



A Guide to Venues and Festivals in the North East

Updated January 2016

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Introduction

Here in the North East of England, there is a growing group of people who are truly passionate about supporting artists.

The North East Artist Development Network is led by a small group of organisations committed to support artists to develop their work. It grew out of the NewcastleGateshead Cultural Venues Creative Programmers group coming together with the North East Venues group to form an independent network.

We want to support artists who are living and working in this region to make outstanding performance work, not just by programming it, but by supporting its development too.

Despite the challenging economic climate, we are working both individually and collaboratively to provide more support and opportunities for artists than ever before.

We know that money isn't everything – although it helps – but aside from financial support, we can also provide space for rehearsals, sharings and performances; technical, marketing, financial and creative advice; and support for funding. We can act as advocates for your work with potential funders and programmers, and most importantly, we can see your work and provide critical analysis and feedback to help with its future development.

We believe the North East is a fantastic place to live and work whatever you do, and we want to ensure we are supporting artists to fulfil their creative potential. That is why we are publishing this document, which outlines some of the opportunities available. Whilst it is not an exhaustive list, we hope it provides a useful starting point for artists seeking support and not least, demonstrates our commitment to making the North East *the* place for artists to create exceptional new work.

Anthony Baker & Annabel Turpin
Co-Chairs, North East Artist Development Network

North East Artist Development Network

The project is led by a steering group consisting of:

Anthony Baker, Dance City (Co-chair)
Gez Casey, Live Theatre
Jo Cundall, Northern Stage
Kate Craddock, GIFT
Helen Green, Arts Centre Washington
Natalie Querol, The Empty Space
Jo Potts, Alnwick Playhouse
Annabel Turpin, ARC (Co-chair)

ARC acts as project manager for the Network, reporting to the steering group.

Venue Partners

Alnwick Playhouse
ARC, Stockton
Arts Centre Washington
Customs House, South Shields
Dance City, Newcastle
Gala Theatre, Durham
Gateshead Arts Development
Hartlepool Town Hall Theatre
Live Theatre
Middlesbrough Theatre
Northern Stage, Newcastle
Queen's Hall Arts Centre, Hexham
Seaton Delaval Arts Centre
The Maltings, Berwick
The Witham, Barnard Castle

Contact:

Annabel Turpin (Co-chair)
T: 01642 525181
E: annabel.turpin@arconline.co.uk

Alnwick Playhouse

Artistic Policy

Our mission is to enrich the life of the community through diverse, inspiring cultural experiences. We achieve this by providing a rich and balanced mix of professional touring drama, music, dance and film of the highest quality alongside community productions. The programme balance is approximately 60% professional and 40% community. We engage the community through our learning and participation programme which includes the Playhouse Choir, Concert Band, Youth Theatres and Young Alnwick Playhouse.

Professional Programme

The Playhouse professional programme does aspire to bring the best touring productions to the region. Our live theatre programme highlights from 2015 include Romeo & Juliet by Shakespeare's Globe, Opera North & The Wrong Crowd with Swanhunter, Pocket Propeller's Merchant of Venice and Tangled Feet's Kicking and Screaming.

We are passionate about supporting new artists although we do have to be commercially minded most of the time but not all the time. Whenever possible we encourage artists to build relationships with our local community through various pre/post participation workshops, talks and events. Generating an audience for new work is the biggest challenge and if you are thinking about approaching us for support, you will need to be clear about who your audience is and how your work can/will engage them.

Due to our small team of staff and financial constraints we usually work in partnership with other arts organisations to help present new work by emerging artists. Currently we are part of the REACH programme, Bridging the Gap and NEAD.

Space

The Playhouse has one auditorium space with 266 seats, a generous greenroom with two chorus dressing rooms and living area. We have no free access to a studio space but we can negotiate a price with the owners if we identify a project/artist/company whose work requires it.

Contact:

Jo Potts, Playhouse Manager

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E: programming@alnwickplayhouse.co.uk

W: www.alnwickplayhouse.co.uk

ARC, Stockton Arts Centre

Artistic Policy

ARC's artistic policy is to present work that is contemporary and relevant. By that, we mean we want to show work that helps us understand and enjoy the world as it is today. We want to look forward, to excite you about the future.

ARC presents some of the newest and most exciting performance work being made in the UK today. Our programme features nationally-renowned artists and companies, who are making work we believe is relevant to people's lives today. This includes supporting the development of work by local and regional artists.

Often we bring work to ARC that challenges perceptions of what performance might usually look like, that offers audiences a different kind of experience to more traditional forms of theatre.

We don't generally book work that is based around classic texts or adaptations, or that has historical themes. The majority of our work is set in the modern day.

Ultimately, we present work we are passionate about, so there are exceptions to everything.

We select artists and companies to work with based on the content and style of their work, if we feel it is a good fit for our programme. We attend festivals and showcases, meet artists, listen to recommendations from other professionals and see as many individual performances as we can, all of which help us to identify people we want to work with.

Our drama, dance and spoken word programme is usually booked around 12 months ahead. If you are an artist or company interested in being part of our programme, please email details to annabel.turpin@arconline.co.uk at the earliest stage of developing your work. Let us know how you think it fits into our programme, and how you can support us to engage and develop audiences, and we will tell you whether it is something we are interested in or not.

ARCADE

ARCADE is a free membership scheme open to professional practitioners working in performance (primarily theatre, dance and spoken word) in the North East region. It is designed to bring professional practitioners together, to network and collaborate, to share ideas and resources, and to support the creation of new work in the region.

ARCADE activities include:

- regular 'scratch' nights designed to enable artists to show work in progress for critical feedback
- professional development workshops to assist with the development of artistic practice
- opportunities to perform at ARC on a shared risk basis, to provide a platform for the work to be seen by funders, programmers and local audiences
- one-to-one surgeries with ARC staff, to provide advice and guidance
- free tickets to drama, spoken word and dance performances at ARC, to encourage exposure to professional work

Space +

Each year ARC supports a number of artists and companies we are excited about to spend time at ARC – we might feel they have a particular talent, need more support to develop their work, or have a longer term relationship with us that we want to continue. We invest in their development by providing a package of support, which as well as free space at ARC can also include funding for basic costs, artistic, technical or marketing advice, an artistic mentor or associate or any other support required.

Sometimes time at ARC is used simply to develop ideas, but it is also used for intensive rehearsals on a specific piece of work, or even a production week leading to the opening of a show.

In particular, we work with artists to connect to potential audiences during their time at ARC, to support our audience development work. As well as having the opportunity to talk to ARC staff about their work, artists can also share work in progress with invited or public audiences, to meet individuals or groups representative of their target audiences, to invite potential audiences to participate in development activity, to lead workshops around their practice or content of the show, to carry out local research, to promote pop-up activity in appropriate locations, to connect with other local

professional artists through our ARCADE network, to meet audiences attending other shows at ARC, to meet local 'experts' in their field of research and to develop visual material to support the marketing of their show locally.

