

FRIENDS OF SHARMANKA

Sharmanka Kinetic Theatre | Trongate 103 | Glasgow | G1 5HD

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MISSION STATEMENT, EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY & OPERATIONAL PRINCIPLES

PART 1 - KEY STATEMENTS

OUR AIMS AND OBJECTIVES ARE:

1. To create kinetic sculptures and exhibit them through theatrical performance. Kinetic sculpture is an art form that is an amalgam of craft, design and engineering as well as visual and performance art.
2. To engage the imagination and emotions of people of all ages, cultural backgrounds and abilities.
3. To offer a high quality art experience that the whole family can enjoy – and through this build a bridge between art for children and art for adults.
4. To engage and co-operate with educational establishments in providing a programme of performances, workshops and talks – that are relevant, wide in scope and can be of use to enhance and support many areas of the curriculum.
5. To provoke an interest in manual skills and creative engineering – to inspire inventiveness. To promote a playful and imaginative way of reusing and recycling old machinery and other discarded materials.
6. To prove that art can still be both popular and profound.

FRIENDS OF SHARMANKA operates on the basis of **Equal Opportunities Policy** against discrimination on the grounds of (but not exclusive to) creed, gender, disability, ethnic origin and/or sexual orientation. The operational principles are inline with the Equality Act 2010 Codes of Practice set out by the Equality and Human Rights Commission. www.equalityhumanrights.com

SHARMANKA KINETIC THEATRE (Trongate 103, Glasgow G15HD), is a fully accessible venue with an adjacent toilet facility for disabled people on the same floor. Seating for public is designed so that it can be easily rearranged to give place for wheelchairs or increased public distancing. Public space includes a hearing loop system. Sharmanka is a multi-sensory art which provides a highly visual and audio experience, with an option of touch-interaction with the artworks.

PART 2 - SHARMANKA'S EQUALITY PRINCIPLES IN ACTION

The principles of equality are clearly evidenced throughout the organisations aims, objectives, activities and operational etiquette. Themes relating to human rights, individual expression and persecution of difference are strong veins that run at the heart of Sharmanka's art. The story of Sharmanka Kinetic Theatre and Eduard Bersudsky's art is one of creative triumph and survival of the human spirit, it reflects the resourcefulness of the imagination finding refuge and articulation through artistic expression.

Sharmanka Kinetic Theatre offers equality of the imagination across ages, genders, languages, cultures, social background, sexual orientation and intellectual or physical ability.

A natural affinity has led to collaborations and partnerships with other arts companies promoting and pioneering theatre for disabled performers can be traced back through projects such as "Endgame" with Theatre Workshop and "Sputnik" with Fittings Multimedia Arts.

The education and outreach programme represents a pro-active initiative to address issues of equality of access to Sharmanka and to wider arts opportunities, in relation to its potential as a 'gateway' arts experience for excluded audiences. The programme seeks to maximise and develop Sharmanka's potential in this field, as it has been documented that audiences with no background of participation with the arts can find Sharmanka so surprising and enthralling that they go onto to enjoy other wider opportunities.

Sharmanka's unique mix of sensory elements and multi-layered narratives that reference a broad range of universal hopes and follies is a potent force to engage the disengaged. The work is both popular and profound, it can be engaged with on very different levels, for people from very different backgrounds and inspire and entertain in different but equal measure.

Sharmanka establishes regular links with organisations providing care for people with Learning and physical Disabilities and will continue to ensure they benefit from its programme. Special performances, design and programme adaptation for such groups is part of the established operational practice and undergoes a regular review and improvement.

Sharmanka engages with students, volunteers and professionals from a wide range of social and cultural backgrounds. This is apparent through various student projects, educational group visits and regular cross-cultural events held in Sharmanka.