



PITCH UP

helping theatre makers and
venues start conversations

09 January 2018



INTRODUCTION

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

And of course there are ideas and opportunities in the room today to whom 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 Offbeat, Oxford Playhouse and Arts at the Old Fire Station 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 in spring 2018



venues and dates:
housetheatre.org.uk

Growing Pains, a powerful spoken-word piece written and performed by Tom Gill about growing up in Salford;
To Helen Back, a surreal, moving play written and performed by Helen Seymour (and previous Pitch Up participant) analysing sickness, health and what it means to recover;
MANWATCHING, presented with the Royal Court and performed sight-unseen by a different male comedian each night from a script by an anonymous woman about love and heterosexual relationships;
Carry on Jaywick, a candid and uplifting verbatim play by Dan Murphy about one of the most deprived UK neighbourhoods.

SCHEDULE

- 14:00 Arrivals and refreshments, Burton Taylor Studio
- 14.15 Welcome
Offbeat
Lost in Translation Circus Hungry
Proteus My Beautiful Laundrette
Papermash Theatre Bits
Can't Sit Still Invisible Thread
The Spring A Little Something Extra for Families
- 14.50 Elevator pitches
Oxford Playhouse
Farnham Maltings
The North Wall
Pegasus
Wells Maltings
Colchester Arts Centre
- 15:00 Break and relocate to the Old Fire Station
- 15.45 **OTM Oxfordshire Theatre Makers Network**
Jackie Hagan This is Not a Safe Space
Third Party Productions Lear
Judy Barrington-Smuts Motherf*er**
It's Not Us Hitleria Pizzeria Parts I & II
Acrojou Vagabond Matter
- 16.15 Elevator pitches
Arts at the Old Fire Station
Hertford Theatre
Arts at Stowe
The Theatre, Chipping Norton
Proteus Creation Space
The Mill Arts Centre
- 16.25 Closing comments before the conversations continue over a drink

OFFBEAT FESTIVAL



Offbeat festival showcases exciting new shows to an Oxford audience.

Curated through an open call, Offbeat is looking for theatre, dance, comedy, music, family shows and spoken word, by upcoming and established artists from Oxfordshire and across the UK. Apply by: 9am, Monday 29 January 2018

Contact

Hannah Groombridge
info@offbeatoxford.co.uk
offbeatoxford.co.uk | @OffBeatOx

About Offbeat

Produced and presented by Oxford Playhouse and Arts at the Old Fire Station, Offbeat is a hive of new performance in Oxford. This year's festival takes place 22-30 June 2018.

LOST IN TRANSLATION CIRCUS

Hungry



Hungry uses a sensory feast of smells, taste and circus to explore our relationship with food, emotion and hunger for more. Food can become a substitute for love, sex, sleep; can form bonds, be a crutch, an indulgence... a memory.

Contact

Annabel Carberry
annabel@litcircus.com
lostintranslationcircus.com | @LITCircusUK

About Lost in Translation Circus

Norwich-based contemporary circus company Lost in Translation work with a core team of international artists to create accessible ensemble-based outdoor and indoor work, integrating character and narrative into circus physicality.

PROTEUS

My Beautiful Laundrette



In Autumn 2018 Proteus will premiere a new stage adaptation of the cult classic *My Beautiful Laundrette* before embarking on a national tour. This new adaptation by award-winning playwright Brendan Murray explores the experience of British Asian and LGBT communities.

Contact

Fergus Evans
fergus@bigfeast.org
proteustheatre.com | @proteustheatre
bigfeast.org | @BigFeastArts

About Proteus

Formed in 1981, Basingstoke-based Proteus are an award-winning theatre company who bring critically acclaimed artists and theatre makers to villages, towns and cities across the UK and beyond.

PAPERMASH THEATRE

Bits



We're not talking enough about our vaginas. Our vulvas. Our bits. PaperMash Theatre wants to develop a new cabaret play about bits that celebrates friendship, teenagers and imperfections and explores the myths, anxieties and confusions that surround the vulva.

Contact

Hannah Tookey
hannaheugenie@gmail.com
papermashtheatre.com | @PaperMashT

About PaperMash Theatre

PaperMash Theatre make unpredictable and sometimes chaotic new work in a playful and collaborative way. Their inaugural play, *Happy Birthday Without You*, ran at the Tricycle Theatre in 2015 before transferring to Paine's Plough's Roundabout at the Edinburgh Fringe and winning Best Newcomer at Greater Manchester Fringe.

