**Overview of the Project**

Rah Rah Community Theatre Company toured Theatres, Community Centres, Residential Homes, Sheltered Housing and Day Centres in London and the Home Counties from the 23rd May -27th June 2022 with our Jubilee Singers show, performing to elderly audiences and local communities. We had two teams out and performed 137 shows. The show consisted of a talented trio, singing a selection of feel good singalong songs with a fun, engaging, linking storyline to celebrate the Queen’s Jubilee. The show was devised to whisk audiences back to memorable times throughout the Queen’s reign allowing them to participate and reminisce.

The aim of our project was to bring local older people together - to create a performance which was unique to them, to run activities that strengthened their sense of community, to support them in making new friends, and most of all to have FUN and celebrate the occasion of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee!

As part of the project Rah Rah also created a free Jubilee Activity Pack to leave as a lasting resource for our audiences. The Activity Pack can be viewed online via the following link: <https://www.rahrahtheatre.com/let-s-create>

**Rah Rah Community Theatre Company – background information**

Rah Rah is a charity theatre company which specialises in using theatre as a form of therapy and has been working within the elderly community for over 20 years. We see firsthand the truth of the Arts Council statement, “Getting involved in creative activities in communities reduces loneliness, supports physical and mental health and wellbeing, sustains older people and helps to build and strengthen social ties.” In the current climate it is more vital than ever that we stay connected with our elderly and vulnerable in our communities. Sharing in watching a show with music, comedy and drama is a perfect way for the elderly (especially those suffering with dementia) to reconnect and bring some much needed joy back into their lives. “A smile starts on the lips, a grin spreads to the eyes, a chuckle comes from the belly; but a good laugh bursts forth from the soul, overflows, and bubbles all around”.

**Project Funding**

**Let’s Create Jubilee Fund** - Funding thanks to the National Lottery to support voluntary and community organisations to deliver creative activity as part of Her Majesty the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Rah Rah ran a joint project with Open Age to tour 20 venues in the boroughs of Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea and Wesminster.

**Awards for All Fund** - aims to make a difference in communities. This year part of their grant scheme was to fund projects that celebrated the Platinum Jubilee within local communities. This funding allowed us to tour 15 venues in Merton and Wandworths to celebrate the Jubilee.

**The Wimbledon Foundation** - established in 2013, is the charity of The All England Lawn Tennis Club and The Championships. Their aim is to use the collective strength of Wimbledon to make a positive difference to people's lives. This funding allowed us to tour 15 venues in Merton and Wandworth to celebrate the Jubilee.

**Creative Team**

Artistic director – Jude Spooner

Writers – Jude Spooner and Gemma Beagley

Vocal director – Lauren Potter

Choreographer – Peter Martindale

Marketing manager – Michael Buckster

Team North – Emily Oakes, Gethin Bickerton and Pearl Schomberg

Team South – Lauren Steele, Phoebe-Loveday Raymond and Matthew Peter-Carter

Covers – Chloe Elliot and Alex Hancock.

**Audience numbers**

Our audience sizes ranged from 15-150 people. The average size audience we performed to was 30. So the estimated total number of audience members for the tour was 4110.

**Project images**

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/A71xzE8Xy3a5MxMy9>

**Filmed version of the project**

<https://vimeo.com/717491060/df50b4aa19>

**Feedback**

*The following feedback is collated from a survey sent after the show. A full copy of the survey can be viewed here:* [*https://www.rahrahtheatre.com/evaluation-forms*](https://www.rahrahtheatre.com/evaluation-forms)

Did You Enjoy the show? 100% Yes

Did you notice an improvement to the mood of the audience afterwards? 80% A great deal

15% A lot 5% A moderate amount.

