

PoliNations Trees at Glastonbury

This summer, our PoliNations trees were given a new life at the legendary Glastonbury Festival. The PoliNations Trees took centre stage at the festival's iconic Shangri-La arena, becoming part of the South East Corner landscape and echoing Shangri-La's 2025 theme: The Wilding. Across the festival, the trees were seen by 200,000 audience members, received 21 pieces of media coverage, with an estimated publication audience of 281 million.

The rewilding of the 40 foot trees highlights the urgent need to protect our natural world and reimagine our relationship with the environment amongst the distractions of modern life.

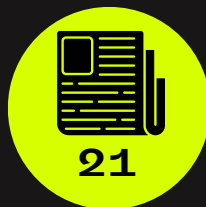
Originally, the PoliNations Trees were created for a super garden in Birmingham's Victoria Square in 2022, celebrating the fact that 80% of UK city garden plants originate from overseas.



Experienced by an estimated **200,000** during Glastonbury Festival



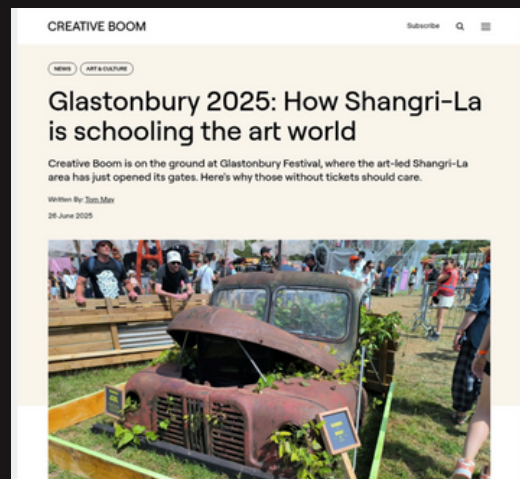
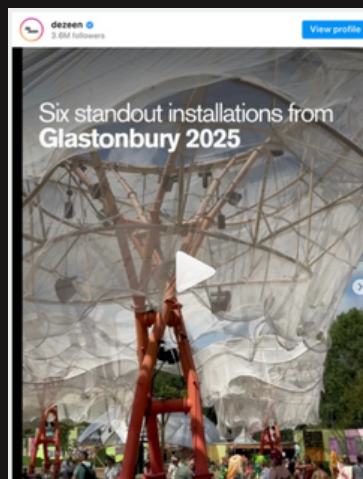
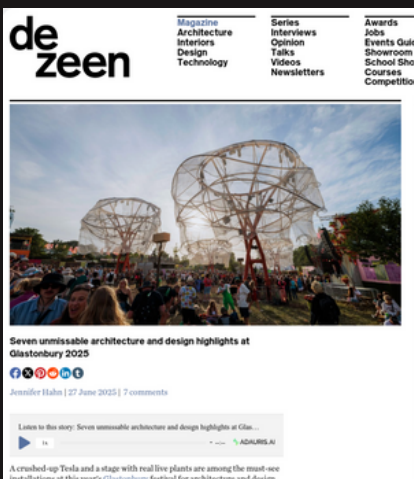
281 million people reached globally



21 press pieces secured

"Picture this: you're watching some funky electronic act when suddenly the trees around you transform into living canvases, telling the story of our relationship with nature through mind-bending visuals"

CreativeBoom Magazine



Trigger at Home

NURTURE

In June we delivered our highly successful pilot of NURTURE, a creative industry skills development programme co-designed with Weston College in Weston-Super-Mare. 30 learners aged 16-18yrs, from Music, Performance, Media, Graphics, Fashion and Art & Design T level courses took part.

Across a week-long residency with Trigger's team, the learners worked with their peers to realise a creative project in response to a theme. Using real industry templates and tools, the learners constructed their projects from R&D through to design and creation. The week culminated in a showcase where learners present their completed projects to an audience of 40 industry professionals, peers and other college staff.

"It was a real pleasure to support the delivery of NURTURE. We have had such positive feedback from staff and students. All were genuinely inspired by the opportunity and the hands-on experience you offered. It's so encouraging to collaborate with the wider team at Trigger who were so committed to empowering our young creatives in such a meaningful way!"

**Strategic Business Partnerships Manager
at Weston College**



30 workshop
participants



5 workshops
delivered



Trigger at Home

Holiday Club

At the end of the summer, we delivered our second year of Holiday Club, welcoming 23 children for a five-day adventure in the heart of the Mendips.

Across 15 workshops, our young explorers discovered the wild wonders on their doorstep, building dens, becoming nature spies, and travelling through time across the magical Mendip landscape.

We once again collaborated with the brilliant Mendip Hills National Landscapes (AONB) Team and local musician and drummer Alphonse Touna, whose inspiring workshops helped bring the outdoors vividly to life.

"This is such an amazing, stimulating and educational holiday club. We so appreciate the thought that has gone into planning and delivery. Thank you for another exceptional week!"

