

LIBRARIES 2022



**Tall Stories Studio,
Islington Library
September 2022**

PitchUp

**Helping theatre-makers
and venues start conversations**



WELCOME

At house, and its parent organisation Farnham Maltings, we've long been interested in how organisations connect with and serve their communities. Libraries have been doing that work forever - they're a place in the heart of local towns where access to advice, the internet, information and imaginations can be found. They attract a loyalty and a user base that many arts venues can only dream of. Increasingly libraries are also being used as cultural hubs too, acknowledging and building on the impact that creative activity has to enable new skills, spark curiosity and promote wellbeing.

Today is an opportunity to bring together library services, arts organisations and artists to explore new creative ideas and collaborations in the realm of theatre and performance. Pitch Up is not a marketplace, it's a mechanism to start a conversation, so if you like what someone is saying please do use the networking time to go and chat to with them. We've also included contact details in the brochure to make continuing the dialogue easier. We know networking can sometimes be a bit daunting so please ask the house team to make introductions if that helps you, we'll identify ourselves at the start of the event.

Finally we'd like to thank Creative Arts East who have helped us shape and prepare this event, our hosts Tall Stories and Islington Libraries and our funders, Arts Council England and the Rothschild Foundation.

Enjoy your day and we hope you leave inspired.

Katy, Mark, Meghan & Jonathon
house Theatre team



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



PITCH UP LIBRARIES

Tall Stories Studio, Islington Library
September 2022



INTRODUCTION

house is an initiative aimed at better connecting theatre-makers, venues and audiences across the South East and East of England. It is delivered by Farnham Maltings, and funded by Arts Council England.

We want to make it easier for theatre-makers and venues to form the kind of alliances that help artists to create their best work, buildings to unlock their creative potential, and audiences to connect with new theatre. Pitch Up is our regular platform for starting those conversations and it's always been a key feature that theatre-makers and venues pitch alongside each other, creating a spirit of openness and common purpose.

KEYNOTE SPEECH: CREATIVE ARTS EAST

Creative Arts East is an arts and community development charity committed to bringing the very best arts and culture to rural and under-engaged audiences across Norfolk, Suffolk and the wider eastern region. In 2019-2020 Creative Arts East led an enquiry into the level of experience and extent of touring arts in south east libraries on behalf of Arts Council England. We are pleased to have the opportunity to present some of our findings today.

Julia West & Natalie Jode

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@CreativArtsEast

 **creative**
ARTS EAST

ARTIST PITCHES

THE KING OF NOTHING

Monstro Theatre

Puppetry

King Reginald is a ruler who likes to keep in style. But the fashions change so fast, he's afraid he can't keep up...

Hearing of the King's predicament, two fast-talking "Weavers" head to the palace with their brand new fabric: it's "smart" and it's "in" and it NEVER goes out of fashion. Soon the Kingdom is alive with talk of the magical cloth and Reginald can't wait to wear his "smart" new suit to the Big Parade. But what are these "weavers" really spinning...?

Monstro and Little Angel's latest Puppet Musical is an anarchic re-telling of Hans Christian Andersen's Emperor's New Clothes, in which the characters (and the audience) discover that people can be made to believe ANYTHING. With songs, puppetry, slapstick and more, the two Swindlers (or should we call them "actors"?) will weave their cunning magic on children and adults alike...



ABOUT THE COMPANY

MONSTRO make puppet musicals for people of all sizes. Led by theatre-maker and composer Ben Glasstone and a bevy of the country's finest musical puppeteers and designers, we are dedicated to extending the language of puppetry and music theatre and to challenging the boundaries between theatre made for children and for adults.

