



PitchUp

Helping theatre-makers
and venues start conversations

February
2022

INTRODUCTION

Welcome back! After a two-year hiatus it's great to have a room full of artists & venues pitching new creative ideas and opportunities.

house is an initiative aimed at better connecting theatre makers, venues and audiences across the South East and East of England.

Pitch Up is our networking platform for unlocking creative potential and forming new alliances through conversations between theatre-makers and venues pitching alongside each other, creating a spirit of openness and common purpose.

And of course there are ideas and opportunities in the room today to which we have not been able to offer a platform and so we encourage you to take the initiative, meet a stranger or two, and make some new connections with colleagues from across the region.

We're grateful to Unicorn Theatre for hosting us today, and to you for being here. We look forward to saying hello.

housetheatre.org.uk | [@housetheatre](https://twitter.com/housetheatre) #pitchup

house on tour during spring 2022



from left: *Here's What She Said to Me*, *The Beautiful Game*, *Slime*

venues and dates: housetheatre.org.uk

SCHEDULE



- 11:15 Arrivals and refreshments
- 11:30 Welcome and session one:
Theatre Lark What! A Load Of Rubbish
KinkyFish Theatre Arjuna: Wheel Of Dharma
Doomsday Dance Band Shop Window
Paper Birds Theatre Company Feel Me
Victoria Melody The Enthusiasts
Theatre Nation Lads And Dads
- 12:20 **Elevator pitches:**
The Place Bedford
bOing Festival Gulbenkian
Lighthouse Poole
The Seagull Lowestoft
South St Arts Centre Reading
New Popular Farnham Maltings
- 12:50 Break
- 13:40 Session two:
Theatre Témoin Amaterasu: From The Cave
Milk Presents We Too Shall See / Wehna Kaman Hanshoof
Slot Machine Theatre BLink BLonk The Joy Of Logic!
Rhiannon Faith Company Drowntown Stories
LAS Theatre The Worry Gremlin
Red Fox Theatre Bill
- 14:00 **Elevator pitches:**
Axel Satgé Split Second
North Wall Arts Centre Oxford
The Horton Epsom
Colchester Arts Centre
Marlow Theatre Canterbury
- 14:30 Break for refreshments and networking
- 15:15 Closing comment



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THEATRE LARK
What! A Load Of Rubbish



Photo © Rae Lee

Theatre Lark presents, *What! A Load of Rubbish!* a magical, hopeful and uplifting children's theatre show about climate change. Suitable for 4 - 8-year-olds, the production will tour to unconventional theatre spaces, schools and community hubs with wrap-around enrichment activities.

Pitch: *What! A Load of Rubbish* has been commissioned by Essex County Council and is produced in partnership with Queens Theatre, Hornchurch. The show and accompanying enrichment activities have been created for 4 - 8-year-olds and was developed with pupils in Basildon, Essex.

Theatre Lark is now looking for a studio space (to light the show for small scale theatre touring), future tour dates, marketing support and connections to schools and community events.

Contact

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KINKYFISH THEATRE
Arjuna: Wheel Of Dharma



Photo: © Steven Millar

Wheel of Dharma is a richly textured retelling of the Mahabharata - one of the world's oldest pieces of literature. This lyrical storytelling show is produced by KinkyFish, a community of international theatre makers. The intention would be to craft a narrative poem perhaps even utilising rhyming couplets to echo the form and structure of the original work.

Pitch: Seeking venues, and directorial support, to develop for contemporary audiences a re-telling of the Mahabharata as related by flawed hero Arjun, the epic's most renowned warrior. Exploring themes of Dharma, familial duty, and his bitter rivalry with Karna (the brother he never knew he had).

Contact

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DOOMSDAY DANCE BAND Shop Window



Photo © Harley Strong

Doomsday Dance Band is a theatrical funk-rock band. We had an idea for re-imagining retail spaces - abandoned through the pandemic and rise of online shopping - as community-focused cultural hubs. Together with diaspora dance-theatre specialist Ella Mesma we created a show, *Shop Window*, in Summer 2021. Styled as a quirky and surreal dance lesson, *Shop Window* has the DooMSday Dance Band - flanked by shop mannequins with TVs for heads - playing funky music, while Ella teaches the audience dance moves that will help "save the world!"

