

# Modo

**Circus with Purpose**



## ***Annual Review 2019-20***



# Welcome to our year

**This year has been a really exciting and busy year for Modo.**

- We delivered 1,600 workshop hours to 9,800 participants.
- We helped young people to achieve over 50 accredited awards celebrating 12,500 hours of achievement.
- 150 volunteers gave nearly 15,000 hours of their time gaining valuable skills and experience along the way.
- Encounter Youth Cafe had over 180 attending on a weekly basis. In 2019 the Youth Café received over 8,000 visits.
- Recent statistics from Police Scotland show that since Encounter opened, Group 4 crimes (vandalism & fire raising) and Group 6 crimes (Public Order) have fallen by 50%.
- Our show, Doricula, toured across Aberdeenshire, and to festivals in Aberdeen and Europe.
- Modo attended international festivals and exchanges in England, Estonia, Poland, Lithuania, France and Italy.
- Modo attended 40 local galas and events providing performers, shows and workshops across Aberdeenshire.



# Who are Modo

Modo uses circus to engage young people across Aberdeenshire and to help them to change their lives for the better.

Harnessing the skills and thrills of circus, Modo helps young people to improve life chances, skills, confidence and self-esteem while celebrating and creating the culture and community of the region.

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***My daughter has been attending Modo for two years now and she is really enjoying it. She enjoys performing for people and Modo has helped her to become more confident on the stage. Thank you Modo.***

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Working closely with partners, Modo provides young people with positive, progressive and accredited activities, and contributes widely to providing positive pathways.

Modo is committed to finding ways to engage and to inspire the widest cross section of the population. In all our work we seek to have a real purpose.



# CircoModo

CircoModo is our style of social circus. It brings together participants from all backgrounds to learn, work and have fun together.

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***CircoModo gives me hope and it inspires me to be the best version of myself. Without Modo I would probably still be bullied a lot because of my lack of confidence.***

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CircoModo gives young people the chance to engage, to learn circus skills and gain life skills and accreditation while they do. It provides positive pathways for young people, celebrating their achievements and improving their life chances.

Since April 2019 100 young people have engaged. They performed alongside Doricula, as well as at galas, festivals and events.

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***CircoModo is fun, it's something to do, the people who run it are the best and CircoModo is a big part of my life.***

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CircoModo is funded by Opportunities for Young people.



# Volunteers

Modo are extremely lucky to have a large group of committed volunteers. Without our volunteers we would not be able to open Encounter as often, run our CircoModo programme, create shows and performances, or to attend as many events.

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***It feels really good to do something useful with my free time. I am really glad I started volunteering because I enjoy the responsibility and getting to teach young people the skills. It has helped me get into a routine.***

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Modo provides ongoing training, teaching skills and approaches to encourage and support other young folk, passing on their skills and enthusiasm while gaining accreditation to help them onto positive destinations (training, education and employment). This year we launched a junior volunteer programme for young people aged 13-16.

Awards Modos are accredited and delivered in partnership with Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action, Aberdeenshire Council and the Adult Learning Partnership. Volunteer programmes funded by Impact Funding Partners, The Robertson Trust, The Henry Duncan Trust, and Buchan Area Community Initiative.



# Encounter

Encounter has continued to open 3 times a week welcoming over 180 young people each week. In November 2019, we hit a massive record of 100 young people attending Encounter in one night!

Encounter offers a safe space for young people to come and be with friends, get support and advice or even just have the space to do homework! The Youth Café has a wide range of free activities on offer; pool and other games, arts and crafts, basketball and circus.

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***Youth café makes me feel happy and safe.***

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The café has opened over 137 times in the last year, as well as additional opening times to tie in with community events such as Scottish week. Between April 2019 and December 2019 a total of 6,615 visits were made to the Youth Café.

Encounter is funded by St James Place Charitable Foundation, Santander Discovery Grant, The Tudor Trust, The Trusthouse Charitable Foundation, The Swire Trust, Cashback for Communities - Youth Work Fund, A Chance to Succeed, Asda Peterhead, The Magic Little Grants and The Garfield Weston Foundation.



# Encounter Crime Reduction

Encounter's location in Peterhead town centre has been chosen to engage with the most disadvantaged and most at risk.

Modo works closely with the police and other community safety partners to divert and engage young people and to support young people in making positive choices. Modos staff and volunteers are trained to support young people on a variety of topics including accreditation, housing, employment and mental health.

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***If Youth Café wasn't here I would be outside getting in bother with my friends.***

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Police Scotland statistics show since Modos started working in Peterhead town centre Group 4 crimes (vandalism and fire raising) and Group 6 crimes (Public order) have fallen by 50%.

