Karen Rose Hutchinson
Thalia Theatre Company

£1,884

Karen Rose Hutchinson, the founder of the Thalia Theatre Company, which puts on theatre for empowerment and social change. The members of the company are disabled, with physical and sensory impairments and learning difficulties.

The funding received from The Funding Network supported Thalia through a transitional period while funding was sought to support the organisation on a more secure footing. Thalia Theatre Company is now earning income from running workshops, residencies, summer schools, and through their performances.

Activities undertaken during 2005
- Norwich Playhouse – the company performed (both adult and youth) their show 'Awareness of Self' April 20th
- Appointed a member of support staff for company members. Commenced work in June.
- Future Choices Learning Activity Development Day at Easton College. Adult company members facilitated a workshop for disabled young people aged 14-19 years July 13th
- Big Youth Theatre Festival – 4 days at Gilwell Park, London in July 14th – 17th (Thalia Theatre Youth will be taking a performance to the 2006 event)
- Gt. Yarmouth Disability Forum, workshop and performance by Thalia Theatre Youth August 19th
- Summer School August 22nd – 26th – attended by 13 young people
- Norwich Fringe Festival – Adult group performed in RoaR Gallery, Norwich October 1st
- Amici Dance Residency – adult company members participated in a one-week residency with this London based integrated dance theatre company. The week culminated in a performance at Norwich Playhouse Theatre on November 5th
- Commenced their community outreach programme across Norfolk on November 14th.
- Lankelly Chase Foundation provided funding for 3 years to employ a disabled outreach worker for the company. (November) Recruitment to take place early 2006

As demonstrated above they have had a busy year. The support from The Funding Network contributed to raising the profile of the company and enabled them to attract funding from a range of sources.