

2019 to 2021

REPORT: the first two years

S.T.A.G.E

Scottish Talent Across the Generations Events

KINNING PARK COMMUNITY



FESTIVAL

ON CORNWALL STREET

Free activities and entertainment for the whole family!

SUNDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER
12PM - 4PM

Glasgow Science Festival
RollerStop

Kingston Gymnastics

Momentum Taekwondo

Mind and Draw

The Glasgow School of Music

Nicole O'Donnell's Performing Art Academy

Kinning Park Complex and more!!


CAR FREE ZONE

Music performed by local
artists as part of the
Paisley Road West Fest
presented by S.T.A.G.E.



Contact hello@kinningparkcomplex.org
0141 419 0329 for more info.



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1. INTRODUCTION

STAGE, originally *Scottish Talent Across Generations in Europe*, was set up in early 90s as part of Scotland in Europe (SIE) to bring together older and younger people involved in Art forms such as music, drama, writing, and photography, and devise ways in which they could collaborate in Historical and Modern arts forms.

This report covers STAGE since it became an independent Voluntary organisation in 2019. It was a response to the 1994 *European Year for Cross-generational Work*. When establishing STAGE, SiE met with a variety of individuals and organisations already working in Scotland and invited them to participate and develop ideas that would culminate in an event that could be performed in Scotland and then taken into Europe.

The first of these ideas involved fifty participants in STAGE devised to embrace the European year of cross-generational work. at that time STAGE was a project involving over fifty artists, writers and musicians which toured Glasgow then went on to tour Paris.

Today STAGE, retitled Scottish Talent Across Generations Events, is revitalised and over the past two years in Glasgow has planned, organised and produced the following projects:

- Paisley Road West Festival
- Online Workshops on Comedy, Drama, and Climate Change Poetry
- Homage to Billy Connolly and Gerry Rafferty Event (music and comedy events)
- Oral History: recorded seniors' stories from Linthouse and Cardonald that went on to be published in two books
- Kinning Park Festival
- Writers Group

All in all, STAGE has produced a great deal withing the local community in a short period of time. We plan now to take this further for the benefit of all in Glasgow and the rest of Scotland.

2 STAGED EVENTS

2.1 European Projects with STAGE and Fablevision

Memory of Water; a two-year project that involved six cities from Europe who had post-industrial river histories. Our contribution was a short 10 min film called *Awakening the River* that can be seen [here](#).

2.2 Woven Networks

Women's Stories documenting the experiences of women from the (Ukraine, Poland, Sweden, Iceland, Norway, Finland.) and what has been the highs and lows of surviving the Coronaviruses pandemic through the Arts agenda.

2.3 Speakeasy Tea Dances

The first initiative by STAGE were speakeasy tea dances. A successful negotiating with the house for an art lover ended with them agreeing to allow us to have the use of the venue free of charge. The first Dance was to take place at Christmas 2019. Contact was made with all the Housing Associations in the greater Govan area to ask for support financially whereby STAGE would give each Housing association 25 tickets that they could then distribute as they decided.

The outcome was that although we had organised the event and involved young people who had been informed of the history of what a speakeasy dance was all about and were looking forward to playing the music of the period none of the tickets that we had given to the housing association were distributed. Therefore, the event had to be cancelled.

2.4 Creative Workshops

In early 2020 we worked with two senior citizens organisation from Linthouse and Cardonald on their stories which we went on to publish under the heading "Those were the days" the idea was to record each senior who had agreed to the process and then work with young people who were involved in drama classes and develop a drama that reflected the seniors' stories.

We had finished recording the stories of the people involved and were about to contact the young people when the Corona Virus started to take its toll and we had to go into Lockdown. However, not ones to allow our enthusiasm to dissolve we came up with the idea of having online workshops we hoped the workshops we organised would bring a bit of cheer and purpose to people in the same positions as us because of lockdown.

The workshops *Stand-up comedy* with VIV GEE. Drama *An Actors World* with Louise Oliver. *Environmental Poetry* with Dr Joe Murray.

All the workshops were well attended and helped to engage us with people we would not have engage with if it had not been for lockdown at least half of the attendees have kept in touch with the presenters on when are you doing the workshops again, but as usual we do not have the finances to continue.