Pitchers

Ben Glasstone

Rae Lee

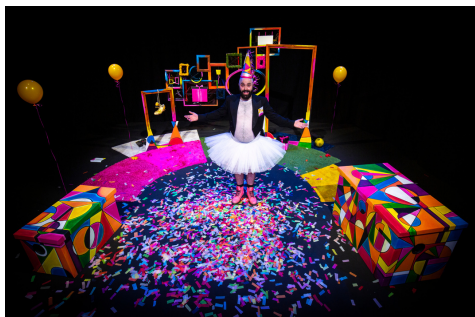
benglasstone@blueyonder.co.uk



@monstrotheatre

monstrotheatre.wordpress.com

PitchUp



ABOUT THE COMPANY

HALF MOON is the UK's leading small-scale young people's venue and touring company: a local organisation with a national remit, committed to supporting artists and young people at every stage of their creative journey especially those often excluded from arts activity. Working out of a specially converted fully-accessible venue in Tower Hamlets, Half Moon offers a wide-ranging programme reaching around 50,000 annually including seasons of professional plays for young people and families, national touring productions plus an extensive creative learning programme, including eight youth theatres. Half Moon is a National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England.

Pitcher

Mark Conway

chrisehalfmoon.org.uk



@halfmoontheatre

www.halfmoon.org.uk

PARTY

Half Moon Theatre

Children's Theatre

Half Moon Theatre is looking to work with partners interested in presenting or commissioning work for library settings. Our principal offer is Party for family audiences (3-7s) - a quirky birthday party exploring diversity.

Party toured to much acclaim in 2022 across the UK to over 40 libraries including Suffolk Council and as part of Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire's Inspire Programme. Party follows previous tours co-commissioned over the past 4 years by SPINE, London's 14 borough annual library festival.

Our recent cannon of work includes The Cat-Astrophic Adventures of Dollop and Crinkle (7-11s), Paper Aeroplane (4-8s); The House That Jackson Built (5-9s), The Goose Who Flew (3-7s), Crowded (12-16s). For Black History Month this year, we tour Grandad Anansi to libraries in Oldham, Tameside and St Helens.

Party is a provocative and quirky piece featuring colourful designs and exuberant physicality set to the beats of a Fado inspired soundtrack. This show has limited dialogue making it accessible to d/Deaf, hard of hearing and non-English speakers.

PitchUp



FULL HOUSE AT THE LIBRARY

Full House Theatre

Children's Theatre

Full House have extensive experience of making work for and with libraries. We are seeking new venues, artists and collaborators to support us to further extend the reach of our work. We believe strongly in giving all children the opportunity to experience great theatre and have seen the transformational effects of families accessing quality and inspiring performances through their libraries.

Our most recent piece for Libraries is called *By the Light of the Moon* – an intimate and interactive storytelling piece with original music and object puppetry. This piece is about bravery, wonder and a friendship formed in the face of difference.

We're keen to start new conversations and are open to new collaborations with libraries or a consortium of library services. This could, for example, be a commissioning opportunity or seed funding for the development of new work for children, or to re-tour our existing portfolio of excellent performances for children to new library spaces.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

FULL HOUSE THEATRE create theatre and performance projects for, by and with children and young people, predominantly those from marginalised or under-served communities.

Our work is driven by our vision: for every child to hold treasured memories of theatre. We exist to enrich young creative minds, delight young audiences and nurture a lifelong connection with the arts, whilst improving the quality of work aimed at children and young people. Full House is committed to listening and responding to the audience needs, reaching out to all corners of the community to create lasting memories.

Pitcher

Kelly Ng

kelly@fullhouse.org.uk



@fullhousetheatre

www.fullhouse.org.uk





ABOUT THE COMPANY

STOPGAP DANCE COMPANY is driven by a diverse creative team who uses dance as a movement for change.

Our vision is to create an inclusive world where diversity is not just accepted but pursued, a world where no one is limited by prejudice against D/deaf, disabled, or neurodivergent people.

We move together to create a remarkable experience that transforms society's perceptions of difference and dismantle the inequity of privilege, in dance and in all aspects of living, collaborating, and creating together as humans.

DANCE FOR KIDS WITH IRIS

Stopgap Dance Company

Dance

Dance for Kids with IRIS' is a free online follow-along inclusive dance classes programme for disabled children led by our world-renowned performers. The performers epitomise the diversity of 21st Century, and using these fun and inclusive characters, we would like to create an interactive, in-person dance performance/experience package that pops up in a variety of locations like libraries.

In the live experience, disabled children and their families will be introduced to fun and inclusive dance routines, through which they will deepen their understanding of creativity and physical expression. Having built direct relationships with our diverse performers, the participants can continue their journey through our designated web channel.

