



ANNUAL REPORT

2025 - 2026

[CREATESTUDIOS.ORG.UK](https://createstudios.org.uk)

 **CREATE
STUDIOS**

WELCOME

After three years at Swindon's **Carriage Works**, it's fantastic to record that we have met our ambition to double our reach in that time, **delivering 18,000 engagements** with young people exploring digital creative industries; through to adults enthusiastically adopting **Sofa Screenings**; and the wider creative community finding a vibrant venue for cultural events and conferences.

As a **not for profit Social Enterprise**, we value all our funding partners at Arts Council England, BFI Skills and BFI Audience teams. In these 3 years we've launched a new independent cinema - great digital content comes from exposure to new ideas and creative approaches - protected regular free activity for children and young people. We also re-launched **Create Futures** graduate returner programme and developed the monthly **Create Networks** for the sub-region's digital creative community.

The launch of Swindon's first film office, **ScreenSwindon** is a perfect example of our ambition for the region. We know that skills and vision are strong here, and we are growing under represented talent to further uplift the Creative Industries.

We are thrilled to be working with partners on the Swindon Culture Collective programme and the 2029 City of Culture vision, committed to celebrating and delivering an ambitious future for Swindon.

SHAHINA JOHNSON MBE
CEO



HIGHLIGHTS

CREATE INCLUSION

Building on our track record of engaging and telling stories of all Swindon communities, it was wonderful to collaborate with partners across the SW. We were supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund to document and celebrate **50 South Asian Heritage stories** capturing the undocumented experience of migration to rural communities. With **over 7000 views** of the newly archived interviews and 30 minute documentary, plus **17000 audiences** through a touring installation, website and education resources, **Kahaani** is now being adopted by the Migration Museum and City of Sanctuary Schools networks as an exemplar to grow connection, empathy and celebration of diverse heritage positively shaping the UK.

kahaanionfilm.com

CREATE TALENT

Create Traction supported by BFI Places programme saw Create provide intensive in-demand skills to **48 young people over a 6 month programme** including masterclasses, industry mentoring and paid work placements. **Over 60% of trainees** were from under-represented backgrounds and 6 months on - half of these were actively working in the industry. Our **Create Futures** graduate returner programme supported 15 young people leaving college or uni with first industry experience by mentoring alongside the Create Team.

createstudios.org.uk/alumni

CREATE PRODUCTION

Whether our partners are a local charity like **Prospect Hospice**, a youth group like **Way Studios**, or an international brand like **Williams Formula 1**, every project is handled with the same care, sensitivity and ambition.

It was a proud moment when we delivered a short film for Williams F1 and Airia, realising that all of our **22 strong crew** were **Create Talent** alumni from the **last 5 years**. It was a great moment of realisation that our skills programmes and Production commissions are so inter-twined.

createstudios.org.uk/productions

Check out the stats to understand the breadth of what we do.
It's all happening here at Create with the occasional David
Attenborough zoo-themed party thrown in for good measure!

30+

**FILMS
PRODUCED**

Capturing stories for big
brands to local charities

18000

**ENGAGEMENTS
REACHED**

Participating across our training
and cultural offer

400

**TRAINING
WORKSHOPS**

Mentoring 11-25 year olds into
digital creative industries

100

**FILMS AT SOFA
SCREENINGS**

Connecting communities through
our relaxed independent cinema

60

**SPACE &
KIT HIRES**

Offering premium kit
and studio space for all

45000

**INSPIRED NEW
AUDIENCES**

Touring our digital exhibitions
across the South West



It's been a privilege to see all this
flourish in our wonderful new home
at Carriage Works, and thanks
to Swindon Borough Council for
supporting us to offer training,
production and exhibition from this
incredible heritage space.



See you here soon!
CREATESTUDIOS.ORG.UK



**THE
WORKS**



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**ARTS COUNCIL
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