

13th Theatre Company Ltd

Why fit the mould, when you, can create it.

About 13th Theatre Company Ltd

At 13th Theatre Company Ltd, we are a social enterprise theatre company based in Oxford, dedicated to inclusion and social change. We founded the company in 2008 after witnessing how damaging societal attitudes towards disability can be. A simple moment - seeing a friend with disabilities judged for receiving a friendly hug, highlighted the barriers people still face and inspired us to create a space where everyone is welcomed, valued, and seen for who they truly are.

Through theatre, we aim to challenge perceptions, spark conversation, and create opportunities for people of all backgrounds to express themselves in a safe and supportive environment.

Challenges & Growth

Our core challenge has been tackling deeply ingrained attitudes that can marginalise people with disabilities. Creating lasting change requires continuous awareness, engagement, and education.

Like many small creative organisations, we also face practical challenges around funding, staffing, and sustainable growth. Balancing our artistic ambitions with our social mission can be demanding. Despite this, our goal remains to expand our reach, deliver more public performances, work with employers to promote inclusive workplaces, and develop new initiatives such as a drama club for autistic teenagers.

Next steps

Over the next six months, we plan to build on this momentum by expanding our programmes and increasing public performances. A key ambition is to stage a production at the Oxford Playhouse.

We are also developing plans for a drama club for autistic teenagers and continuing our work with local employers to encourage inclusive workplace cultures. We feel positive and motivated about the future as we grow our impact while staying true to our mission of inclusion.

Support from Enterprise Oxfordshire Business

Following the pandemic, Enterprise Oxfordshire supported us in relaunching the company. This led to the creation of our Beautiful Minds Drama Club for autistic adults, which has been a significant step forward for us.

This support helped breathe new life into the organisation, opening up new opportunities and strengthening our confidence to grow. Since then, the group has performed at events including the Marmalade Festival, International Women's Day, and Dementia Oxfordshire's Christmas fayre.

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Enterprise Oxfordshire's support helped us rediscover our purpose after the pandemic and gave us the confidence to grow again.

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