



## PRESS RELEASE

17th December 2024 - *For immediate release*

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## CONEY ANNOUNCES CLOSURE IN APRIL 2025

After over fifteen years of pioneering interactive experiences to spark change through play, BAFTA-winning arts charity Coney has announced it will close in April 2025.

Founded on a vision to make the world a little lovelier, Coney has delivered innovative work at the intersection of play, art, theatre, and social change. Coney's diverse portfolio of work has ranged from intimate experiences to large-scale events to community-driven projects, always with a focus on engaging people in meaningful ways. Highlights include:

- **A Small Town Anywhere:** An interactive theatre show bringing together a playing audience to become citizens of a small town during the most momentous week in its history.
- **Telephone:** A critically-acclaimed interactive storytelling show that connected strangers during lockdown, exploring the history of telecommunications and human connectivity.
- **The Golden Key:** An extraordinary transformation of the City of London for one day only with a huge programme of immersive theatre, games, and performances.
- **The Young Coneys Training Programme:** An innovative programme for Year 5 pupils focussing on youth empowerment and social change through play.
- **The Ministry of Time Travel:** A series of playful immersive adventures, created for young people & families visiting The National Archives.

This news follows changes to Coney's funding structure in 2022, including the transition out of Arts Council England's National Portfolio. Since then, the charity has carefully explored various paths forward. Despite the dedication of Coney's board and team in seeking sustainable solutions, the organisation has reached the considered decision that the charity cannot continue to

operate in today's challenging funding landscape. Coney also announces that co-founder and CEO Tassos Stevens has departed the organisation by mutual agreement in December 2024, after fifteen years, to pursue new creative ventures.

### **QUOTE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

*“During the past 15 years, Coney has grown to occupy a unique position within the UK’s creative arts community. Through the extraordinary commitment of our teams past and present, and the steadfast support of our community and partners, we’ve had the honour of creating work that has transformed spaces, connected people, and inspired positive change. Anyone that has experienced it will know that it is magic.*

*While endings are difficult, we celebrate everything that Coney has achieved and extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has joined us in our mission to make the world a little lovelier.”*

**ENDS**

### **Note to Editors**

#### **About Coney**

Coney is a registered charity (number 1156864) that creates interactive theatre and play-based experiences, from bespoke games for individuals to city-wide adventures for thousands. Founded in 2007, the organisation operates at the intersection of arts and social change, delivering work across the UK and internationally. Every Coney experience aspires to make the world a little lovelier and spark change through the power of play.

#### **Find Coney at:**

Website: [www.coneyhq.org](http://www.coneyhq.org)

Twitter: @agencyofconey

Instagram: @agencyofconey