We are looking for funders, commissioning partners and presentation venues with a commitment to reaching out to local disabled children and their families.

Pitcher

Sho Shibata

shoestopgapdance.com



@stopgapdance

www.stopgapdance.com



ABOUT THE COMPANY

ANGEL EXIT have been creating work for families since 2009 and previous shows include *The Secret Garden*, *Moonfleet*, "Offie" finalist *Otto and the Robin*, and *toooB*. We have previous experience of creating work for libraries (Book Club for Super-Spies & online with Super-Spies in Lockdown) and of making high quality devised theatre for family audiences.

We have been creating interactive character work for festivals, libraries, museums, outdoor spaces, and arts centres for well over ten years. Last year we made an immersive, interactive Christmas production called *The Fairy Tale Forest for The Spring* in Hampshire, and we will be creating this again at *Thorn Grove Garden Centre* in Gillingham Dorset this December with a cohort of community members and students with special educational needs.

THE FREEZE PEACH INSPECTORS

Angel Exit Theatre

Interactive performance installation

Words can be dangerous. Something is going awry. Two mysterious inspectors have appeared and set up some booths in the middle of the library. They announce that they are from the book branch of The Freeze Peach Collective and they are on a mission to gather opinions and clean up subversive texts seeping from the library. They set up their booths and invite small groups of people to step inside and discuss whether books should be banned.

Freeze Peach Inspectors combines intimate performance with live music 'show' elements.. It will have eye-catching design and be aimed at audiences of 7+. Asking questions of censorship, who has a voice, what is free speech, who is allowed to read, and what are they allowed to read, this interactive playful performance introduces the young to the idea of free speech and what it means to have this taken away, and it aims to stimulate topical debate on this subject for older library users.

Pitcher

Lynne Forbes

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   @angelexittheatre
www.angelexit.co.uk

VENUE PITCHES

01

TALL STORIES

Tall Stories have become known for their unique brand of humorous physical storytelling theatre, and touring work that is primarily, but not exclusively, for a family audience. Currently celebrating their 25th anniversary, they create medium and large-scale shows which supports our smaller scale work.

Tall Stories Studio is suitable for rehearsals and performances for an audience of up to 80 - and for their growing artist development and participation programme.

Laura Woodward | laura@tallstories.org.uk
tallstories.org.uk | [@TallStoriesLive](https://www.instagram.com/TallStoriesLive)



02

SUFFOLK LIBRARIES

Suffolk Libraries has 44 locations across the county. Building Libraries on Creativity - BLOC - is an Arts Council funded programme which looks to develop libraries as creative community spaces. The programme aims to support innovation and artistic development showcasing our spaces as 'gateway' performance venues for local artists of all ages and abilities.

Melissa Matthews
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suffolklibraries.co.uk/bloc | [@SuffolkLibrary](https://www.instagram.com/SuffolkLibrary) |
[@BLOC_Arts](https://www.instagram.com/BLOC_Arts)



**SUFFOLK
LIBRARIES**

03

INN CROWD

Inn Crowd works with some of the UK's top spoken word and live literature artists and performers to provide rural pubs with professional, high-quality and exciting live entertainment. In addition to performances in pubs, Inn Crowd also tour to other new spaces such as restaurants, social clubs, cafes and bottle shops to give direct access to high quality performances in rural communities.

Sam Steer | inncrowd@applause.org.uk
inncrowd.org.uk | [@ApplauseTouring](https://www.instagram.com/ApplauseTouring)



04

SURREY LIBRARIES

Surrey Libraries comprises 42 libraries with flexible event space. In partnership with Farnham Maltings, with funding from Arts Council England we have successfully delivered events ranging from theatre for children to artists in residence and have demonstrated that we are the ideal venue to connect with audiences. We are looking to continue this work with new partners going forward.

Amanda Glover
amanda.glover@surreycc.gov.uk
surreycc.gov.uk/libraries | [@SurreyLibraries](https://www.instagram.com/SurreyLibraries)

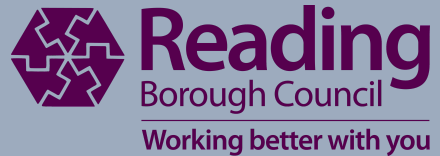


05

READING CENTRAL LIBRARY

Reading Central Library, located in Reading's historic Abbey Quarter, welcomes over 200,000 visitors a year. Alongside the library service, we have hosted dance, film and theatrical works over the last few years, and are embedded in the town's cultural landscape. There are six other libraries throughout Reading, rooted in communities.

