Appendix 15: ‘Chat with Gran’ Analysis

* 1. Introduction

In order to gain in-depth feedback from audiences, an additional piece of qualitative research was carried out during the live delivery of ‘Back to Ours’.

* + 1. Methodology

A performer was commissioned to carry out a series of ‘mini-interviews’ with audience members to capture feedback and responses to the festival immediately after the performances.

The actress portrayed the character of ‘Gran’ using a costume and various props. The performer approached audience members post-performance, using humour to put participants at ease whilst delivering the interviews in character.

The reasoning behind this alternative interview technique was to help audiences who were potentially disengaged feel comfortable with sharing their feedback. Respondents were randomly selected from the audience as performances finished and their responses were recorded using a Dictaphone with permission of the individual or group.

Interview questions were based around the following topics:

* **Attending events:** Whom did they attend the performance with and have they attended anything similar in the past?
* **Performance:** Why did they choose to come to this particular performance and what did they think to it? Has it inspired them to do anything else?
* **The concept:** What did they think about attending a performance in that particular location? Did it make them feel differently about their local area?

Table X shows the performances and venues in which the interviews took place.

Table X: Chat with Nan Interview Locations

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Venue** | **Event** |
| **Wednesday 22 February** | Sirius Academy West | The Story of Mr. B |
| **Thursday 23 February** | Archbishop Sentamu Academy | Meet Fred (accessible event) |
| **Friday 24 February** | North Point Shopping Centre | Joan & Hekima |
| **Saturday 25 February** | Hymers College | Joan & Hekima |
| **Wednesday 31 May** | Winifred Holtby Academy  North Point Shopping Centre | The Funny Thing About  Tipping Point  Word on the Street |
| **Thursday 1 June** | Kingswood Academy | Yvette |
| **Friday 2 June** | Kingswood Academy | The Boy Who Bit Picasso |
| **Saturday 3 June** | Hymers College  Sirius Academy West | The Boy Who Bit Picasso (accessible event)  Tipping Point |
| **Tuesday 31 October** | Sirius Academy West  Kingswood Academy | Picture House: Rocky Horror  Once Upon A Pillow Fight |
| **Wednesday 1 November** | Winifred Holtby Academy  Archbishop Sentamu Academy | Skin  Once Upon A Pillow Fight |
| **Thursday 2 November** | Kingswood Academy | Drip |
| **Friday 3 November** | North Point Shopping Centre | Black Grape |
| **Saturday 4 November** | Hymers College  Freedom Centre | Bedtime Stories  Picture House: Beauty & The Beast |
| **Tuesday 13 February** | Sirius Academy West  Sirius Academy West | Picture House: Chicken Run  Picture House: Wallace & Gromit |
| **Wednesday 14 February** | Kingswood Academy | The Giant’s Loo Roll |
| **Thursday 15 February** | Sirius Academy West  William Gemmell | The Giant’s Loo Roll  The Secret Gig |
| **Saturday 17 February** | North Point Shopping Centre  Freedom Centre | Jeddybear's and Gary's Picnic  The Amazing Bubble Man |
| **Sunday 18 February** | Archbishop Sentamu Academy | Hotel Paradiso |

* 1. Findings

There was a general feeling across performances that audiences didn’t really know what to expect when attending ‘Back to Ours’. This was particularly true for the first festival, but continued to some extent throughout the project.

*“I just couldn’t imagine what on earth they were gonna do.”*

*“I didn’t know what to expect. Like the whole ‘Back to Ours’ festival, you don’t really know what you’re going to discover when you’re there.”*

Having experienced the festival, feedback from audience members was overwhelmingly positive in terms of the quality and diversity of the programme. Indeed, several respondents stated that ‘Back to Ours’ had exceeded their expectations.

*“I didn’t know what to expect. It far exceeded my expectations.”*

*“I thought it was amazing, I wasn’t really expecting that.”*

One respondent felt that because they were attending a performance in a school setting it would be low quality, however were surprised at how professional the event was:

*“I don't know. I just think because of the location, because we're in a school, I sort of thought it would just be a bit of a predictor, a bit kind of low budget, but it's amazing so far. It's really professional and really creative activities going on.”*

All respondents found their experience enjoyable, with many stating that they had been to previous ‘Back to Ours’ festivals or had bought tickets for multiple shows at the same festival. Some respondents however, were unsure about what events were included as part of the programme, with some confusing other City of Culture activities with the ‘Back to Ours’ festival.