CAN'T SIT STILL

Invisible Thread



Invisible Thread is an intimate, multi-sensory experience for new mothers and babies up to 6 months old, combining movement, choral song and massage. The show aims to address, and have a positive impact on, maternal mental health.

Contact

Cat Boot
contact@cantsitstill.net
cantsitstill.net | @CSS_theatre

About Can't Sit Still

Can't Sit Still create new devised work that combines physical theatre, circus, puppetry and original live music. They tell stories, start conversations, and try to change the world.

THE SPRING

A Little Something Extra for Families



The Spring are looking for theatre makers with bright ideas to help them create add-on interactive and/or immersive activities for children and their families that accompany performances in community spaces. Help them to create a little something extra for families in Havant!

Contact

Jemma Corbin
jemmac@thespring.co.uk
thespring.co.uk | @the_spring

About The Spring

The Spring Arts & Heritage Centre is one of the few integrated arts and heritage centres in the UK. They aim to create experiences that change the way people see the world, to enhance wellbeing and make their community proud.

ELEVATOR PITCHES



Oxford Playhouse presents and produces the best of British and international drama, family shows, contemporary dance and music, student and amateur shows, comedy, lectures and poetry.

Laura Elliot
laura.elliott@oxfordplayhouse.com
oxfordplayhouse.com | @OxfordPlayhouse



The North Wall exists to provide opportunities for artists, young people and the general public to make and experience timely, relevant and socially engaged art of the highest quality.

Ria Parry and John Hoggarth
programming@thenorthwall.com
thenorthwall.com | @TheNorthWall



Wells Maltings is undergoing a major refurbishment with a brand new extension, and internal spaces refitted and developed to create a cultural and heritage hub opening in Spring 2018.

Simon Daykin
simon@wellsmaltings.org.uk
wellsmaltings.org.uk | @WellsMaltings

farnham maltings

Farnham Maltings is a cultural organisation based in south west Surrey, that exists to encourage the people of Farnham and further afield to participate in, shape and understand the world in which we live.

Laura Woodward
laura.woodward@farnhammaltings.com
farnhammaltings.com |
@farnhammaltings



Pegasus is a theatre with young people at its heart. It is a meeting place where generations, cultures, artists and participants can come together as a community in a creative environment.

Corinne Micallef
corinne.micallef@pegasustheatre.org.uk
pegasustheatre.org.uk | @Pegatweet

COLCHESTER ARTS CENTRE

Colchester Arts Centre is the little church with the big attitude deep in the heart of Essex, that can put children's entertainer Palfi the Clown on, on the same day as Cradle of Filth.

Anthony Roberts
anthony@colchesterartscentre.com
colchesterartscentre.com |
@ColchesterArts

OTM
Oxfordshire Theatre Makers Network



OTM is a network for professional theatre makers in Oxfordshire. OTM run social and professional development events, provide online and in-person networking, create and distribute theatre-related resources, and promote locally-made work to venues and audiences.

Contact

Lizzy McBain
oxfordshiretheatremakers@gmail.com
oxfordshiretheatremakers.com

About OTM

OTM is a collaborative venture managed by a steering committee of eight people, comprising local theatre makers (directors, movement directors, actors and writers) and venue staff.

Other projects



The Emanate Showcase, 29 March at Arts at the Old Fire Station. Eight local companies will pitch their tour-ready production and perform excerpts for an audience of programmers, funders and producers.

JACKIE HAGAN
This is Not a Safe Space



Photo: Johnathan Clover

From the award-winning poet and playwright Jackie Hagan comes a new solo show featuring the voices of proper skint people about the complicated weirdness of being human. Expect audience interaction, DIY puppetry, poetic comedy, and one underclass amputee steering everything. Commissioned and supported by Unlimited.

Contact

Fergus Evans
fergus@bigfeast.org
jackiehagan.org | @jackiehagan

About Jackie Hagan

Jackie Hagan is a working-class, queer, disabled poet, performer and theatre-maker and a Jerwood Compton Poetry Fellow. Her work focuses on celebrating the experiences of people left out of the mainstream. She has been featured everywhere from Radio 4 to *Chat* magazine.