Parent



23 children took part
in Holiday Club



15 workshops
delivered



Humanity Hotel

In 2025, our creative-wellbeing Humanity Hotel programme continued to grow, kindly supported by the National Lottery Community Fund. Over the past year, we worked with more than 150 people seeking asylum, providing consistent creative activities and social connection at a time of increasing public hostility.

We delivered weekly arts workshops – from theatre-making to photography – alongside cultural outings to concerts, festivals, and local events. Our Feasting gatherings brought displaced and local residents together, strengthening relationships and building understanding across communities.

Co-creation remains central to the programme. This year, displaced participants played an active role in shaping and leading activities: training as facilitators, supporting workshops, and delivering sessions to their peers, developing confidence and creative leadership along the way.

"It is the first time that I can be myself in this country, as a dancer and an artist. I feel recognised and appreciated for my talent, not my legal status."

Kern, Dance Teacher seeking asylum



150 displaced participants engaged



114 local community members involved



69 workshops, outings, celebrations, and events



TEABREAK

TEABREAK went out on its third year of touring this year, bringing our moving piece of immersive theatre and dance to arts festivals across the UK. Audiences were invited to pause with a warm cup of tea as the show traced tea's journey through ritual, migration and colonial histories, blending personal stories, live dance and our hand-painted Tuk Tuk.



1,068 total audience members



7 festivals visited



25 performances

"Beautiful and interesting to hear the history of tea and individual stories.

We stumbled across this by accident and I feel a bit overwhelmed. Incredibly beautiful and moving. Both very personal and about everything.

I cried for most of it. Thank you."

Audience member, Frome Festival

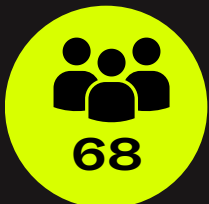


TEABREAK at Home

In January 2025, Trigger partnered with Alive Activities to bring TEABREAK into care homes.

Beginning on the notorious Blue Monday, we visited 68 residents across 7 care homes in North Somerset, sharing the TEABREAK experience with older people ahead of our Spring/Summer UK festival tour.

To widen access even further, we also offered a free, one-week virtual TEABREAK. Audiences were invited to tune in, enjoy a drink of their choice, and immerse themselves in the TEABREAK stories from the comfort of home.



68 residents visited



7 care homes visited



Trigger Traineeships

Thanks to generous funding from the Foyle Foundation we have delivered a training programme for two local young people in North Somerset. A trainee Production Co-Ordinator and Trainee Archivist joined our team from July to December 2025. Providing much needed job security, trainees have been paid the real living wage alongside travel stipends to support costs of travelling to our rurally located office in Blagdon and towards delivery of our work on site across the UK.

We received over 70 applications across both roles, demonstrating the real lack of entry level roles into the arts in the local area. Trainees were fully inducted into the Trigger team working through a co-designed learning and development plan towards training goals. These were established with them at the induction phase and reviewed through weekly 1-2-1 meetings with line managers and mid and end point reviews. We have also provided guidance to both trainees to further their pathway into their arts careers, supporting job searches, CV and application reviews.

The Production Co-Ordinator has assisted delivery of our show TEABREAK in Frome and Holiday Club. Supporting the producing team, they have contributed to project meetings, supported the compilation of project pitch decks and presentations; completed project Gantt charts, budget costings and led delivery of our Feasting event for local asylum seekers and community members.

The Trainee Archivist has contributed to performance archive research, initiating visits to the National Theatre and V&A East Storehouse archives; supported the development and implementation of our company archive policy and procedures, led archive project meetings, completed 2x placements at National Theatre and University of Bristol's Theatre Collection; established a mentor relationship with Erin Lee – Head Archivist at The National Theatre and completed a collection catalogue for 'The Hatchling' our flagship place-making project.



2 x 6 months paid
traineeships
delivered



70 applications
received for
traineeships



2 x complete
training plans
established for
similar programmes
in the future



Jitterbug

In March, Jitterbug was presented in Rotherham as part of the Roots Festival, celebrating the UK's first Children's Capital of Culture. Across two days, the striking Jitterbug welcomed 11,111 attendees, becoming a vibrant creative hub at the heart of the festival.

Inside, families took part in hands-on workshops exploring nature, insects, and crafting, inspiring young people to connect with the environment through play, imagination, and making. The installation brought communities together to celebrate creativity and local identity, marking a major moment in Rotherham's journey as the inaugural Children's Capital of Culture.



11,111 attendees

"I think it's really important for children and young people to get involved in these creative opportunities Children's Capital of Culture is providing so they have a sense of pride for their hometown"

Audience member, Rotherham Roots Festival

North Somerset Creatives



Born out of the cultural audit commissioned by Arts Council England and North Somerset Council, Trigger were part of instigating the formation of North Somerset Creatives, a collective of 60+ individuals and arts organisations based in the region.

The group was launched in 2025 for local creatives to share ideas, collaborate and offer peer-to-peer support. Trigger remain an active member of the steering group, helping this network go from strength to strength supporting both online and in-person meet ups.

North Somerset Creatives meet bi-monthly, with around 40 attendees per session. The meetings focus around a different theme affecting the arts community in each session.



Funders



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