*“We went to see one last year and it was one of the best things we'd ever seen so we just said let's try and see as many as we can. The price and everything is just fantastic.”*

*“Best night I've had in ages.”*

*“We loved it, didn’t we? We thought it was brilliant.”*

* + 1. Motivations for attending

Motivations for attending ‘Back to Ours’ varied, but responses centered around the following:

* **UK City of Culture Status**

It was clear that Hull’s UK City of Culture status was one of the main motivations for attending ‘Back to Ours’. Many respondents stated that they were trying to see as many City of Culture events as they can, because they saw it as an opportunity not to be missed. This was particularly true for the first festival, but was a theme that ran throughout the year.

*“You’ve gotta go for it when you’ve got something like this, it’s a once in a lifetime opportunity so you’ve gotta go for it.”*

*“What we decided to do this year was to try everything and anything. And if we can get tickets for it, we’ll do it.”*

*“We decided to do a least one thing a week. As it turned out, this week we’ve done three.”*

*“City of Culture show-wise, I’m trying to see as much as I can.”*

Although this motivation to attend arts and culture events as part of the City of Culture celebrations suggests that many of the sample are engaged, there were indications that these groups were not as open to taking part in similar events prior to 2017:

*“We very rarely go to any of this sort of stuff, it’s because of the City of Culture that we’re out and about seeing this sort of thing.”*

* **Interest in a Specific Show**

Some audience members wanted to attend ‘Back to Ours’ because they were interested in a specific show in the festival programme. A couple of people said that they had seen or been recommended a show which had been part of the Edinburgh Fringe festival:

*“This show was actually recommended to us by my son who saw it at Edinburgh Fringe.”*

*“I’ve come to see it because I went to see it at Edinburgh.”*

Others said that they had seen other work by the artists, which persuaded them to buy tickets to see a different show. One respondent said that they chose to attend a performance because it was based on their child’s favourite book.

*“We've been to see another show by the people that have made it.”*

* **Something Different**

Some people attended ‘Back to Ours’ because they wanted to try something new. For many, the festival was seen as ‘something different’ and alternative entertainment to experience with the family during half term. One audience member described ‘Back to Ours’ as ‘out of their comfort zone’.

*“Completely alternative to anything I’ve seen before, so really good yeah.”*

*“It was nice to come out and come somewhere different.”*

*“Something out of our comfort zone.”*

*“I wanted to come and experience something new with my family.”*

* **Saw Advertising**

Some respondents saw a leaflet advertising ‘Back to Ours’ and decided to attend based on that. Others saw information about the festival on the Hull 2017 website and booked tickets as a result.

*“We got a leaflet through the door.”*

*“He brought a book home from school, like a pamphlet.”*

*“We were looking for something to do, so I went on the website and this was on.”*

* **Something to do With Family**

The festival programme was seen as appealing to a range of ages, and some respondents attended ‘Back to Ours’ because it was something to do with the family during half term.

*“We wanted a day out so we thought we would come.”*

*“Very convenient during half term to keep the kids entertained.”*

* **Recommendation**

Recommendation from family or friends was a popular reason for respondents finding out about and attending ‘Back to Ours’. Some audience members said that they knew someone who was a volunteer and they told them about the festival.

*“My friends suggested it and with is being half-term I thought it might be a nice afternoon.”*

*“A friend told me that these events were on.”*

*“I didn’t know this was on until a friend mentioned that they were going to the showing tomorrow, which we couldn’t get to, but we could get to this one.”*

* + 1. Groups

Somewhat unsurprisingly, feedback indicated that children’s shows were attended mainly by families – many of these including grandparents. Others attended with friendship groups, work colleagues, partners and neighbours.

*“We've got three young children so it appealed to us as adults as well as the kids.”*

* 1. The Concept

Audience members gave positive feedback around the concept of ‘Back to Ours’ and were impressed by the diverse range of events and quality of the performances.