All activity is supported and facilitated by ARC staff, to enable artists to make real local connections and to develop their understanding of potential audiences.

Associate Artists and Companies

ARC continues to develop enhanced relationships with a number of selected regional artists and companies whose work we feel is valuable to ARC's artistic programme. Packages of support are tailored to the needs of the individual artists, but the relationship is intended to lead to the presentation of work at ARC.

Support is likely to include ARC staff acting as an ongoing creative mentor or producer, as well as more practical assistance such as help with funding applications, rehearsal space, production, technical and marketing support.

'Associate' relationships are regularly reviewed, usually at the end of each project or production, to ensure that they remain of mutual benefit.

Projects

Alongside ARC's core artist development activities, we also look to proactively develop projects with other partners. Previous examples of this include:

- PLACE, a series of five seed commissions for new work, in partnership with Festival of the North East
- Northern Elements, a spoken word development project for the greater North area run by ARC on behalf of Arts Council England
- Amuse Bouche, an initiative with Apples and Snakes to support spoken word artists moving towards professional performance
- Verb New Voices, a spoken word talent development project with BBC Radio 3

Routes North

Routes North is a North area initiative run by ARC in conjunction with Theatre in the Mill, Bradford and The Lowry, Salford. We jointly select and support a company to rehearse and perform a new piece of work through a package of support including rehearsal and performance space across all three venues.

Routes North is advertised in the spring, with selection made by the end of May each year. The rehearsal/production period runs from January – February.

Contact:

Chloe Lawrence, Programme Coordinator

T: 01642 665400

E: chloe.lawrence@arconline.co.uk

W: www.arconline.co.uk

Arts Centre Washington

Arts Centre Washington (ACW) is a community arts hub, providing a base for a variety of artists and creative industries in addition to supporting resident theatre and dance companies. It seeks to build engagement in the arts primarily amongst the residents of Washington and Sunderland which have some of the lowest levels of engagement in England.

Whilst it is a multi purpose arts centre that also programmes exhibitions, film, comedy and music; our core priorities are:

- Work for, by and with children and young people
- Artistic development and support - for emerging and established performing artists and their work
- The development of small scale theatre, dance and spoken word for Sunderland audiences

There is also a strong current of participation running through everything we do with approximately 75% of visitors to ACW taking part in activities.

There are only two professional theatres in Sunderland: Sunderland Empire and ACW - opposite ends of the spectrum in terms of programme, size, audiences, funding etc. ACW therefore seeks to achieve a balance to such a large, commercial theatre by concentrating on work that is original, inventive and, of course, small scale. Work that really appeals to us has the ability to engage us intellectually and emotionally. We try to find work that has a resonance for local audiences and a relevance to their lives. For instance, politics or anything to do with the armed forces sells well! Whilst we prefer to leave the classics to larger theatres we recognise the attraction for infrequent theatre attenders to known product. Consequently, we are always interested in adaptations of well known/classic novels and programme as a way of switching on our audiences to more original, edgy theatre. We also really like funny, quirky theatre; theatre that uses our space in a different way and theatre that engages directly with the audience – although not necessarily all these qualities at the same time.

ACW is also a member of the North East Children's Theatre Consortium, the North East Dance Network; and Paines Plough's small scale touring network.

ACW is also leading on an audience development project called **Sunderland Stages**, in partnership with The Royalty Theatre and Sunderland University

Students Union. This initiative will present work by North East based theatre companies in venues, found and site-specific spaces in Sunderland. The main aim of the project is to drive up public engagement in new, original theatre.

ACW has joined the group of participating venues to support the **Bridging the Gap** initiative for the first time.

Greenhouse

ACW hosts a seasonal theatre scratch night called Greenhouse (to complement Hothouse, our showcase for emerging musicians). Scratches by performers from the entire North East region are welcome.

Residencies and rehearsal space

Arts Centre Washington is able to host artist residencies where funding is available, and also offers free rehearsal space to emerging artists on an ad hoc basis (subject to availability) to theatre and dance companies. The theatre is also available to hire as a rehearsal space to more established companies.

Community Music Space

Community Music Space (funded by DCMS) offers practise space, recording sessions and performance opportunities at Hothouse for emerging artists up to the age of 25yrs. There is accompanying mentoring and technical support from professional musicians and ACW's technical staff. It is the final stage in a progression route that offers music opportunities to children and young people through Pic 'n' Mix (8-12yrs) and Remix (13-19 yrs).

Remix

Remix includes opportunities for graduates to assist professional practitioners deliver Remix sessions giving them experience of leading arts workshops in drama, music, dance, visual arts, film and photography whilst also helping to develop a pool of workshop leaders based in the Sunderland area.

Contact:

Helen Green, Creative Director

T: 0191 219 3455

E: Helen.Green@sunderland.gov.uk

W: www.artscentrewashington.co.uk

The Maltings, Berwick-upon-Tweed

The Maltings (Berwick) Trust (Registered Charity No. 701194 trading as The Maltings and Berwick Visual Arts) is located in Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland. It is England's most northern theatre and cinema and uniquely positioned on the border between England and Scotland, attracting audiences of over 50,000 each year from both sides of the border.

The Maltings' building contains the Main House Theatre (a proscenium arch theatre with raked stalls, circle and boxes, seating 310) and the Henry Travers Studio (a black box space with retractable seating for 74). The venue also includes the Stage Door Bar (a bohemian-style theatre bar), Maltings Kitchen restaurant, offices of the Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival, meeting rooms and associated facilities. Off-site facilities include two galleries in the town: the Granary Gallery (located within the recently refurbished Berwick YHA building) and the Berwick Gymnasium Gallery.

The Maltings currently presents approx. 200 live events annually. Additionally, it is one of the North East's leading independent cinemas, screening around 200 film titles per year.

Artistic Policy

The Maltings is a "mixed-use" venue, presenting both live work across a variety of artforms (theatre, dance, music, comedy, etc.), films & event broadcasts, classes, and visual arts exhibitions.

Typically, we look to programme 1-2 theatre events per month. Whilst our digital theatre broadcasts attract a particular mainstream theatre audience, we also aim to programme an accessible mix of the best of the Fringe, local professional writers and producers, and shows with a regional interest. The majority of the work we programme is small scale. However we do programme larger scale / well-known companies (such as National Theatre of Scotland/The Globe/etc.), performers (Simon Callow) and children's show based on popular literature (Stick Man) or featuring well known faces (Sid's Show/Andy and Mike's Tick Tock Time Machine) at certain times of the year. Whilst we mostly look for revenue generating programming opportunities, we also aspire to develop audiences for more challenging theatre. Our aim for this sort of work in 2016 is to curate a short programme of specially chosen productions.

Recent in-house productions include La Mouche (a playful homage to The Fly), What Happens? (a music/poetry tribute to Langston Hughes), Here

Come The Girls (our hugely successful jukebox/comedy show) and Berwick Festival Opera (our annual Summer opera festival). We are always interested in exploring how we can develop creative partnerships which lead to the creation of new work.