Pitch: We want to develop and tour the show, and ultimately also to curate the reclaimed "shop-window-performance-spaces" as places for other up-and-coming artists to showcase their wares. We have a great product that should engage people very inclusively - and be fundable. We need producing partners to share and develop our vision: targeting funders, helping with applications, connecting with venues, festivals, local authorities, digital marketing etc.

Contact

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THE PAPER BIRDS THEATRE COMPANY | Feel Me



Photo © Kee Lewis

Feel Me is both a live and digital exploration of empathy, from the perspectives of young people around the world.

Studies show empathy can be learnt. Our show *Feel Me* will thus connect communities around the UK and internationally, building dialogue and understanding. *Feel Me* will be made by a collective of talented young artists, alongside The Paper Birds.

Pitch: The Paper Birds are excited to be newly based in the South East, and are keen to meet with other South East venues, artists, youth groups, and organisations. We want to share our project, *Feel Me*, with others and learn more about what the region has to offer.

Contact

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VICTORIA MELODY The Enthusiasts



Photo © Rosie Powell

The Enthusiasts is an audio series and interactive performance installation where the artist Victoria Melody goes into different communities & explores their quirks and what makes them special. It combines documentary and stories, taking audiences on a journey with all the twists & turns of a great drama. The aim is to connect audiences with fascinating stories that might otherwise be overlooked and present contemporary voices that are rarely heard. Each audio series focuses on one community of Enthusiasts. There'll be a piece on pigeon fanciers, funeral directors, northern soul fans, beauty queens and championship dog show handlers.

Pitch: Victoria Melody is looking to collaborate with organisations and venues to work with new communities to unearth new stories.

Contact

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THEATRE NATION Lads And Dads

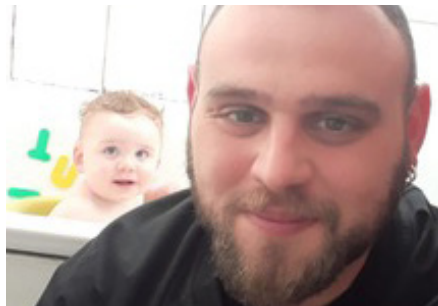


Photo © Oscar Hicks

Why do so many unfathered or fatherless young men end up behind bars? *Lads and Dads* aims to vividly dramatise their verbatim stories, and those of their fathers, to explore how and why this broken relationship leads so many young men towards a life of criminality and prison.

Pitch: We would like a partner venue to come in as a co-producer who will help us develop the idea through support in funding bids to ACE and other funding trusts and bodies (Theatre Nation is a registered charity) for an initial R and D phase which could include studio rehearsal space and a scratch performance and then to take the project to the next stage, a fully realised theatre production which we believe could then premiere at our partner venue and tour throughout the region. We would preferably like to partner with an organisation with a strong educational outreach programme.

Contact

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ELEVATOR PITCHES



theplacebedford.org.uk

Since 2003, The Place Bedford has developed its reputation for touring professional music, theatre, live-art and films. Alongside our professional touring & commissioning activity

we also present high-quality community theatre, and support youth and student arts activities in our fully-equipped 125-seat studio theatre.

Alex Levene

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Lighthouse

POOLE'S CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

Lighthouse plays a vital role in Poole and the South West as a nationally important cultural building where creative work is made, rehearsed, discussed, shared and presented. It is a place where our community present their work and where entire schools can showcase their talent in a professional performance environment - an experience never to be forgotten in anyone's lifetime.

Paula Hammond

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SOUTHST

South Street regularly hosts acclaimed artists and companies, supporting them to develop new performance work for Reading audiences and beyond.

John Luther

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Kent's Biggest Family Arts Festival is a magical weekend of performance and creativity for all ages.

Performers and artists come from across the world, creating unforgettable festival experiences for over 10,000 people each year. bOing! is free to enter and everyone is welcome.

Becky Lees

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The Seagull is a small not for profit community theatre in Lowestoft, which plays host to a regular stream of local talent, regional and national touring theatre companies and a vibrant selection of classes and community events. We also work in our local schools enhancing the cultural offer for local children.