Audience members gave feedback on the following aspects of the festival concept:

* **Affordability**

Several respondents gave positive feedback on the low ticket prices at ‘Back to Ours’, stating that it made it easier to attend events with the family.

*“Because usually going to see stuff at the theatre’s just too expensive when you got three kids to take, so it was affordable.”*

* **Community Engagement**

Some respondents felt that ‘Back to Ours’ helped to boost community spirit, because it was engaging with areas that typically wouldn’t host arts and culture events. Others said that the festival helped to bring the community together and increased happiness in the local area.

“*I really believe in community and getting involved in everything that's happening on your doorstep.”*

*“It brings happiness to the neighbourhood, doesn't it? It's a good thing. It puts a smile on people's faces.”*

*“I think it helps bring all the community together. And it gets everyone together and smiling and seeing positive things.”*

*“It's great. It gets the community involved. It gives us something to do.”*

* **Atmosphere**

Audience members felt that attending events in community venues made them feel more relaxed and comfortable than they would if they were visiting a theatre in the city centre.

Some said that they felt more comfortable about taking children to the festival, because there was less pressure to make them sit still and be quiet.

*“It's more relaxed, no one seemed to mind the kids getting up dancing.”*

*“You didn’t feel intimidated by anything.”*

*“It's relaxed and not done in a stuffy theatre.”*

*“You need to act and behave properly in a theatre, but I feel relaxed in here.”*

* **Accessibility**

Respondents commented on the accessibility of ‘Back to Ours’, stating that all of the venues were easy to get to with ample parking.

*“It’s easy to get to, lots of parking, lots of space. So it seems to work very well.”*

Provision for those with additional needs was also mentioned, with one respondent suggesting that performances within community venues are much more accessible for those with disabilities. The respondent spoke of a family friend with a disabled child who felt unable to see the Made in Hull projections because of the large crowds. She stated that visiting something within the local community is something that would be easier for the family.

*“He didn’t go to see the projection thing because it was too much for him, but this would be far better. It brings it to him rather than…”*

*“He doesn’t like noise, so a lot of stuff in town is too much for him.”*

A group of hearing impaired audience members who attended a BSL interpreted performance of ‘Drip’ in festival 3 spoke positively about the visual nature of the show, stating that they’d be unlikely to have the same experience in a theatre. It was mentioned however that it was difficult to find information about BSL interpreted performances in the main Hull UK City of Culture programme, so the group had to do some research into what was available.

* + 1. Local Audience

The research suggested that the audience at ‘Back to Ours’ was mixed in terms of locality, with some living within walking distance to the venues and others travelling from elsewhere in Hull.

“*It's nice to have something like this on your doorstep.”*

Some respondents who weren’t local to the venue said that ‘Back to Ours’ gave them a reason to visit areas of Hull they hadn’t seen before.

*“Great, its brought us to a place we haven’t been in before, we live the other side of the city so it’s not somewhere we go it encourages people to go somewhere else and that anywhere can host something amazing and there are no issues.”*

*“It's nice to go to new places.”*

*“I must admit I've lived in Hull 20 years and I've never been down Preston Road.”*

One respondent who didn’t live locally said that they felt slightly nervous visiting a venue within the community, because they didn’t know the area very well.

*“We don’t know Hull very well, so it was a bit off-putting to come to somewhere that wasn’t in the centre in a way.”*

In the first festival in February 2017, one respondent who lived close to North Point Shopping Centre said that he wasn’t convinced that the audience was local.

*“But living round the area, I would say that not many people in the audience are local. But I think there is a handful of people who are from this area.”*

Another audience member who was local to Hymers College however, stated that they only attended ‘Back to Ours’ because it was nearby, and wouldn’t travel outside of Hull to visit.

*“If this was, I would say in Sheffield or Goole or something, I probably wouldn’t travel that far to see it. But because it’s here, I’d go out and do it.”*

It was suggested by one respondent at the beginning of the project that audience numbers in the local area are likely to increase due to word of mouth as time went on. Another audience member said that they had actually heard about ‘Back to Ours’ through a friend who had bought tickets, and another described how members of their family had already tried new things through word of mouth recommendation.