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***I feel safe when the youth café is open because if something bad happens there is a safe place to go.***

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# Encounter Support

Many think that Encounter is just a place for young folk to hang out, but behind the scenes Encounter offers a range of support.

Everyday Essentials: Thanks to generous donations, Modo are able to provide free clothing, toiletries and school kit for young people.

Free food: Thanks to Ray Allan and CFINE we are able to provide free food in a stigma free setting, for those facing food poverty.

Listening Service: A trained volunteer offering weekly counselling.

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***You have no idea how much you guys have helped me get through a hard time. If I didn't have your help who knows where I'd be.***

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Last year Modo supported 366 young people, 50% of whom were supported in accessing other services. Everyday Essentials has been accessed by over 60 individuals and families.

Encounter receives free food from Ray Allan Bakers, the COOP, Cfine and others. Everyday essentials donations came from members of the community.



# **Doricula (Dracula but with a Doric Twist)**

Building on the success of previous shows, Modo brought Bram Stoker's classic vampire story to life with a new Doric twist. The production reflects the inspiration Stoker found in his frequent visits to Slains Castle and Cruden Bay. The production combines circus, fire and street theatre with atmospheric music and a new Doric text.

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***Amazing. An absolutely brilliant interpretation of the old classic full of cheeky references to the novel, the history and the myth. Was amazed by the skills of the performers. A show I will remember for a long time.***

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Doricula premiered at the Light the Blue Festival in Aberdeen in June 2019. This was followed by a highly successful tour of Italy, France and Scotland including 6 performances at Slains Castle itself.

Well over 1,000 people saw the show at the various locations, and it has been shortlisted for a Young Scot Award.

Doricula was funded by Aberdeenshire Youth Bank, Cashback for Creativity, The North Connect Legacy Fund, The Doric Board, Stonehaven & District Lions Club and KR Steel.



# Home-Name-Дом-Дом

Modo is excited to be part of a new international project building a sense of community between newcomers to Aberdeenshire and those who have lived here for a long time.

Home-Name-Дом-Дом is a creative learning project using culture and creativity to build links between people from different communities, especially those who have moved here for work.

The project aims to improve connections and to help to integrate people into the local community. It is an international exploration of being at home and being a long way from home.

Modo have been commissioned to take on the creative and youth work, including working with youth groups, hosting events, and creating a show based on the themes of the project. Research is underway and the show will hopefully tour in Summer 2020.

Home-Name-Дом-Дом is a partnership between the Elphinstone Institute, the WEA and Modо, commissioned by the North Aberdeenshire LEADER Local Action Group.

The North Aberdeenshire LEADER programme is part-financed by the Scottish Government and the European Community LEADER 2014-2020 programme.



# A Taste of Home

Young people at Encounter are from many different countries, and wanted to learn more about each other's cultures and traditions. They decided to host 3 events with free food and entertainment to celebrate the cultures and cuisine of the communities that make up Peterhead. The events were hugely successful and well attended.

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*What a brilliant night! Great to see all the kids and their families come together, have fun and enjoy themselves.*

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## **January: Burns Supper – Scotland**

Ceilidh dancing, haggis, neeps and tatties, a piper and Doric Tales.

## **February: Tłusty Czwartek (Fat Thursday) – Poland**

Pea soup, lots of donuts, Polish-Scottish Music Group and stories.

## **March: Kaziuko mugė (Saint Casimir's Fair) – Lithuania**

Pink soup, potato pancakes and šakotis, and live music from ALNES.

Funded by Aberdeenshire Youth Bank. In partnership with Peterhead Central School.  
Thanks to R Coutts and Son Butcher, Zanres, Asda, Morrisons and CFine for donations.



# Festivals and Exchanges

Modo is committed to providing young people with the opportunity to extend themselves, to gain new skills and experiences and to meet other like-minded young people. Attending festivals allows young people to share their enthusiasm, celebrate their passion, and to learn new skills and approaches.

This year we took groups to:

- European Youth Circus Training, Lodz, Poland
- Mažoji Teatro Akademija, Vilnius, Lithuania
- Jembe, Monte Compatri, Italy
- European Youth Theatre Festival in Grenoble, France
- The National Youth Circus Event in London

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***I learned a lot at the festival from the other groups. I was proud of myself for trying something new and stepping out my comfort zone. My favourite part of the week was getting to watch all of the shows and learn more about different styles of theatre.***

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# Galas and Events

This year Modo attended 40 galas, workshops and events bringing stilt walkers and circus workshops to towns and villages across Aberdeenshire and beyond, as well as providing shows, fire performances and contributing to parades and events.