Residencies

Wherever possible, we are keen increase the number of residencies we offer per year, even though we can't guarantee a performance date at our venue, we are keen to offer free rehearsal space for the development of work to emerging artists from across the region (subject to availability).

Contact

Daniel Cox, Programming and Projects Associate

E: programming@maltingsberwick.co.uk

W: www.maltingsberwick.co.uk

Dance City, Newcastle

Artistic Policy

Dance City programmes up to 30 professional shows per year, as well as four new commissions. We are looking for work that introduces new audiences to dance as well as more established work to help create a breadth of access points into dance across the programme.

We are particularly interested in work that contributes both to the dance sector, challenging and inspiring the creative process, and to developing and engaging audiences for dance, particularly where work is challenging and offering new experiences.

If you are approaching us about your work, please let us know how you think it fits into our programme, and how you can support us to engage and develop audiences.

Professional Dance Artists

Dance City offers a range of free development seminars, classes and workshops for professional artists. Guest speakers, practitioners and touring companies deliver a range of activity as part of Dance City's continued commitment to regionally based dance professionals.

The programme for professional artists includes daily professional classes, 9.30am – 11am, covering a variety of styles led by a mix of regular and guest artists, tailored CPD and skills development workshops and seminars and talks on dance issues hosted by leaders in their fields. We produce a fortnightly e-newsletter with latest information on workshops, auditions, open calls around the country and we have a closed Facebook group for professional dance artists keeping regional artists up-to-date of what's on offer on a daily basis.

Creative Summer

Dance City offers eight weeks of applied for/curated free studio space called Creative Summer.

Artists and companies are able to apply, or will be approached by Dance City, to take up a week in the Creative Summer programme. This provides time for artists/companies to explore new ideas, begin new collaborations

and develop their skills and work. It is a great opportunity to access the spaces at Dance City for free without having a particular project or piece of work to deliver. Artists are asked to offer open class during the week and to show progress to date at the end of their Creative Summer week. This provides an opportunity for Dance City to consider the work for one of their regular platform events.

Platforms

Fresh, an artist led initiative at Dance City, is an open forum for sharing and discussing work in very early stages of development.

Dance Edits is Dance City's showcase for North East based dance makers. Work featured will include pieces from the most exciting companies and artists in the region.

Northern Platforms is an opportunity to perform as part of a Northern Platform in Leeds, Liverpool or Edinburgh. Artists/companies are selected by Dance City's Artistic Director.

Commissions

Dance City commissions new dance works from North East based/connected artists each year. Our commissioning programme develops and changes year-on-year. In 2016/17 Dance City will celebrate 30 years of providing dance opportunities and support in the North East. To celebrate this we have commissioned two new pieces of work. Opportunities for commissions in 2017/18 will be posted on our website in September 2016. www.dancecity.co.uk

Residencies

Dance City offers one or two week long residencies, sometimes funded, to dance artists and companies to support their development. Invitations are made by the creative team to regional, national and international artists. Those undertaking residencies are expected to deliver some free classes and/or an end of residency sharing of their work. Residencies can include some support from the Dance City artistic and technical team.

Choreographic Associate Artists

Dance City appoints two choreographic associate artist/companies each year. Those selected receive artistic and technical support and mentoring as required. Free space is offered in our studios and theatre. Choreographic

associate artists are expected to deliver a number of free workshops throughout the year, by negotiation.

Contact:

Anthony Baker, Artistic Director
T: 0191 261 0505
E: alex.anslow@dancecity.co.uk
W: www.dancecity.co.uk

Gala Theatre, Durham

Artistic Policy

We programme popular and mainstream music, drama and comedy, which can be challenging and inspiring. As well as producing our own work, from single handers to ensemble pieces and pantomime, we also book intelligent and original touring work. Being commercial is important, so the work we book must have the scope to be seen by a mainstream audience.

Productions

Over the last seven years, Gala has created and produced 18 productions in-house. From classic and contemporary drama to new writing and an annual pantomime, the range of work is broad.

We are always keen to make contact with directors, writers, designers, musical directors and costume designers to help us bring our productions to life. For organisational reasons, our production strand is currently dormant (with the exception of pantomime), but this is something we are looking re-start. This will create many opportunities for creative practitioners to work on our productions.

Programming

Gala's programme is a mix of music, drama and comedy; and last season, our average audience capacity was 80%. But we don't just stage work by established producers. If you think there is an audience for your work, and we think it is something which fits with our programme, we are happy to consider it. If you have a proposal for an event or production you want to stage, we are always happy to hear your ideas.

Just send us an email about your show, telling us why it is great, why you think it is appropriate for Gala's programme and who you think the audience will be for the work. Please don't send production shots, scripts or DVDs at this stage, just have a clear idea about what you want from Gala.

Space and time

For those artists who we are keen on building a relationship with, we have a small rehearsal space we can offer to give you time to develop your work.

We can offer technical support and practical advice, and an audience to see your work in progress.

Contact:

Jo Cundall, Arts Programme Manager

T: 03000 266624

E: jo.cundall@galadurham.co.uk

W: www.galadurham.co.uk

Gateshead Arts Development, Culture Team

Artistic policy

Gateshead Council's Culture Team provides an innovative and accessible arts programme for Gateshead residents and visitors across the borough. Covering all ages and all art forms and utilising our cultural venues, schools and community settings, parks and outdoor spaces, the majority of our programme is about engagement and audience development for the arts, our key strands are:

- Strategic Partner Development
- Community Arts Development
- Arts for Children & Young People
- Festivals and Events
- Public Art & Commissioning
- Venue Programme & Development

We raise external funding for projects each year to maximise the opportunities we can provide in Gateshead and work in partnership with a wide range of other services and organisations. We produce our cultural 'what's on' magazine promoting our public programme – 'Gateshead Live' and organise everything from one off workshops to residencies and community projects and annual events like Gateshead Family Sculpture Day.

We often work with cultural partners to make sure Gateshead features in the regional offer of cultural events, for example Juice - NewcastleGateshead's festival for children and young people, GIFT, and Winter Festival including Enchanted Parks in Gateshead's Saltwell Park with 22,000 visitors in 2014.

We deliver targeted programmes of work with a diverse range of community participants on projects which are often very personal to them or their geographical location in Gateshead. We also have a Saturday morning Youth Theatre and work with schools on creativity in education including our Northern Cultural Ambassador Network in partnership with Newcastle and Northumberland Councils.

Alongside work in indoor and outdoor, rural and urban community settings, we currently programme the following:

- Caedmon Hall - multi-purpose, versatile arts and performance space with cabaret or raked seating and a maximum capacity of 240.
- St. Mary's Heritage Centre is a magnificent former church overlooking the River Tyne with a capacity of 150 as well as a more intimate workshop space.
- The Gallery at Gateshead Central Library offers a visual arts programme of professional regional artists and national touring exhibitions.

