

HOUSE LIGHTS UP! Launch
Friday 19th May 2023
10am - 4.30pm The Hub, Edinburgh

Below is a summary and evaluation of the HLU launch event.

What was the aim of the day?

The day was designed to introduce the House Lights Up! Report and its findings to the Scottish arts sector and to generate discussion about how the sector can collectively respond to the findings in the report.

What did we do?

The launch was attended by 44 representatives from the performing arts sector including national companies, small arts companies and individual practitioners. (we had a drop off of about 8 -10 people during the day and the week leading up and we were able to keep referring back to our waiting list to ensure everyone had the opportunity to attend)

Morning

This first half of the day introduced the report, how it was researched and what the researchers found out. We also heard from Jonathan Carlton about his experiences of attending live performances before opening up to questions from the audience for all of the presenters.

The morning sessions were live captioned by two electronic notetakers. We did not have any attendees using BSL interpretation and so the two sign language interpreters were set up for filming and not oriented to the event audience.

Captioned and BSL interpreted films of the morning presentations are available to view on the HLU webpage.

Afternoon

In the afternoon we asked people to work in groups or individually to come up with actions in response to the four vision areas in the report. We used an online tool called Poll Everyone to do this. People uploaded ideas and statements that BOP then organised into shorter lists (to remove duplication of ideas or ideas that were not fully focussed actions). For each vision area attendees then voted on what the priorities were by ranking the statements in order of priority.

Throughout the day

People were free to leave the room if they needed to and we set up a quiet space in the Dunard Library - created by Max Alexander of playradical.com.

After the event

We emailed a link to the presentations and a link to a feedback form. Responses to the feedback form have been used in this summary and evaluation.

Launch day schedule

10am	Registration / coffee
10:30am	Introduction to day – Mairi Taylor and Callum Madge
10.50am	Report launch – overview presentation Zoë Halliday and Aby Watson
11:30am	Comfort break
11:40am	Audience perspective - Jonathan Carlton with Morna McGeoch
12:00pm	Question and Answer session - Zoë Halliday, Aby Watson, Jonathan Carlton and Morna McGeoch
12:20pm	Rewriting the Script - introduction - Mairi Taylor and Callum Madge
12:30pm	Lunch
1:30pm	Rewriting the Script - developing actions Mairi Taylor and Robert Gale, BOP Working in groups

2:50pm	Comfort break
3pm	Rewriting the Script - developing actions cont.
3.20pm	Wrapping up
3.30pm	Networking drinks
4.30pm	Close

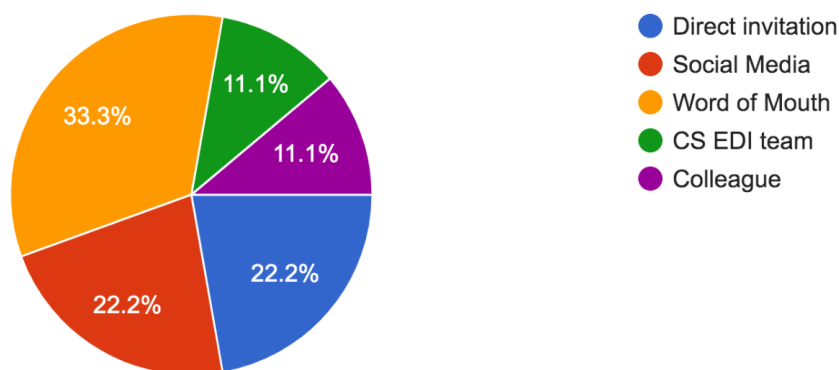
What did we learn?

How did people find out about the launch?

Most people found out about the launch via word of mouth or social media rather than by direct invitation from BOP.

1. How did you find out about House Lights Up!

9 responses



All respondents to the feedback found the event **very useful in presenting the report and its findings** and **increasing your knowledge and understanding of relaxed performance in Scotland**. There was similar conclusive feedback on the event being **useful in impacting on practice and policies around relaxed performance in Scotland**. Feedback was rated on a scale of 1-10 for each area and never dropped below 5 with the majority of responses falling 7-10.

“Useful to speak to so many different organisations and get a holistic view of the sector“

With regards to **usefulness in connecting to others working in this area** there was the least positive response but still this ranged from 6-9 with the majority landing on 7/8.

What did people find most successful about the event?

“The different elements - group discussion/voting on options, presentation, and conversations with various experts, The relaxed/break out room was lovely and inspiring for how to implement this ourselves; the catering was excellent.”

“Hearing the most recent thoughts on relaxed performances. Speaking to others about what they're doing.”

“It was great to get a few heads around a table and come up with a plan while we were all in the same mind space.”

