





welcome



Hello and welcome...

We are thrilled to have such an eclectic and inspiring group of artists, companies and venues together under one roof in Canterbury.

house created Pitch Up in 2014 with the ambition of fostering new collaborations between South East venues and theatremakers, to provide opportunities for everyone to share their wants, needs and ideas. We're proud to say Pitch Up has been doing this ever since.

Pitch Up is a space for making connections and learning, so we encourage you to have as many conversations as possible and let us know what happens as a result.

house theatre network is a strand of Farnham Maltings' theatre development, it exists to ensure a thriving and sustainable theatre sector throughout the South East of England, supporting venues and artists to reach, engage and stimulate audiences

The relationship between artists and venues is symbiotic, and one which house has a commitment to nurturing, with events like Pitch Up. We hope that bringing you all together, in person, helps you to build meaningful and positive connections. The better connected we are, the stronger our sector is.

We'd like to thank our hosts, Gulbenkian Arts Centre, for making today possible.

Have a brilliant time

Harriet Bolwell Senior Producer, house Harriet.bolwell@house.ora.uk

about

house southeast theatre network is a venue support network and touring initiative based in the South East of England. It is delivered by Farnham Maltings with support from Arts Council England and an advisory group of venue leaders, programmers, and producers from the region. house supports venues to improve the range, quality and scale of theatre presented across South East England and exists to build audiences for contemporary theatre across the region.



M housetheatre



in house-southeast-theatre-network

Farnham Maltings is a creative organisation that works with the artists and communities of South East England to encourage the greatest number of people to make, see and enjoy the best art possible. From a range of buildings, set in the heart of Farnham, we present events and workshops from large scale craft festivals to intimate cabaret shows, as well as providing space for voluntary and community groups to deliver their own ambitions.

We enable artists making craft, theatre and dance work to thrive by providing affordable studio and rehearsal space, offering producing and tour booking, developing networks, sharing resources and equipping artists with the skills and opportunities to promote their work locally, nationally and internationally.



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(o) farnhammaltingstheatre



farnham maltings

pitch up

schedule

Arrival 11:30

12:00 Welcome remarks

12:05 -**Artists Pitches:** 12:25 She Said Jump TalkShow Beeja Half a String

12:30 - Venue Pitches:

12:55 **BEAM** Hertford Ropetackle Arts Centre The Alexander Centre Gulbenkian Arts Centre Applause Rural Touring

Brighton Fringe

Coppice Theatre

13:00 Lunch

Artist Pitches: 14:00 -

14:20 Moving Memory Dance Theatre Yolanda Mercy Xan Dye Microwave Coven

Smoking Apples

Venue Pitches: 14:25 -

14:50 ARK

> EM Forster Theatre The Hawth

1 Degree East Looping the Loop The Marlowe Theatre

Closing remarks 14:55

15:00 Open networking

End of event 16:00







She Said Jump

Dirt, a circus adventure underground



about the company

She Said Jump is a physical theatre company combining the silly and the serious to create performances for indoor, outdoor and digital spaces. We create original equipment that helps us to integrate stories with aerial circus. Our approach focuses on playfulness and communication and draws on theatre clown, circus, dance, mime and puppetry.

Our work has been supported by Jacksons Lane, Flying Fantastic, 101 Outdoor Arts, Longfield Hall, Ecosystem Coldharbour, the Brigstow Institute, the University of Bristol, Good Grief Festival, house southeast theatre network and funded by the National Lottery.

Our previous show, 'The Guy in the Luggage Rack', an aerial comedy about grief and memory, has toured to theatres and outdoor venues and festivals since 2022, reaching over 4.500 live audience members to date. The project engaged with 200 participants throughout the development process and in parallel workshop projects and our accompanying resources in print and online reached combined audiences of over 20,000.

about the show

Dirt is an immersive, multi-sensory performance and installation for children 5+ and families, with accessibility woven throughout. Inspired by Lewis Carol's classic tale. **Dirt** invites audiences to fall down the wormhole and journey underground into the living ecosystem of the soil, exploring our connection to the earth and each other

pitcher

Maisie Whitehead



shesaidjump.co.uk



(a) @shesaidjump

TalkShow

Bad Party



about the company

TalkShow creates live performances, work for digital platforms and participation projects where the audience has a role to play. We work collaboratively with artists and communities, creating pieces that flip modern fears and anxieties into collective experiences.

