll also receive downloadable resources including paper sponsorship forms, and a suite of templates for posting on your social media accounts including Facebook, X, LinkedIn and Instagram.

Scan below to register!



Top tip - Don't be afraid to make the ask. Ask, ask, ask and ask again! Hayley, parent and fundraiser, says this can be hard but would urge you not to be shy and keep asking – because people forget.

Choosing a pledge



My 2024
Pledge for
Bamboozle!



Run 1 mile
for 30 days



Bake 30
treats
to sell



Organise
coffee
morning
on June 30th!

It all starts with an idea...

You can choose a fundraising activity that either takes you through the year, spans across 30 days, or that can be done in a day!

We've got plenty of ideas to suit your preference.

If you'd like to do a **30 day challenge**, why not choose a **30-day month** and launch your challenge on day one!

You can choose either **April, June, September, November**.

If you choose a **one-day fundraiser**, why not do it on the **30th day of the month!**

On the next few pages, we have suggested a variety of ideas to help inspire your pledge.

30 fundraising ideas

Adventurous and sporty

Ideas for a fundraising day:

1. A class relay: 30 laps of the playground on scooters, bikes or space hoppers.
2. Host a 30-hour team relay - e.g. a cycleathon, danceathon, etc. (Perhaps add in a sponsored playlist and invite 30 people to add songs in return for a donation).

Ideas to cover 30 days...

3. Sponsored steps per day: e.g. 10,000 steps for 30 days
4. Spend 30 minutes outdoors every day
5. Dance for 30 minutes (learn a new TikTok dance every day).
6. Sponsored Walkalong

Get together with friends and clock up to 30km (18.64 miles!)
Accessible Wheelchair walks include Abbey Park and Bradgate Park.
Both have changing places available.

Ideas to cover our 30th year

7. Run 30 miles every month.
8. Walk 30 miles in different locations (e.g. canal and river walks)
9. Complete 6 x 5k free park runs. To find your local run, visit www.parkrun.org.uk.

More difficult challenges...

10. Are you a gym member? Could you set a sponsored 30-day gym challenge or encourage gym buddies to take on an ultra workout session?
11. Take part in a team Tough Mudder or Ironman Triathlon
12. Complete 3 x 10km runs (findarace.com lists national races).
13. Complete the National Three Peaks Challenge within 30 hours
14. Attempt two 15,000 ft skydives (30,000 ft combined!)

30 fundraising ideas

Fun and creative ideas

Bakes, cakes and quizzes

15. A Brew for Bamboozle: arrange a coffee morning or afternoon tea at work or with friends.
16. Bamboozle cake sale: ask 30 people to each bake a different treat to sell.
17. Organise a 'Come Dine with Me' cooking event for 30 people - split into teams - with a donation for each participant.
18. Try 30 different recipes – or perhaps create your own recipe book of 30 favourite meals to share with friends for donations.
19. Hold a Bamboozle pub quiz with 30 people (or more!).
20. Find 30 prizes for a raffle to boost fundraising at your event.