*“If I was to go tell my family who live nearby, they’d be more inclined to come here than travel into town to see something. And generally they don’t go to the theatre, so they’d be more inclined to come here.”*

*“I text people the next day and said it’s fantastic, you’ve got to go and see it, the other shows because there’s tickets – whether they have or not, I don’t know.”*

*“I didn’t know this was on until a friend mentioned that they were going to the showing tomorrow, which we couldn’t get to, but we could get to this one.”*

*“In our family, it’s having a roll on effect. Because my daughter, she’s been to a couple of things now, one with her friends and her youngsters, because of what we‘ve told her to go and see. And today we’ve been out seeing something else as a family of six and tonight we’re here as a family of four. So it is rolling already.”*

* + 1. Ticketing

A couple of people mentioned unprompted that they found it difficult to purchase tickets for ‘Back to Ours’. They stated that the tickets they purchased were through the pop-up box office, but suggested that this should have been available for longer.

*“It [box office] was one on Holderness Road for like one day. So unless you got there that one day, that was it.”*

*“The only thing that we found out, is where they were selling the tickets, we could only find it in one place, so it made it a little bit…that was the only thing.”*

* 1. Venue Feedback

All ‘Back to Ours’ venues received positive feedback by audience members. It was clear that there was a change in perceptions of the venues after audience members visited them during ‘Back to Ours’. Many expressed surprise at the excellent facilities in the schools.

*“It’s a really, really good facility. Would definitely come again.”*

*“This is the first I’ve been to Archbishop Sentamu and it is fantastic.”*

*“My son said he’s never going to look at this place the same ever again.”*

One respondent supported the concept of using community venues for arts and culture events, however didn’t feel schools were the most appropriate setting, adding that people are unlikely to want to visit out of hours. Another respondent however was pleased that ‘Back to Ours’ gave her daughter the opportunity to look around a school that she was due to start attending in September.

*“I don’t think schools are the right place to do it….People don’t wanna come out of hours do they.”*

Indeed, several other audience members said that they had never visited the venue before, and were pleased that ‘Back to Ours’ gave them the chance to look around buildings that they otherwise wouldn’t have the opportunity to see.

*“I would never come here otherwise, so it’s given us an opportunity to have a little look round.”*

*“I’ve never been to Hymers at all before. So it was interesting, it was… I was nosy to see what it was going to be like.”*

Those who attended performances at North Point Shopping Centre said that ‘Back to Ours’ caused them to look at the space in a new light.

*“You’ll never forget you’ve seen Joan of Arc at North Point Shopping Centre.”*

*“I’ve only ever been here by day before and it’s totally transformed it.”*

*“it’s just as you said, fancy sitting here outside Iceland...Yeah, I think that’s really weird.”*

*“This is really good and I don’t know whether it’s ever been used like this before…but be nice to see it used more often.”*

One couple who saw a performance at the William Gemmel Club described the venue as ‘not the sort of place they would usually go’, but were delighted at the welcome they received from the club’s regulars.

*“From the minute we walked in there, we were made welcome by the people that were in there. And it was absolutely lovely.”*

*“They got us a couple of chairs and a table, the people around it were all people that belonged to the club. And they were lovely people, and they really wanted us to enjoy it. You know it was lovely.”*

Audience members also felt that using community venues as performance spaces created more of an intimate experience, as they generally had a smaller capacity.

*“It makes small shows better as you feel more connected. If you're sat in a 200 seat auditorium you feel a bit distant, but this was fun.”*

*“It's nice to get a bit closer sometimes as well. At the theatre you're often quite far away from the action.”*

* 1. Performance Feedback

Feedback around the performances themselves was overwhelmingly positive. Respondents were enthusiastic about the City of Culture programme in general and many listed other things that they had seen or were looking forward to.

* + 1. Festival 1

**Meet Fred**

Those who had attended Meet Fred were surprised at how expressive the puppetry was, despite the fact that it was a plain figure without facial features. Some mentioned that they didn’t expect to feel such strong emotions towards the character.

