



PRESS RELEASE

Seenaryo wins at the Charity Awards 2023

Seenaryo is delighted to announce that it has taken the top prize in the Arts, Culture & Heritage category at this year's Charity Awards, the longest-running and most prestigious awards scheme in the charity sector.

Seenaryo was honoured for its Theatre Leadership Training, which equips participants from under-served communities in Jordan and Lebanon with the tools to create and deliver original theatre productions. Its cascade model then trains the participants how to develop and lead their own projects, continually disseminating the skills and knowledge to more people and more areas.

Alongside the other 9 category winners, Seenaryo was presented with the trophy at the Royal Lancaster Hotel in London on 7 June, hosted by broadcaster, commentator and writer Ayesha Hazarika. The Charity Awards shortlist is chosen by an independent panel of expert judges, themselves all eminent figures in the charity sector. The judges score each entry against six Hallmarks of Excellence before coming together for two days of challenge and discussion to select the winners.

Awards judge Rachel Cockett said it was a "very powerful application, with a lot of good outcomes" and judge Cathy Phelan-Watkins said its reach was "extraordinary".

Sarah Ellis, awards judge and director of digital development for the Royal Shakespeare Company, said the charity had put a lot of care into the project's design and sustainability. She added: "The transferring of skills and learning is strong and creates a holistic approach."

Victoria Lupton, CEO and Founder at Seenaryo, said:

"At the heart of Seenaryo's work is the knowledge that theatre can unleash a community's collective power. We're awarded for our youth leadership programme. One of those youth leaders is Farah - a young Palestinian woman who grew up in Shatila refugee camp in Lebanon, she started making plays about dinosaurs with us as a 13-year-old in the school playground. She's now made 12 plays with Seenaryo, toured to Germany and is employed by Seenaryo as a facilitator. She said this wonderful phrase: Seenaryo makes you feel like there's a light at the end of the tunnel - and that light is you.

This award is dedicated to the young people living in extremely precarious circumstances in Lebanon and Jordan, who tell their stories and stretch their imaginations to the moon and back. It's also for all our team of 100+ coordinators and managers, trainers and finance people, fundraisers and facilitators, 95% of them in Lebanon and Jordan, who dedicate themselves day after day because they believe in this work."

The Shortlist and Winners 2023

Overall Winner: Freedom from Torture

Daniel Phelan Award for Outstanding Achievement:

Dr Hany El-Banna OBE

Category Winners and Shortlist:

Animals & the Environment

WINNER: CPRE, the countryside charity

British Hen Welfare Trust
The Rivers Trust

Arts, Culture & Heritage

WINNER: Seenaryo

Raw Material
Tender Education and Arts

Campaigning & Advocacy

WINNER: Freedom from Torture

Campaign for Better Transport
Solace Women's Aid

Children & Youth

WINNER: Sister System

Safer London
Kumon Y'all

Disability

WINNER: My Life My Choice

Designability
Lightyear Foundation and Flamingo Chicks

Education & Training

WINNER: South West Grid for Learning

Diverse Cymru
Support Through Court

Grantmaking & Funding

WINNER: RefuAid

Winner, the Preston Road Women's Centre
360Giving

Healthcare & Medical Research

WINNER: The Fishermen's Mission

St David's Hospice Care
Trekstock

International Aid & Development

WINNER: Our Sansar

Hospices of Hope
Sreepur Village Bangladesh

Social Care, Advice & Support

WINNER: Refuge

Affordable Justice
Islington Mind

For more information: Eleanor Jacob | 07972692211 | eleanor@seenaryo.org | www.seenaryo.org