We are always open to suggestions from artists working in any medium, touring work, project ideas and possible partnerships and opportunities for collaboration.

Contact:

Karolynne Hart, Arts Development, Culture Team

T: 0191 433 8449

E: karolynnehart@gateshead.gov.uk

W: www.gateshead.gov.uk

GIFT: Gateshead International Festival of Theatre

GIFT is an annual international festival celebrating contemporary theatre that takes place over a May bank holiday weekend. GIFT provides a platform for regional, national and international new theatre-makers in a unique artist-led festival context. In addition, GIFT curates and hosts a series of one-off events throughout the year.

The festival programme offer a range of professional development opportunities for artists through a varied programme of events including performances, workshops, discussions, and social events all underpinned by a commitment to promoting dialogue and exchange.

We embrace work that is concerned with experimentation, collaboration, crossing disciplines and cultures; work that responds to the times we live in; work that is relevant and challenging, and provides audiences with unique experiences. We are particularly keen to support artists in the region who might not otherwise have an obvious platform for sharing their work in the North East. We want to develop artists and audiences by inviting them to see new work they wouldn't see elsewhere.

GIFTed

Within the festival, the GIFTed programme brings together students and recent graduates - nationally and internationally - to showcase work and facilitate cultural and intercultural dialogue and conversations. GIFTed also provides opportunities for networking and professional development for GIFTed artists within the main programme of work.

If you are interested in performing at GIFT, please send us an email, and come along to the festival and GIFT events.

Contact:

Kate Craddock, Festival Director

T: 0191 227 4921

E: kate@giftfestival.co.uk

W: www.giftfestival.co.uk

Hartlepool Town Hall Theatre

Hartlepool Town Hall Theatre hosts a diverse range of professional and non-professional performing arts to the people of Hartlepool and surrounding areas, including comedy, drama, children's theatre and music.

The theatre is a traditional proscenium arch theatre which holds 404. The space can be adapted to allow for studio style performances; however the technical provisions in this method are limited. Cabaret setting is also available.

We currently have a largely older audience but are working with various consortiums to develop our offer to younger audiences. We are keen to work with young and emerging companies to generate new audiences and engage young people with theatre.

The theatre is managed and wholly funded by Hartlepool Borough Council, whose budgets are under ever-increasing pressure in the current economic climate. Unfortunately this consequently restricts our ability to take risks on our programming. We would welcome expressions of interest by those who understand our position and are happy to work with us on a shared risk basis. Shows which include a workshop or outreach element would be particularly favourable.

We can offer support in kind in the following areas: physical space, technical, marketing and administrative advice.

Proposals can be submitted to the Arts & Events manager.

Contact:

Clare Irvine, Arts & Events Manager

T: 01429 523451

E: Clare.Irvine@hartlepool.gov.uk

W: www.hartlepooltownhalltheatre.com

Highlights Rural Touring Scheme

Highlights is a rural touring scheme. We work in partnership with a network of over 75 promoters in village halls and community venues across Northumberland, Cumbria and Durham to tour the work of regional and national performance companies into the heart of small communities. We mostly tour to rural villages but also to semi urban areas in the south east of Northumberland. We are part of a national network of over 40 touring schemes under the umbrella of the National Rural Touring Forum.

Artistic policy

Highlights programme a range of work (familiar to more challenging) across a variety of artforms – theatre, music, dance, spoken word, children’s shows - as well as special projects and an annual contemporary craft tour each spring. We present small scale work that is of high quality and flexible to meet the needs of a range of village and community venues. Highlights also works in partnership with the NRTF, a consortium of northern schemes, arts partners and agencies to commission and tour new work.

Rural touring provides extensive performance opportunities across the UK for companies who want to connect with new audiences. It is a partnership between the knowledge and commitment of local people - and the expertise of schemes and artists. The schemes are coordinated by professionals but the shows are chosen, promoted and hosted by mostly unpaid local volunteers. Venues are usually unequipped and challenging performance spaces, but are familiar, welcoming spaces for the local community. Most of the audience will live within 5 miles of the venue and the outcome of your performance, for better or worse, will resonate with the local community. Successful rural touring companies are flexible, equipped and understand the terrain.

Highlights operate across two seasons Jan – May and September - December. Each season, we collate a menu - a filtered choice of around 16 artists and companies from which our network of promoters choose to suit their community. When bookings are confirmed Highlights produce a seasonal brochure and provide marketing support to help promoters reach an audience for your show.

If you are interested in touring your work with Highlights, visit the performers section of our website for more information.

Jazz musicians can either approach direct or visit www.jazzservices.org.uk for information on Rural Touring Support Scheme.

Contact:

Rosie Cross & Barbara Slack, Co-Directors

T: 01768 353954

E: info@highlightsnorth.co.uk

W: www.highlightsnorth.co.uk

Live Theatre, Newcastle

Artistic Policy

Live programmes new writing, text based work and theatrical stories that provoke and entertain audiences. We are interested in finding new voices and untold stories that speak to contemporary audiences and have something to say about how we live now. We are open to what new writing and text based work means.

We have two indoor theatre performance spaces, the main house (162 capacity) and a studio theatre (60 capacity), which is flexible and intimate for more experimental work. We are also looking to programme work for children, families and young people, in particular, programming the best and most innovative work outside of the Christmas period. Some of this work will happen in our new outdoor performance space which is due to be ready by May 2016.

We are open to establishing relationships with individuals and companies. Please email us and invite us to see your work, particularly in the development stages (scratches, readings, work in progress showings); if this is not possible then we will look at scripts. We operate three month-long script submission windows during the year (September, February and June). We will only read scripts that are submitted during these periods. For the type of work we are interested in programming, please check our website: <http://www.live.org.uk/new-writing/script-submissions>

Live Theatre/The Empty Space Bursaries for Emerging Artists

Live Theatre and The Empty Space run a bursary scheme for emerging artists, awarding at least one bursary every year. The bursaries enable artists and companies to develop an idea with dramaturgical and technical support over a ten day period in appropriate rehearsal space at Live. There is a public showing of the work in progress and there then follows a discussion between the artists, Live and The Empty Space about future planning for the piece. Recent bursary winners have gone to further development at Live and elsewhere and one has received a full production at Live.

Live Lab Take Over

Building on the success of four years of Live Scratch Nights, curated in association with The Empty Space, 2016 sees the launch of the Live Lab Take Over, a twice yearly event when the three main performance spaces in

the theatre (and elsewhere in and around the building) are given over to new work in development. Each space is curated by a programming partner to showcase the work of a variety of theatre producers and makers. The Take Over will also allow some companies the opportunity to spend up to a week in rehearsal at Live, with appropriate dramaturgical and technical support, and some financial assistance.

Live Lab Associate Artists

Part of the re-launch of our Live Lab talent development strand of work saw the introduction of the Live Lab Associate Artists scheme, where early career artists take part in a bespoke programme of professional development workshops culminating in their participation in a final Production. The first cohort of Associate Artists in 2015 consisted of three spoken word performers and a young theatre director.

