

PITCH UP

helping theatre makers and
venues start conversations

8 May 2015



INTRODUCTION

greenhouse is an initiative aimed at better connecting the ambitions of theatre makers, audiences and venues in the house network. We want to make it easier to form the kinds of alliances that help artists to create their best work, venues to unlock their creative potential and audiences to connect with new theatre.

Pitch Up is one of the ways we're supporting that; a forum for venues and theatre makers to share ideas in a spirit of openness and common purpose. We invested in a number of the relationships that emerged from the first Pitch Up last year and we have timed today's event to coincide with our latest seed funding open call: investments of £3000-£8000 to support house venues and theatre makers to begin work on a new piece of theatre. We hope that this will encourage you to be ambitious when discussing potential collaborations today.

The eleven 10 minute pitches have been divided into three sessions, each followed by an opportunity to discuss, network and connect.

greenhouse is supported by Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and delivered by Farnham Maltings. We are grateful to Paines Plough and Brighton Festival for hosting today's event in the beautiful Roundabout pop-up theatre.

SCHEDULE

- 13.30 Arrivals, teas and coffees
- 13.50 Welcome and introduction
- 14.00 **Activate Performing Arts**
Three Streets Productions Through Different Eyes
The Marlowe Studio Kent's Home of New Writing
Encounter Swingers
- 14.40 Break
- 15.00 **The Freewheelers Theatre Company** Let Me In
Church What You Need My Louise
We Made This Light Is Like...
Applause Rural Touring
- 15.40 Break
- 16.00 **on the button** The Social Housing Project
Write By Numbers Welcome to Runsea
Theatre Royal Margate Margate Rocks
- 16.30 Closing comments before the conversations continue over a drink

ACTIVATE PERFORMING ARTS

Photo: Paul Hampartsoumian



Activate Performing Arts makes high quality arts events happen in and out of venues across Dorset and the wider region.

Activate aims to develop and grow audiences for the Inside Out Dorset festival and for the high quality theatre and dance it co-presents with regional venues. Its participatory programmes are vital to this, inspiring young and old to make and be part of extraordinary, transformational arts.

Activate also aims to support the production of a number of new commissions each year, especially by artists based within the region.

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About Activate Performing Arts



Activate Performing Arts presents, promotes and produces extraordinary events in extraordinary locations across Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole.

A national leader in outdoor performance, Activate is home of the Inside Out Dorset festival and part of an international network of promoters and artists.

Other projects



The Remix

An inclusive youth performance company open to young people aged 11-19 from across Dorset.

This ground breaking company includes young people with physical and sensory impairments, young people with learning difficulties and non-disabled young people.

THREE STREETS PRODUCTIONS

Through Different Eyes



A theatre project exploring the highs and lows of life as a young migrant in Britain today, *Through Different Eyes* aims to tell the honest, human stories that are often overlooked by a political debate dominated by scaremongering and controversy.

A co-production with MCS Arts Festival Oxford, *Through Different Eyes* will be developed over a year-long engagement with Oxford's young immigrant community. The play will open at Oxford's Old Fire Station in June 2016 with the aim of touring in autumn 2016.

Three Streets Productions is keen to explore development opportunities in other towns and cities where venues are interested in engaging their own immigrant communities.

Contact

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About Three Streets Productions



Founded in 2012 by Director Alice Malin and Producer Ashleigh Wheeler, Three Streets Productions interrogate contemporary social and political issues in a formally inventive way.

Recent productions include *The Fever* at the Old Fire Station, Oxford and *fiji land*, at Oxford Playhouse and Southwark Playhouse.

Other projects



Dodo

A funny, moving and surreal look at how we comprehend and combat climate change by writer Sarah Kosar (Royal Court Studio Invitation Group). When eco-activist Andrea suddenly dies, her husband Richard and aspiring rapper daughter Dodo must battle to save their endangered relationship - and perhaps the planet in the process.

THE MARLOWE STUDIO

Kent's Home of New Writing



When The Marlowe Theatre reopened in October 2011 it had a studio theatre for the first time. This intimate venue offers a diverse programme of contemporary theatre, comedy and music.

