

Scary

LITTLE GIRLS



Impact Document 2022

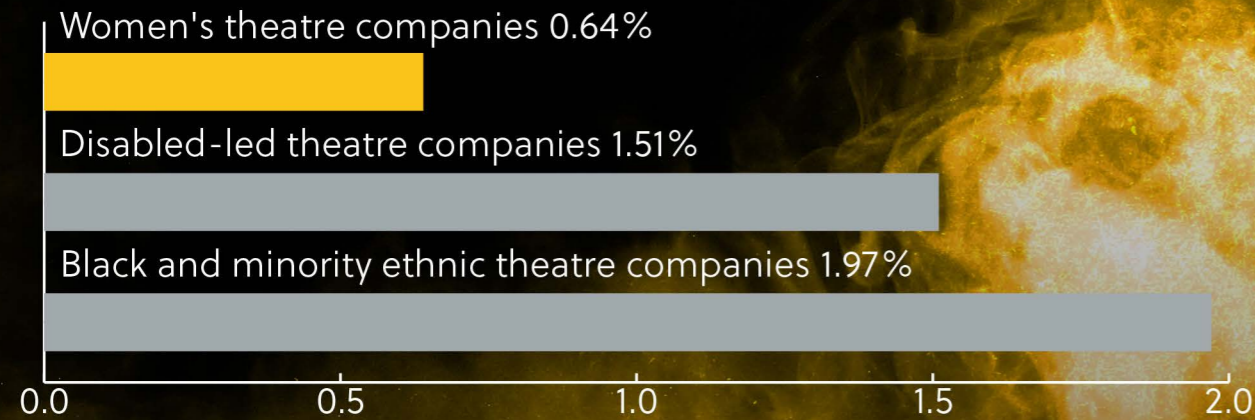
20 years of inspiring, empowering
and entertaining women

Scary Little Girls is a feminist production hub telling stories of hidden histories with diverse companies to diverse audiences across the UK.

We collaborate across artistic mediums with artists, venues and institutions nationally and regionally creating critically acclaimed political performance.

Scary Little Girls Headline Impacts

Women's theatre companies received 0.64% of Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation funding between 2015-18



Source: Sphinx Theatre

£ Scary Little Girls has raised over **£1 million** in funding and earned income over 20 years

Scary Little Girls is funded by

Arts Council England, Heritage Lottery Fund, Centre Stage Rural Touring, Lincolnshire Rural Touring, The Garrick Club, Feast Cornwall, Creative Arts East, Cornwall Council, Hall for Cornwall, Arts Alive, Village Ventures, Creative Scene, Cultivator Cornwall, Women's Vote Centenary Fund, Awards For All Community Fund, Youth Music and more

"Scary Little Girls is shaking up the theatre world with brilliant and innovative work and a revolutionary working practice. In form and content, style and substance, philosophy and script, SLG is replacing the old, sexist ways with something far more just and powerful, thrilling audiences with amazing new work all the way."

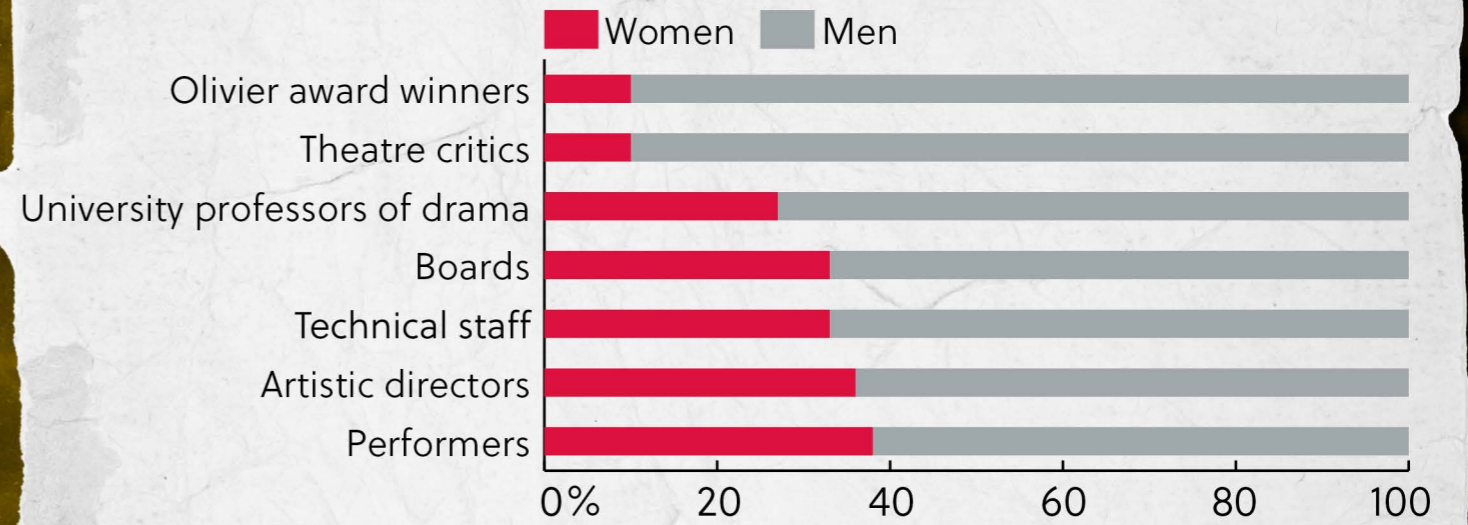
Bidisha | THE GUARDIAN 2018



"Scary Little Girls got my vote!"
Lyn Gardner | THE GUARDIAN 2014



Women are under-represented throughout the theatre industry



Source: The December Group/University of Loughborough. 2017 figures

Scary Little Girls redresses the imbalance of women's representation in the arts and has been governed by **5 women chairs, 13 women trustees, and 8 women patrons.**

SLG employs 95% women and company practices always take caring responsibilities into account. SLG features women who are marginalised or misrepresented in popular culture: for example, in 2017/18 **Truth Before Everything** honoured the achievements of Josephine Butler and confronted the pervasive myths about women in prostitution.

Awards

Wild Woman's Hour Outstanding Digital Practitioner Award – we enabled disadvantaged women in rural Cornwall to rebuild self-esteem and develop courage to speak out through the medium of a radio show, which they wrote and produced. "Outstanding Digital Practitioner Award from the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education, Learning Through Technology Project Award, supported by the BBC The European Social Fund nominated the Wild Woman's Hour project for its best practice website."



Timeline Highlights

2003 *Dracula*, *The Kisses* sell-out first production at The Courtyard, Kings Cross.
2007 *The Ladies Cage*, Finborough Theatre & sells out at Manchester Royal Exchange Studio.
2009/10 *The Riot Showgrrrls Club*, Guided Balloon at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

2010: Scary Little Girls is successfully registered as a charity

2011 *Marvellous du Maurier Miscellany* cabaret-style tribute Daphne Du Maurier Fowey Festival.
2012 commissioned *Agatha Christie Living Literature Event* tour of Oxfordshire.

2013 - 2014: Wild Woman's Hour - Outstanding Digital Practitioner Award

The Theatre Chipping Norton co-production *In the Footsteps of the Mitfords*.
Literary Cabarets, *ShiverSmiths*, *Mother Mae II* and *It's Your Round!* National rural touring in Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Nottinghamshire.
Living Literature Walks in Cornwall Commissioned 9 short stories from diverse writers.
It's Your Round! cabaret meets pub quiz, commissioned by Arts Alive and Creative Arts East.
Wild Woman's Hour Outstanding Digital Practitioner Award.

2014 - 2015: Record Audience figures of 16,000

Before I Wake for Cornwall's Heligan Garden produced by Cornwall Youth Theatre.
Salon du Cinema pilot with BFI, Falmouth University and Falmouth Poly.
Jingle Belles, a new special rural touring Christmas cabaret featuring female comedy.
The Full Bronte tour with Cornwall Library Services.

2015 - 2016: Scaling up to mid-level theatre tours while innovating in your local library

Duffy Beats the Devil SLG's first Panto at the Acorn Theatre, Penzance.
The Fantastic Anna Maria Fox, to celebrate one of Falmouth's most notable historical women.
Brief Encounters first interactive living film walk.
Peter Pan first all female version. Grossed over £16,000.
Scary Little Girls Patrons scheme initiated.

2016 - 2017: Rebecca Mordan named first ever Associate Artist of Hall for Cornwall

Shakespeare, *Suffragettes* and *Soldiers* Uni of London School Adv. Studies Being Human Festival.
The Fantastic Anna Maria Fox sell-out heritage celebration Picnic at Glendurgan Falmouth.
Peter Pan Open Window deaf and disabled artist integration with Ramps on the Moon.

2017 - 2018: Scary Little Girls' Patrons scheme established

Peter Pan ACE and Hall for Cornwall funding ensures inclusive and diverse casting.
Inclusive Casting Workshop delivered for Hall for Cornwall.
Strangers on a Train Thought Festival curated by Stranger Collective in Bodmin Railway.
Truth Before Everything Josephine Butler play about women in prostitution in development for TV.

2018 - 2019: Start of the Greenham Women Everywhere archive - a major series of projects

International Agatha Christie Festival storytelling and Living Literature Walk.
Women's Vote Centenary Fund enables *Suffrage Salons* in Cornwall.
Dedicated website of oral Greenham testimonies in the Women's Library at the LSE.
100 Greenham women paired with volunteer interviewers.
With Ramps on the Moon inclusivity research and training work for Hall for Cornwall.

2019 - 2020: Scary Little Girls evolves from a charity to a CIC

Mary Wollstonecraft walks, *Salon du Chocolat* and *It's Your Round*.
Bespoke *Living Literature Walk* for the International Agatha Christie Festival and Leeds Lit Fest.
SLG production team trained in Integrated British Sign Language and Access Guides.
Sea Cry Saga, co-produced with Creation Theatre performed on Chapel Porth beach.
Touring pop-up Greenham exhibition, talks and sing-a-longs (live and via Zoom).
Radio 4 *You and Yours* and the *Archive Hour* and featured in the Evening Standard.
Love The Skin You're In interactive video young people's identity & body image.

20 years of inspiring, empowering and entertaining women

2020 - 2021: Adapted to hybrid/multi-platform to support programming during Covid

Co-wrote and presented *Archive* on Radio 4 anniversary of Greenham Common's Peace Camp.
History Press publish *Out Of The Darkness* verbatim testimonies from Greenham archive.
Salon de la Vie online interactive feminist cabarets throughout Covid-19 lockdowns, showcasing remarkable women from film, music, literature and history.
Launched *Greenham Women Campfire*. Digital, multi-platform interactive live & online cabaret.

2021 - 2022: Step-change in approach to accessibility for artists and audiences

Celebration walk Cardiff to Newbury 40th Anniversary of the Greenham Peace Camp.
Greenham Women Everywhere 40th anniversary celebration events, podcasts, board game, etc.
Salon de la Vie continues into its 4th and 5th seasons with audio description and captioning.
Storytelling Salons toured with Creative Scilly and Island Partnerships.
Historic Royal Palaces commission drama about Sophia Alexandra Duleep Singh.



GREENHAM WOMEN EVERYWHERE

Greenham Women Everywhere 40th Anniversary project

30 artists, 21 speakers, 160 walkers, 3,410 community engagement and 100 women interviewed.
801 Newsletter subscribers, 809 YouTube views, 69 YouTube subscribers, 391 Podcast Listens, 7
Artistic commissions, 124 Mutual Aid online attendance, 14,000 website hits, 60 events.



I have been an associate artist with Scary Little Girls since 2013. SLG is an inspiring, collaborative environment of mostly women and has challenged both my artistic skill and mindset multiple times in the last decade. Before working with SLG, I was primarily a singer-songwriter trying traditional methods of collaborating with music. Rebecca introduced me to new theatrical formats like the living literature walk and cabarets, which I was challenged to create within. Opportunities for free expression and collaboration, especially paid ones, are few and far between. And fewer still are collaborations between many women of different skills. Scary Little Girls's associate artist network is truly a community that's been lovingly fostered by SLG through meetups and various connecting projects. I have been lucky to listen to women's true experiences in the professional theater world - stories unlikely to have been shared in mostly male rooms but need to be. Scary Little Girls began the fight for women in the arts two decades ago - before #metoo, before Epstein - creating inspirational, educational art and safe artistic spaces for the generation trying to grapple with these questions now. I have personally learned so much about history and social movements through my experience with Scary Little Girls.

This spirit of feminist and creative collaboration without moral or qualitative compromise is what drives Scary Little Girls and draws so many talented artists to their circle. They have continually provided the local community thought-provoking and accessible art, sometimes in daft costumes or with snacks, and the local artists with a place to play.

~ Christina Li - Singer, Songwriter, Artist and New Member of SLG's Advisory Board



At 17 years old, I had my dream set on working in music, whether that was writing my own music or being a session cello player. I was very lucky to have the opportunity to play cello for Scary Little Girls in their Cabarets which were in various venues in London and at End of The Road Festival. This was different to anything I had done before. I was performing in new environments and was introduced to female professionals within the arts. Working with Scary Little Girls boosted my confidence tremendously as they empowered me to go out of my comfort zone, learn music by ear, perform to bigger crowds and learn from professionals in the industry. These experiences changed the way I thought about working in music in terms of the limitations for women. I felt a strong desire to get my foot in the door and I started experimenting with different instruments.

The work of Scary Little Girls is incredibly important for women and girls because it gives them a platform to use their voice and demonstrates their ability to articulate their views through the arts. The role of women in the arts is fundamental as it gives them a voice and allows them to break down the barriers that so often silence women.

To this day, I have continued to write music and have been blossoming in the arts (Baghdad, over 1.6 million Spotify streams). My music is very much influenced by the work I did with Scary Little Girls and for that, I am very grateful.

~ Flo Perlin
Singer, Songwriter, Artist and Former SLG Mentee



I was delighted to be asked to be a Patron of Scary Little Girls and had no hesitation in accepting because of their integrity and commitment to equity and justice. Rebecca came to me wanting to know more about representing disability, and what I witnessed as a result of those early conversations was a company genuinely wanting to learn. They were willing to engage in fundamental questioning of their practice around this issue, recognising the continuity between their values and issues of disability equality. This has now become a core part of how they work and what they do and, as an older disabled gay woman, it is still moving to see myself in their work.

It is of utmost importance, now more than ever, for disabled women and girls to see our stories told authentically and to have our voices heard above the maelstrom of the vulnerability rhetoric intertwined with the broader ableist agenda with which we are surrounded.

Scary Little Girls' work couldn't be more vital than it is in 2022 and their particular ability to challenge and affirm whilst delivering exquisite theatre is exactly what disabled women and girls need.

~ Michèle Taylor - Director for Change, Ramps on the Moon, and Patron of SLG



Working in artist development in Cornwall, I have been involved with Scary Little Girls since 2014, with Rebecca and the company becoming Associate Artists of Hall for Cornwall a few years later. Working in partnership with Scary Little Girls has provoked me to rethink my relationship with feminism, to consider the role of art in activism for marginalised communities, and has widened my knowledge and vocabulary of lesser known artwork and lesser told narratives, both historic and contemporary. Working with early career artists, I have witnessed the mentoring of emerging talent within the safety of this company's embrace and their confidence in providing the space for these individuals to experience strong leadership and be given the opportunity to lead themselves.

As women are still underrepresented in leadership across the creative industries and beyond, the beacon of equitable, fair, dynamic employment and advocacy that is Scary Little Girls and the many ways in which it permeates civic and creative life, will continually evolve in the future to embrace new technologies and ways of working. Scary Little Girls are improving quality of life for all women within their sphere of influence and through their empowering creative actions, we see an improvement in quality of life for us all, as humans.

~ Kirsty Cotton
Talent Development Manager Hall for Cornwall



SCARY LITTLE GIRLS



SINCE 2002
AND STILL GOING **STRONG!**

scarylittlegirls.co.uk

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