Karen Read

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farnham maltings

New Popular is a five year initiative supported by Esmee Fairbairn Foundation designed to test and create new theatre projects with the ambition of reaching broader audiences in new places with new experiences. Projects have so far been presented everywhere from shopping centres, to betting shops and football stadiums.

Katy Potter

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THEATRE TÉMOIN Amaterasu: From The Cave



Photo © 2021 Alexander Newton Photography

'Amaterasu: From the Cave' is a devised performance piece that combines new writing with martial arts, Shinto myth, and Taiko drumming to explore mixed heritage identity in contemporary Britain. The piece was shared as a work-in-progress at the Arcola and Newham Unlocked Festival, where it played to a majority migrant audience. We saw the potential to reach out and share stories from one migrant community to another.

Pitch: We're hoping to continue to develop the piece in 2022 and are looking for a "home" venue that would like some part in commissioning or supporting the work in its next stage of development. We're especially interested in partnering with a venue that is working to reach out to specific migrant communities or is deeply engaged with the question of how to combine traditional art forms with contemporary theatre practice.

Contact

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MILK PRESENTS We Too Shall See



Photo © Jo Tyabji

We Too Shall See / Wehna Kaman Hanshoof is a new interactive dance-performance project exploring separation, and the desire to unite or be reunified, in the context of racialised experiences of borders and diaspora identity. All are invited to participate in a performance that transcends the powerful effects of racialised borders, at airports, in forests, on beaches and in the mind.

Pitch: We are keen to develop relationships with venues interested in two new avenues for Milk Presents' work: international collaborations that have an overt or covert relationship to queerness and queer perspectives, and work which plays with form over distance. We want to develop new audiences for our existing touring work and explore new relationships with audiences in the south-east and east of England for work that combines digitally mediated experiences in unusual spaces. We're looking for long term relationships and are very open to evolving conversations over what support, collaboration or partnership might look like.

Contact

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SLOT MACHINE THEATRE
BLink BLonk - The Joy of Logic!

RHIANNON FAITH COMPANY
Downtown Stories

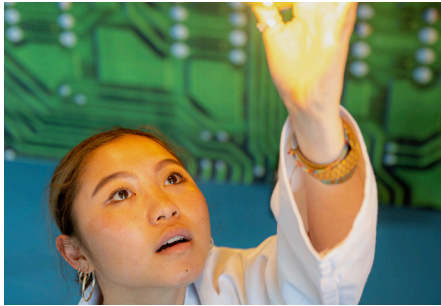


Photo © Tom Wailer/Luminous Photography



Photo: © Fotemir Christoflopoulos

We've received ACE funding to R&D *BLink BLonk* in Spring '22 - a live theatre show for children celebrating women in science, the power of logic and the importance of testing evidence for yourself. Highly visual, sensory and fun, it will tour as a show for 0-3s and 4-9s simultaneously and every show will be baseline SEN accessible. We have some fabulous mentors confirmed including Prof Alice Roberts, Jamie Beddard, Ellie Griffiths of Oily Cart, MAC Birmingham and artsdepot.

Pitch: We want to make connections with venues so that their needs can inform the ACE funded development of our new show *BLink BLonk*. We want to understand how they present to 0-3s and 4-9s, or if they don't already, what stops them. We'd like to hear about the different spaces in which they present work for families - or would like to in the future - and talk about how we can make work that responds to that. We're excited by non-traditional site responsive work.

"Let's go to the margins and receive people who would like to be reached. Let's dismantle the barriers that exclude. Let's deliver arts with exquisite mutuality with those at the margins. Let us support you in reaching those people. Together we can be radically inclusive". *Downtown Stories* is a creative workshop programme delivered by Artistic Director Rhiannon Faith (2021 Double award Nominee, National Dance Awards), offered alongside a performance of the company's acclaimed 4 * stage show *Downtown Stories* (Observer, Stage).

Pitch: We are looking for venues to partner with, to deliver the project together with and for your local community.

