

Dr Charlotte Allan



Theatre maker and researcher



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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Charlotte has worked in Scottish theatre for over twenty years as a writer, performer, director, tutor and youth theatre artist. Her 2025 PhD with the University of Strathclyde explored the shared, intergenerational experience of attending live performance for very young children. She is an Associate Artist For Starcatchers, Scotland's Arts and Early Years Organisation, and is Artistic Director of Ipdip Theatre.

RECENT PROJECTS

Impact Champion - University of Strathclyde

- Creating an interactive performance to share the research findings from *Toddlers, Tech and Talk*, a multi-year collaborative research project on how very young children interact with our digital world.

Associate Artist - Starcatchers

- Collaborating with other artists and researchers on a creative consultation and report, scoping the development of a Youth Arts Strategy that includes the voices of babies, children and young people.
- Designing and delivering Creative Skills workshops for Early Years Practitioners across Scotland as CPD sessions and in colleges on puppetry skills, drama, multi-sensory storytelling, confidence, and accessing personal creativity.
- Co-planning and delivering mentoring and creative play workshops in nurseries for the Emotional Literacy focused *Wee People Big Feelings* project.

IPDIP THEATRE

In 2011 I formed Ipdiip Theatre to make work for a very young audience, moving to charitable status in 2016 with the aim of taking the work to groups who would not otherwise be able to access it. We have had six successful years performing at the Edinburgh Fringe and tours with The Touring Network, Puppet Animation Scotland, and NEAT.

- *Head in the Clouds* is a lyrical tale of a worried dog and his wandering, flying sheep.
- *Calvinball* is a playful outdoor show which presents the 'yes and' rule for improvisation.
- *Anonymouse* explores the seasons through poetry and sensory interaction.
- *Shhh... the elves are very shy* introduces exploring the natural world through finding evidence of elves.

I have also created interactive walkabouts for festivals and events: *Button* and *The Pages*. In 2020 I co-created the online theatre event, *Up and Down*, from which I drew my MPhil empirical research.

RESEARCH

- PhD - Witnessing the Possible: Investigating the parent and child audience experience at Theatre for Early Years (TEY)

Thesis | Witnessing the possible : investigating the parent and child audience experience at Theatre for Early Years (TEY) | ID: 7w62f8854 | STAX

- MPhil - Missed Connections and Silver Linings: Researching Theatre for Early Years audience experience during the Covid-19 pandemic

<https://stax.strath.ac.uk/concern/theses/47429971p>

- Authoring and co-authoring peer reviewed articles and book chapters
- Contributing to other research projects - Data collection, analysis, and curation. Report writing and editing.
- Marking masters assignments and tutoring undergraduate seminar classes

CREATIVE PRACTICE

I have written and directed for adult audiences, as well as creating collaborative devised work. Writing commissions include full and short plays as well as radio, short film, and published short stories. Play, curiosity, and the natural world are running themes through my work for all ages and across formats.

I'm interested in how we make space for communal experiences of deeper feeling, and how we tell the stories that matter.