Development Time for Emerging Artists and Companies

This is given primarily in order to facilitate the development of a new piece of text-based work. Live is keen to invite a variety of interpretations of what text-based work might be. They recognise that development may take many forms and are happy to accept proposals for different outcomes and ways of working. Artists might want to test an already existing text in some way or spend the week devising with some actors to enable the creation of text. There is no obligation to have a sharing or showback of work at the end of the development time at Live, but these can be arranged if it would be useful to the process.

Subject to availability and suitability, Live can offer:

- 1 week's rehearsal space, in either rehearsal room or studio theatre
- dramaturgical support and advice from our literary department

If you are having a showback, Live are happy to advise and help with invites for industry members. For development work, Live is unable to accommodate a public showback of the work but will enter discussions about the potential inclusion of the work at an appropriate Live Lab session.

Contacts:

Gez Casey & Graeme Thompson
T: 0191 269 3492 / 0191 229 2374
E: gez@live.org.uk / graeme@live.org.uk
W: www.live.org.uk

Middlesbrough Theatre

Artistic Policy

Middlesbrough Theatre aims to deliver a diverse range of professional and non-professional performing arts to the people of Middlesbrough, the Tees Valley and surrounding districts in friendly and welcoming surroundings. To this end, we provide:

- a programme of quality professional productions encompassing a wide range of drama, music, dance and popular entertainment.
- opportunities for young people to experience the creativity of theatre and the performing arts, both as participants and spectators, through a regular programme of productions and workshops.

We welcome interest from any artists and companies who feel they can help us achieve these goals.

The theatre was originally built as a playhouse for the local amateur dramatic society – who still perform here regularly – and our emphasis remains on the presentation of drama, both one-nighters and longer runs. Our core audience is older but we are keen to reach out to younger audiences and have had particular success in recent years with the presentation of new adaptations of classic texts. We are especially keen to present plays that have a “northern voice” and can speak to the experiences of local audiences.

The theatre is a traditional proscenium arch theatre, seating 484 on two levels, and whilst this feels quite intimate, it is not really suited to the more experimental studio-scale productions. There is a new studio space in the neighbouring Toft House – the headquarters of the local amateur dramatic society, Middlesbrough Little Theatre Ltd – who are keen to develop it as a performance space and may be interested in collaborating with us in the presentation of new work.

The theatre is managed and wholly funded by Middlesbrough Council, whose budgets are under ever-increasing pressure in the current economic climate. This severely restricts the theatre’s ability to take risk and our programming is being ever more commercially-driven. Our ambitions to drive the programme forward are consequently countered by these demands. We are therefore regrettably not in a position to offer substantial funding to artists/companies, but welcome expressions of interest by those who

understand our position and are happy to work with us on a shared risk basis.

We are happy to receive outline proposals by e-mail in the first instance. Or call the Theatre Manager for an informal chat.

Contact:

David Lindsey, Theatre Manager

T: 01642 824490

E: David_Lindsey@middlesbrough.gov.uk

W: www.middlesbroughtheatre.co.uk

NewcastleGateshead Initiative (NGI)

Festivals and Events

The Culture Team at NewcastleGateshead Initiative (NGI) currently produce and deliver a number of key festivals and events. In addition to this we also work with partners in response to opportunities that arise. In 2015 the Culture Team is involved in a range of cultural activity including NewcastleGateshead as a host city for the 2015 Rugby Union World Cup.

From 2015 NGI is an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) for producing Juice Festival, an annual festival of arts and culture by and with children and young people.

We can provide opportunities for artists to create work for high profile festivals and events in NewcastleGateshead, and we often look to engage new artists and create new work for each of our festivals, with an emphasis on local artists.

We are interested in work which takes unusual venues and spaces in the city and thinks about how they can be used and what stories could be told. Collaborations are key, so we would be looking to work together with you, venues, businesses and others.

There will also be further opportunities for artists within other festivals and events in 2015 and beyond, and we would be interested to meet and work with new artists. Email us your ideas.

EAT! NewcastleGateshead

EAT! NewcastleGateshead champions local food producers, restaurants and culinary talent in North East England through a programme of events that includes; The Big EAT!, a mouthwatering weekend of street food markets, themed satellite festivals, cookery demonstrations, competitions and food adventures.

Juice – NewcastleGateshead’s festival by and with children and young people

Juice Festival is packed full of activities and events for children, young people and their families. Juice Festival takes place every October half term and is presented in the world-class venues, facilities and open air locations

that make NewcastleGateshead such a brilliant place to live, grow up in, and visit.

Enchanted Parks

Enchanted Parks is an innovative after-dark outdoor arts experience developed and co-commissioned by NewcastleGateshead Initiative and Gateshead Council as part of the annual NewcastleGateshead Winter Festival. Members of the public are invited to join us after-dark to explore Gateshead's Saltwell Park through atmospheric installations, light, sound and performance in this magical and intriguing event for all the family.

New Year's Eve Winter Carnival

Newcastle's **New Year's Eve Winter Carnival** will see an array of theatrical creations take over the streets and entertain crowds with dancers, musicians and performers.

Chinese New Year

The Chinese New Year Festival returns to Newcastle upon Tyne in February 2015 to celebrate the Year of the Sheep, bringing a programme of Chinese Lion, Dragon and Unicorn dancing through the streets of China Town, performances, a number of stalls, and creative educational activities for children and families.

Contact:

Vikki Leaney, Programme Development Manager

T: 0191 440 4757

E: vikki.leaney@ngi.org.uk

W: www.Newcastle.Gateshead.com

Chris Batstone, Juice Festival artistic director

T: 0191 440 5745

E: chris.batstone@artscouncil.org.uk

W: www.juicefestival.co.uk

Northern Stage, Newcastle

Artistic Policy

NORTHERN STAGE makes ambitious, intelligent, enjoyable theatre. We do this by

- producing new work for adults, children and families at our home in Newcastle and on tour around the UK
- collaborating with the most inventive regional, national and international theatre and dance companies and artists to present and celebrate their work
- encouraging and supporting audiences to take a risk with us
- creating the conditions for emerging and established theatre makers to develop their work
- inviting people of all backgrounds and ages to make theatre with us

We are committed to offering a programme of work which supports and offers a platform to the widest possible diversity of artists, in order to grow audiences for their work in the North East. All of our produced theatre is offered in accessible formats for Deaf and Disabled audiences including our groundbreaking integrated BSL performances.

Below is a rough guide to how we programme our spaces:

Stage 1: Contemporary and classic plays, adaptations and new commissions. We are increasing our produced and co-produced programme of work on this stage but will still present the most intriguing work from mid-scale touring partners.

Stage 2: A space for what comes next. An innovative residency programme that invites visiting companies to make ambitious new work in a fully technically resourced environment, while simultaneously engaging in participatory and audience development initiatives. Bespoke residencies are offered by invitation and in collaborative conversation and will include a cash investment as well as in kind support. We occasionally have straight presenting slots in this space.

