


# GRAEae

T H E A T R E   C O M P A N Y

## Legacy Giving Guide



Radically kind, persistently curious, fiercely ambitious... make sure our spirit lives on



**Help us to forge a future where Deaf,  
disabled and neurodivergent artists  
of all ages can continue to dream  
big, make radical work barrier-free,  
and disrupt the creative industries.**

# Who we are:

**Graeae** has always been a human rights charity, passionately and fiercely committed to the long-term equality of disabled people in the arts.

For 40+ years we have been creating radical theatre, placing access at the heart of our work, and championing disabled artists. Throughout our history, we have fought for an equal platform for disabled creatives to train and make art; we have defied expectations and showcased excellence; we have invented new ways of storytelling; and smashed outdated preconceptions that theatre can't be a home for disabled people. Our tenacious spirit and unwavering pride in our disabled community has led us to...

- Take centre stage at the 2012 London Paralympics Opening Ceremony.
- Bring award-winning disabled-led accessible theatre like Reasons to be Cheerful, Self-Raising, The Paradis Files, 10 Nights and The Solid Life of Sugar Water to audiences across the UK.
- Connect with disabled artists across borders in countries such as India, Pakistan and Japan.
- Champion disabled children and young people through youth companies Ensemble and The Rolettes: vital platforms that build the confidence, skills and ambitions of the next generation of disabled artists and leaders.

- Nurture disabled leaders through Beyond, the first ever leadership development programme for disabled artists.
- Showcase disabled excellence in every corner of the performing arts, from outdoor work and circus to opera, new writing, verbatim theatre and radio.



# Why leave a gift to Graeae in your Will?

While opportunities have improved for disabled people since Graeae was founded in 1980, in the 2020s, we still have work to do.

“We are living in fragile times and everywhere Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent people are fighting cuts and for basic survival. Graeae is needed more than ever to create political platforms through artistic engagement and to be visible, reminding people – we are here and we ain’t going anywhere!”

**Jenny Sealey OBE, Graeae’s Artistic Director  
and Joint CEO**



Leaving a gift to Graeae in your Will is one of the most impactful ways of supporting us.

It will help us forge a future where Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent artists of all ages can continue to dream big, make radical work barrier-free, and disrupt the creative industries.

# What difference will my gift make?

“Graeae made us feel like we are the future”  
- Beyond artist

By remembering us in your Will, you will help us in our mission to challenge preconceptions, smash outdated ideology, and empower disabled people. You will help us to forge a future where disabled artists of all ages:

- Have equal access to the arts.
- Are treated as equals alongside their non-disabled peers in the creative industries.
- Are safe and supported to dream big and make the art they want to make.
- Are leading buildings, companies and conversations.
- Are disrupting the comfortable mainstream by pushing at the edges of what theatre can be.

“Ensemble has meant I’ve found my purpose.”  
- Ensemble artist

**With an average residuary gift, we could:**

- Pay for 30 micro-grants for disabled artists
- Pay for a young disabled person to access training for one whole year via our Ensemble programme
- Tour a new disabled-led production to 8 venues nationwide



# Did you know?

- Graeae fundraises tirelessly, fuelled by our passion for inclusion. The funding we receive, for example from Arts Council England and Trusts and Foundations, funds our short to mid-term projects and core activity. But when someone leaves us a gift in a Will, it means we can work flexibly with the long-term future in view.
- Gifts in Wills aren't a regular income stream for us in the same way they are for larger charities. Gifts in Wills really can make a big difference to small arts charities like Graeae.
- You don't need a large estate to give a gift in your Will. Anyone can leave a gift in their Will to the charity(s) of their choice. Every gift, large or small, makes a difference.

# Our reach

**In the last 15 years alone, we have reached:**

- 134,393 audience members in theatres across the country
- 102,654 audience members in free, outdoor events
- 68,450 workshop attendees, of which... 25,465 were disabled children and young people
- 6.15 million listeners through radio plays



Over the last 40+ years, Graeae has been there fighting for disabled artists' rights. We've chained ourselves to busses, sat on picket lines and marched down Whitehall and at the centre of it all has been the fight to be seen, respected and allowed to create great theatre that can transform lives. We're going to be around as long as we're needed. ”

**Kevin Walsh, Graeae's Executive Director  
and Joint CEO**

# How do I give a gift to Graeae in my Will?

## 1. Plan your Will

The first step in planning your Will is to write down your assets and think about the people and charities you'd like to include. If you want you can download and complete our free Will Planning resource on the Graeae website.



## **2. Find a solicitor or qualified Will writer**

If you are planning to make or change your Will, we strongly suggest you use a solicitor or qualified Will writer. If you do not have an adviser, ask a friend or relative for a recommendation, or visit the website of the Law Society at [www.lawsociety.org.uk](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk). If you live in the borough of Hackney, we can provide you with a list of local solicitors – please email [info@graeae.org](mailto:info@graeae.org) for more details.

### **3. Decide what kind of gift you want to give to Graeae**

Several types of gift can be left in a Will, including:

- A residuary gift, which is a share or percentage of what is left of your estate once your debts have been paid.
- A pecuniary gift, which is a set amount of money, usually linked to the retail price index.
- A specific gift, such as an item of jewellery or a painting.
- If you already have a Will and would like to add a gift to Graeae, you can use a codicil. There are some suggested wordings for these on the Graeae website.

**4. To include a gift to Graeae** please make sure your Will states our full name, address, and registered charity number:  
Graeae Theatre Company,  
138 Kingsland Road,  
London  
E2 8DY  
(charity no. 284589)

**5. If you do decide to include Graeae in your Will**, please take a moment to let us know. You can email us at [info@graeae.org](mailto:info@graeae.org) – we'd love to say thank you properly.

