



# **MISSION STATEMENT**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The last 50 years have seen perhaps some of the most innovative and dramatic changes in the history of Mankind, and together with them have brought a series of upheavals and far-reaching changes to society and the way we live. Even if you were to compare this current year to 1978 it would be like comparing two different civilizations.

We have seen and lived through revolutionary changes in the way we live, the way we work, the way we form relationships, friendships, communities, our health care, culture and our economies. However this has brought an unprecedented number of social problems - poverty, crime, welfare dependency, abuse of alcohol and drugs, and through an ever increasing wave of social stigma also hostility, suspicion, intolerance, stereotyping, labelling, bigotry, hatred, fascism, anti-social behaviour and tension and conflict between people. Feeding off this are far more dangerous issues, such as organized crime and terrorism, which threaten Mankind and our society as a whole.

Together Q and its charity Simply Q is a new, innovative concept in both terms of modern fringe theatre and also in the field of human rights. It is a revolutionary, new approach to social reform, diversity, establishing multiculturalism and protecting basic human rights.

Simply Q is the first and only UK based charity working to eliminate social stigma through meaningful occupation, creativity, the bringing together of people and spaces through positive, non-confrontational personal self-expression, action and interaction. The vehicle through which this operates is modern fringe theatre and the revolutionary, innovative techniques of training, performing and acting developing by Stella Baker during her time spent in Polish theatre between 1995 and 2005.

Simply Q is the charity of a smaller fringe theatre known as Q, based on the theory of modern fringe theatre of Stella Baker, who is the founder as well as being an internationally recognized fringe playwright, stage director, charity worker and social activist. The idea and inspiration for this charity came out of the Polish Solidarity movement, from the Solicitus Rei Solidaris teachings of the late Pope John Paul II and the work of such people as Marek Kotanski, and where the entire sentiment of this charity can be summed up in one statement:

Solidarity with the people.

## **Objectives**

Simply Q has the following objectives:

- to work in partnership with other charities, organizations, local authorities, institutions and Government bodies to resolve a wide range of social issues and problems such as poverty, crime, welfare dependency, anti-social behaviour, bigotry and intolerance through the setting up of projects working with people who have been subjected to social stigma, and who have been socially excluded with the specific aim of working with them to eliminate or overcome their social stigma, regain their independence and become established again in society as equal members of society.
- to raise public awareness and educate the public about social stigma and to also raise public awareness on issues concerning individual human rights.
- through projects working with people affected by social stigma find realistic solutions to tackle as wide variety of social issues such as poverty, crime, welfare dependency, increased spending of public funds, anti-social behaviour and intolerance through the setting up of new communities, cultural projects and the expansion to as many people as possible of the Simply Q, theory, methods and ways of working so that they may be employed by an increasing number of people to safeguard communities and society against further instances of social stigma.

## **Our Mission**

Our mission can be succinctly described as rebuilding a society or a community from the bottom upwards. We refuse to accept that welfare benefits and social exclusion is an adequate response to people who have been excluded from wider society as a result of social stigma. Through our workshops, productions, training, projects and activities we intend to find a way back into society for as many people who have been socially excluded as a result of social stigma as possible. Also we are seeking to replace many social problems with new communities, cultural activities and we feel the way forward towards a greater sense of harmony and cohesion in the community and society is through self-employment, culture, entertainment, local community events and expansion of our own theory and methods throughout society as a whole.

It is further intended that we will eventually become an international charity with planned expansion to North America (Canada and the United States) with our headquarters in London.

## **Key factors which enable our success**

- a revolutionary and innovative theory of modern fringe theatre which not only allows such theatre to be effectively used as a means of group, social or community reform but

also as the glue which creates, establishes and holds together local communities.

- a revolutionary and innovative interpretation of the Stanislavski Method combined with Waldorf education which enables the basic principles of acting and performing to be taught to just about anyone within the space of several hours, and which makes the interpretation both universal, easy to learn, making not just theatre popular, but teaching also better strategies for living, creative self-expression and interaction with other people.
- the very powerful and life-changing experience of going out on stage in front of a live audience gives our participants a strong sense of achievement, increased self-confidence and a far more positive, much improved outlook on life which will be remembered for many years.
- the theory and principles behind our work can be almost universally applied to any cultural, entertainment or sporting activity and thus both theory and principles can be handed over, given, and distributed to many different people
- very low administration costs. Simply Q is run in the same way as a modern fringe theatre being supported by Q which is a separate subsidiary theatre, because it partners other organizations, charities etc who host its projects there is no need to rent office or rehearsal space, as it stages performances there is little need to spend amounts on

advertising and whatever administration costs there are are spent on employment and people.

- the effectiveness and success of its projects. In a 2006 pilot project involving 15 hostel residents who were on benefits, 8 with substance misuse issues and 2 with mental health issues, in a 2007 follow up it was established that only one participant of the project was still homeless, on benefits and with issues. The other 14 had successfully overcome their issues and found their way back into society being resettled and finding stable employment.
- our own 80/20 principle which means that for every £20 invested in our work we estimate that we save a further £80 in public funding and spending.
- a variety of ways of raising funds, through Government funding, local authority funding, funding and support from private companies relating to specific projects, income from performances and income from acting courses and theatre workshops.

## **The risks and challenges we face**

- challenging attitudes in wider society which lead to stereotyping, labelling and stigmatizing people who are affected by social stigma.

- inflexibility in Government, Department of Work and Pensions and other agencies' policies which inhibit opportunities for those people dependent on benefits to find solutions and occupation through self-employment, cultural and sporting activities which would lead to their becoming self-employed and regaining their independence.
- stigmatization, stereotyping and labelling of projects and participants by various sections of the press and media.
- finding venues for performances and funding for festivals.
- challenging commonly held social attitudes that success is linked to making money and making profits and being competitive as opposed to being cooperative.

Further details regarding our policies can be found in our other documents **Policies** (which is our Governing Document and details our policies in full) and also **Funding, Support and Donations** which details policies and conditions relevant to those who contribute to our charity and productions.

We adhere very strictly to guidelines set out by the UK Charities Commission and to all relevant legislation affecting charities in the UK and also later in Canada and the United States, wherein the London based Simply Q will be the governing body for these other projects as an international charity. All our documents are available on our website for download and copies may be obtained on request.