Stage 3: a low-cost, accessible, technically supported community/fringe space. Stage 3 operates on a shorter programming cycle and presents work from across a wide range of disciplines and for artists at differing stages of their careers. It also functions as a community space and seeks to connect

with a variety of local partners working within the social inclusion and creative development agenda.

We have monthly programming meetings at which suitable work is discussed. If an approach is personally made ie. addressed correctly, and written in a way that shows that the artist/company has researched Northern Stage and the various spaces, then a personalised response will always be given in due course. Generic emails will not be responded to.

Creative Team

Artist development is at the heart of what we do. It will fuel the programming of all our spaces.

Creative Team is our membership scheme for professional artists from a variety of disciplines. The website <http://www.northernstage.co.uk/take-part/creative-team> has further information about this and the forthcoming options which will involve a programme of workshops, masterclasses, performance opportunities and talks.

First in Three: Northern Stage's scratch-night

A chance for theatre-makers, writers and performers to showcase new work and try it out for the first time in front of an audience in the Stage 3 space. The audience are asked to give written feedback, answering questions set by the performers, and are encouraged to stay around afterwards, have a drink and chat to the performers about their work. The evenings have a lovely, collaborative and generous feel to them and are a great chance for artists to see each other's work and make connections. All contributors are unpaid and submissions are accepted up to six weeks before each event.

Title Pending: The Northern Stage Award for New Theatre

Title Pending is an annual award for the most innovative, thoughtful and intriguing proposal for a new piece of theatre. It is a competitive process. Artists are asked to submit an idea and a national panel of theatre professionals short list and interview candidates before deciding on a winner.

The prize is a two week, fully supported residency within the Northern Stage building and a cash bursary of £2,000 to really develop an idea or work on a current project in a professional theatre setting.

Spare Room

A way to share our resources. Free last-minute spaces to any individual or group, for the purposes of creative work. This can be anything from one of our main stages down to a dressing room. Allocated on a first come, first served basis. Artists need to register their interest and sign up to our email list, then on a Thursday they will receive the breakdown of what space we have available for the following week. This is given on a room only basis so no technical support can be offered.

Periodic workshops

We always try to capitalise on our presented programme and offer workshops and masterclasses with visiting artists when possible. These offers are always made to our full Creative Team mailing list and are usually allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Contact:

Katie Catling, Project Co-ordinator – Stage 3 and Creative Team enquiries
T: 0191 242 7205
E: kcatling@northernstage.co.uk

Sarah Brown, Programming Manager – Stage 1 & 2,
T: 0191 242 7217
E: sbrown@northernstage.co.uk
W: www.northernstage.co.uk

Queen's Hall Arts Centre, Hexham

Artistic Policy

As the only venue serving a large rural catchment in West Northumberland we programme a wide range of professional and community based activity in our theatre, studio and gallery spaces (and through outreach programmes). We play a part in the local, regional and national arts ecology. We specifically aim to support new and emerging artists and companies in the North East.

In our current three-year plan we have three priority areas:-

- expanding the delivery of work for and by young people
- expanding our digital programme (mainly gallery and web based)
- broadening the socio-economic base of our audiences

Through the above, and in other areas, we aim to meet the needs and aspirations of our major core funders, Arts Council England and Northumberland County Council.

Productions

We produce/co-produce around 4 small-scale productions per year (mainly new writing) which open in our studio and tour in the North East. We also periodically support companies and individual artists through commissions, residencies, R&D support, etc.

Programming

We programme year round with a mix of music, drama, dance, literature, variety, comedy and specialist events. The range is broad – with challenging new work alongside more popular and populist work.

We are part of two major consortia funded by Arts Council England:-

- Reach – a consortium of regional venues that aims to bring more high quality nationally touring drama into the North East.
- Black Theatre Live – a network that is expanding the volume of BME work touring nationally through shared programming and commissioning.

Contact:

If you have specific programme ideas or you are looking for support to develop new work please contact:

Geof Keys, Artistic Director

T: 01434 652477

E: geof.keys@queenshall.co.uk

W: www.queenshall.co.uk

Saltburn Community & Arts Association

Artistic policy

Nestled in the centre of the popular seaside resort of Saltburn by the Sea we occupy a Grade II listed Arts & Crafts building. We celebrated our 100 year anniversary in 2010. The Association policy is to educate through performance. We aim for as diverse a programme as possible to cater for all types of audiences. Engaging audiences is key to our ongoing audience development. As well as our own programme of events we are available for private hire for touring productions. Last year the Association won the Peoples Millions Lottery Fund to refurbish the theatre.

Spaces

The building has a 150 seat theatre with one large dressing room with toilet to the back and two smaller spaces either side of the stage. We have community hall with a capacity of 120 and a coffee room for meetings holding 40. There is a kitchen/bar area to supply all three spaces. As well as being a resource for the community there is a full programme of events throughout the seasons. Disabled toilets and access is available at the venue including a loop system in the theatre.

Programming

Highlights this year have been performances from the REACH project with professional theatre companies Third Angel & Tangled Feet. The opera L'enfant et les sortilèges by the Samling Academy which then took the production on to rave reviews at the Sage Gateshead. We also provided a live streaming of the Annual Conference for the local WI.

The local '53 Drama Group rehearses here and performs four times a year with one performance from the youth section, an annual pantomime and hosts a Spring Drama Festival every year.

There is a popular film society screening at least two films per month with an Annual Film Festival in May.

There is also an Annual Art Exhibition held over the August Bank Holiday open to all artistic forms and all levels of experience.

We play host to touring theatre companies and music shows and our monthly jazz evenings, which are cabaret style regularly sell out. We work closely with Jazz North to help showcase emerging musicians and groups.

Always keen to work with new artists I would be happy to hear any ideas which could attract funding and bring exciting performances to our stage.

Contact:

Wilma Gardiner-Gill, Arts Development Promoter

T: 01287 624997

E: arts@saltburnarts.co.uk

W: saltburnarts.co.uk

Seaton Delaval Arts Centre

Artistic Policy

We programme popular and mainstream music, drama and comedy, which can be challenging and inspiring. As well as producing our own work, from single handers to ensemble pieces and pantomime, we also book intelligent and original touring work. Being commercial is important, so the work we book must have the scope to be seen by a mainstream audience.

Productions

Since opening in 2007 the Arts Centre and associated Pantomime Society has produced a range of shows including plays, dramas, musicals, Geordie Nights and a successful yearly Pantomime. We are always keen to make contact with directors, writers, designers, musical directors and costume designers to help us bring our productions to life.

Programming

Our programme is a mix of music, drama and comedy and community theatre. We aim to host shows and events to include the entire community, from 5 year olds through to 50 year olds. We often book performances on a split basis, but can work with set fees providing it is viable. The centre is a registered charity ran entirely by volunteers with no paid members of staff, so performances need to be financial viable.

