

## Community Interest Company Report

Company Name in full	MissImp CIC
Company Number	12323606
Year Ending	30 November 2020

### PART 1 - GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COMPANY'S ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT

Despite the challenges of a global pandemic impacting most of our first year as a CIC, we have seen success across our three main areas of activity. As a company we have continued to provide performance opportunities, artistic training and work to support and develop the MissImp community.

#### Performance

Our year began with a very busy improv stage for the Nottingham Comedy Festival, featuring ten sell-out shows from Nottingham and guests from across the UK, plus intensive coaching opportunities for our teams. Since then, we have supplied a mixture of live and digital performance opportunities. Events included partnerships with local arts organisations like the *Improv Triple Decker* show at Nottingham Playhouse, and *Improv Nonsense* at NonSuch Theatre. In-house productions included recurring monthly shows *Smash Night* and *Gorilla Burger*. While many of our shows have been aimed at an adult audience, we continued our relationship with the National Justice Museum, producing the popular *The Glowstick Trials* for a family audience for Nottingham's Light Night festival in February 2020.

Despite Nottingham being in tier 3 lockdown by November 2020, we provided entertainment in place of the cancelled Nottingham Comedy Festival, with a full week of digital events encompassing live improv shows, panel games, poetry and community activities. The festival saw great innovation, with several of the shows set to continue, incorporating a wider pool of people in the Midlands comedy and arts sphere.

#### Training

Our weekly improv drop-ins provide training for our community, and opportunities to develop teaching and facilitation skills. Lockdown in March 2020 led us to immediately cancel all of our

live in-person events, and switch to online activities. Initially we focused on community support, with Virtual Pubs in place of our regular Thursday drop-ins. We commissioned a series of thirty online improv tutorial videos from a diverse group of local, national and international improvisers. All were distributed for free through the MissImp social media channels for improvisers in our community and beyond, and remain a permanent open access resource. We later added *Virtually Gorilla Burger* as a fortnightly online show, continuing to make improv accessible to performers and audiences alike.

### **Community**

MissImp has provided vital support for improvisers in the city and beyond through community events during the Covid-19 pandemic. Weekly virtual pub sessions have promoted communication and mental health support for our community, no matter where they live. Online events including games nights and watch parties have provided entertainment that works within lockdown. When social distancing guidelines and restrictions allowed, a community picnic provided many with the feeling of belonging.

We began our intended programme of diversifying the group of people organising activities, by advertising for and appointing new members of the executive committee in September 2020. This was followed by a members survey in October to further guide MissImp's future.

### **Partnership**

MissImp are proud to have been awarded a grant by the Nottingham Women's Centre to continue running a series of workshops exclusively for female and non-binary individuals to develop their improv and confidence in a safe space, led by outstanding teachers from across the UK. We also sponsored the planned Robin Hood Improv Festival, a sadly postponed event that will one day bring even more world class teachers and performers to the city.

In addition, in partnership with the Curious Network, MissImp is the subject of an oral history project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, to explore the origins and journey of the community as the UK's longest open access improv theatre.

### **Summary**

As a traditionally live events organisation, the Covid-19 pandemic has wrought inevitable havoc with all of our plans and aims as a company. We chose to place our community's needs and wellbeing at the forefront of our activity by removing fees for our activities, and making

them donation only. While this has put pressure on our finances, we remain pleased with the level of activity that has been maintained. We look forward to emerging from the pandemic with an active and engaged community keen to resume our full range of live activities.

## **PART 2 – CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS**

Our stakeholders are the community of individuals who attend or participate in our teaching and performance activities, along with the venues we regularly work with to host events and our audiences. We seek feedback from our community of improvisers through participation in our Facebook group and after planned training events. At the very end of this period we conducted a survey of our community focused on accessibility and quality of the events we hosted prior to lockdown. That feedback will be most usefully applied when we return to in-person events, though in the meantime it has helped us to schedule more online activities allowing our community to perform and interact in different ways.

## **PART 3 – DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION**

No remuneration received.

## **PART 4 – TRANSFERS OF ASSETS OTHER THAN FOR FULL CONSIDERATION**

No transfers of assets other than for full consideration has been made.