

Behind the Scenes 2018-2019



Quiet on set! Roll camera! Sound happy? Action!

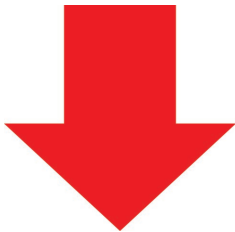
Watch our Annual Report film at www.beaconfilms.org.uk/whoweare

Beacon Films annual report to the CIC regulator.
A community interest company limited by guarantee #7740648

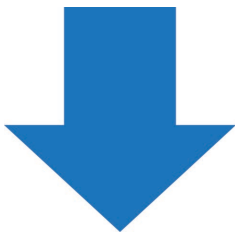
Beacon Films is a training and production company for filmmakers with learning disabilities autism and additional needs.

We support our project members to:

1] Discover filmmaking talents



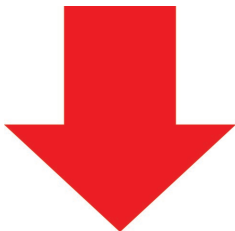
2] Develop professional skills



3] Work on film commissions



4] Become independent filmmakers



5] Showcase creative talents





“I really learnt about planning a commission and working with a client to make a film they want and are interested in.”

Project Member (external evaluation report)

“My son has taken up voluntary work. Beacon Films has helped by giving him more self-belief and the ability to integrate better.”

Parent of Project Member (anonymous online survey)

“She started a creative arts course at Westgate College in September and she'd never have done something like this before”

Sister of Project Member (taken from a case study)

“The filmmakers should feel justifiably proud of their achievements ... The amazing results are there for all to see.”

Colin Wratten, BAFTA Award Winning Producer: ‘Killing Eve’

During 2018-2019, Beacon Films CIC:

...delivered **10** projects

... that supported **54** filmmakers (/ “project members”)

... to produce **29** films

... that were premiered at Playhouse Whitley Bay to an audience of **209** people

... received a total of **10,574** views online

...and were selected for **5** international festivals

Outcomes for our audiences

We questioned 40 members of the public who watched our work. 18 at our premiere, and 22 who had seen our work online.

94% ranked the quality of the work as 7 out of 10 or above

73% said the quality of the work was better than they expected it to be

100% agreed that the films ‘increased awareness in communities of the potential of disabled people’ - of these **84%** ‘strongly agreed’

“I loved the variety of the content and the huge variation of skills shown were amazing. I loved how informative the videos were and the music performed was sensational! You felt involved with the whole premiere, just being there felt like part of a community that should be incredibly proud of the hard work and dedication shown.”

Premiere audience member



Outcomes for project members

We supported **4** paid crew placements

We supported **26** film-related volunteering and work experience placements

When asked to what extent Beacon Films is helping to develop volunteering skills (ONS validated), **83%** of our project members scored **7/10** or above (sample size 27).

When asked to what extent Beacon Films is helping to develop filmmaking skills **92%** of our project members scored **7/10** or above (sample size 22).

When asked to rank to what extent Beacon Films was improving their wellbeing (ONS validated), **81%** scored **7/10** or above (sample size 23)

Find out more, and meet our filmmakers at:
www.beaconfilms.org.uk/behindthescenes



Discover Filmmaking Talents

Most of our filmmakers begin with our BFI Film Academy, which we have been running since 2012. This is part of a national scheme to support young people aged 16-19 to discover filmmaking skills.

Project member, Rowan says: "The Beacon Films Film Academy has been the hotspot for many years. I joined Film Academy around 2014. It was my first film project 'The Princess and the Bodyguard' which I was heavily involved in.

It made me ambitious about my filmmaking as well as come up with all sorts of ideas that might interest the viewer.

The Film Academy is a milestone. It really helped me to become the ambitious filmmaker that I am now. It has helped me in the way it has changed me into this ambitious person who is very interested in filmmaking."

Find out more about our BFI Film Academy at:
www.beaconfilms.org.uk/filmacademy



Develop Professional Skills

In Viewfinder, project members hone their creative skills and apply these to group volunteer-filmmaking or work experience placements in partnership with other organisations. Rowan continues: “It demonstrates just how very ambitious we are when making films: at a level that has made us go so far beyond anyone’s expectations.”

This year, Film Factory creative partners included **BBC Tours Newcastle**, **The Artisan Baking Community** and **Drummond Central**.

The film for Drummond Central focused on the adventures of two ‘Creativity Detectives’: Ray and Dar. Connor says: “Ray and Dar in the film. I play Dar. Dan plays Ray. Making the film for Drummond Central. Making the film for an advertiser.”

