

Graeae is a force for change in world-class theatre - breaking down barriers, challenging preconceptions and boldly placing Deaf and disabled artists centre stage.

Productions

Graeae creates world-class, diverse and accessible live performances which tour nationally and internationally.

Artistically led by Jenny Sealey, Graeae's work varies from intimate and poignant studio performances to large scale breathtaking outdoor spectacles. All performances have access woven into the heart of the production and offer audiences captioning and/or British Sign Language and audio description at every performance.



Photo credit: *The Solid Life Of Sugar Water*, Patrick Baldwin

Our History



Portrait of Nabil Shaban by Eleanor Johnson

Graeae was founded in 1980 by Nabil Shaban and Richard Tomlinson, after meeting at college in Coventry. They both shared a vision to create productions involving disabled people. By May 1980, a company of disabled performers was established to perform the first ever Graeae play *Sideshow*.

Since 1980, Graeae has achieved an international reputation as a pioneer of accessibility in world-class theatre, with the original impetus of its founders still at its very core.

Access

We strive to seamlessly weave audio description, captioning and British Sign Language into the creative vision for each piece. As leaders of the field in creating accessible performances, we continue to push boundaries and explore new ways to integrate elements of accessibility into our work.

Access is provided throughout our marketing materials, then, from the moment audience members arrive at a venue they can explore tactile set models, read an Easy Read synopsis, or receive their programme in different formats. We share our knowledge and passion with front of house and box office teams and marketing staff across the country, providing support, sewing seeds of change, and demystifying the process of becoming more accessible.

‘A company of disabled artists that is constantly pushing against expectations and at theatrical boundaries.’

Lyn Gardner, The Guardian

Training & Learning

Training & Learning is a boldly ambitious strand of Graeae's core work. It includes a young company, artistic residencies in schools, professional artist development, production-related workshops and consultancy and training for sector change.

Deaf and disabled artists, children and young people are at the forefront of our Training & Learning projects. We have an outstanding track record in creating work for and with young people and artists across all stages of their career. We ensure learning environments promote an equal playing field, imagination, curiosity and creativity.

'Graeae's training for Deaf and disabled artists is radical. Training with Ensemble equaled empowerment, guiding me how to get the support I need to work as an emerging theatre director.' *Hana Pascal Keegan, 2017-18 Ensemble Graduate*



Photo credit: The Rollettes, Becky Bailey

Each year we work with upwards of 7,000 people, creating projects across the UK and internationally.

New Writing

We are always on the look out for new and exciting voices and stories.



Photo credit: *Blood Wedding* rehearsals, Ross Fraser Mclean

Write to Play is our flagship new writing programme dedicated to developing the skills and experience of early career writers, in partnership with some of the most exciting new writing theatres in the UK.

The programme has developed the careers of 30 Deaf and disabled playwrights, including Jackie Hagan, whose play *Cosmic Scallies* was co-produced by Graeae and the Royal Exchange Manchester in August 2017.

Running alongside **Write to Play**, **Play Chats** are half-day workshops aimed at beginners, while **Play Labs** offers theatre makers of all levels a day's R&D in Graeae's safe and accessible.

Support Us

Graeae is a registered charity and our extensive programme of work is only made possible by the kind support of grant-giving organisations, sponsors and donations from the public.

Please help support the work we do - training, empowering and showcasing the talent of Deaf and disabled artists.

Please visit [JustGiving.com/Graeae](https://www.justgiving.com/Graeae)

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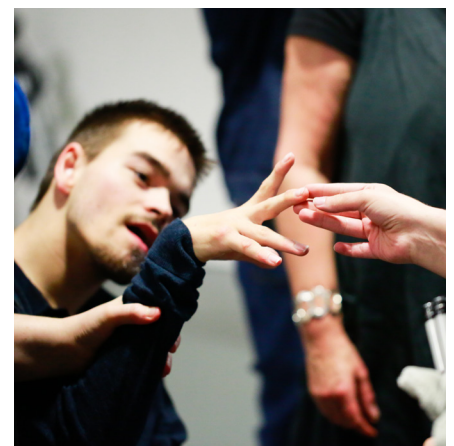


Photo credit: Becky Bailey