

Fidget Feet Residency at Backstage Theatre

Background

[Fidget Feet Aerial Dance Theatre](#) has been company in residence at [Backstage Theatre](#) Longford, since 2009.

This residency and the partnership between Fidget Feet and Backstage is one that evolved naturally. It stemmed out of a very positive working relationship between the two organisations, when the company brought work on tour to Backstage audiences.

While visiting the area Fidget Feet also developed links with the LD Dance Trust, a dance resource organisation at [Shawbrook](#), in Longford with whom Backstage already had a very strong partnership. Together Backstage and Shawbrook had developed an interest in and an audience for dance, both contemporary and ballet, in the region and both organisations had a keen interest in Fidget Feet's work.

The ties created with both organisations locally prompted Fidget Feet to move to the area on a permanent basis. In 2009 due to funding restrictions Fidget had to let their General Manager go and restructure the company. At this point they approached the theatre to look at ways in which the theatre might be able to offer administrative support.

This is a very simple residency that is centred on sharing resources and is founded on a relationship of mutual respect, support and friendship.

Administrative Support to Fidget Feet

The Box Office Manager at Backstage is part-time and works 25 hours per week. Fidget Feet now employ this worker for additional hours weekly.

Backstage Theatre allows this worker to use the office space at Backstage and permits access to phone, IT and office equipment to carry out any Fidget Feet duties.

Other Fidget Feet staff also have access to the office and meeting room at Backstage to undertake administrative work for the company.

Technical Support to Fidget Feet

In addition Backstage Theatre gives Fidget Feet access to the stage area to tech and rehearse their new work.

This access is subject to availability and gaps in the theatre programme. This requires a degree of flexibility on the theatre's part but also on the part of the company as they can sometimes be required to change plans at short notice when there are last minute changes to the theatre schedule.

How does the theatre benefit?

There is no charge to the company for this access and support. However in return Fidget Feet offer a reduced rate on touring shows to the theatre.

They also provide workshop programmes to the theatre free of charge. These workshops are offered to schools, youth theatre groups, the children's festival, etc. The workshop programmes help the theatre to create links within the local community and also contribute to building an interest in the art-form and boost audience numbers.

Both organisations have found that an added benefit is the kudos gained from their association with the partner organisation. The theatre is mentioned in company programmes and website and the company feel they gain status from their connection with an established theatre venue.