

12/5/14

Dear LUTSF

Please find enclosed my report on my research project to Imagine Festival in Edinburgh  
5/5/2014 – 9/5/2014.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
5/5/2014	International master-class with Lenine Bourke Networking meal
6/5/2014	Meeting with Fiona Ferguson, Development Officer for Imagine Festival Cocoon – Theater o.N. Tiger Tale – Barrowland Ballet 'Who means What, Where? (OR HOME & AWAY)' – peer-to-peer discussion From Here - The Launch Delegate Dinner
7/5/2014	Breakfast with Lou – Where Science meets Art Not Now Bernard – Unicorn Theatre Lenine Bourke + Lou Brodie – peer-to-peer discussion A Small Story – Starcatchers & Theater o.N. Grandad and Me – The Letter J Networking Event (BBQ) O Snap – Arch 8 Dance Group
8/5/2014	Breakfast with Lou – Artist's Development Tetris – Arch 8 Dance Group The Australian Touring Environment for Children, Families and Education Audiences (Talk) Saltbush – Compagnia TPO & Insite Arts The Adventures of LicketyLeap (Talk) Alvin Sputnik – The Last Great Hunt
9/5/2014	Breakfast with Lou – open topic A True Tall Tale – Teatret Gruppe 38 and Carte Blanche International Collaborations (talk) Waves – Alice Cooper

Thank you so much again for awarding me the scholarship which enabled me to participate  
in such a rewarding project, it has been of such benefit to my work and I am very grateful for  
your support.

Yours Faithfully,

Rosie Heafford

## **IMAGINATE FESTIVAL 2014**

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION & AIMS**

In May 2014, I traveled to Edinburgh to visit the The Imagine Festival, Scotland's international festival of performing arts for children and young people where I had the opportunity to watch performances, attend discussions with international artists and promoters, and take part in master-classes to explore the artistic process of making dance for children.

My aims for the project were to:

- explore new and innovative methods of making work for children
- discover new approaches to choreography, particularly with regards to collaborations with other art forms
- connect with artists, promoters and producers from around the world
- research the styles of presenting work that are specific to this genre
- observe the wrap-around activity and considerations for family audiences

Every year the Festival presents a selection of shows from across the world as well as master-classes, discussions and networking events. This year included companies from Scotland, Australia, England, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Norway.

I applied to LUTSF because I felt that I needed to enrich my understanding of what was happening in the broader European dance/theatre scene, to gain more contextual understanding of my own and others' work in the UK and to make connections with peers working in creating for young audiences in different contexts. My overriding hope for the time of the scholarship was that it would give me the boost needed to take the next steps in my artistic career and, in the simplest terms that I would be energized by the experience.

This project is significant to me as it marks a conscious decision in my work to specialise in creating work for children and families. I am passionate about learning from other artists and producers by hearing about their experiences and talking to them about their methods. This festival will provide a perfect opportunity to do this.



## REFLECTIONS

Visiting Imagineate was an incredibly valuable experience; rich, varied and rewarding. An exciting project in itself, I feel that the benefits to my future career are incalculable.

I was able to curate my own programme of activity to research creating work for young audiences by selecting from a range of workshops, discussions, master-classes and performances. I took part in activities which I thought would support my existing practices, and those which would help me to develop into new areas.

Date	Activity
5/5/2014	International master-class with Lenine Bourke Networking meal
6/5/2014	Meeting with Fiona Ferguson, Development Officer for Imagineate Festival Cocoon – Theater o.N. Tiger Tale – Barrowland Ballet 'Who means What, Where? (OR HOME & AWAY)' – peer-to-peer discussion From Here - The Launch Delegate Dinner
7/5/2014	Breakfast with Lou – Where Science meets Art Not Now Bernard – Unicorn Theatre Lenine Bourke + Lou Brodie – peer-to-peer discussion A Small Story – Starcatchers & Theater o.N. Grandad and Me – The Letter J

	Networking Event (BBQ) O Snap – Arch 8 Dance Group
8/5/2014	Breakfast with Lou – Artist’s Development Tetris – Arch 8 Dance Group The Australian Touring Environment for Children, Families and Education Audiences (Talk) Saltbush – Compagnia TPO & Insite Arts The Adventures of LicketyLeap (Talk) Alvin Sputnik – The Last Great Hunt
9/5/2014	Breakfast with Lou – open topic A True Tall Tale – Teatret Gruppe 38 and Carte Blanche International Collaborations (talk) Waves – Alice Cooper

Throughout the week I was reflecting on where I am as a producer/ choreographer/ artist in relation to each activity.

Exposure to the performance program was really important for me as a maker. Most strikingly I noticed that the programming was nearly entirely of (traditional) theatre-based work and that there were only a few works that took place in alternative spaces. It was the ‘Fringe Events’ that would take place in the ‘nooks and crannies’ of the Traverse Theatre that presented a non-traditional approach, which seemed to place more importance on the traditional work and suggest that working in alternative spaces is for the ‘less-experienced’. This has given me a lot to think about - about the construction of such an important (and well- resourced) festival and where my practice might be in relation to that.

Much of the work included audience interaction in some way, which was refreshing to see, and it was great to observe the multiple ways this took place. In particular I have been very inspired by the work of Arch 8 Dance Company, whose audience participation at the end of the show was magical and chaotic.

This project was an exciting opportunity for me to learn more about others’ choreographic practices, as well as reflect on my own. Through observing, attending performances and taking part in discussions and master-classes I absorbed a lot about children’s theatre, the concerns of programmers and artists and the pitfalls. It’s difficult to articulate exactly what all of these learnings are yet, but I am sure that I have already started to think/dream in a different way and made decisions about new works that I may create. In particular, I had significant discussions about the impact of making work for under 5’s with two people from very different view-points (one a festival director, one an artist/researcher) – this has spurred me to do/read further research in the area.

I particularly enjoyed the master-class on my first day of the festival. It was a great opportunity to reflect for a whole day on my practice and its ‘impact’ on social policy with a motivated and inquisitive group of Scottish-based artists. I felt very privileged to be invited to the workshop, and the group were very welcoming. We have established friendships and

working links and I am certain this will lead to many future possibilities and projects.

The research trip was an extremely beneficial and rewarding process - I learnt much from the exchange between artists and promoters from different countries and mentors from Imagine Festival, and began to understand and make contacts within the dance scene on the continent. I feel very much that I got the maximum possible benefit from the visit, and that it will have creative and practical resonances within my work and working methodology for many years to come.



### **FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES**

Through connections I met during the festival, I had the opportunity to apply for 2 further professional development experiences which I hope may lead to future work and the ability to explore the international scene for making work for children further.

I have also been invited by Imagine to take part in their future programme of artists professional development for which they offer 2/3 master-classes per year with a group of supported artists.

Beyond Imagine I look forward to opening up future dialogues with the mentors and other artists I met through the project, looking at performance, mentoring and support opportunities, and to begin to establish myself firmly within the dance for children's scene. In conclusion, my Imagine experience met my expectations, but also my desires to dream bigger and more creatively.