If you think there is an audience for your work, and we think it is something which fits with our programme, we are happy to consider it. If you have a proposal for an event or production you want to stage, we are always happy to hear your ideas. Just send us an email about your show, telling us why it is great, why you think it is appropriate for our programme and who you think the audience will be for the work.

Space and time

For those artists who we are keen on building a relationship with, we have a small rehearsal space we can offer to give you time to develop your work.

Contact:

Stu Bennett, Operations Manager

T: 0191 237 5460

E: stubennett@seatondelavalartscentre.com

W: www.seatondelavalartscentre.com

Sage Gateshead

Artistic Policy

The Sage Gateshead is a music venue with three performance spaces:

- Hall 1 (700 seated, 1550 standing capacity)
- Hall 2 (400 flexible capacity)
- Northern Rock Foundation Hall (flat floor space for small scale concerts)

We are interested in quality and diversity, commissioning new work and nurturing and developing new artists. We programme all genres of music and sometimes non-music artforms when they include live music, such as comedy or spoken word. We are particularly interested in ways artists can integrate learning and participation with performance.

Approach us by contacting us via email or telephone.

The Sage Gateshead's support for young and emerging artists falls into three areas:

Performance opportunities

Regular student showcase events (across a range of genres and contexts); a pro-active policy of seeking out young and emerging artists/students for support slots and concourse performances; one or two popular and contemporary gigs per month featuring emerging local acts; Folk Rising showcase concert series, co-programmed with the English Folk Dance and Song Society, presenting emerging folk acts, ideally but not confined to artists from the North East; Folkworks Hexham Gathering festival presenting young emerging folk musicians. The Sage Gateshead also regularly commissions artists to create new work.

Professional training

An ongoing programme including one-off master-classes; music business seminars; community music, teaching skills and workshop skills training; presentation training; bespoke mentoring on specific skills/roles (e.g. composition or teaching); co-mentoring for early and mid-career musicians; one-off bespoke work-based placements across The Sage Gateshead's programme. Professional artists are also welcome to attend workshops

offered to the public. The provision of external tutors/visiting artists of sufficient variety or high quality is a learning opportunity for professional musicians whom we work with.

Pre-professional training

We offer roll-on, roll-off Creative Apprenticeships (work-based learning for people aged 18 – 25); BA (Hons) Community Music and BMus Jazz, Popular and Commercial Music (taught in partnership with Sunderland University); master-classes and rehearsal/workshops for composition students (which may lead to the performance of new works) Introduction to Community Music – workshop skills training course; and HE Access Course in Community Music.

Contact:

Katherine Zeserson

T: 0191 443 4586

E: Katherine.zeserson@sagegateshead.com

W: www.thesagegateshead.com

Seven Stories, Newcastle

Artistic Policy

Seven Stories is Britain's home for children's literature. We champion the art of children's books, ensuring their place as an integral part of childhood and of our national cultural life.

We hold a nationally important collection of artwork, manuscripts and archives created by Britain's highly acclaimed writers and illustrators for children from c.1930s to the present day. We are creative in the way that we share our Collection and bring books to life - sharing our knowledge through exhibitions, public programmes, learning and participation, research and digital media. Seven Stories' exhibitions have a child-centred approach to design and production, showcasing collections within immersive environments which stimulate play, creativity and learning. Many of our exhibitions tour nationally.

Located in the Ouseburn Valley, Newcastle's cultural quarter, Seven Stories has seven floors of galleries, creative and performance spaces, a specialist bookshop and cafe. A trained team of front of house staff and volunteers animate the centre. We run a year round public programme of author, illustrator and performer events, creative activities, talks, workshops and masterclasses at Seven Stories and other venues.

Our learning and participation programme offers approaches to books and reading that engage different learning styles, inspiring children, young people and families to enjoy books, extend their reading and encouraging them to express their own creativity through creative writing, drama, drawing and other art forms.

We are always interested to hear from artists who have small theatre shows for young children, particularly work which is inspired by children's books. We also programme a number of different creative workshops for young people throughout the year and welcome hearing from artists with different ideas for workshops and classes. Please make an initial approach by email with details on your work, including costs and photographs.

Contact:

Lorna Duncanson, Programme Coordinator

T: 0845 271 0777 Ext 219

E: lorna.duncanson@sevenstories.org.uk

W: www.sevenstories.org.uk

Stockton International Riverside Festival (SIRF)

Artistic Policy

Stockton International Riverside Festival is a European festival of outdoor arts and street theatre held in public spaces in Stockton town centre, run by Stockton Borough council. We are interested in work of different scales e.g. large and small, spectacular and intimate, that tells wonderful stories and has lots of community engagement. We consider how things work in different environments and how we juxtapose shows next to each other and the landscape.

We are interested in premiering and presenting work that hasn't been seen elsewhere in the UK, and we also commission new work in partnership with other festivals, artists and organisations, for example, Without Walls Commissioning Consortium (outdoor arts festivals in UK) and Gone in 20 Minutes (national showcase for emerging artists and new work). Both include mentoring support and development funding as we want to help build work for outdoors.

Approach us via email, telephone, arrange a meeting or invite us to see your work. We want to build relationships and discuss your ideas about creating work for outdoors.

Contact:

Jan Doherty, Artistic Director

T: 01642 526465

E: jan.doherty@stockton.gov.uk

W: www.sirf.co.uk

TakeOff Festival, Durham

Artistic Policy

TakeOff Festival of Theatre for Children and Young People is an annual festival of children and young people's theatre for audiences which takes place in venues across the North East. We are interested in work that shows respect for young audiences and how important they are, and we want to work with people who share our passion for creating good quality theatre for young audiences. We programme work on all scales from small groups to large theatre spaces and welcome professional colleagues from the UK and abroad to the region to share the work with our audiences.

In 2014, the festival starts a new two year cycle, with the 3–day delegate festival becoming biennial and a larger regional programme every year for schools and families. The Festival works with a guest programmer across the two year cycle to programme 15 – 20 companies annually from both within and outside the UK. One of our ambitions is to programme artists and companies from the North East.

There is an application procedure to show work at the festival which opens annually in December. We are also happy to have a chat with you about your work, so do call us to arrange a meeting.

Scratch programme

At each of the biennial delegate festivals, Theatre Hullabaloo will be offering opportunities for artists to present new pieces of scratch work specifically for young audiences in the festival Departure Lounge. These opportunities will be offered in 2015 & 2017.

The scratch programme will provide a place to try out a new idea or for more developed work to find a platform to attract co-producers, partners, funders - or just advice. The festival provides a small budget for each piece, space, a delegate audience, a professional mentor and a free delegate pass so artists can share in the full TakeOff programme. If you have an idea to develop, please get in touch.

In 2015 & 2017 we are also offering 3 new commissions in partnership with Northern Stage, Live Theatre & Dance city to artists based in the North East, or with a strong connection to the region, who are interested in developing theatre for young audiences. Selected artists will be given a budget to

create a scratch piece and mentoring and professional development opportunities during their creation process.