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***There is always something to do for everyone. Love seeing the parents taking part with the children. The children love you, the families love you, we love you!***

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The opportunity to give something back is much appreciated by participants and the wider community. By visibly and enthusiastically contributing to community events Modo helps to improve the perceptions of young people, and to recruit new participants.

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***Pupils learned a lot about perseverance as they were not immediately able to perform the skills. It was great to see my quiet pupils grow in confidence and try new things. A thoroughly enjoyable inclusive experience.***

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# Lithuania

In May, Modo visited Vilnius, Lithuania. Staff and volunteers spent the week teaching adults who work with people with disabilities different skills and methods of working.

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***My favourite thing about Lithuania was meeting the people that we were working with and creating a bond.***

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Whilst there Modo performed their show Confusion of Tongues at a residential institute for people with disabilities. The residents and staff thoroughly enjoyed it!

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***I learned a lot of theatre skills; what a monologue is, how to improvise and how to work as part of a chorus.***

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Modo worked alongside the Lithuanian teachers and directors from France to learn different methods of performance and teaching. The group put the skills they learned into practice and created a show which they performed at the end of the week.

Funded by the Lithuanian Culture Council. In partnership with Mažoji Theatre Academy in Vilnius, Fernand and Romano Garnier, Crearc Theatre (Grenoble, France).



# Jembe

Jembe, an international festival of theatre and education, was set up by lustumo in partnership with Modo in 2017. In June, Modo staff and volunteers returned to Italy for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of Jembe.

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***It was a wonderful experience!. I gained so much.***

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Modo and lustumo spent the week delivering workshops to 100 young people. The workshops included circus, acrobalance, theatre, clowning, commedia dell'arte, percussion and stilt walking.

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***We are very excited that our daughter attended Jembe!  
The initiative was a moment of real growth and learning.***

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Modo performed both their Flaming Fantastic fire show and Doricula. At the end of the week, the young people who took part in the festival paraded through the village and performed their new skills to families, friends and the locals.

Jembe is led by lustumo and funded by Doc Educational and Regione Lazio.



# Flaming Fantastic

Modo staff and volunteers spent 3 months creating an all new fire show, bringing together new skills and techniques.

Flaming Fantastic is a rousing fire performance by Modo's troupe of performers. A high energy, choreographed fire performance and pyrotechnic spectacular.

The thirty-minute show was first performed in June as part of the Light the Blue Festival in Aberdeen. The show then went on to be performed in Italy and France.

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***Well done to Modo last night for putting on a fantastic fire performance at the Lido as part of the Scottish Week Celebrations.***

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Flaming Fantastic was performed at various events around Aberdeenshire including Scottish Week, Light up Peterhead and Ellon Christmas Lights. Some of the routines that the young people created were then incorporated into our show, Doricula.

Flaming Fantastic was funded by the Tudor Trust and the Trusthouse Charitable Foundation.



# Support Modo

Modo provides all its youth activities free at the point of use so that opportunities are accessible to those who really need them. We rely on different kinds of fundraising to keep the plates spinning.

We really need the community to support us with this.

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***Modo gets me out of my house and stops me being bored and miserable. Modo helps me gain confidence and helps me with issues whilst also teaching me team building skills and independent skills.***

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Can you make a donation? Please contact us or go online to:

**[www.goldengiving.com/charity/modo](http://www.goldengiving.com/charity/modo)**

Would you be able to help us fundraise in creative and fun ways?

Do you know an organisation that might like to sponsor Modo?

If you can help us to keep making the difference, you will find our contact details at the back.



# Thank you

The work that Modo does would be impossible without the commitment, enthusiasm and support of the volunteers who contribute to every aspect of our work. Thank you to all of you!

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***Working as part of a team, doing routines and being part of the community has given me real confidence.***

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Modo is committed to partnership working and is proud to have worked with the following organisations:

Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership, GIRFEC, Shell, Buchan Development Partnership, Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action and Skills Development Scotland.

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***It helps me make new friends and we get to show everyone our routines and what young people can do.***

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Modo thanks its funders, champions and supporters, without whom none of this would be possible.



# Contact

If you'd like to find out more about Modo and its work, or how to get involved, please contact:

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***You see the work that Modo do in Peterhead town centre and it's a fantastic example of communities taking control, of young people developing skills and confidence and allowing themselves to better be part of our society for the future.***



***Stunning from beginning to end. This exceeded all expectations. Absolutely brilliant show. A skilled and committed cast held us captivated from beginning to end. A show that thoroughly deserves a wider audience.***