



IncludFEST 2025

TINARTS



EVENT SUMMARY

ABOUT INCLUDFEST

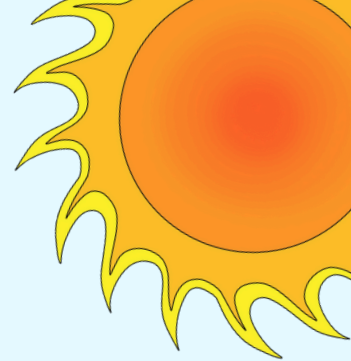
IncludFEST is a fully inclusive and accessible arts festival for children, young people and families, produced by TIN Arts. It is usually presented as an outdoor event in County Durham and is open to everyone, with a particular focus on welcoming families with a d/Deaf or disabled child.

IncludFEST is completely free to attend to ensure it remains accessible to all. In 2025, the festival was generously supported by Durham County Council with further funding from Durham University's Light Years programme supporting the creation of a new dance work From Pinecones to Galaxies which premiered at IncludFEST.



**[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE
INCLUDFEST 2025 FILM](#)**

WHAT HAPPENED IN 2025?



On Saturday 20th September 2025, we hosted IncludFEST at Spennymoor Town Hall. As usual, the festival was originally planned to take place outdoors, but a yellow weather warning meant we had to make a last-minute decision to move indoors.

With just two days to go before the event, our team had to act fast to make the change possible. Our immediate priorities were to communicate the new venue to audiences and providers, adapt the programme for an indoor space, and ensure everything could run safely and smoothly.



We hugely appreciate the flexibility and support shown by our audiences, providers and partners in making this possible.

We are extremely grateful to Spennymoor Town Council, who stepped in to offer the Town Hall as an alternative venue. Without their support, the festival would not have been able to go ahead.

Despite the weather challenges, the day itself was a real success. We welcomed 168 attendees and were delighted to see so many happy, smiling faces throughout the event.



FESTIVAL DELIVERY AND PROGRAMME

The 2025 programme featured a lively mix of **performances, interactive workshops, and creative drop-in activities**, all designed to celebrate inclusivity and creativity.

Performances and activities included:

- **Step Ahead by Ben Wilson (Cheshire Dance)**
- **From Pinecones to Galaxies by TIN Arts (comissioned by Durham University)**
- **RIPU: Enemies of the Mind by Payal Ramchandani**
- **Shh We Have a Plan: Sensory Storytelling by Elena Joy Miller**
- **Make your own spacesuit by Durham University**
- **Make your Mark on the Universe by Gertie Graham**
- **Make your own Clocks and Planets by Yvonne Preston**
- **Mushroom Bricks by Threads in the Ground**

We'd like to give special thanks to Unfolding Theatre and Unite Club, who were unfortunately unable to attend due to the weather complications and change in venue. We hope to collaborate again in the future.

We also had BSL Interpretation by Jenna Johnson and Caroline Ryan, technical support from Ingram Sound, compering by Bryn Chaytor Wilson and Aaron Burton, production support by The Geordie Crew, mobile changing facilities by Accessoloo, and production management by Graeme Nixon.

10 dedicated volunteers gave up their time to help make the day as success, for which we are extremely grateful.

A total of **61 people** were involved in delivering IncludFEST 2025, including performers, artists, volunteers, TIN Arts staff members and more. Together, they made IncludFEST 2025 a memorable and inclusive experience for everyone involved.



OUR AUDIENCE

In 2025, 168 people attended IncludFEST, and 31 people completed our post-event survey.

Of those who completed the survey:

- **55%** had one or more people in their group who identified **d/Deaf or disabled**
- Audiences joined us from across the North F coming from **County Durham**



YOUR FEEDBACK

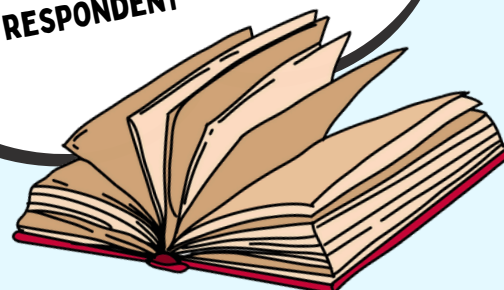
Feedback from audiences was overwhelmingly positive, with many praising the quality of performances, relaxed atmosphere and welcoming volunteers.

Survey results showed that on average:

- Performances were rated **4.84/5**
- Workshops were rated **4.6/5**
- Drop-in sessions were rated **4.67/5**
- Communication about the change in venue was rated **4.59/5**

"VOLUNTEERS HAVE DONE A
BRILLIANT JOB"
- SURVEY RESPONDENT

"ALL THE PERFORMANCES WERE REALLY
BEAUTIFUL AND ENGAGING. PERFECT FOR THE
EVENT AND ENJOYED BY EVERYONE. AS ALWAYS
IT WAS WONDERFUL TO SEE PERFORMERS OF ALL
AGES, EXPERIENCE AND ABILITIES DANCING
BRILLIANTLY TOGETHER. MORE PLEASE."
- SURVEY RESPONDENT



WHAT WE'RE TAKING ON BOARD FOR NEXT TIME

As always, we value feedback from everyone who attended. From this year's responses, we've identified a few key areas to build on for future events:

- **Access to refreshments on-site would be preferable**
- **Even more signage would be great**
- **We should try to improve our communication about the event ahead of the day**

Many survey respondents also suggested that we should try to improve the weather conditions; we certainly wish we could!

We're proud of how the 2025 event came together despite challenging circumstances and look forward to making our next IncludFEST even more accessible, welcoming, and inspiring for everyone who joins us.