Our work includes: The Right Dose (2024) A short film commissioned by pharmacists at Great Ormond Street Hospital, made with young people and medical professionals.

Telethon (2022): A theatre piece commissioned by Shoreditch Town Hall featuring integrated captioning and community performers. 'Captures a frantic, timely sense of lives unravelling and systems in collapse' The Stage Sixteen (2017/18) - Supported by The Lowry & Ovalhouse. A participation project that worked with over 100 young people exploring agency, voice & politics.

Focus Group (2016/17) - An Ovalhouse co-production, seed commissioned by South Street Arts Centre which toured nationally to multiple venues. 'exquisitely crafted & often painfully funny' The Guardian

about the show

We'd like to pitch our interactive theatre experience for 8-12 year olds, Bad Party.

The Bad Party audience will be guests at a party, but with a sense that all is not well. They'll need empathy and creativity to get the party, and the adults running it, back on track!

pitchers

Stu Barter Faith Dodkins



talkshow.org.uk



@talkshowtheatre



/TalkShowTheatre



Beeja

Choogh Choogh



about the company

Beeia is a dynamic dance company that creates and tours innovative dance theatre, including Choogh Choogh, an immersive performance for early years, inspired by the sights and sounds of an Indian train journey. Developed with early years settings, it has toured theatre venues and nurseries, increasing capacity for South Asian-led participatory work and engaging young children in the arts.

Founded by Anusha Subramanyam and Vipul, Beeja's mission is to inspire through dance, transforming lives, communities, and places. Our values drive everything we do through performance and touring:

Inclusivity: Creating accessible, diverse experiences through our performances.

Community: Connecting with local communities through touring and collaboration.

Resonance: Ensuring our performances offer meaningful connections with audiences.

Creativity: Flourishing through collaboration and innovation in our work.

Courage: Exploring new, bold ways to create and present dance.

Agility: Evolving through reflection and learning.

about the show

Choogh Choogh is an immersive performance for early years children, inspired by Indian train journey, enriching South Asian-led work. Our new project, RedYellowBlueGreen, is a multi-sensory experience referencing Holi, designed to immerse children of all ethnicities in vibrant colours and interactive elements. They were created in early years settings.

pitcher

Vipul Anusha



beeja.com



@beejadance



@beejadance

Half a String

Breathe



about the company

Half a String uses puppetry, design and original music to craft fantastical human stories that are arounded in live performance. We tour theatre, publish books and work with people of all ages to unleash creativity. Our community of artists explore ideas to create accessible, intelligent and astonishing work that champions meaningful collective experiences.

We have established ourselves in Kent as a leading theatre company, creating family work that tours regularly across the UK to studio theatre and rural venues as well as tip toeing internationally. Our most recent work Breathe has just finished a hugely successful run at the Edinburgh Fringe, with multiple 5 star reviews, sell out shows at The Pleasance, and had rave audience reviews.

We have also been touring our outdoor Puppet Van this summer, launching our new show Space Chickens reaching audiences across the country on high streets and festivals. Our winter show The Snowsmith is remounting this year and running at The Gulbenkian Arts Centre this year.

about the shows

Breathe is an Offies Award nominated show about the ways trees work. Through the use of intricate puppetry and ground breaking live camera work, live folk music and D&B our audience is immersed in a story that captures the imagination of the whole family (5+).

pitcher

Peter Morton



halfastring.co.uk



@halfastring



/halfastring



Coppice Theatre

How to Catch a Book Witch





about the company

Coppice Theatre is an Award winning theatre company based in Cornwall. Coppice was founded in 2016 by a group of Cornwall based artists with the aim of providing professional theatre work for emerging practitioners across the theatre arts.

