

Dear

We would like to say **two small words to you that mean so much...**

Thank you!

As one of our valued friends and supporters, we'd like you to be amongst the first to know our news.

This summer we are launching **our new name** and opening the doors to our transformed home in Whitby Park **following a £2.8M capital programme for Whitby Hall**, funded by **Cheshire West and Chester Council** and **Arts Council England**.

As you know, the company has been a specialist producer of **original theatre** and wide-ranging **work for children and young people** for over **35 years**. **Founded in 1986** as **Action Transport Theatre** by the late Karen Simpson, we are proud of the company's origins, its track-record and the impact it has had transforming the lives of local children, young people and wider communities.

The transformation of much-loved Whitby Hall is a big moment of change for us as an arts organisation and we are excited to tell you that we will be changing our name to **Theatre Porto** in summer 2022.

Our new name has arisen out of many conversations over time, and more recently, based on creative work we have done with local children and young people around the values of **place, play** and **child centeredness**.

Come and Play this summer

To help us celebrate our new building and a new era, it is our great pleasure to invite you to the first of our public events planned for 2022.

'Once Upon a Time...'

10 – 20th August, Whitby Park

A series of wonderful and surprising installations, in and around our new venue.

VIP events on:

- Sunday **14th August** at 13.00 (extravaganza 'performance' weekend)
- Tuesday **16th August** at 14.00

Families and children welcome/refreshments provided.

Please RSVP – events@TheatrePorto.org

About our new venue

Our new state-of-the-art theatre designed by **award winning architects Bennetts Associates**, beautifully compliments historical Whitby Hall, and comprises:

- a 150 seat flexible auditorium for performances
- film screenings (including NT Live)
- rehearsal spaces
- workshop rooms
- a café with an outdoor terrace

Our venue will be the only specialist theatre and cultural centre for children and young people in Cheshire, on Merseyside and is one of a small number across England.

We need you more than ever

Without your support we wouldn't be where we are today. As a small, dedicated team, we remain passionate about keeping our arts provision free for local young people. There are a number of ways you can continue to help us; **please keep in touch** by joining our mailing list and look out for our fundraising schemes, including **our ambitious campaign to raise £50,000 for our inclusive engagement programme** - more information can be found on our website or by emailing caz@TheatrePorto.org

We look forward to seeing you soon and welcoming you to **Theatre Porto**.

Signed

Nina Hajianni

Artistic Director

on behalf of the Theatre Porto team

Jess, Kevin, Matt, Sam, Caz, Jake, Chris, Noel & Rubina

Signed



Gemma Johnson

Chair, Theatre Porto



*Heartfelt thanks to our funders and to all our partners and supporters.
Thank you to our volunteers, school partners and all our brilliant freelance team.*