2.5 Paisley Road West Fest

The idea for the Fest came from the frustration of not being taken seriously as being part of the Greater Govan Thriving Places Initiative. People in the areas of Ibrox, Cessnock, and Kinning Park, although, having been invited to become involved in the initiative all the meeting and resources seemed to be concentrated in the centre of Govan. So, the committee of STAGE whose membership was made up of people who live and work in the above-mentioned area's decided to organise a festival that would promote the music, musicians, and writers of the area with a fourteen-day program of events.

STAGE would take the responsibility of developing a program of events that would be based in the bars in the area and advertise the opportunities for younger and older musicians and writers to perform and encourage them to come forward for the bigger festival that would take place in Plantation Park.

The themes for the festival cover homages to Billy Connolly, Gerry Rafferty, both of whom had given a contribution to the women who had organised the "Sit-In "that saved Kinning Park Complex from closure. Women's nights, Music from the decades, of fifties, sixties, seventies, eighties, nineties up to present times.

We had hoped to rerun the festival in 2020 but again lockdown dominated.

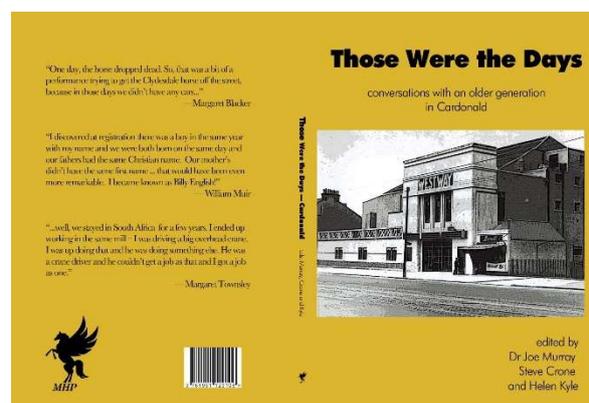
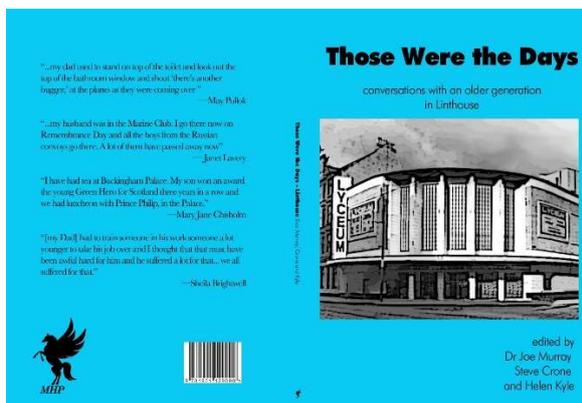
2.6 In Conversation Project

is an arts project incorporating oral history. We Make contact through Senior Citizens Organisations, Church Groups, Bowling Clubs, Schools, Youth Clubs and bring them together in the following way so that people whose voices are not normally heard get a chance to tell their Stories. For Instance we meet with a group of seniors and with their permission we record their stories.

The story is then transcribed and given to a group of young creative people. The young people then go through a collective process of transforming the stories into a performance which they will perform to the storytellers. By involving both groups in this way it will hopefully lead to new relationships and understanding. Each group can then decide on further Events, or if they prefer, go on developing the Art Form they found themselves involved with.

2.6.1 COVID-19

The project with the young people has been put on hold, but we have decided to publish the conversations we had recorded. The two books covers are shown below.



2.7 Memory of Water

Memory of Water was a two-year Creative Europe funded project consisting of six European artists exploring post-industrial culture heritage on waterfronts, in the context of urban planning and community development. The countries involved were Poland, Belgian, Ireland, Greece, Norway, and Scotland.

All the artists came to visit Govan in 2019 to begin the project and were due to arrive back in 2020 to conclude their vision for Govan, however, they were unable to return because of lockdown.

The six-artist worked hard to transfer what had been planned as a hands-on production residency into remotely designed community project, working closely with Scottish artists and organisations (plural or singular?) to deliver imaginative outcomes.

STAGE collaborated with the *Greek Memory of Water* artist on a film that became known as *Awakening the River*. All the people performing come from Glasgow, but mainly from Govan, an area famous for its ingenuity and shipbuilding. The coordinator for the project was *Fablevision*, an arts organisation based in Paisley and Govan. [Click here](#) to see the film.

2.8 Backdoor Troubadours

As lockdown continued into late 2020 we acquire monies from the Winter Wellbeing fund and developed a project that was based on the memories of the committee and staff of STAGE whereby what was known as Irish tenors would come and sing in the backdoors of tenements, people would put their windows up to listen and if they liked what they heard they would throw out monies as thanks.

