

Seeing people's enthusiasm, commitment and enjoyment during the process and their pride and sense of achievement when they perform for audiences, is always inspiring!

## Motivation

In 2012, I connected with the internationally renowned street arts company, Zap Art, and we started to explore the meeting point of public art and theatre, inspired by working with, by and for communities. With ten productions over the last ten years, making professional place-making theatre with communities. Each show is inspired and informed by a local story of some kind. We collect people's stories and memories, offer creative workshops around the theme, and then I write a script played by professional and non professional artists.

**BIGGEST CHALLENGE** - The arts and community work in general has suffered from diminishing funding over the last ten years or so, despite evidence that that participating in arts and community activities increased wellbeing and a sense of belonging that is so crucial for both individuals and communities themselves.

## Achievements

Very proud of the quality of the productions we create. We love telling intriguing stories that are accessible to a wide range of people.

The level of genuine community participation, which, in Newhaven has developed over ten years of working in the town.

Tidemills choir, here today, was part of our last show, and we loved working with them!

## Beneficiaries

- ♦ Hundreds of recipients over the last ten years. Most recently, we had 45 participants for Two Pairs of Eyes. Amazing local participation
- ♦ Community theatre is about the process as much as the product. This has pulled out all the stops of bringing a group together and helping them to get to know each other. We leave here much more bonded than when we came and with a new confidence!



Picture is of the community performers in the final image of Two Pairs of Eyes (a ghost story) at Newhaven Fort, May 2022. A line of different people are above us on a hill looking down on the audience. Picture by Ray Gibson

## Message to the public

Inroads is unusual in that it is a writer-led company. Since 2012, we have been collaborating with local artists and communities, to create exciting site specific theatre, inspired and informed by stories from the local community, and particularly working class histories, scripted by Sara and incorporating large scale community ensemble casts, live music, dance and song.

We have several projects in the pipeline and are looking forward to working with local communities again in the not too distant future!

Web: [www.inroads.co.uk](http://www.inroads.co.uk)

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Get in touch ([inroadsproductions@mac.com](mailto:inroadsproductions@mac.com)) we are very open to ideas, suggestions and ways of working. We look forward to hearing from you