

# What We Owe

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## Strategic Impact Report *Arches LIVE, 09/12*



# Executive Summary

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*What We Owe* was a one-on-one performance about debt given at Arches LIVE 2012. It was performed to 20 participants, each of whom developed a personalised debt audit and action plan. This report analyses the financial, environmental, and social impacts of the production.

We are pleased to note that *What We Owe* was completely commercially unviable. Given minute incomes for both the performer and the venue, both of whom incurred a loss on the project, it could only exist in a wider festival context and with public arts funding.

In contrast, the performance was highly carbon-efficient compared to standard theatre productions. In a low carbon future, short, technically simple performances for tiny audiences may become the new norm.

For its size, *What We Owe* had enormous social impact. We are able to claim the planning of over £200,000 of financial debt repayment, plus increased civic and environmental responsibility across a range of spheres.

A recording of the performance to show how this may be accomplished is available at <http://vimeo.com/51598873>.

A common question about this production was: Is it serious or not? We hope that this report can conclusively answer: Yes.

*Harry Giles, 31/10/12*

# Financial

## Harry Giles: Expenditure

	<i>Actual (£)</i>	<i>In Kind (£)</i>	
Travel	32		
Props	7.46		
Labour		410	( 1 full week at ITC performers rate)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39.50</b>	<b>410</b>	

## Harry Giles: Income

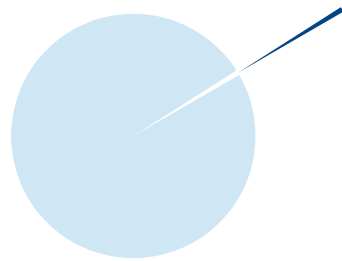
	<i>Actual (£)</i>	<i>In Kind</i>	
Box Office	18.25		
Career		1 x milestone	(work exhibited at prominent Scottish venue/festival)
		6 x press pieces	(inc. recommendations in <i>Guardian</i> and <i>Independent</i> )
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18.25</b>	<b>???</b>	

## The Arches: Expenditure

	<i>Actual (£)</i>	
Technical	148.15	(total budget / no. companies (27))
Publicity	111.11	(total budget / no. companies (27))
Staffing	152	(est. by hours spent and rates)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>411.25</b>	

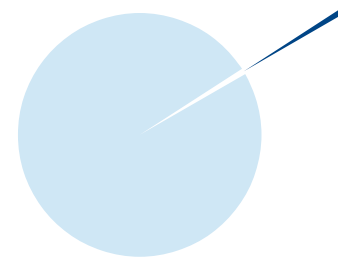
*NB: Staffing in run-up to festival is not included, as hours spent impossible to estimate.*

**Financial income as a proportion of Harry Giles's annual artistic income (2012-13 to date)**



- What We Owe (0.68%)
- Other Income (£2675)

**Financial income as a proportion of Arches LIVE's nett Box Office takings**



- What We Owe (0.79%)
- Other Productions (£4562.50)

# Environmental

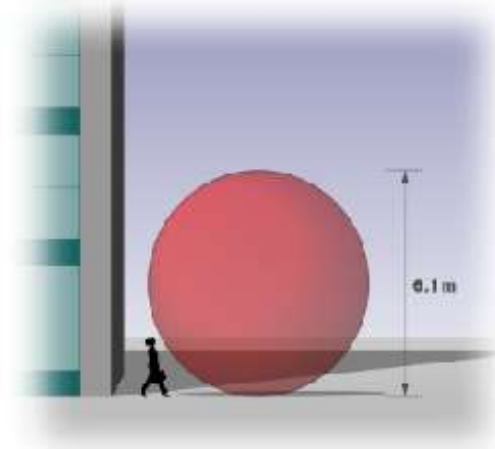
## Production: Carbon Footprint

	<i>Impact (kg CO2e)</i>	
Travel	26.4	(transportdirect.info, 6 GQS-EDB return journeys)
Lighting	11.7	(ig-tools.com, minimal cfl lighting)
Publicity	173.7	(papercalculator.org, from estimates of total production-chain emissions for publicity run, divided by no. companies (27))
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>211.8</b>	<b>(10.87 kg CO2e per audience member)</b>

Carbon footprint as 3.2cm layer superimposed on The Arches



Carbon footprint as slightly unnerving giant sphere



# Social

## Debt Overview

- 20 debt audits were performed
- 146 separate debts were audited and quantified

## Actions Planned

### *Financial*

The repayment of £219,200 total to banks, mortgage companies, landlords and the Student Loans Company was arranged.



2 jobs will be found as a result of the counselling service.



## *Interpersonal*

4 meals will be cooked for friends and family



4 conversations will be had with parents, friends and colleagues



3 offers of help will be made to parents and friends



5 visits will be arranged with family members



2 letters will be written to mothers



## Sociopolitical

1 person will make 50% more effort to change things



15 people will have someone be nice to them



12 campaigns will be joined



2 books and 1 newspaper will be read



2 votes will be registered for





## *Environmental*

There will be 15 mins of thought about the environment



4 recycling trips will be taken



Buchanan and Sauchiehall Streets will be cleaned



3 houseplants will be watered



1 dog will have 43% more of its feces properly disposed of



4 hours will be spent in nature



1 friendly conversation will be had with the sea



## Monsters Vanquished

- The average debt-monster was a prowling manticore at the start of each session
- The average debt-monster had shrunk to a snoozing hare by the end of each session
- Other vanquished and/or appeased monsters included: a giant yeti in an understanding mood; a slightly temperamental rabbit; a persistently threatening kangaroo; a large dragon, in the distance, of indeterminate growth and approach, biding its time; a passively grumpy, medium-sized hydra; a disconnected sponge; a nonchalant St Bernard; a vicious and sly adolescent rabbit; an omniscient satanic weevil; a fox-based chimera hiding in the corner, seeming shifty and restless.



# Acknowledgements

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Many thanks to Arches LIVE for supporting *What We Owe*, and in particular to LJ Findlay-Walsh, Jill Smith and Niall Walker for their assistance in assembling the data for this report. [transportdirect.info](http://transportdirect.info), [ig-tools.com](http://ig-tools.com), [papercalculator.org](http://papercalculator.org), and [carbonquilt.org](http://carbonquilt.org) were used for data processing.

Thanks also to This Collection, Tollcross Community Centre, The Glue Factory, the National Theatre of Scotland, Forest Fringe, Summerhall and their audiences for supporting earlier versions of the performance.

The film of the performance was made by Chris Strachan, who was also game enough to participate.

*What We Owe* was first devised with Olivia Furber, to whom the performance owes a great debt. Rebecca Green, Adrian Howells, Becky Nada-Rajah, Emma O'Rourke, Debbie Pearson and Esmond Sage have also made valuable contributions to its development.