Simon Smith | simon.smith@reading.gov.uk
reading.gov.uk/librarybranches | [@readinglibrary](https://www.instagram.com/readinglibrary)



ARTIST PITCHES



ABOUT THE COMPANY

Working with our community in Norfolk **ALL-IN PRODUCTIONS** make productions for unconventional theatre.

Adam Taylor is a producer working in the South East of England; he works as CEO for The Garage Trust and Executive Producer for All-In Productions.

Pitcher

Adam Taylor

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@allinprods

www.all-inproductions.co.uk

RULES FOR BEING A MAN

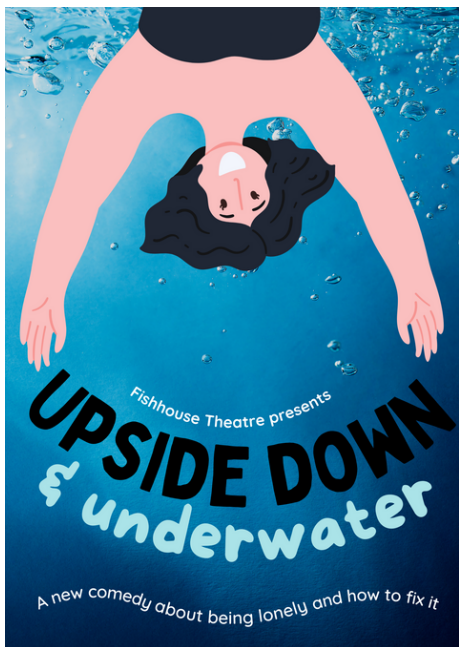
All-In Productions
Theatre

In Norfolk, three quarters of people dying by suicide are men. But what of those left behind? This solo male show, to be performed in community settings, with rural touring partners, challenges the stigmas around mental health in men and talking about it.

Rules for Being a Man is surprisingly upbeat. Packed with storytelling and conversations with other family members and friends created by wireless headphone technology, it transports the audience to different places without having to leave their seats.

Created with input from survivors of suicide and The Samaritans, and in consultation with medical professionals and mental health support groups.

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ABOUT THE COMPANY

FISHHOUSE THEATRE has been making new work since 2015. They tell women's stories.

Fishhouse want theatre to come into communities and help change them for the better.

They want to make you laugh and break your heart.

Pitchers

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Katie Arnstein

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@fishhousetheatre

www.fishhousetheatre.com

UPSIDE DOWN & UNDERWATER

Fishhouse Theatre

Comedy/Drama

Upside Down & Underwater is a heart warming new comedy written and performed by Lesley Emery & Katie Arnstein.

Ex hairdresser Janis has been through it but she can always see the upside. She's learnt to synchronised swim and now she's moved to the coast and become a library volunteer.

She dispenses books and her special brand of homespun wisdom to the many characters she meets on her rounds in the local villages.

Janis's next challenge is open water and getting into a wetsuit.

Fishhouse also offer **Roti Moon**, a joyous and interactive play for families written and performed by Chandni Mistry. Perfect for library and community spaces. (Up to 8's and their grownups.)

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SHAKESPEARE IN A SUITCASE: MACBETH

New International
Encounter
Theatre

NIE's ensemble of performers will tell Shakespeare's infamous tragedy of Macbeth in an inventive, powerful, sometimes funny and always accessible way. We will unpack the old tale with new meaning in collaboration with the audience, the contents of a suitcase and an array of musical instruments.

Suitable for ages 8 years and above, this show is planned to be an engaging 45-minute version, able to tour flexibly to libraries/ schools and theatres - with minimal set (but plenty of atmosphere!). The show can introduce Shakespeare to first timers and reveal contemporary themes in a play that many know well.

We are seeking partners for the development of the idea, plus touring contacts and support.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

NIE is an award-winning international company creating new theatre shows and participation projects with and for young people through a mix of physical theatre, live music, and storytelling. We create spellbinding theatre and over 21 years have worked in 34 countries spanning 4 continents, from New York to Cape Town to Shanghai.