*“I just think the character, on such a plain puppet, it was just full of character. It was real.”*

*“I thought it was amazing, I wasn’t really expecting that. I thought the puppetry was incredible. Like how they made all the little gestures, it was all just with their hands.”*

*“You kind of felt a connection to the puppet…”*

*“He was going through life and we were going through it with him. It’s fantastic.”*

Some audience members reflected on the themes of the performance, discussing topics such as the benefits system and disability.

**The Story of Mr B**

Both children and their parents who attended The Story of Mr. B gave positive feedback around the performance. The children described how they felt sad and happy through various points in the performance, and spoke about their favourite parts of the show.

*“I thought it was really sad at the beginning when Mr Bumblegrum was unhappy, but I cheered up when all the clouds went away.”*

*“Thank you for the show because it was super duper good!”*

One parent stated that ‘The Story of Mr B’ had given them an opportunity to introduce their young son to theatre:

*“I wanted to come and get him started on (theatre) because I love the theatre so.”*

**Joan and Hekima**

Audience members praised the performance of Lucy Jane Parkinson – the actress who played ‘Joan’. One respondent said that she was ‘mesmerised’ by the actress and others described how she managed to hold the attention of the crowd entirely.

*“I don’t even think I thought of anything else the whole time I was there, I was completely mesmerised by her.”*

*“For one person to hold your attention and to change your emotions just like that, it’s unbelievable.”*

The audience also spoke of how emotional they felt during the show, and reflected on the themes that were raised in the performance, including gender and the history of the story.

*“I thought it was entertaining, at times funny. Sometimes a little bit close to the edge. Strangely moving.”*

*“I was feeling quite emotional at times. I think I was upset when she was upset.”*

* + 1. Festival 2

**The Funny Thing About**

Both parents and children who attended ‘The Funny Thing About’ enjoyed the variety of material within the performance, including jokes, songs and poetry.

*“I liked the funny bit when he was telling jokes about his name.”*

*“It was good fun, especially at the end. We liked it [the poem] about dogs, because [we] have got a dog, so that was great”*

*“I liked all the funny jokes, especially ‘when I was 7 I wanted to be a writer, before then I wanted to be a duck.’”*

*“It was funny. It was really fun for adults as well.”*

Audience members reflected that there was a good mix of entertainment for different ages, adults and children. The performer was skilled in engaging with the more reserved children and encouraging them to join in the show.

Tipping Point

Feedback suggests that Tipping Pointwas a gripping performance for both children and adults. The audience also enjoyed the exchanges between the characters, which used humor to create a story through gestures and facial expressions.

*“I thought it was really mesmerising, it sort of helped you take yourself out of yourself for a good hour. I’m amazed that the physical strength and the coordination and I don’t think you’d, anybody could anticipate really how much work would have gone into making that as spectacular as it was.”*

*“Because I was on the front row it felt like I was [almost] going to get hit a few times. And you could almost feel the adrenaline of the people who were doing it.”*

*“I think that we are really, really privileged to be able to have watched something like that.”*

*“Mesmerising. I gave a standing ovation at the end.”*

**Word on the Street**

Audience members responded positively to the mix of poetry and music at ‘Word on the Street’, as well as the diversity of poets: from a local performer to poets from Bristol, Manchester and Yorkshire. For some audience members this was their first experience of performance poetry.

*“We’ve never seen performance poetry before so it’s really good. I’d like to see some more.”*

*“I didn’t exactly know what we were coming to, so was fascinating, absolutely fascinating.”*

Yvettte

Feedback suggests that audience members found ‘Yvette’to be an inspiring and emotive experience. Respondents appeared to be moved by the story and also commented on how clever the staging and format of the piece was, using music/voice, props and costume changes to play the different characters.

*“We were just saying, about how she can make you feel that way. You are like, really involved in the story.”*

*“You were really drawn into it, and the emotion…I am still a bit shaky now. It was actually really good. An absolutely fantastic performance.”*

*“The ending was – I think the word is quite uplifting. I really really liked that the ending ended with strength. Which was what it needed.”*

Audience members reflected on the importance of hearing stories from other cultural backgrounds – but also felt there were universal elements that everyone could relate to.