Make, learn and create

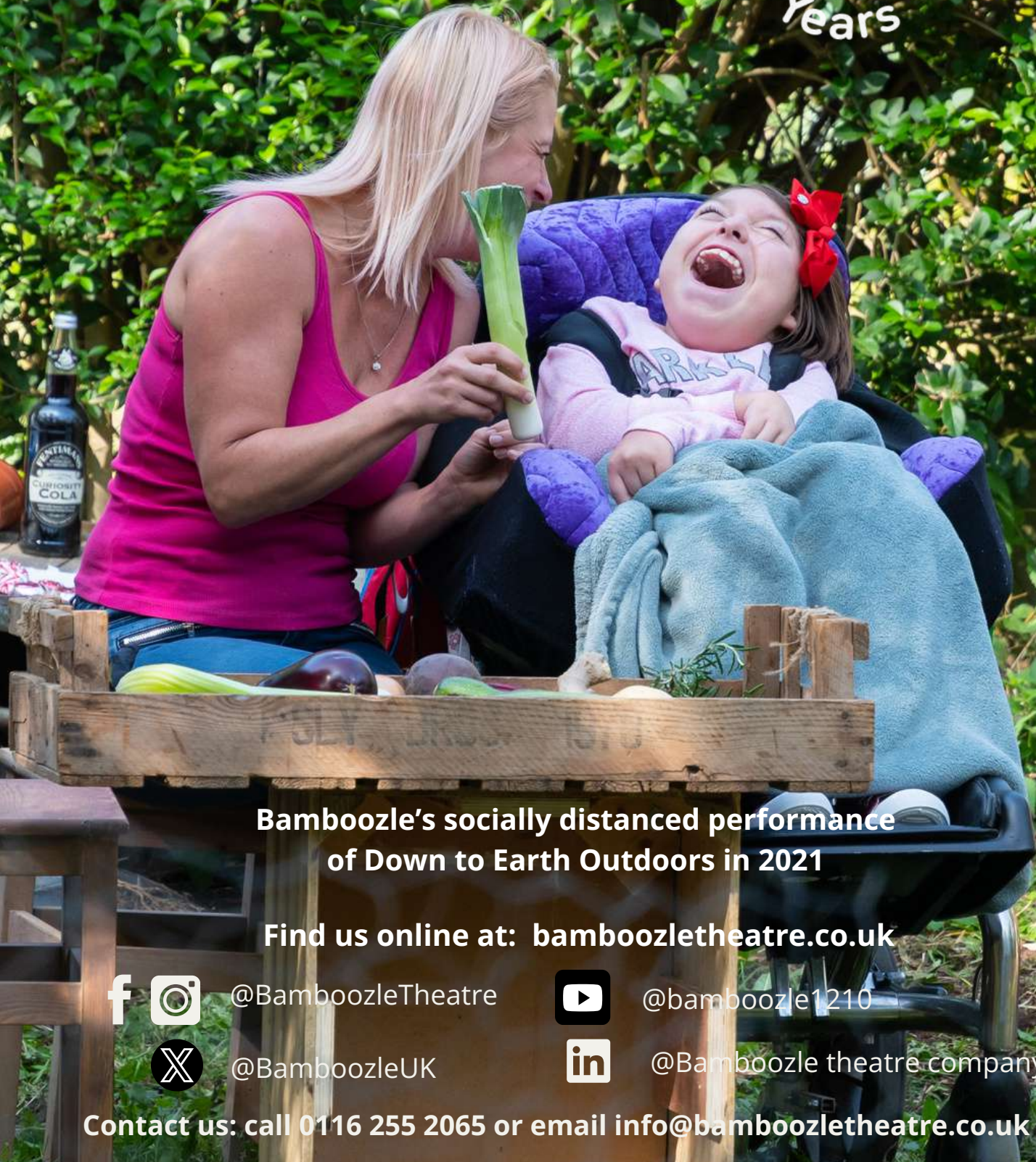
21. Handmake 30 items to sell in community venues and makers fayres.
22. Do you have a skill to share? Could you host an online 'how to' session for 30 people?
23. Get sponsored to learn a new hobby in 30 days.
24. School Art Sale – make 30 pieces of art / paintings in class and auction it at a Parents and Community gallery evening.
25. Create a book; write 30 poems or take 30 wildlife photos as a class and publish a physical or online anthology for donations.

A few more ideas...

26. Grow your best handlebar moustache for 30 days.
27. Organise a virtual 30-hour gameathon. (You could even live stream it to help boost donations).
28. Pack 30 bags at your local supermarket in exchange for donations.
29. Find 30 things you no longer use and take to a local car boot sale.
30. Perform a 30-person sing-a-long: sell tickets to your performance or record your song - asking for downloads.

Thank you for your support

Celebrating
bamboozle 30
Years



**Bamboozle's socially distanced performance
of Down to Earth Outdoors in 2021**

Find us online at: bamboozletheatre.co.uk



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bamboozle
creating possibilities for disabled children

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