By placing a strong focus on new writing, The Marlowe Studio has quickly become the centre of the organisation's creative ambitions, transforming itself into a producing, as well as a presenting, theatre. Following the success of its first production, *Beached* by Melissa Bubnic, plans are now in place for a further four pieces over the next 12 months.

The Marlowe Studio aims to build relationships with writers, theatres, theatre companies and other organisations that will contribute to the creative vibrancy of Canterbury, Kent and the South East.

Contact

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About The Marlowe Studio

THE MARLOWE STUDIO

Having hosted more than 212 productions and welcomed over 38,500 audience members, The Marlowe Studio's programme has grown substantially since opening in October 2011. Kent's home of new writing and contemporary theatre, the Studio aims to be a regional centre of creativity in the performing arts and a producer of new work for its own audiences as well as audiences further afield.

Other projects

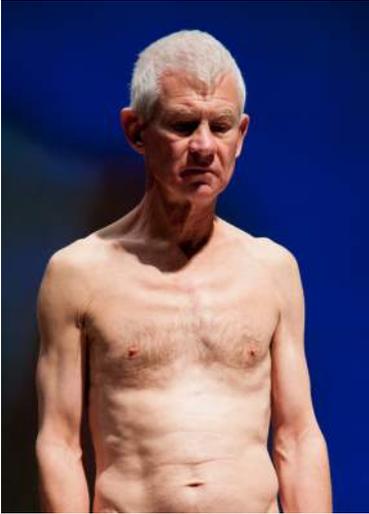


Beached

The Marlowe Studio's first production, *Beached* by Melissa Bubnic, was a darkly funny comedy about the world's fattest teenager, Arty - a young man literally going nowhere - who becomes the subject of a ruthless reality TV show. *Beached* premiered in October 2014 and transferred to Soho Theatre.

ENCOUNTER

Swingers



Debunking myths about our older generation's relationship with sex, intimacy and ageing, *Swingers* is a suburban, Summer of Love inspired look at swinging and the sexual revolution of the 60s and 70s.

Encounter will work directly with older people to gather source material. This will then be taken through the company's process of reinvention and improvisation to find the show's narrative and form.

With an experienced creative team that includes writer Lee Mattinson, Encounter will work with performers and non-performers to reimagine a world of stories from a decade when codes of sexual behaviour were fundamentally changed forever.

Swingers will be for five performers, an adult audience and may contain some nudity.

Contact

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About Encounter

ENCOUNTER

Encounter makes innovative work about (extra)ordinary events, ideas and people. The company fuses new writing and dance and often works with non-performers to explore how society shapes us.

This company make it their mission to open the doors of exposure on normal people...
A Younger Theatre

Other projects



I Heart Catherine Pistachio

Two chairs, two performers and two blonde wigs, *I Heart Catherine Pistachio* conjures a suburban sinkhole of abuse and nineties nostalgia.

Lee Hall gone rotten from the inside but determined to show you his very best heart-warming cabaret hour all the same – brilliant
Exeunt

FREEWHEELERS THEATRE COMPANY

Let Me In

Freewheelers Theatre Company wants to develop a myth-busting access workshop. Aimed at helping venues take the next step towards true accessibility - for artists as well as audiences - the workshops will introduce the social model of disability, guides to audio-description, surtitling and BSL interpretation, and simple ways to create a more welcoming environment for disabled artists and audiences.

In return the company is seeking in-kind support in the form of extended get in times, targeted audience development and backstage assistance towards their 2016 tour of *Cold and Wet*; a gripping tale of love, war, murder and destiny, with music, projection and integrated BSL. The show has a company of 19 actors, all of whom have some form of disability, and so this kind of support will be vital to making the tour happen.

Photo: Ava de Souza



Contact

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About Freewheelers Theatre Company



Freewheelers Theatre Company works with disabled and non-disabled artists and uses performance, multimedia and wheelchair and voicebox technology to create innovative new work.

Recent projects include a collaboration with English Touring Opera and a film projected onto the National Theatre's fly tower as part of the Cultural Olympiad.