Our vision is playful stories that connect us all. Our UK base is at Cambridge Junction.

Pitcher

Michael Judge

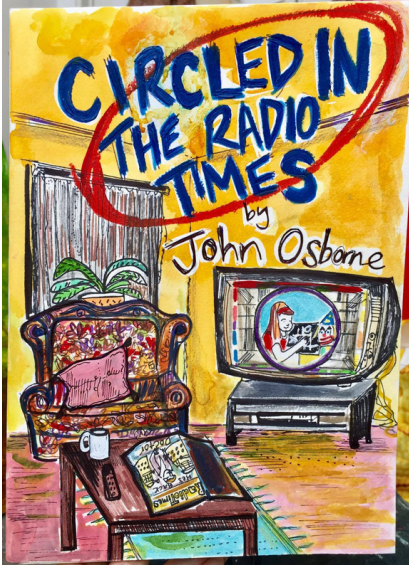
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www.nie-theatre.com

PitchUp



CIRCLED IN THE RADIO TIMES

John Osborne

Storytelling

Circled in the Radio Times. Stories about television and radio.

A beautiful, nostalgic storytelling show about something that is very easy for everyone to relate to: television. The story begins when John is given a box of old copies of the Radio Times that once belonged to his grandparents. He pieces together their lives by the shows that they lovingly circled in each edition. The show is not just about that box of old copies of the Radio Times, but the role television plays in our lives and the changing ways all of us watch TV.

"John Osborne is a master at creating captivating theatre out of quirky simple stories that make heroes out of everyday people and heightens normal tales into pure folklore."

Broadway Baby *****

"A keen eye for a killer line and the significance of the trivia of daily life. I could have listened for hours." The Independent

This 45 minute story works perfectly with a shorter, relaxed, enjoyable second half of poems and stories on the theme of television and radio.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Author and theatre maker **JOHN OSBORNE** writes books, stories and shows. His first theatre show John Peel's Shed was a complete sell out at the 2011 Edinburgh festival with five-star reviews from The Scotsman and The Independent.

He has written and performed six half hour storytelling shows for Radio 4 and is a regular at festivals including Latitude, Glastonbury and Edinburgh Book Festival. He has performed stories and shows as part of rural touring schemes throughout the UK.

Pitcher

John Osborne

johninbrigg@yahoo.co.uk



@johnosradiohead

www.johnosbornewriter.com



ABOUT THE COMPANY

SONIA SABRI COMPANY is one of the leading contemporary South Asian dance and music companies in the UK. The company has an international reputation for presenting Kathak dance in a contemporary context, without diluting its integrity.

The company creates work relevant to modern audiences, that is inspired by Indian and British culture, and the rich possibilities that arise when they meet.

Pitcher

Charlotte Kalantari - Gregory

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@SoniaSabriCo

www.ssco.org.uk

ROSHNI

Sonia Sabri Company

Music and Dance

Roshni (from the Persian word meaning light or brilliance) is a beautifully intimate crafting of dance and live music, transporting and uplifting the audience on a journey of joy.

In our uncertain world, when everything around us can feel full of pessimism and doubt, Roshni provides us with a ray of light, to put a spring in our step and a warmth in our hearts! World-class artists Sonia Sabri and Sarvar Sabri, alongside an ensemble of skilled musicians, take us on a path to repair and heal.

This soul-stirring performance is a captivating combination of Kathak dance, with live music and vocals from a global palette of styles, driven by the bold rhythms of Tabla percussion. Kathak is a striking movement language of virtuosic foot percussion, rapid spins, geometrical patterns, with poignant mime and gesture, all intricately woven with the live music.

Roshni brings together Sonia's distinctive style of dance, rooted in the traditions of Kathak from Northern India, yet reimagined in the context of her lived British experience, with diverse musical genres and artists, ranging from South Asia, Middle East and Europe, celebrating the rich diversity of our global community.



VENUE PITCHES

06

LUTON LIBRARIES

Luton Libraries are now part of Active Luton, a community wellbeing trust. We are looking to start a programming of live events in our library buildings.