All three commissions will be presented in scratch during TakeOff, as well as having a platform in Newcastle. The aim of the project is to create a critical mass of artists engaged with creating dynamic work for young audiences in our region.

TakeOff 2015 will take place in venues across the region from 19 - 25 October. Follow Theatre Hullabaloo on Facebook and Twitter for updates on the festival programme.

Contact:

Miranda Thain, Creative Producer

T: 01325 352004

E: Miranda@theatrehullabaloo.org.uk

W: www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk

The Customs House, South Shields

Artistic Policy

More than 60 populist plays have been produced at the Customs House over the last few years. Our core audience are older and we are keen to work with young and emerging companies to generate new audience and engage young people with theatre. We programme theatre and other shows across four performance spaces, and well as site specific work outside the venue.

If you would like us to consider your work, please take time to understand the venue – come and visit, get a feel for the spaces. We prefer not to receive DVDs or unsolicited scripts, but would rather you contacted us with some details, and if we are interested, we will arrange to meet you.

We are interested in exploring the potential of our 140 seat Community Theatre space with work aimed at young people, children and families which might include an element of outreach work.

We can offer support in kind in the following areas: physical space, technical, marketing and administrative advice.

Contact:

Helen Dobson
Marketing, Programming & Fundraising Coordinator
E: helen@customshouse.co.uk
T: 0191 427 3741
W: www.customshouse.co.uk

The Empty Space

The Empty Space works towards a thriving, independent theatre sector. As well as working with Live Theatre on their programme of bursaries for Emerging Artists and Scratch Nights, we offer a range of direct support for the region's theatre makers.

Advice

Artists can book surgeries with the Director, Natalie Querol to discuss any aspect of their work, from artistic development, to setting up a company, booking a tour or simply getting a sense of the landscape in the North East. The Empty Space also offers support for artists developing pitches for Meet the Programmers.

This Way Up

The Empty Space provides producing support for ten North East based artists/companies, with a particular focus on national touring. Details of the artists and Associate Producers involved can be found at <http://www.theemptyspace.org.uk/doing/this-way-up>

Producer development

In addition to increasing the pool of producers working in the region through a range of traineeships we provide mentoring for emerging producers. We do not currently have funded mentoring opportunities but will support the development of funding applications that include mentoring fees within a programme of development activity.

Ad hoc events and opportunities

For information on additional events and opportunities such as masterclasses or bursaries sign up for The Empty Space newsletter by joining the mailing list at www.theemptyspace.org.uk.

Contact:

Natalie Querol, Director
T: 0788 7566919
E: nataliequerol@theemptyspace.org.uk
W: www.theemptyspace.org.uk

Tyneside Cinema, Newcastle

Artistic Policy

At Tyneside Cinema we are interested in work that allows audiences to experience, enjoy and engage with the past, present and future of cinema. We are especially focused on examining the creative crossover between artists and filmmakers and their work with the moving image.

Arts Programme

The Arts programme extends the Cinema's mission by working with artists and curators to develop and deliver artist residencies, commissions, exhibitions, live events, research projects and opportunities for young people.

The Factory

The Factory is a free digital arts project for young people at Tyneside Cinema. Sessions are run weekly in seasons, each season lasting between 4 and 5 months. The Factory is run by young artist mentors, close in age to the participants, but who have been trained by the Cinema.

The Gallery

The Gallery is Tyneside Cinema's new exhibition space and cinema screen. Throughout the day it hosts exhibitions of moving image art for free to the public, and during the evening it transforms into a 33 seater cinema screening movies from around the world. Exhibitions in the Gallery are complemented by an events programme that including live artist talks, artist film screenings as well as school programmes.

Artist Residencies

In October 2011, Tyneside Cinema launched its first Artists in Residence programme. Each year three emerging and mid-career artists work across the fields of digital technology, new media and moving image for eight weeks. During this time, the resident artists have developed new work, mentored The Factory group and presented their work at events. In the case of Kelly Richardson (Artist in Residence 2011), the work developed, *Mariner 9*, went on to be exhibited internationally to great critical acclaim.

Find out more about Tyneside Cinema's Arts Programme at www.tynesidecinema.co.uk/art or follow us on twitter @TynesideArt.

Contact:

Richard Hibbs, Artistic Programme Producer

T: 0191 227 5525

E: richard.hibbs@tynesidecinema.co.uk

W: www.tynesidecinema.co.uk

Wunderbar

Artistic Policy

Wunderbar produces stand-out projects that bring audiences and artists together on journeys of intrigue and wonder.

Previously the highly acclaimed Wunderbar Festival, it is now an ongoing initiative with the aim of inspiring, challenging and nurturing new philosophies for modern living.

We produce dynamic, creative projects that place the audience at the heart of the experience and bring work to unusual places and spaces that take in the city and invite people to take part.

Our projects are led by artists, but fuelled by unique contributions from those who take part, responding with creativity and playfulness to issues of relevance to real people, real places and real time.

We like work that is playful, brave and mischievous and across every scale, from the most minute of interactions to grand, city centre spectaculars.

We programme performance, installation, extraordinary happenings, interaction, social events and games, and events take place in both traditional venues, like theatres, galleries, arts centres and cinemas, and non-traditional performance spaces, like shopping centres, hairdressers, private homes and city streets.

Take a look at our website to get a taste for what we have done and what we do.

You can approach us via email, Facebook or Twitter and arrange a chat. We also recommend you get involved with other projects we're doing so we can get to know you, and you can get to know us.

Contact:

Ilana Mitchell, Artistic Director

T: 0191 261 6326

E: ilana@wunderbar.org.uk

W: www.wunderbar.org.uk

F: www.facebook.com/wearewunderbar

Tw: www.twitter.com/wearewunderbar

Collaborative initiatives

Bridging the Gap

Bridging the Gap is a project developed by ARC, originally in conjunction with Newcastle Theatre Royal and The Maltings, designed to contribute towards the creation of new theatre work within the North East region.

The venues work together to offer a joint package of in-kind support to enable North East based artists/theatre companies to develop and present new pieces of work across the venues. Over the years the scheme has expanded and now includes ARC, Alnwick Playhouse, Arts Centre Washington, Customs House, Live Theatre, Northern Stage and The Maltings in Berwick.

To date Bridging the Gap has supported:

- Rabbit Damage: Wherever I Lay My Hat (2010)
- INK Productions: Wanting for Anghus (2011)
- Daniel Bye: Ash or How to Occupy an Oil Rig (2012)
- Black Coffee Theatre: Found (2013)
- Amy Mackelden: Retail (2013)
- Encounter Productions: Choir (2014)
- Northern Nomads: Butterfly (2014)

Bridging the Gap is advertised in late autumn, with selection made by the end of January each year. The rehearsal/production period runs from August – October.

Contact:

Chloe Lawrence, Programme Coordinator, ARC

T: 01642 665400

E: chloe.lawrence@arconline.co.uk

W: www.arconline.co.uk