Other projects



A Cream Cracker Under the Settee

A unique version of Alan Bennett's 1987 monologue, in which we meet 80 year old Doris after a fall in her home. A play about carers and 'care', social isolation and the desire for independence.

Signed, surtitled and audio-described, this production finds a new level of authenticity through the performance by disabled actress Terri Winchester.

CHURCH

What You Need My Louise



A monument to the commitment of foster families and to a mother's loss, reimagined by sisters who are now mothers too.

Foster families carry the ghosts of absent children: in photos of half remembered toddlers, in the unclaimed socks that eternally haunt the washing basket, and in the music; the songs played for each child on record players, guitars, sung and danced to round the table.

Church wants to capture foster mothers singing the songs they sang for, and with, their lost looked-after children and to use this sound as the central element of the piece.

Church imagines the piece set in a family room and its component parts; the spaces where humans move, crawl, dance, sing, and leave things behind.

Contact

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About Church

Church is a collaboration between Sam Butler and Alex Butler; sisters and artists, living in Reading and Brighton. Sam is Associate Artistic Director of Fevered Sleep and Alex is a video and fine artist returning to her practice after time out to raise her 3 children.

Church is working with producer and arts consultant Marina Norris from Cultural Baggage for this project.

WE MADE THIS

Light Is Like...



“How do lights work?” asks my niece.
“Light is like...”

Be careful how you answer. If you tell a child that light flows like water they might take you literally, drowning in the shimmering stream that flows from the smashed lightbulbs. Step aboard and allow your sense of wonder to be awakened as we navigate the incandescent torrents.

Exploring how we communicate with young people and drawing on explanations of the nature of light and the impact of light pollution, *Light is Like...* is inspired by a Gabriel Garcia Marquez short story. Aimed at younger audiences (11+) and adults who can still be wowed, the show will make the seemingly impossible happen before your eyes and alter how you see the world forever.

Contact

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About We Made This

We Made This is a new company whose name makes explicit the collaborative nature of its creative process.

We Made This:

The company doesn't subscribe to a style or methodology other than the form is dictated by the idea.

Other projects



Bottled

Ever been to a wedding where the best man's speech went too far? We Made This has been collecting stories, writing eulogies, making speeches and not apologising. They've been getting competitive, drinking milk and dancing to Pharrell.

An evening of home truths, toasts, confessions and explosions. Dress code: inappropriate.

APPLAUSE RURAL TOURING



Applause Rural Touring programmes two seasons of professional theatre and music each year for venues and audiences in rural settings across the South East.

Rural touring offers performers and theatre makers a unique and intimate exchange with the communities they visit. Applause welcomes conversations with companies interested in exploring the potential of rural touring for their work.

Applause particularly looks for theatre companies that provide quality, original and innovative work that is flexible enough to perform in non-traditional spaces. Performances need to be relatively self-contained, with minimal technical requirements owing to the nature of the community venues that Applause works with.

Contact

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About Applause Rural Touring



Applause Rural Touring works with voluntary community promoters across Kent, East Sussex, West Sussex and Medway. With funding from a number of local authorities and Arts Council England, Applause works with the National Rural Touring Forum - a national network of similar organisations - to enable people to see professional performance in their local venue or village hall.

Other projects



Applause Outdoors

Each summer Applause invites artists with an interest in working outdoors to apply to be part of this programme of outdoor performances for village fêtes, fayres, community fun days and festivals. Successful companies are commissioned to develop performances with an emphasis on interactive, family-friendly content, which are then presented in a variety of outdoor settings.

ON THE BUTTON

The Social Housing Project



When did property become more valuable than the people who live in it? This question lies at the heart of *The Social Housing Project*.

Taking the form of a variety show with music, spoken word, sing-alongs and sketches, *The Social Housing Project* will draw together stories of the people who have fought for their homes from the 19th century to the present day. A raucous, vibrant protest-show, followed by a party with its audience, that will tour to community centres, youth clubs and the back rooms of pubs on or near estates.

The project is a collaboration between on the button and writer-dramaturg Che Walker whose work has been performed at the Young Vic, Shakespeare's Globe and the Royal Court.

