

# THE OCCASION



The Occasion is the trading name for The Occasional Cabaret Ltd.  
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[www.theoccasiontheatre.com](http://www.theoccasiontheatre.com)

## Introduction

Welcome to The Occasion's annual look back on the past year, 2021 – a continuing time of Covid restrictions, lockdowns, change and learning to work in new ways. The vast majority of our work, during the year, has been concerned with our Southside Group project.

This is an initiative, begun in January 2020, which is designed to increase opportunities for adults with learning disabilities to become actively involved in the making of theatre.

The project is open to everyone aged 18+. No previous drama experience is necessary. Just a desire to have fun, create, play, explore and meet new people.

The Southside Group currently has 14 members, ranging in age from late teens to mid-fifties. Some are experienced performers; some are beginners. All contribute enormously, in their own ways, to the work of the group.

Two major projects were produced, with TSG, during 2021. The first was a full production of **The Peabody Chronicles**, an idea originally developed as part of our **This Fire** programme, in 2020; the second, a development of ideas around Hans Christian Andersen's iconic story of **The Snow Queen**.

Both, because of Covid restrictions, were produced digitally, although we did have some opportunity, with both projects, to conduct some live sessions – which, after all the months of socially distanced restrictions, were a joy! Further details of both projects follow on.

The Occasion would like to thank all those who have enabled our work, either by promoting our performances, by enjoying as audience or by directly supporting and engaging with as participants.

We'd, also, like to thank all our funders for their support in this past year; without them our work could not have been achieved.

Links to all of The Occasion's digital work can be found on our website:  
[www.theoccasiontheatre.com](http://www.theoccasiontheatre.com)

All films are also available on our YouTube account:  
[www.youtube.com/TheOccasion](http://www.youtube.com/TheOccasion)

**Onwards, to 2022!**



# The Peabody Chronicles – The Complete Story

Spanning a 30-year period, from 1887 to 1917, ‘The Peabody Chronicles’ resulted in a tale of villainy, skulduggery, kidnap, heroism, war, love, heartbreak, revenge, injustice, come-uppance... and much more.

*“I loved this, have told plenty of people all about it and would thoroughly recommend you take your creatively critical eye and go and learn what it is like to emerge from lockdown with your art intact.”*

- Donald Stewart, The Fringe Review

Originally developed as part of The Occasion’s **This Fire** programme, The Southside Group were delighted – with funding from Creative Scotland and The Hugh Fraser Foundation – to bring the complete, epic, story to full production.

*“Being in The Southside Group has really helped me during this pandemic, during this lockdown and it really has been the best thing for me.”*

- Adam, TSG member

*“I feel happy and I feel good about myself. Making this film is making me feel important, being a part of ‘The Peabody Chronicles.’”*

- Hughie, TSG member

To watch all five thrilling episodes head to:  
[www.theoccasiontheatre.com/peabody-chronicles](http://www.theoccasiontheatre.com/peabody-chronicles)



## The Snow Queen – filmed development scenes

In the run up to Christmas 2021, The Southside Group developed ideas based on Hans Christian Andersen's classic tale of 'The Snow Queen'. These will form the basis for a live performance in December 2022.

The majority of the work was filmed against green screen, with drawn backgrounds dropped in behind.

As a part of the project, a unique web-site was also created on which extracts from the filming have been posted.

This can be found at [www.thesouthsidegroup.com](http://www.thesouthsidegroup.com)

*"Maria has a great sense of achievement after the sessions. You are offering such an amazing, unique experience for these young people and for Maria even to take part is a blessing."*

- Parent of TSG member



## The Future

The Occasion is determined to maintain and further develop The Southside Group. Over the past 2 years, so much work has been produced in such a short period of time, with an amazing group of people. We remain open to expanding membership and are keen to hear from anyone who is interested in joining TSG.

As well as planning live, public performances of **The Snow Queen** in December 2022, we will also begin development of a new production, **Another Nice Mess**.

This will be scripted by the Glaswegian playwright and author, Stewart Ennis, and will take inspiration from the return of Stan Laurel, with his partner Oliver Hardy, for a one-week run at The Glasgow Empire, in June 1947.

Although not born in the city, Stan moved to Glasgow's Southside in his teenage years, went to school in Rutherglen and began his career at The Britannica Panopticon Music Hall, in Argyle Street. Over 5,000 people turned up at Central Station to welcome Stan back, in 1947.

The production will look, in a fictionalised way, at how the visit impacted local residents' lives and is scheduled, for live public performances, at Glasgow's Tramway, in 2023.

The Occasion, also, remain fully committed to resuming our professional touring programme, within the UK and internationally, and will announce future plans over the course of the year.

**We look forward to 2022 with optimism.**



# For The Occasion

## Co-Artistic Directors:

Peter Clerke  
Catherine Gillard

## Board of Trustees:

Gillian Shaw (Chair)  
Ben Walmsley  
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## The Occasion are full members of The Federation of Scottish Theatre



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