Our work: Science based storytelling shows Science Adventures, The Power Pickle, Deep Sea (toured to schools, theatres, fringe festivals and via rural touring). Tales from a Haunted Bookshop for slightly older audiences (8+). A collection of spooky tales for horrible children

Our most recent show is How to Catch a Book Witch was created in 2023. Aimed at children aged 4+ and was created with accessibility at its core. The show included key word signing, captions and has an audio description option. The show was funded by The Arts Council England and Feast Cornwall with support from AMATA at Falmouth university.

It won the Farnham Maltings Emerging Artist/Company Award at Brighton Fringe 2024. We had a fab run at Edinburgh Fringe and received 4 star reviews.

about the show

A children's storytelling show (4+) that explores the importance of libraries, sharing stories and not judging people. Featuring live music, puppetry, captions, keyword signing and optional accompanying workshops. Kira loves reading, one day the words in the books start to disappear, there is a Book Witch hiding in the library.

Exploring the importance of libraries, sharing stories and not judging people. The show features live music, puppetry and storytelling.

pitchers

Jasmine Cole Hannah Platts



coppicetheatre.co.uk



@CoppiceTheatre



/CoppiceTheatre





about the venue

BEAM is the newly developed Hertford Theatre. After a four-year closure, we re-opened at the end of August. Our offer has been transformed: we now have a 547 seat theatre, 1 community room, a dance studio, 2 cafe bars, and 3 cinemas. Now run by an almost entirely new team, we are building on the success of Hertford Theatre. Our programming is designed to provide something for all, with greater variety coming in spring with the opening of our second, 151-seat, theatre.

A unique venue, we are a community hub. Seven of our spaces are available to hire, by community groups, artists and organisations. We will shortly be launching an artist development programme, looking at the practical elements of self-employment and producing, as well as creative development. Our Learning & Wellbeing programme is integral to forging connections with our community, and will include initiatives for residents of all ages, both in Hertford and the wider county. Schools work will also be central to our vision, as we build a bespoke programme of activity, both in schools and within our venue



beamhertford.co.uk

@beamhertford

/beamhertford

nicola.pollard@hertfordtheatre.com





about the venue

Situated on the banks of the River Adur in Shorehamby-Sea, Ropetackle Arts Centre is a multi-award winning, purpose-built venue presenting some of the biggest and best performing arts events in the UK.

Our friendly atmosphere, quality programme, and intimate performance space combine to make every event a memorable one. From live music to comedy, family theatre to film, workshops to literary events and all things in-between - we have something to suit all tastes and budgets. We are a registered charity, committed to serving the community.

ropetacklecentre.co.uk

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THE ALEXANDER CENTRE, FAVERSHAM

about the venue

The Alexander Centre, affectionally known as The Alex, is an impressive Victorian townhouse at the heart of Faversham, run by a CIC for the local community. It's a place for local business and leisure activities, weddings and parties, workshops and exercise classes, fairs, art exhibitions, markets and, of course, a wide range of shows. Its remit is to enable the local community to 'Do More, Be More, See More'.

The Alex's hall is the largest indoor multifunctional space in the area: it is fully equipped, has a demountable stage and can seat up to 260 people in a variety of layouts.



thealex.org.uk

(©) @thealexfav

TheAlexanderCentreFaversham

pamelahardiman@gmail.com

Gulbenkian Arts Centre

about the venue

We are the University of Kent's Arts Centre offering innovative, engagingand high quality arts activity for the public, staff and students. **Gulbenkian Arts Centre** provides a key role in delivering the University commitment to public engagement and has a particular focus on the creative empowerment of children and young people.



thegulbenkian.co.uk

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/TheGulbenkian

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Cultivating creativity Connecting communities

about the organisation

Applause Rural Touring helps communities throughout the South East to access professional theatre, music and other performing arts, creating opportunities for rural and culturally under-served neighbourhoods to be empowered to reimagine their community through creative engagement.