Is it beneficial for your service users to see live performances such as this? 100% Yes

Would you like to see more future projects like this? 100% definitely yes

Would you recommend us to other centres? 100% Yes

**What did you like about the show most?**

* We had the Jubilee Singers show, which was a great balance across all music genres whilst telling the story of our Queen's 60-year reign
* How well the performers interacted with the audience
* Very colourful, funny and apt for the audience.
* That it was a show and not just lots of singing. Loved that it was very interactive and the performers were very engaged with the residents.
* Professional and engaging
* The interaction and positivity from the performers.
* It had everybody singing and dancing.
* We liked everything about the show it was fantastic.
* Singer, dancing, talking, colourful costumes they are brilliant. They way they were interacting with the residents, the residents were delighted.
* Incredibly well researched and put together. It was fun, entertaining and just about the right length of time.
* The interaction with the residents and the fast pace which kept the residents interested and involved
* The tenants enjoyed the music
* How interactive it was. The costumes were incredible and the enthusiasm of the actors was fantastic.
* The colourful outfits, the tuneful voices singing favourite songs everyone could join in with, the enthusiastic entertainers.
* The fun and laughter, acting and singing
* It was lively and very entertaining, and our clients thoroughly enjoyed it
* How the team took the time to chat to our visitors before the show getting to know them. The interaction during the show.
* How engaging the performers were with our members, they were very friendly and fun and very good with staff as well.
* The audience were encouraged to join in with the singing and dancing

**Please give us any specific feedback that you received from your clients or any quotes you would be happy for us to use in promotional material and/or online.**

* "A really uplifting show", was most guest’s reaction. "Really friendly and professional performers", was another. And "We all want to come to the sixties show next month"
* "Many residents commented on how much they enjoyed the shows and a few said it made them quite emotional (but in a good way) remembering the ""the good old days""
* These shows really made a difference to the residents who attended"
* It was wonderful to see all the flag waving and singing and huge smiles on everyone's faces. They all thoroughly enjoyed the show, which was very entertaining and well-presented. The singers/performers chatted comfortably with the audience afterwards, which was a lovely touch.
* "One of our residents who normally wanders constantly, sat through the whole show and made comments such as "wonderful" and "very good" He even laughed at the jokes.
* Some of our residents who don't normally come down to entertainment, stated that they would like to come down again if Rah Rah were coming.
* One of our lovely residents who sits and doesn't show any interest and often says music is too loud, was tapping her foot along to the music, and was giggling when one of the performers came over to sing to her.
* "The three performers were absolutely fantastic. They engaged with each one of our residents.”
* They remembered their names and incorporated some of the conversations into the show.
* Even the staff commented on the talent of the young people and are begging me to book them again.
* "They were brilliant!" "They are so talented" "It is so nice to have something different". These performers are amazing and do not realise how much enjoyment they bring to the clients.
* My clients thoroughly enjoyed themselves. They loved singing along and waving their flags.
* The residents we have in our care home have complex needs and we had a residents family member in that day and she really enjoyed the show as she said that her husband was really showing an interest in the music and was smiling and singing along to every song, also the residents were all smiling after the show and some of the residents that can give feed back said it was a fantastic show and would love to have them back again in the home.
* It was a beautiful show, Residents ,staff, and families really enjoyed it.
* What a great way to start a party. Lots of compliments on the outfits, the song choices and the actors
* They said it lifted their mood and the staff were really friendly and enjoyed being involved in the show
* The residents commented on how lovely the crew were. They loved the costumes and loved the performance theme and also how interactive it was. A feel good show to celebrate the life of a great woman.
* They all loved the friendly, fun entertainers, who engaged with the audience brilliantly.
* Very nice. It was lots of fun and laughter.
* A relative popped in the following day to ask what had happened the day before as the gentleman had gone home in a completely different mood and was so much happier than when he came in on the day of the entertainment.
* The first quote would be "when are you coming back we have had so much fun" " The story was so funny" And "a huge thank you for making us all laugh so much can’t wait to tell my family that we have had the best afternoon".
* Overwhelmingly positive, all of our clients were smiling and said how much they enjoyed the show.
* The performers from Rah Rah are very talented, excellent singers and great fun! They got us all up and dancing with them and left us all on a high.

**Any other comments you would like to say for only Rah Rah Theatre to see.**

**Thank you again for taking the time to complete these questions helping Rah Rah to continually grow and improve.**

* We combined the Jubilee singers show with a cream-tea before the performance - always a winning combination; food and a good show. Without exception, the comments from our audience were " when's Rah-Rah's next show?"
* A show lasting a little longer than an hour would be even more fantastic!
* The performers we had for the show today were superb. They showed great interest in the resident and you could hear every word they were saying. They were fantastic and had great enthusiasm and lovely voices. The delivery was just right. They kept the energy up the whole way through and beyond (must be difficult being half way through a very busy tour I would imagine.) We always love having Rah Rah in as you are always entertaining and produce a wide variety of shows aimed at just the right level.
* Please do some more performances! RahRah really is underrated.
* We have many companies come into our home and this company was brilliant and really got the residents interacting and engaging in the show and the atmosphere before and afterwards was really nice and memorable. We can not wait to have Rah Rah back again.
* We would like to see them again any time. We wish all the best , they are very talented. Thank you so much.
* A couple of residents said it’s about time to lose the war Songs (Vera Lynn), however I pointed out that the choice of song was to represent the queens whole reign.
* Thank you very much for the wonderful and fun performance! Residents talked about it for quite some time afterwards!!
* They are hoping you can return in December for the panto.
* From the initial enquiry down to the feedback email, it has been such a smooth process and a great idea that I am so glad we have had the pleasure of hosting at our care home. The residents have already asked when the next performance is.
* "We've always been pleased by the shows, thank you!”
* “We'll be booking more."
* We were so happy for you to come to Trinity. I understood you are seeking funding for the next performances I hope you do, please let me know as I would otherwise need the payment agreed in advance by the owner of this Nursing home. Thank you again for such a lovely performance today
* The entertainers were friendly, chatty and weren't put off by one client who kept wanting to entertain with them
* "We always have a great time. The actors are always so kind and understanding of our visitors making everyone feel at ease. They adapt very well to suit our people. Keep doing what you are doing."
* Thanks for your efforts in bringing back fun to our Centre :)
* Matthew, Phoebe and Lauren were excellent. They showed care and kindness towards the service users here, and were brilliant at supporting and encouraging them. The ladies had great voices, the harmonies were excellent, and Matthew's trumpet playing and his impersonations of the Prime Ministers through the years were amazing! Thank you very much.

**Emailed Feedback**

* Phoebe, Lauren and Matthew were fantastic and the performance was thoroughly enjoyed by us all. Sonya Hawkins, Sheltered Housing Officer, 3 Grosse Way
* We would like to thank you guys for giving us a brilliant spectacle, that everybody enjoyed. We will definitely book yourselves again at the end of the year. Phillip Simpson, COPS Coordinator, Barnet Mencap
* Thank you for visiting us recently to perform your Jubilee Singers Show. The residents really enjoyed it. We are keen to book 2 more visits with you. Nigel Odd, Home Manager, GARDENIA HOUSE CARE HOME
* I just want to thank Phoebe, Matthew and Laura for their lovely performance- great voices . The residents gave a very positive feedback and enjoyed their Jubilee special day. Thank you so much. Marian, Notting Hill Housing Trust
* Please pass on our thanks to the team that performed for our residents on Friday. Our residents thoroughly enjoyed the performance and so did our staff. They were talking about it for the rest of the day. It was good that the performance was held outside and there was a lot of waving of the flags and it bought back some memories for our residents. Thanks again for a very enjoyable show. Heather Pattullo, Administrator, Bupa Care Homes, Red Court Care Home
* Thank you again for yet another wonderful show. The guys had a brilliant time. Kate Walsh,Senior Support Worker, HFT Resource Centre
* We had a visit from your Jubilee Singers yesterday and just wanted to let you know how great they were. Our Centre members are a hard crowd to please, but they really enjoyed it and we had fantastic feedback from everyone. If you could pass on my thanks to the singers, I’d be grateful. Samantha Vaughnley, Activities & Volunteers Coordinator, Elleray Hall Social Centre
* I just wanted to say Thank you for such a great performance yesterday. All our residents absolutely loved it !! Thank you so much and hope to see you again soon. Andrea Day home manager, Hamilton nursing home
* I am just emailing to thank you and the performers for the show they put on for us yesterday afternoon. It was brilliant and our residents loved it. One even described it as “perfection”! Matthew, Lauren and Phoebe were great - a very talented trio. Their lovely rendition of “the Lord’s my shepherd” had one resident in tears. Carole, Activities organiser, Shaws wood residential care home
* Good morning, thank you so much for coming to our home and entertaining the residents. The three performers are fantastic and really engaged well with each other and our residents. Teresa walker, Lambwood Heights Care Home
* The jubilee singers were fantastic. The feedback from the clients was positive and just gushing with compliments for the young trio. Seema, Molesey
* Thank you for the lovely performance of the Rah Rah theatre on Tuesday this week. Julie West, Activities co-ordinator, The Woodlarks Centre
* Our residents thoroughly enjoyed your recent platinum jubilee concert at our home and they are very keen for you to return to perform the ‘swinging sixties’ Claire Pniok, Operations director, Newton Chinneck ltd, St Georges nursing home
* Thank you so much. We had a brilliant afternoon and the show was liked very much. Surinder Age UK Richmond Whitton Social
* Sorry for my late response but I just wanted to let you know what a fantastic day we had when the jubilee singers came to Tanglewood. They were very professional and all our service user’s enjoyed singing along. It was a great day, next we have the swinging 60s, we can’t wait!! Tammy Allingham, Deputy Manager, Tanglewood (Totem Care)
* The performance of the jubilee singers was amazing thank you so much.I really would love to book the panto this year can you send me dates and times for December. Sam Bishop Barnet Mencap
* Just to say, thank you – Matthew and Lauren’s performance was great. We all really enjoyed it and it was so uplifting. The clients and staff were singing along and participating – we have the flyers for your next performances which of course will be of interest.
* Thank you for your team’s performance at Alexander house yesterday, it was such an amazing show! Our residents absolutely love it. We really appreciate your performers’ effort and talent! Quyu Ji, Community Coordinator, Keychange Charity, Alexander House

**Facebook feedback**

* Alexander House Care Home Wimbledon. Absolutely amazing! There's nothing greater than seeing our residents surrounded by joy! Thanks to Rah Rah Theatre Company for performing such a wonderful show "The Jubilee Singers"!
* We were delighted to welcome the Jubilee Singers Rah Rah Theatre Company for a special interactive performance for our Evergreen Club and Tea@3 at St. Stephen's. Thank you for putting on such a feel good show to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee!
* The White House Nursing Home is feeling happy.Rah Rah Theatre Company came to visit! The Jubilee Celebrations continued today with a fantastic performance from the Rah Rah Theatre Company. The flags were out and the singing and dancing commenced. We enjoyed Ain't No Mountain High Enough, Cheek to Cheek and Land of Hope and Glory amongst other songs as we were given a whistle-stop tour of the Queen's reign. We ended with the Home joining in with singing The National Anthem. It’s safe to say one or two of the ladies had a bit of a soft spot for Gethin who happened to be the only male in the room! He handled the attention very well . Thanks you so much to Rah Rah for selecting us for this wonderful performance to end our Jubilee Celebrations. We really did enjoy it
* Epsom Beaumont Care Home - Barchester Healthcare. A talented group, singing a selection of feel good sing along songs to celebrate the Queens Jubilee at Barchester Healthcare Epsom Beaumont Care Home - Barchester Healthcare
* Our residents were taken back to memorable eras allowing them to participate and reminisce. The cast comprised professionally trained actors who have a wealth of experience performing in the community. Rah Rah Theatre Company has been running for 20 years and our residents really enjoyed the performance Rah Rah Theatre CompanyO ur activities coordinator Louisa said: “Staff members really enjoy seeing their residents in new ways, getting to know them better and discovering different approaches and activities that successfully engage them. Our evaluation sessions are often full of stories of surprising moments when residents participated or expressed themselves in a way they hadn't previously.
* Norfolk House care home. A huge thank you for the Jubilee Singers from Rah Rah Theatre Company today. Residents enjoyed the show very much
* Cambridge Nursing Home. And weren't we right royally entertained by the wonderful Rah Rah Theatre Company during the Jubilee weekend. Such a fantastic performance which was thoroughly enjoyed by all of us.
* Signature at Camberley. The Queen's Jubilee Singers. Today we had a special Royal performance by Rah Rah Theatre Company . We went through all the emotions with their acting and singing, they had us laughing, crying and looking back on old memories. A truly brilliant performance which had everyone at Camberley singing and dancing along.