*“ You know* *looking at the diversity, and the ethnicity of different cultural backgrounds. Every other colour or language ought to see this.”*

*“I think that you can relate to it…you know, teenage girls in a school, you’ve heard of that sorts of thing. So you relate to those sorts of things, but then obviously you’ve got the deep dark side that you have got absolutely no idea of what goes on.”*

*“And then you’ve got the 2 contrasting worlds if you like…I suppose in a way you could relate to bits of it because, it kind of drew you in even though you may not understand all of the cultural nuances.”*

*“I think a lot of people will…pick up on bits that they can relate, but…, hopefully it might make them think about other things that they maybe haven’t experienced. And realise that they’ve been really privileged.”*

**The Boy Who Bit Picasso**

Parents who attended ‘The Boy Who Bit Picasso’ were impressed with the immersive and interactive nature of the performance. One respondent praised the ability of the performers to keep young children engaged for the duration of the show.

*“I didn’t know what to expect when I came, I thought it would be more of the kids sat there, but they actually got to interact with it. Which was fantastic.”*

*“We enjoyed it all didn’t we? (to C) with all the hands-on stuff and that, yes.”*

*“it was a nice gentle, relaxing thing to see. And the fact that they sat still for 90 minutes, all of the children, is testament to the actors.”*

*“It’s one of the best shows I’ve ever seen. I have got to say he (to baby) was even interested, and he’s just one-year-old. And then 6 and then 8 years – and they were all engaged.”*

* + 1. Festival 3

**Picture House (Beauty and the Beast, Monsters Inc. and Rocky Horror Picture Show)**

Audience members enjoyed the interactive elements of Picture House and gave positive feedback around the addition of performers. Parents felt that at the children’s films, the performers and the disco at the end of the screenings added something extra to the experience.

*“I think because there were performers as well as the film it made it really unexpected.”*

*“It's good that it's interactive and they can have their photos taken with the characters.”*

One child at the screening of ‘Beauty and the Beast’ however, felt that the low audience numbers had a negative effect on her experience.

**Bedtime Stories**

One parent said that the fact the audience was sat on mattresses with pillows and covers meant that the experience felt less like you were at a theatre and was more relaxed.

*“I liked them sitting on the little beds as it felt less like a theatre, so it was nice.”*

The interactive nature of the performance also received positive feedback, as it kept younger audience members engaged throughout its duration.

*“You felt more part of it, the visuals and effects. They didn't get bored.”*

**Pillow Fight**

Similar to Bedtime Stories, the audience set up of pillows and blankets received positive feedback. One parent said that because the performance included both male and female dancers, this helped to change her son’s perception of the art form:

*“My son sees dance as a feminine thing and it’s changed his opinion I think.”*

**Black Grape**

Black Grape received positive feedback from audience members, with some stating they’d been a fan of Shaun Ryder and the band for a long time.

Some audience members commented on North Point Shopping Centre as an unusual location to watch a gig, but all felt this was an interesting and enjoyable experience.

*“When I was told Black Grape are on in Hull, I thought get me there. I wasn't expecting this sort of thing in a shopping centre.”*

*“It's not the normal place to come and watch a music gig, but I liked it.”*

**Drip**

Audience members found Drip light-hearted and enjoyable, giving positive feedback around the interactive elements of the performance.

*“It made me smile from start to finish.”*

*“It was interactive, I liked being involved.”*

A group of hearing impaired audience members who attended the BSL interpreted performance enjoyed the fact that the play was very visual and stated that this was not often the case at theatres.

**Skin**

Feedback suggests that audience members found Skin to be a powerful, thought-provoking and emotive performance. One audience member said that they would have liked a question and answer session after the show so that people could reflect on what they had seen.

Respondents praised the quality and skill of the dancers and choreography, with one audience member describing it as ‘out of this world’.

* + 1. Festival 4

**Jeddybear’s and Gary’s Picnic**

The interactive nature of Jeddybear’s and Gary’s Picnic received positive feedback. Audience members commented on the fact that the performance was very relaxed and funny, with children being able to dance along and get involved.