From halls to pubs to libraries, from fetes and festivals to village greens and to wide open spaces, we connect exceptional artists and performers with a network of passionate volunteers and programmers.

Southborough Presents! is our live arts programme at Unity Hall, Southborough Civic Centre. Bringing an action-packed programme of award-winning shows for children and young people alongside a programme for adults.



applause.org.uk



@applausetouring



/applausetouring



@applausetouring

programming@applause.org.uk





Photo credit - Danny Fitzpatrick Event: Guru Dudu

about the festival

Brighton Fringe is an opportunity to explore your most experimental and creative ideas. It is a safe space to try new things with welcoming and friendly gudiences who are excited to see new things and comfortable with pushing boundaries. Our audiences know that there is something for all tastes here, so nothing is off limits.

Brighton Fringe is an open access festival, meaning that anyone can take part as long as you find a venue to host you and pay a registration fee.

Brighton Fringe 2025 will take place from 2 May -1 June 2025.



brightonfringe.org



(c) @brightonfringe

takepart@brightonfringe.org

Moving Memory Dance Theatre

Devil's Doorbell



about the company

Moving Memory Dance Theatre has been entertaining family audiences since 2011 delighting them with shows that are surprising and life enhancing, drawing on the perspectives and experiences of older people.

We make and present striking, visual and meaninaful performances, films and installations which surprise and entertain audiences and change peoples' perspectives of ageing.

Moving Memory is committed to using the unique benefits of personal creativity and the arts to address ageism. The company produces performances, workshops and training, offers guidance to others and contributes to research so that people across the country perceive ageing differently. Between 2016 and 2023 we engaged 1,888 people in participatory work and reached audiences of over 12,775 with our performances. The work the company produces - and the way it is produced – shows that getting older can be liberating and life enhancing. It makes a substantial difference to the way people feel about themselves and about getting and being older. It demonstrates the richness, value and importance of older people's lives and their contributions to local communities.

about the show

Devil's Doorbell is a passionate response to the pervasive misogyny written through women's lives, laced with laughter and the moving messiness of life. Target audience - 50+

A family show, Golden Slumbers will be a highly visual outdoor show exploring the endless cycle of labour, celebrating everyone's right to little rest.

pitcher

Sian Stevenson



movingmemorydance.com



@moving memory



/movingmemorydance



@MovingMemdance



Moving Memory Dance Theatre

Yolanda Mercy

big bodies cabaret and failure project



about the company

BAFTA Nominee - Yolanda Mercy is a British Nigerian writer, performer, and director whose creative journey has taken her from the stages of London to the international screens of television and beyond. With a passion for storytelling that knows no bounds. Yolanda's work has aarnered critical acclaim and numerous accolades

Her writing has been recognised with nominations for prestigious awards such as BAFTA, WGGB, and Broadcast Award, highlighting her craft narratives that captivate audiences. Additionally, Yolanda's talents have earned her the esteemed Edinburgh TV Festival "New Voices Award", Underbelly Untapped Award and Another Route fellowship.

Mentored by industry luminaries like Anne Mensah through the BAFTA Mentoring Scheme, Yolanda has honed her skills and gained guidance from within the creative sphere. As an alumni of prolific fellowships including JMK mentoring, Soho Theatre Six, and Film4, Yolanda continues to build bridges and foster collaboration within the artistic community.

Currently, Yolanda is crafting original projects for both screen and theatre. With her unique voice and boundless creativity, she invites audiences to join her on a journey of self-discovery and artistic expression.

about the show

Big Bodies Cabaret is a joyous celebration of plus size bodies, movement, and self-expression. This 75-minute dance theatre extravaganza challenges conventions, embracing the beauty and power of plus-size bodies in motion. Featuring a dynamic mix of dance, theatre, and music, this show redefines what it means to take up space with unapologetic joy. Come for the performance, stay for the post-show rave—where all bodies are celebrated, and everyone is invited to move freely. Join us in reclaiming the stage, one joyful step at a time.

pitchers

Yolanda Mercv



yolandamercy.com



(a) @yolandamercy

Xan Dye

Practicing in Parallel



Photo credit - Henri T

about the company

Xan Dye (they/them) is a neurodivergent artist based between London and Surrey, exploring rhythmic, repetitive movement as stimming – a manifestation of their neurodivergence.