Anna Simmons | anna.simmons@lutonlibraries.co.uk
lutonlibraries.co.uk | [@LutonLibraries](https://www.instagram.com/LutonLibraries)



07

THE MILL ARTS CENTRE

The Mill Arts Centre is a lively cultural hub for Banbury and the surrounding area, supporting local artists as well as a busy professional theatre programme. Our programme includes theatre, dance, live music, comedy and variety as well as creative classes and workshops.

Since 2018 we have been working in Bicester using non-theatre spaces including the town's library.

Sarah Wright |
Sarah.Wright@themillartscentre.co.uk
www.themillartscentre.co.uk | [@TheMillBanbury](https://www.instagram.com/TheMillBanbury)



08

NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL LIBRARIES

Norfolk County Council Library and Information Service comprises 47 branch libraries, complemented by a mobile library service to rural communities. Literacy, learning, information and support for local communities underpins our work. We provide quality & diverse cultural and creative experiences and events, especially to those less likely to access arts and culture.

Maria Pavledis | maria.pavledis@norfolk.gov.uk
norfolk.gov.uk/libraries | [@NorfolkLibs](https://www.facebook.com/NorfolkLibs)



09

NATIONAL RURAL TOURING FORUM

The National Rural Touring Forum is an organisation that networks, develops and supports the delivery of high-quality creative experiences across rural areas in the UK. The aim of the Forum is to strengthen and support rural communities to bring professional work to their venues.

Jess Huffman | project@nrtf.org.uk
ruraltouring.org | [@ruraltouring](https://www.facebook.com/ruraltouring)



10

HERTFORDSHIRE LIBRARIES

Hertfordshire Libraries have 30 libraries, of varying sizes, accommodating audiences of up to 100. In the past couple of years, we have had new libraries in Hemel Hempstead, Berkhamsted and Wheat Hempstead, with major refurbishments in St Albans and Watford. Previously, we have worked with the likes of Librarian Theatre and Gecko.

Rebekah Nicholas | rebekah.nicolasehertfordshire.gov.uk
hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives [@HertsLibraries](https://www.facebook.com/HertsLibraries)



UPCOMING EVENTS



CREATING A SUSTAINABLE NETWORK OF VENUES

Friday 28 October, 11am - 4.30pm - Jackson's Lane Arts Centre
Register at housetheatre.org.uk/venue-network-days



AUTUMN SEASON NOW TOURING

These Hills are Ours, by Daniel Bye & Boff Whalley

I, AmDram, by Hannah Maxwell

Rise & Fall, by Page One Theatre

Find out more at housetheatre.org.uk/now-touring/



GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK

Please let us know your thoughts on the day and the format of the event. This will help us improve the nature of our events to make them as beneficial for all attendees.

Use the QR code to access a short 5 minute survey.

Alternatively, visit

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/pitchuplibrariesfeedback



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farnham **maltings**

PITCH UP LIBRARIES

Schedule

13:15 Arrivals and refreshments

13:30 Welcome and Creative Arts East's Keynote Speech

13:45 **Artist Pitches:**

Monstro Theatre, The King of Nothing

Half Moon Theatre, Party

Full House, Full House at the Library

Stopgap Dance Company, Dance for Kids with Iris

Angel Exit Theatre, The Freeze Peach Inspectors

14:10 **Venue Pitches:**

Tall Stories

Suffolk Libraries

Inn Crowd

Surrey Libraries

Reading Central Library

14:45 Break

15:00 **Artist Pitches:**

All-In Productions, Rules for Being a Man

Fishhouse Theatre, Upside Down & Underwater

New International Encounter, Shakespeare in a Suitcase: Macbeth

John Osborne, Circled in the Radio Times

Sonia Sabri Company, Roshni

15:25 **Venue Pitches:**

Luton Libraries

The Mill Arts Centre

Norfolk County Council Libraries

National Rural Touring Forum

Hertfordshire Libraries

16:00 Break for refreshments and networking

17:00 Closing comment

The logo for 'PitchUp' is located in the bottom right corner. It features the word 'PitchUp' in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font. The text is set against a light blue, irregular, angular background that resembles a speech bubble or a stylized arrow pointing upwards and to the right.