Contact

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About on the button



Led by Lecoq-trained Sophie Winter and Ben Hadley, on the button makes theatre that moves.

The company is drawn to stories that go unheard, people who are ignored, voices of dissent and perspectives that are new to them.

Other projects



No Place Like

Rosa, Jean and Grantley are delighted to have you round for tea! Jean will be mother, Grantley's the birthday boy and Rosa's in charge of the balloon.

A celebration of the lives of elderly people living in care homes, inspired by their true stories.

Best Ensemble, Mimetic Festival Awards 2013

WRITE BY NUMBERS

Welcome to Runsea



A performance exploring our seaside towns and their communities.

Set in a fictional seaside town on the south east coast, *Welcome to Runsea* will interweave the stories of three generations of the same family. The show will follow the family over the course of the 20th and 21st centuries as the town expands and the lights get brighter, and then as the economy contracts, cheap flights boom and the council begins knocking on the door with its latest regeneration plan.

As part of a commitment to making work in and with communities, Write By Numbers will involve seaside residents in the making of the show; over the initial research and development phase and through sharings of the work as it evolves.

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About Write By Numbers



Creating work for empty shops, libraries, festivals and village halls, as well as conventional theatre spaces, Write By Numbers aims to challenge the boundaries of new writing.

As part of a commitment to working with communities, all of the company's productions tour with sister engagement projects.

Other projects



Regeneration

It's 1981 and a family's home is being repossessed. It's 2016 and an architect is designing a record-breaking building. It's 1903 and a man is setting off for a better future, pulling his house behind him.

A playful, epic and urgent exploration of urban regeneration available for touring in Spring 2016.

THEATRE ROYAL MARGATE

Margate Rocks



Working with partners including Turner Contemporary and Dreamland, Theatre Royal Margate is a key player in the town's culturally led regeneration.

At the heart of the theatre's programme is the desire to appeal to as broad an audience as possible but with the specific aim of engaging its Thanet community. Traditional shows are presented alongside more challenging work but with the focus always on quality and the aspiration to push its audience's boundaries.

With no studio, the theatre actively works with partners to take its name beyond its walls and Paines Plough, Clod Ensemble and Daniel Bye have all presented work in venues across Margate under the Theatre Royal banner. Theatre Royal Margate is also able to offer office and rehearsal space, production weeks and preview opportunities.

Contact

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About Theatre Royal Margate



With a capacity of 466 spread over three floors, the Grade II* listed theatre is both intimate and grand. Dating back to 1786, the theatre's chequered history includes bingo and variety but now owned by Thanet District Council and managed by Your Leisure Kent, it offers a diverse programme of over 150 shows a year.

Theatre Royal Margate is part of Black Theatre Live and Fuel's New Theatre In Your Neighbourhood.

Other projects



Hannah and Hanna revisited

Working with associate producer Jan Ryan, UK Arts International, and drawing on the testimonies of Thanet's migrant communities, Theatre Royal Margate is commissioning John Retallack to develop a sequel to *Hannah and Hanna*, his celebrated play about tensions between locals and asylum seekers in 90s Margate. The ambition is to create a piece for national and international touring.

PARTNERS



greenhouse

Encouraging new relationships between theatre makers, audiences and venues in the house network, greenhouse is supported by Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and delivered by Farnham Maltings.

housetheatre.org.uk/greenhouse



house

Supporting venues across the South East to improve the range, quality and audience for contemporary theatre, house is supported by Arts Council England and delivered by Farnham Maltings.

housetheatre.org.uk



Farnham Maltings

A creative organisation that works with artists and communities across the South East to encourage the greatest number of people to make, see and enjoy the best art possible.

farnhammaltings.com



Paines Plough's Roundabout

Paines Plough is the UK's national theatre of new plays. Roundabout is their touring in-the-round theatre, designed to pop up anywhere from theatres to school halls, sports centres to warehouses.

painesplough.com



Brighton Festival

An annual celebration of music, theatre, dance, circus, art, film, literature, debate, outdoor and family events, Brighton Festival takes place across Brighton and Hove for three weeks every May.

brightonfestival.org



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