“It was an absolute pleasure working with everyone at Beacon Films, we would like to thank everyone that worked on the Ray and Dar film for the hard work they put in – everything from the props to the people were perfect.”

Drummond Central

Find out more about Viewfinder at: www.beaconfilms.org.uk/viewfinder



Work on Film Commissions

Working in a mixture of voluntary and paid roles, our most experienced filmmakers' portfolio ranges from interactive museum displays to a full-dome film for a planetarium; filmmaking workshops using a smartphone, to documentaries using the latest professional equipment.

A partnership with the **RNLI Grace Darling Museum** led to the team creating three short films about Grace Darling's life, along with an original musical soundtrack and an interactive presentation.

Zosia says: "The project was launched at the museum and since then it has travelled to different museums and locations around the country."

"When Beacon Films approached the RNLI Grace Darling Museum about partnering up on this project, we jumped at the opportunity... The three films provide a new take on the Grace Darling story, something which I'm sure our visitors will enjoy."

Marleen Vincenten, RNLI Grace Darling Museum

Find out about the services our filmmakers offer at:
www.beaconfilms.org.uk/hireus



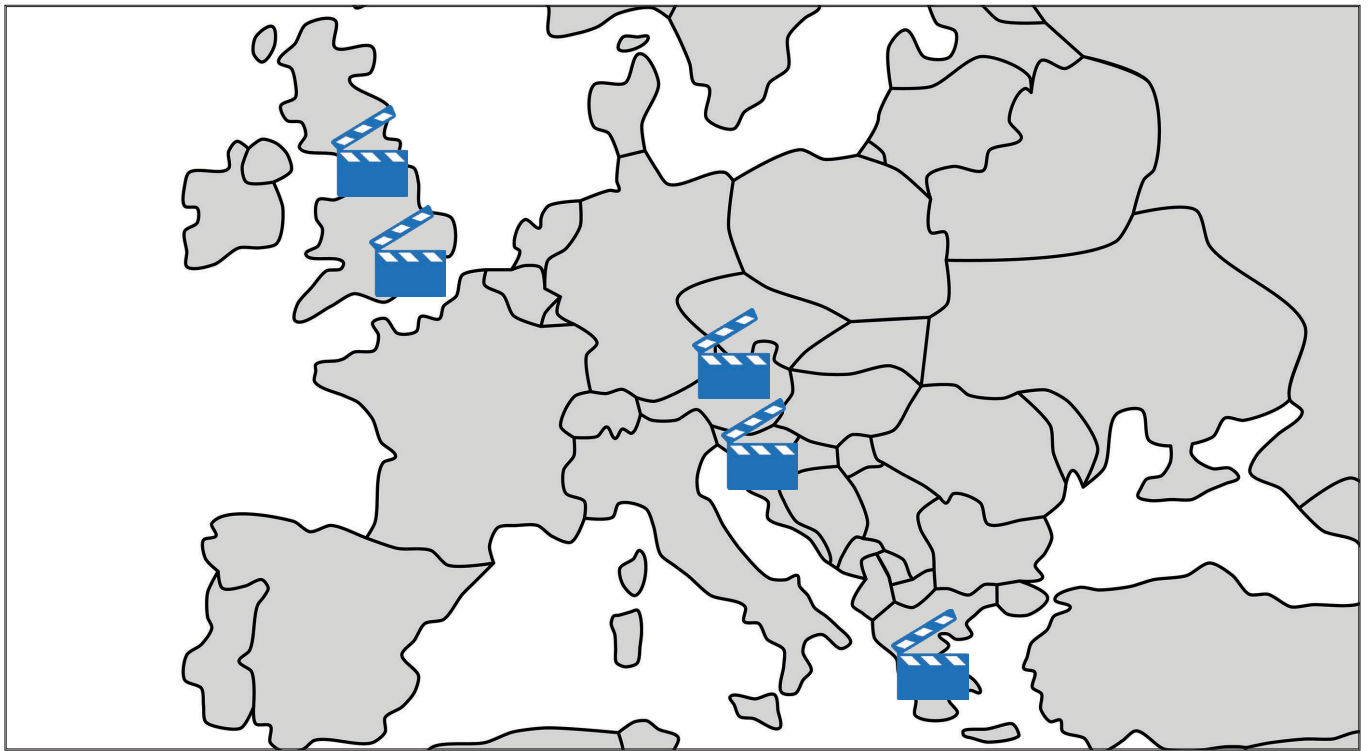
Become Independent Filmmakers

At Beacon Films, we aim to support our project members to use their skills and talents independently: in their own time and in their local communities.

