



# Social Impact Report

## An Easy Read Report for Adults

The leaflet explains what Social Impact is  
and how Hijinx has made a social difference

This document was written by Hijinx and is an Easy Read version of the Social Impact Report  
published October 2021

**Photo by:** Main House - Mission Control. Hijinx Unity Festival & National Theatre Wales.

## How do you use this document?



This is an easy read version of the Social Impact Report. The words and their meaning are easier to read and understand. But you may need support to read and understand this document.



Words in **bold writing** may be hard to understand. They have been explained in a box below the word.



Further information and the full report can be found at [www.hjinx.org/socialimpact](http://www.hjinx.org/socialimpact)

## Who are Hijinx?



Hijinx is based in Wales. It is a theatre company that creates shows and runs inclusive classes. Their shows include inclusive actors and are made for everyone.



We want to see the arts and our community be inclusive for learning disabled and/or autistic (LD/A) people.



We make shows **with learning disabled and/or autistic (LD/A) actors on stage**, on screen, on the street and across the world.

### Learning Disability (LD)

Mencap describe a learning disability as a reduced intellectual ability and difficulty with everyday activities – for example household tasks, socialising or managing money – which affects someone for their whole life.

Mencap are a charity who work to improve the lives of people with a learning disability and their families now, and fight alongside them for a better future.

### Autism (A)

The National Autistic Society describe Autism as a lifelong developmental disability which affects how people communicate and interact with the world.

The National Autistic Society are a charity who work to transform lives and change attitudes to help create a society that works for autistic people.



# What is social impact?



It's the change that we've created in the lives of our actors, participants, their families, staff and the **arts workplace/sector**.

Arts workplace/sector – This is theatre, stage, TV and artists world where people work.



We asked our actors, staff, participants, parents and people working in the arts lots of questions about them and Hijinx.



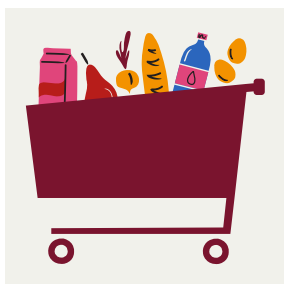
We wanted to know what change we had made to their lives and listen to their stories.



We reach thousands of people each year.

In over a year we engaged with:

- 123 LD/A actors.
- Supported 228 parents or carers.
- 1336 people have been on Hijinx training to learn how to communicate effectively.



We created £4.5 million of social change which is the same amount of money as you would spend if you did 73,770 weekly shops in a year.

## Making people happy



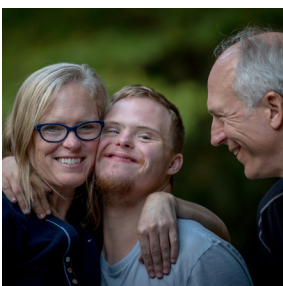
We show that performing and taking part makes people happy.



73% of actors and participants said they felt happier since joining Hijinx.



We increased happiness and wellbeing in our communities. The amount of happiness could buy 66,545 coffee cups.



1 parent said that their child's "confidence has increased. This is directly related to Hijinx."

## Confidence to perform on stage and everyday



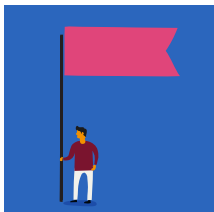
We look after our actors and participants and help their acting skills.



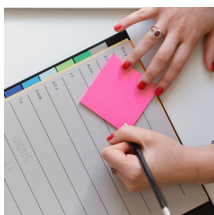
We have seen them become more confident in sharing their opinions and experiences.



9 out of 10 actors are more confident since joining Hijinx.



72% of our actors experienced an increase in their independence as a result of joining Hijinx.



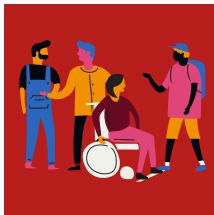
Our actors are now more organised since joining Hijinx.



Some of our actors now travel with Hijinx around the world.



Some actors are now living on their own independently.



70% of our actors and participants are better at communicating and working as a team since joining Hijinx.

## People around us



We've helped our actors' and participants' families.



Some parents said Hijinx gives them welcome respite.



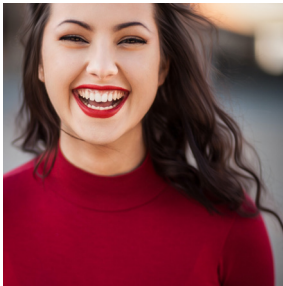
1 Hijinx Actor said  
“They are very supportive of you. They care for your wellbeing.”



## Changing opinions



We are changing the views of how learning disabled and / or autistic (LD/A) people are seen on stage, screen and in our communities.



Our actors deal with negative views every day. Parents and actors said Hijinx helps and provides a good experience.



53% of Hijinx parents said it had changed their perceptions 'very much'.



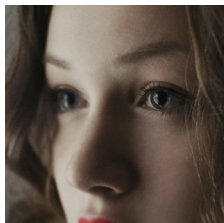
Parents said that their children had increased in confidence by 24% since joining Hijinx.

## Changing views in theatre



Each year we show **neurodiverse** theatre to thousands of people.

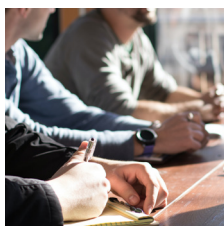
Neurodiversity is the idea that not everyone behaves in the same way. It recognises that people think in different ways and everyone should be respected.



We create shows that change the way that people view the world.



Over 15,000 people saw our shows. That's nearly 3 times the number of seats in the Royal Albert Hall.



Our skills and training programme created a positive impact. We created over £119,000 worth of skills.



90% of the creative people we work with are more inclusive and changed the way they work since working with Hijinx.

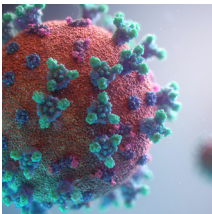


Our training programme raised awareness and increased confidence of working with learning disabled and /or autistic (LD/A) people.

## What we want to change next



We are committed to changing lives for our actors, participants in theatre.



### COVID RECOVERY

We will work to ensure that our communities are not **excluded** from taking part in theatre and arts after COVID.

Covid Recovery – This is the return to a normal state of health, mind and access after the pandemic.

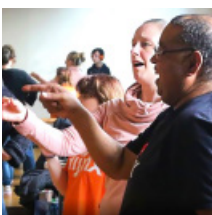
Excluded – Being left out from a place or group not from your own choice.



We will continue to shout for inclusive support with other organisations.



We want stage and screen to follow the 7 Industry Principles, a new guide to support people making inclusive shows.



We will help our actors and participants to return to in-the-room classes in a safe way.



Our ambition – what we want.  
We want to change the views of audiences, and those working in TV and theatre, of how they see learning disabled and autistic people.



We will get our inclusive shows back on the stage and in our communities.



We want to see a neurodivergent actor to be nominated for a BAFTA Cymru award by 2025, a BAFTA award by 2028 and an Oscar by 2030.



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[hijinx.org.uk/our-impact](https://hijinx.org.uk/our-impact)

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