So, the idea was developed to bring musicians to the backcourts of Care homes it was felt that older people in care would identify and enjoy the music. We hired an Opera singer from Scottish Opera and two musicians who sang songs from *Over the Rainbow*, *Singing in the rain*, and *Oliver and Hardy*.

The faces of the residents were beautiful and some who were a bit fitter came out to dance. Really emotional day. But again, it happened a harsher lockdown that had the care homes so concerned that we had to cancel the rest of the care homes we had set up to play to. The outcome was a film highlighting the areas of Govan that we had planned to work in. [Click here](#) to see the film.

2.9 Kinning Park Festival

This was a day-long Festival celebrating the successful transfer of Kinning Park Complex into community ownership. It was a day of bringing together the diverse community of Kinning Park, Cessnock, Ibrox with the businesses who are involved in the area. The celebration was also the last opportunity for the community to use KPC, as a refurbishment of the building started the following week meaning that it would be closed for the next year.

STAGE was invited to organise the Music for the festival and in doing so brought local musicians to perform. The musicians were all part of the Paisley Road West Fest and were

welcomed with open arms as most of them brought along family and friends from the area. The day ended with the musicians and audience singing Purple Rain in Honour of Prince who had recently died.

2.10 Writers' Workshops

To writers, Steve Crone and Dr Joe Murray contacted three local writers groups to begin an project to bring the wider writing public under a larger umbrella to look at publishing and performance. Dr Murray has a long history of publishing creative writing and Mr Crone has a long history of coaching performance, especially of the written word. They both had several positive meetings with local groups but lockdown got in the way of taking this forward to any great degree. However, several of the writers from these groups did perform at the PRW Fest. The plan remains to re-establish the links and take this idea forward at the earliest opportunity.



SUMMARY

It would be safe to say that STAGE since becoming an Independent Unincorporate Voluntary Organisation in 2019 has had a very stormy start. Over the two years we have been in operation we have gone through one of the most devastating global pandemics since the beginning of the 20th century. However, we weathered this most difficult and emotional times while continuing to produce creative projects and events – no mean feat for any new organisation.

We the committee and friends of STAGE would like to thank all the people involved in the projects we set up and the way we were able to deliver, not what we had envisioned, but an imaginative alternative. So, a big thank you to everyone involved.

KINNING PARK COMPLEX
CLOSING PARTY*
7.30pm - 11.30pm

£5
Eventbrite
or on door
No one will be
turned away
for lack of funds.

18 +

**SAMBA
YABANBA**

X

**BRASS,
AYE?**

*We reopen
in winter
2020!

**KINNING
PARK
COMPLEX**

FRIDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER

Kinning Park Complex, 43 Cornwall Street, G41 1BA
0141 419 0329 hello@kinningparkcomplex.org

FUTURE

It feels like Covid-19 has reset STAGE back to square one. However, we are undaunted and as we begin to emerge from this pandemic we have started planning for 2021. We know we have the skills, imagination, and determination to move forward with our plans and that funders appreciate the role that the arts have played in helping people through these hard times. We are aided by local musician and broadcaster Gavin Paterson, the Kinning Park Complex Team, and many local creative and artistic activists.

It is important that funders can understand that Grassroots organisations living and working in areas of deprivation, usually patronised by the elitist hierarchies and bureaucracies, are the very people who did what was needed for their communities in times of crisis. To this end, STAGE (Scottish Talent Across Generation Events) reinvents the Paisley Road West Fest as: *PRW Deux: a blast from the passed.*

Blast from the Passed will be a four-day festival set around the words and music of Matt McGinn, Hamish Imlach and others from the Scottish folk world. This will be in September 2021).



Summary of Accounts Year End July 2021

STAGE (Scottish Talent Across Generations Events)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 2021

INCOME	£
Fablevision	2210
Impact Funding	4000
Thriving Places	2000
Linthouse HA	1000
Rent for Studio	1871
Long-term interest-free loan (benefactor)	2000
Donations	150
Glasgow Life	250
Elderpark HA	250
BOOKS	68
Total	<u>13,799</u>

EXPENDITURE	£
ADMINISTRATION	4318
B.T	1829
Paisley Road West Fest	2100
Backdoor Troubadours	1206
Memory Of Water	1350
Heating	390
Tea Dance	500
Those Were The Days	870
Online Workshops	900
Total	<u>13,463</u>
Net Surplus	<u><u>336</u></u>

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