The focus of Viewfinder for 2018 – 2021 is to use partnerships with local volunteering initiatives to support filmmakers into placements that use their film and digital skills. Also, we began a supported volunteering programme for those project members who face multiple barriers to achieving voluntary work.

Zosia says: “It’s a good thing in Viewfinder that we are going to be encouraged to use our film skills in other volunteering because it helps us with the progression of becoming more independent.”

After creating a 90 minute sci-fi feature film gradually over two years, Paul Lycett premiered **‘Riser Reborn’** at this year’s Beacon Films Christmas Party. Paul says: “I feel proud of my film because of how fellow Beacon Films members wanted to help and if it wasn’t for them, this wouldn’t have been possible. There is one scene in the film where it shows most of the Beacon Films members involved which I think is my favourite bit of the whole film.”



Showcase Creative Talents

With over 120 film festival selections across four continents to-date, our filmmakers are dismantling misconceptions of disability by reaching global audiences with their incredible work, and unique perspective of the world.

Our annual premiere event, which is designed and delivered entirely by project members, was held at **Playhouse Whitley Bay** on 19th November 2018 to an audience of 209 people. Alongside the premieres of short films, the original score for 'Grace Darling' (see page 7) – composed by project members – was performed live.

The Grace Darling interactive exhibit travelled to three RNLI museums around the U.K: Grace Darling Museum (Bamburgh), Henry Blogg Museum (Cromer) and the Seawatch Centre (Anglesey). It will conclude it's tour by exhibiting at the Tynemouth Voluntary Life Brigade's Watch House museum during Summer 2019.



During 2018-2019, films by our project members were selected for five international film festivals across Europe.



Music Production

Project members compose original music for their films, working in partnership with musicians **Simon Tarrant** and **Keith Hill**. They record their creations in a professional studio, and then perform them live at our annual premiere event.

“I loved it, singing and playing, still singing the songs now. I laughed and loved hearing ‘my’ music.”

Project Member

“I enjoyed the music that was created and the sense of ownership we developed as a group. I also enjoyed getting to know the group better and seeing them develop musically and take pride in their work.”

Simon Tarrant, Lead Musician

You can listen to examples of music composed by Beacon Films members in partnership with Simon and Keith, at: www.beaconfilms.org.uk/music



The Project Design Group

Zosia says: “The Project Design group is where a small group of Beacon Films members get together and we discuss which projects should be ran through the year and what ideas we have for projects and what sort of funding we’d need to achieve that.

In the Project Design group this year one of the ideas we had was to make an arts-based film. We had three ideas and that was narrowed down to one about the cosmic unknown and that project is currently underway.”

Recruiting project members to our board of directors

Zosia says: “We had a series of meetings with **Inclusion North** to find out ideas of how Beacon Films members could be more involved in decisions of the company.

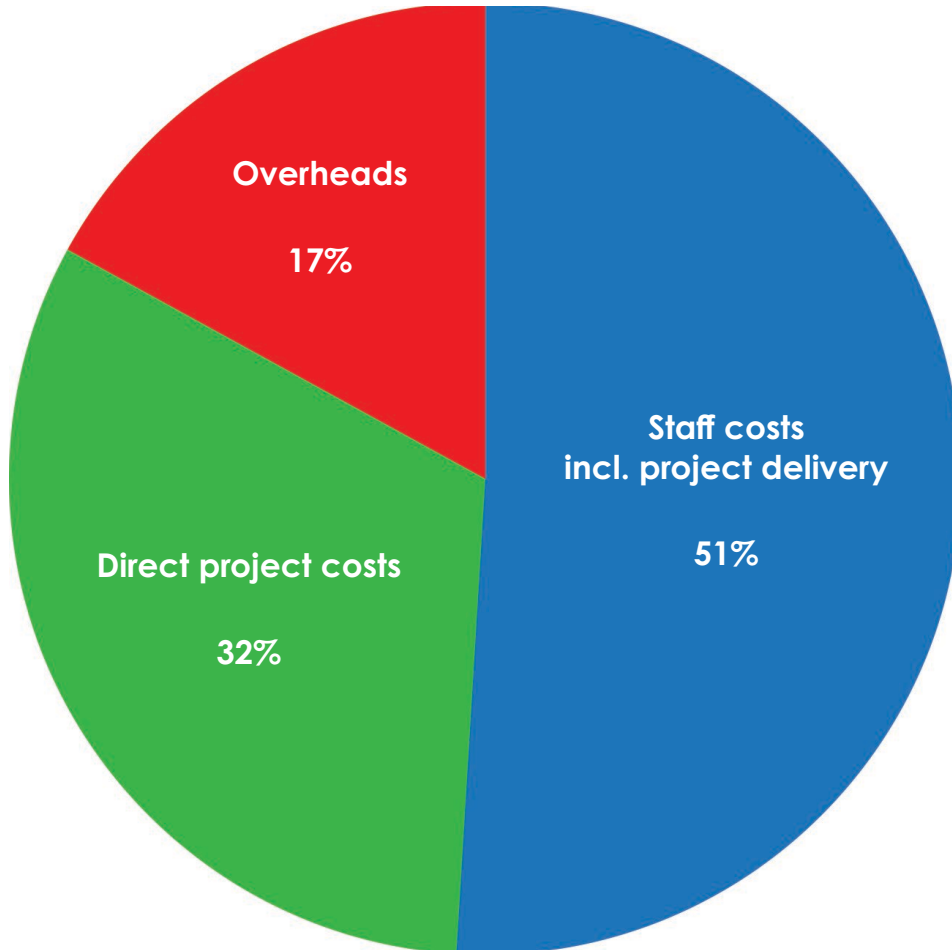
And one of those ideas was that we’d have Beacon Films project members on the board of directors. So currently we’re following the plan which is the steps we will take to get Beacon Films members on the board.”