For Xan, the intersection of stimming and dance is a way to explore accessibility in dance practice. Their ongoing project **STIMMING**, on which they are lead artist, is funded by Arts Council England.

Xan's choreographic research is influenced by their choreographic and facilitation work with disability arts organisations including Candoco Dance Company, Access All Areas and Entelechy Arts.

about the show

Practicing in Parallel is a performance project combining movement, drawing and sound for neurodivergent, learning disabled folk and the communities we interact with.

A dialogue between drawing and dancing emerges through deep listening. Internal rhythms become externalised and shared. Drawer and dancer exchange tools and inhabit each other's space and sensory worlds. Their roles blur and unspool.

We are particularly interested in creating longer durational performance work. However we can be flexible e.g. between 30mins - 3 day duration.

pitcher

Xan Dye



(O) @xan_dye



@xan_dye

Annabel Betts

Microwave Coven



about the company

Microwave Coven is a new company that has launched as a product of Develop Your Creative Practice Funding, which was awarded to the Artistic Director in order to specialise in intergenerational co-creation.

Annabel has worked for 12 years as an actor and theatre maker, both nationally and internationally with a particular emphasis on family theatre. Her DYCP is now allowing her to also learn from leading practitioners in co-creation with communities and consolidate her experience into a company.

Microwave Coven's aims are to generate work with and for the community. We aim to do this in a unique way through our "Youth & Yore" Workshops, which aim to bridge the gap between generations, inviting a group of over 75s and a group of under 12s to make a play together through a period of co-creation. The outcome will be a brand new piece of family theatre created by and for the community.

about the show

Our first ever piece of local, intergenerational, cocreated family theatre, made with local over 75s and under 12s, and to be performed professionally in autumn 2025. The play will be for all the family, and for the audience that created it, in South East Kent,

pitcher

Annabel Betts



We Are More Alike

Smoking Apples





about the company

Smoking Apples are an award winning puppetry and visual theatre company that work with complex subject matter. There are three main strands to our work; indoor touring shows, outdoors and large scale work and outreach/educational projects. Our indoor work is the most active strand and since 2010, we have created six original shows.

Our previous indoor work including CELL, In Our Hands and Flux has toured the UK. Europe and Asia. across the last 10 years. Our most recent indoor production, Kinder, premiered to critical acclaim in Spring 2022 and in 2023, won two Offies awards in the Theatre for Young Audiences category; Best Sound/Original Music and Best Production.

Our outdoor work and education/outreach strands have also seen us travel the UK and abroad, working with some fantastic partners. Since 2019, we have been touring a family show, Arbor the Tree, with Applause Rural Touring. Across 2020/21, we created a new outdoor family show, Buzz and are touring both pieces, across the UK this Summer.

about the show

We Are More Alike

A family friendly, large scale outdoor show, We Are More Alike follows the movement of people through the Kentish coastline

smokingapplestheatre.com/show/we-are-more-alike/ Upstream (Work in Progress)

A new outdoor show suitable for family audiences, exploring our rivers and open water spaces.

pitchers

Matt Lloyd George Bellamy



smokingapplestheatre.com



@smokingapplestheatre



@smokingapplestheatre





CLIFTONVILLE'S CULTURAL SPACE

about the venue

ARK is a welcoming creative space reflecting the diversity of Cliftonville, that presents ambitious, engaging and inclusive programming in a culturally iconic building.

Our aim is to bring people together through a wide range of cultural projects - long term and often marginalised Margate residents, and new comers both recently arrived creatives from London and people from other cultures

Given that we are based in a former synagogue, it's important for us to consider the heritage of our building as a place of community whilst also ensuring we are a welcoming space for the wider community.