THIRD PARTY PRODUCTIONS
Lear



Photo: Lukasz Wodynski

According to geriatric psychiatrist Brice Pitt, Lear exhibits a pathology related to old age, including memory loss and disassociation from reality: dementia. The action will take place in a nursing home and the poetic reality of the character's mind.

Contact

Tony Gleave
gleave@thirdparty.org.uk
thirdparty.org.uk | @nogginthekeing

About Third Party Productions

Working with John Wright they produce fast-paced visually expressive theatre. Most of their work is based on classic plays which are deconstructed during the rehearsal process, indulged in their humour, given a new image system and a contemporary and experimental vitality.

JUDY BARRINGTON-SMUTS
*Motherf***ker*



The state of early motherhood is, in many ways, a state of crisis, fraught with danger and filled with beauty, full of emotional juxtapositions that rage daily through the body and mind of a new mother. This poignant and darkly comic performance seeks to explore and celebrate this sometimes taboo subject in all its primal glory.

Contact

Judy Barrington-Smuts
Judy@wetpicnic.com
judybarrington-smuts.weebly.com

About Judy Barrington-Smuts

Judy Barrington-Smuts is an Artistic Director of Wet Picnic whose focus on outdoor and immersive work has given the audience experience an integral role in her own practice, which is driven by a love of exploring ideas through research, movement and improvisation.

IT'S NOT US

Hitleria Pizzeria Parts I & II



One man's choice of moustache acts as a catalyst for a series of events and personal revelations, in an absurdist play set in an imaginary Eastern European country in the midst of civil war, invasions and political gamesmanship.

Contact

John Knowles
ItsnotusTheatre@gmail.com
itsnotus.co.uk

About It's Not Us

'If you go to theatre to share in something real, connect to your deepest humanity, hopes and fears, be transported and to feel more... then It's Not Us are for you.'

ACROJOU

Vagabond Matter



An athletic and visually stunning circus and visual theatre production, for outdoor programming. *Vagabond Matter* explores the snowballing of scientific knowledge, and its effect on our perceived reality. A joyride through current scientific understanding, told through contemporary circus and cinematic design.

Contact

Anna Shlonsky
admin@acrojou.com
acrojou.com | @acrojou

About Acrojou

Acrojou are a leading company in the UK circus and street arts sector. Combining circus, bespoke structures and sublime visuals, Acrojou create performances for presentation outdoors, where people of all ages and backgrounds can access them in their local, public spaces.

ELEVATOR PITCHES



Arts at the Old Fire Station is an arts centre co-habiting with the homelessness charity Crisis. A reputation for good quality art that takes a risk, asks a question and entertains.

Alexandra Coke
alexandra.coke@oldfirestation.org.uk
oldfirestation.org.uk | @ArtsatOFS



Arts at Stowe is a new initiative from Stowe School to develop the profile and provision of the arts. Part of the school and historic house and featuring theatre, music, exhibitions, workshops and residencies.

Deborah Clarke
deborah.clarke@stowe.co.uk
stowe.co.uk | @artsstowe



Proteus Creation Space is a dynamic creative hub in the heart of Basingstoke. A vital community resource that welcomes everyone - whether they want to spark new ideas or simply relax with a cup of tea in the cafe.

Fergus Evans
producer@proteustheatre.com
proteustheatre.com | @proteustheatre



Hertford Theatre is a place where people come to feel happier, healthier, safer and proud. Developing the cultural and economic life of East Hertfordshire through professional performances, participation and education.

Rhys Thomas
rhys.thomas@hertfordtheatre.com
hertfordtheatre.com | @hertfordtheatre

THE THEATRE CHIPPING NORTON

The Theatre, Chipping Norton is a feisty producing theatre in the heart of the Cotswolds. The Theatre is not a 'Little Theatre' but an eccentric one that likes to make a big noise.

John Terry
john@chippingnortontheatre.com
chippingnortontheatre.com
@ChippyTheatre



The Mill Arts Centre inspires creativity and enriches the lives of its communities by providing a high quality, varied artistic, education and participatory programme, playing a significant role in the development of Banbury.

Rhys Hopkin
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farnham **maltings**



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**ARTS COUNCIL
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