



Our Artistic Vision

Reimagining a Producing House

We aim to be a hub for making and presenting great theatre. We make work, which is ambitious, relevant and inspirational for audiences in the heart of Oldham and beyond.

We hunt out, support, nurture, and produce theatre on the small and middle scales — from a debut play by a local writer to a mid-scale musical for national or international touring. We aim to take the best of Oldham to the world and bring the best of the world to Oldham.

Our production development activity is anything we do to support the evolution of work that will be part of our programme. The aim of our production development process is:

- To create space for our makers and artists to experiment and play.
- To be an inspirational collaborator working with a range of voices from Oldham and around the world.
- To ensure that our main stage productions are created with joy, rigour, ensuring artistic excellence in all our work.
- To be open in our approaches to possible co-producers and collaborators building our reputation as a producer of the highest quality theatre.
- To create a wide range of varied work that serves the diverse audiences of Oldham and our surrounding areas.
- To ensure that our creative development programmes and learning work is always linked to the work we make or present and present, allowing for deepening engagement for our artists and participants.
- To host in partnership with artists, other arts organisations in the Borough and touring companies' performances that compliment and support or own work, to provide a richer range of experiences for our audiences.

Our in-house work is divided into three broad strands:

Our House: 3 shows a year on the middle-scale with a focus on Music Theatre, redefining a well-made play and a 'signature' piece that raises the bar of what can do. We will also continue to develop our reputation of making accessible, relevant and joyful pantomime over the festive period.

Example of the kinds of productions we might produce

- In the Midnight Hour by Phil Whitchurch a Northern Soul Musical, made with Not Too Tame.
- Hindle Wakes in a new version by Tanika Gupta set in 1980's Oldham.
- Medea in a new version by Stef Smith, directed by Amy Leach in co-production with Leeds Playhouse, and Theatre Royal Bath with lead casting such as Anna Friel, Maxine Peak or Julie Hesmondhaugh which would open in Leeds, then come to Oldham before Bath and then a run in London.

Their House: We aim to tour 3 small-scale productions a year that complement the 'Our House' programme and are presented in the community settings across the Borough, bringing work to familiar settings which allow us to engage with the widest possible audience at 'their house'. We would aim to make all three shows, with one being a debut piece coming out of our creative development programme but presented work too.

The Air we Breathe: A summer 'take over' of an outdoor space over the summer holiday period centred around a summer professional summer production as the hub with spokes of cross-art form activities for all ages. We are currently in discussion with Northern Roots to develop this programme for 2026.