Our artistic programme re ects this ethos and our programming priorities are re ecting a diversity of cultures - especially those represented in Cliftonville.; re ecting the heritage of the building; providing a platform and opportunities for regionally based creatives; and exploring and interrogating contemporary global issues.

Our artistic decisions are driven by relevance and quality. We have presented work by 1927 theatre, Jasmin Vardimon Dance, MadLove and Matthew Bourne's New Adventures



arkcliftonville.com



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/arkcliftonville



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EM FORSTER THEATRE

TONBRIDGE SCHOOL

about the venue

Based in Tonbridge School, we have a 382 seat proscenium arch theatre and an 80 seat studio. We programme, theatre, comedy and music throughout the year and have a strong family audience.

We have worked with companies such as Smoking Apple to provide rehearsal space and R&D space in return for schools workshops and are open to future conversations



emftheatre.com



@emforstertheatre



/emforstertheatre

krp@tonbridge-school.org





about the venue

Opened in 1988, the Hawth is the centre of the performing arts in Crawley, West Sussex.

The main auditorium seats 800+ and has the ability to transform from full seated to flat floor and 'in the round' configurations.

The Hawth features a full flytower with 50+ counterweighted lines and an orchestra pit capable of accommodating at least 60 musicians for largescale musical work.

The Hawth Studio seats a maximum audience of 146 but can also be configured in standing and cabaret formats

Hidden in the woods to the rear is an outdoor amphitheatre seating up to 300 people.

parkwoodtheatres.co.uk/the-hawth

@thehawthcrawley

/thehawthcrawley

@thehawthcrawley

@hawthmarketing

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1Degree East



about the initiative

1 Degree East is an initiative established to support producers, selfproducing artists and arts organisations to raise the quality and reach of work for audiences in the South East. Our activity is place-based with Producer Hubs in Bedford, Canterbury, Folkestone, Luton and Norwich that develop skills, support ambition, and serve audiences.

1DE works in places with low engagement, pockets of deprivation and under-represented communities. Our team has over 30 years' performing arts experience and since 2019 we have supported over 300 practitioners, delivered over 500 networking events and advice opportunities. Annually, we produce projects reaching 10,000 people and festivals reaching over 40,000.

1 degreeeast.com

(a) @1degreeeastuk

1 degreeeast

Info@1degreeeast.com



about the venue

Established 13 years ago, Looping the Loop has arown from running two festivals yearly to a robust arts organisation with activities spanning the entire calendar year. Based in Thanet, we are dedicated to producing and presenting innovative arts events in non-traditional venues, engaging deeply with local communities to transform everyday spaces into creative arenas.

Our programming extends beyond events to include substantial artist development initiatives. Through the Performing Arts Collective Thanet (PACT), we offer support and resources to local artists, helping them to hone their craft and advance their careers. Additionally, our partnership with ARK in the Makina More Waves festival has been a cornerstone project, revitalizing and showcasing emerging performing arts talent across Kent and Essex. This festival was inaugurated in 2019, paused due to the global pandemic, and resumed last year. We are now in the throes of preparing for its eagerly anticipated third edition.

At Looping the Loop, we continue to champion the arts by facilitating spaces for creation and conversation, ensuring that our community remains at the heart of all we do and supporting professionals in the performing arts.





estelle.loopingtheloop@gmail.com

MARLOWE THEATRF

about the venue

The Marlowe Theatre is one of the UK's most successful large-scale regional theatres. Our mission is to be the engine house for the performing arts in Kent, shaping the spirit of our region.

The Marlowe Theatre Artists' Network is a community for artists and theatre-makers of all backgrounds, disciplines and levels of experience. Membership is free and open to everyone.

Members have access to our online forum and regular in-person networking events. As the community grows, we will offer artist and professional development opportunities, the first of which will be a mentoring scheme, to be launched later this year.



marlowetheatre.com



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