*“I think was really cool 'cause it was a bit more relaxed, wasn't it? We could get up, we could have a dance. And what a good idea!”*

*“It was funny and we laughed the whole way through it.”*

**Giant’s Loo Roll**

Families gave positive feedback on the Giant’s Loo Roll performance, describing it as energetic and funny throughout. Children enjoyed the interactive nature of the show and the audience participation.

**Picture House (Wallace and Gromit: Curse of the Were Rabbit and Chicken Run)**

Parents particularly praised the additional activities during the Picture House screening in Festival 4, which included scientific experiments, model-making and animation workshops.

Some said this really added to the experience and made it stand out from a simple cinema visit.

*“It’s great to have all these activities and I like the rooster. Very energetic.”*

*“I would say it's very different, because normally we would just like get popcorn, get a drink and then go into the film and watch it and go home.”*

**Hotel Paradiso**

Audience members gave positive feedback around Hotel Paradiso, commenting on the interesting use of space and engaging storyline.

One respondent however, said that they had trouble seeing the stage because of the seating layout, but another said that children were encouraged to sit towards the front, which was helpful.

*“We couldn't see a little bit, because I think all the tall people seemed to be sat on the front.”*

**The Amazing Bubbleman**

Both children and adults found The Amazing Bubbleman enjoyable, with parents praising the engaging interactive elements of the show.

*“It was really good. It was sort of ... engaged all the audience and had a bit of science in there as well.”*

* 1. Outcomes

Across all of the festivals throughout the year, respondents spoke about other Hull 2017 events that they were planning on attending, however this didn’t appear to have been affected by experiencing ‘Back to Ours’. As previously mentioned, the City of Culture status was a key motivator for buying tickets for ‘Back to Ours’, and many people reported that they wanted to experience as much of the programme as they can. This was particularly apparent at the beginning of the year when excitement was running high.

*“I don’t think this specifically has inspired us to go see other stuff, because we would come and do it anyway.”*

One respondent said that he would like to look out for more productions and try going to theatres like Hull Truck after attending ‘Back to Ours’ and another said they would look for similar activities during the school holidays.

*“I didn't realise they do things like this during the school holidays. I'll definitely look for something, you know, for something else.”*

*“I think I’ll look out for more productions this year. But even after that, I’ll try and go to Hull Truck a bit more. And you know, try more things.”*

When asked whether they felt inspired to do anything else after attending ‘Back to Ours’, a grandmother and parent said that the children will play new games after watching The Story of Mr B. Another audience member said that their child was going to go home and practice making bubbles after watching The Amazing Bubbleman.

*“He might not be saying much now, but in the next few days he’ll be playing it.”*

*“Oh always, if they’ve enjoyed it, it will inspire them.”*

One audience member at Joan and Hekima said that they felt inspired to find out more about the story of Joan of Arc. Others said that it made them think about gender issues and the historical significance of the story.

*“I think I might even get a book about Joan of Arc, it’s really got me interested.”*

*“Yeah it’s about stereo (types) isn’t it, about gender being sort of made to be something you don’t wanna be. “*

One respondent said that ‘Back to Ours’ was an entirely new experience for their family and that this had changed the way they thought about entertaining the children in the future.

*“I'm really impressed. It's certainly changed the way that we look at entertaining the kids, anyway.”*

There was also a sense of community pride that was apparent in the interviews. When asked what they thought ‘Back to Ours’ meant in the community, respondents felt that it helped to bring people together and made people proud of where they come from.

*“It makes you feel proud of where you’ve come from.”*

*I've always been proud of Hull, but this year I'm more proud*

*"It's home and this brings people together"*

Another group when talking about Hull and its City of Culture status, described themselves as ‘fiercely protective’ of their hometown, and praised their local community.

*“And we’re fiercely protective. Fiercely protective. Absolutely, we can say what we like but anybody else says anything about Hull, absolutely not.”*

Many respondents became repeat visitors to ‘Back to Ours’ throughout the year and expressed a desire for the project to continue in the future.

*“It's been fantastic. We want it to continue for as long as possible, really.”*

*“It would be nice if they carried on doing things like this outside of the City of Culture, you know doing things like this generally.”*

*“We've been to see all the other Back To Ours last year and we loved them.”*