“It was useful to talk through thought processes and get other people's perspectives, and being reassured that we're all in the same boat”

“Hearing the different aspects and points of view about relaxed performances and talking to others about what we can do in future”

“Hearing from neurodiverse presenters and someone with lived experience of autism”

What could have made the day better?

Feedback	BOP reflection
“The venue entrance and facilities were a bit tricky to find initially and there was no one to greet and guide at the room entrance”	Agree this was tricky due to the nature of the building and location.
“Perhaps widen the groups attending as mentioned above.”	Action below.
“It didn't really kick off until 10:30, if I had known that I could have got through a lot more easily, getting there for 10 was a struggle.”	This was communicated in the schedule as above - coffee /reg 10 and start 10:30. Some people came well before 10 which was surprising and unusual.
“Encouraging table switching more frequently so we could talk to other people with each presentation/activity”	Agree this is good practice and we introduced it a bit late on the day.
“Nothing, it was a really good day - thanks to all”	Thanks!
“I found the afternoon tasks, which we had to do on our phones, quite inaccessible. There was a lot of content to sift through,	These are good points and while we had staff roaming and helping with tech we

<p>which didn't always read easy on screens. Connectivity wasn't great. Also having everyone work on phones made verbal communication drop, and I think concentration waned as a result. The hall was also loud and echoey and those of us at the back struggled to hear or read the content on the screens.”</p>	<p>needed to think more on a variety of approaches - see action below.</p> <p>Yes, acoustic in the hall and light level was very hard for many - noted for that space in future.</p>
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What did BOP learn?

BOP was pleased to find that people **appreciated and responded to seeing practice in action** in how the event was made accessible and in demonstrating the relaxed space. This reaffirms our approach to putting practice in action rather than just talking about it in theory at events.

The afternoon exercise was useful but intense with the numbers of people in the room and we **ought to have moved people around more to interact with others**. One respondent made a very good point about interaction with phones closing down communication and in the future with this number of people in the room BOP would structure the exercise differently to encourage more time talking and less time ‘inputting’.

Future actions for BOP:

- Remember signage at building (this went up after people started arriving)
- Keep big groups moving is a full day to encourage conversation
- Pay heed to clearly explaining alternate modes of interacting with an exercise
- Scaling up tasks and exercises with bigger groups needs movement, clarity and some slowness introduced
- In marketing sector events try to remember all artforms and members orgs for border cultural engagement around EDI - in this case feedback around music

APPENDIX

Communications record:

We are looking forward to welcoming you to **House Lights Up!**

FRIDAY 19TH MAY, The Hub, Edinburgh

*** A REMINDER AND REQUEST THAT IF YOU ARE NO LONGER ABLE TO ATTEND PLEASE INFORM US ASAP AS WE ARE OPERATING A WAITING LIST ***

report re-attached with some typos addressed

[House Lights Up!](#) is a research report investigating how neurodivergent audiences in Scotland could be better served by Relaxed Performances.

ARRIVAL

This event will take place on **May 19th** from **10am - 4:30pm**, at **The Hub, Castlehill, Edinburgh, EH1 2NE**

Access to the event:

- **Stepped access:** please buzz at the side entrance to The Hub on Castlehill (the red door diagonally opposite Camera Obscura)
- **Level access:** is to the south of the building - please call Callum on 07886363167 if you require access at this entrance and he will meet you at the main entrance at the front of the building to accompany you.

THE DAY

We will provide: teas, coffees and a vegetarian lunch

There will be networking drinks provided from 3.30pm - 4.30pm

We will be using interactive elements during the event - please bring your mobile or other device to interact with these.

The day will involve:

- a presentation of findings by the researchers Aby Watson and Zoe Halliday
- a perspective from neurodivergent audience member Jon Carlton in conversation with BOP's Morna McGeoch
- group discussions and action planning facilitated by Mairi Taylor and Robert Gale, BOP

ACCESS UPDATE

BSL PLEASE NOTE we are filming the first half of the event to create an accessible filmed presentation. The BSL will be filmed against a green screen as we have had no request for BSL interpretation in the space - please

<https://www.boptheatre.co.uk/house-lights-up/>

let us know if you require access to BSL during the event. There will be no BSL interpretation in the afternoon unless requested.

CAP - we will be live captioning the whole day.

REL This event will follow Relaxed principles; if you need to move around, leave the space, stim, or do anything else that makes you feel comfortable - please feel free to do so. There will be a dedicated chill out space, separate to the event space.

There will be regular breaks throughout the day - and you are free to come and go to the breakout space.

If you have any questions about the event, access or any other aspect please feel free to email