Contact

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Contact

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LAS THEATRE The Worry Gremlin

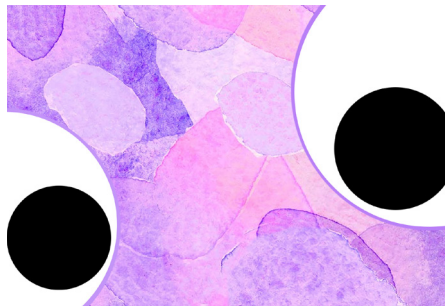


Photo © Simon K Allen

LAS theatre would like to make a new show for 3–7-year-olds with a focus on learning about, talking about and dealing with our anxieties and worries - and the big feelings that come with it. The show will help children develop their vocabulary and encourage them to talk about their emotions. The story we would like to create will follow one character and their big, scary, confusing and downright pesky, worry gremlin. No-one else can see it. No-one else understands it. But it's there...all the time. And it's getting bigger!

Pitch: We are looking to connect with more venues in the Southeast as we move from London to Kent. We would love to work with venues to strengthen connections and broker new relationships with schools, families and young people. This production will be the next step for the company making excellent, relevant work with heart for children and families. We have had great success touring 2 outdoor productions and are excited to return to indoor work to reach ever more varied audiences.

Contact

Liz Bates

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RED FOX THEATRE Bill



Photo © Jack McGuire

Set to a live country/disco soundtrack, *Bill* will tell the strange life of Milton Bill Cooper, the granddaddy of conspiracy theorists. Once called 'the most dangerous man on radio' by Bill Clinton, Cooper's influence on the modern right-wing is vast.

Pitch: After our initial R&D we realised we were dealing with a beast of a show, a sprawling romp through 70 years of conspiracy (scattered with UFO abduction stories) and americana, and an original musical to boot. We need more time. We are looking for venues who can provide rehearsal space, practical mentorship on transitioning from small acoustic shows to a larger more technically challenging one and guidance with press and PR. We'd love the opportunity to test *Bill* with rural audiences - we historically attract non-theatre-going audiences, something we're passionate about maintaining.

Contact

Megan Jenkins & Callum McGuire

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ELEVATOR PITCHES

SPLIT SECOND

Split Second collaborate with artists who are blurring the lines between circus, dance and theatre. Their ambition is to push the limit of what performance can be and create new and exciting experiences for artists and audiences, in the UK and internationally.

Axel Satgé

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the **HORTON** ARTS CAFE HERITAGE

The Horton is a new independent cultural venue in Epsom, Surrey. This renovated Grade II-listed former asylum chapel offers atmospheric and accessible spaces for live performance, events, exhibitions and creative workshops. The flexible performance space features 8m-high barrel-vaulted ceilings and seats 120 theatre-style.

Music and aerial theatre performances were held in December as pilot events and the venue should be fully open (including cafe-bar) from the end of April 2022.

Marie Reeves

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The North Wall Arts Centre

The North Wall connects artists and audiences from Oxford and beyond to make, share and access art of the highest quality. We support artists through residencies and mentorship, we encourage young people to create and participate and we share with audiences a programme that celebrates the diversity of our city.

Amelia Thornber

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COLCHESTER ARTS CENTRE

Colchester Arts Centre is located in a venue as unique as the artists that perform there. The former church now hosts a regular programme of events ranging from jazz music, comedy shows, beer festivals, farmer's markets and folk clubs.

Anthony Roberts

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THE MARLOWE

The Marlowe Theatre is lucky to enjoy a prominent place in the regional and national theatrical landscape.

Meanwhile The Marlowe Studio takes on the spirit of its namesake by championing bold and challenging work on the small scale, particularly when it is created by, or speaks to, communities in East Kent.

Kim Sanders

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farnham **maltings**

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 is 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



The Unicorn is the UK's leading theatre for young audiences welcoming 65,000 families and schools every year, and thousands more through the Unicorn Online programme of free digital theatre experiences.

unicorntheatre.com



This April we will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the founding of house. We will be celebrating the success of the programme which has helped South East England go from one of the least, to the most toured region for contemporary theatre.

Keep an eye on @housetheatre for our birthday plans and hopefully you can join us for a big slice of cake!

Sign up to receive news and updates from house:



housetheatre.org.uk



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