We aim to have appointed up to three project members to the board by March 2020.

Finances

During 2018-2019, Beacon Films raised a total budget of: **£141,399.00**

Here is what we spent it on.



Financial Summary*	18/19	17/18
Sales Income	£11,160	£18,267
Grant Income	£130,124	£125,296
Other Income	£115	£0
Total Income	£141,399	£143,563
Expenditure	£141,252	£138,472
Surplus/Deficit	£147	£5,091
Reserves**	£22,749	£22,602

*Full financial statements, prepared by Bell Tindle Williamson Accountants are available to download from our website: www.beaconfilms.org.uk/policiesandreports

**Unrestricted reserves, generated from sales income.



Will Sadler, our Development Director says:

“We are delighted to have secured new funding from **Spirit of 2012** and the **Esmée Fairbairn Foundation** during 2018-2019, as well as receive ongoing support from the **Newcastle Fund**, the **Greggs Foundation** and the **British Film Institute**. We were also thankful to have project funding this year from the **Newcastle Cultural Investment Fund** (managed by the **Community Foundation**) and the **National Lottery Heritage Fund**.

The 2018-19 financial year was disappointing in terms of our earned income, but what's really exciting is that at the time of writing (August 2019) we are in touching distance of our earned income targets for the 2019-2020 financial year.

I think that's because of all the work we've been doing: word has been spreading. Some of the commissions we did that weren't paid for directly by our clients, like the Film Factories, are nevertheless raising awareness about our work and how talented our filmmakers are.

People have been coming to us, asking us to make films for them, asking us to run workshops for them, and I hope that in 2019-20 we will really develop our earned income and do lots more commissions for clients.”

Get in Touch:

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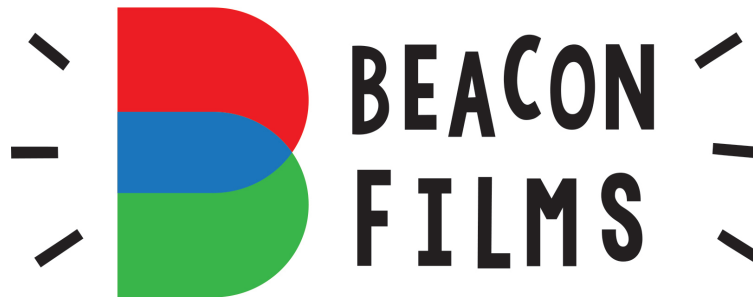
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Beacon Films Staff & Freelancers:

Development Director - Will Sadler
Creative Director - Andrew Coats
Head of Programme - Michelle Fox
Exhibition and Communications Officer - Midnight Memphis
Support Co-ordinator - Sarah Rose
Film Facilitators - Taryn Edmonds, Danielle Giddins, Robert Cairns & Robin Webb
Evaluation & Participation Officer - Emma Tilney
Musician Mentors - Simon Tarrant, Keith Hill
Design & Interactive Development - Chris Younger
External Evaluator - Chris Ford

Special thanks to our non executive board members:
Anne Moran, Robert Laycock & Roxy McKenna

This Annual Report was completed with the support of members:
Zosia Feher, Paul Lycett, Connor Rathbone & Rowan Simpson



We would like to thank the following funders who have supported Beacon Films during the year:

Key funders:



Project funders:



Creative Partners:

