

**From:** Neil Darlison  
**Sent:** 10 May 2024 16:34  
**To:** David Fowler  
**Subject:** Application Number: 2024/1444/P

Dear David,

I hope you are well, and I don't think we have met but I wanted to write to you about **You Me Bum Bum Train** – so I hope you know mind this out-of-nowhere email.

I first saw **You Me Bum Bum Train**, probably 12 years ago, and the show remains in my top five theatre experiences. **YMBBT** are an exciting and innovative young company breaking boundaries in performance and engaging a widest audience demographic, as well as galvanising local communities to inhabit their truly innovative world. In the many years we have supported their work it has grown in terms of profile, ambition scale and reach. It was the Barbican's fastest ever selling show in 2012.

They are aligned with the Arts Council's core mission of providing excellence and broad engagement in the arts. The show's unique and ambitious format is at the forefront of contemporary theatre and has a proven positive impact on all participants both audience and a large team of volunteers. It has gained wide critical acclaim including an Olivier nomination.

This not-for-profit company are brilliantly skilled and successful in reaching a diverse demographic of people through a unique volunteer program - an enterprise in and of itself - and they are committed to providing opportunities for local people to engage in arts and culture. They It's had a both a positive effect on cultural regeneration in the areas they take up residence and has helped to support individuals gain transferable skills and experience. The unique format of the show means that it is expensive to stage – ostensibly a show for one person at a time - and no matter how popular, costs cannot be covered by ticket price alone. The company relies on public investment, corporate income, and in-kind support, through volunteers and the generosity of suppliers.

First and foremost, I would highly recommend you one of their shows if you get the chance, it will be life changing, and if you can help support their ambition - particularly to work within Camden - then so much the better.

Happy to chat further if that would be helpful and thanks for taking the time to read this.

Best wishes

Neil

**Neil Darlison**  
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