

PITCH UP

helping theatre makers and
venues start conversations

19 May 2016

INTRODUCTION

greenhouse is an initiative aimed at better connecting the ambitions of theatre makers, audiences and venues across 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; today's 15 seven-minute pitches have been divided into three sessions, each followed by an opportunity to discuss, network and connect.

We have invested in a number of the relationships that emerged from previous Pitch Up events 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.

This time round we also want to address the balance of greenhouse-supported projects across the region and so expect a significant proportion of our seed funding awards to be towards projects being developed with venues in East Anglia. It's for this reason that we're delighted to be holding Pitch Up in Norwich today and we are grateful to The Garage and Norfolk & Norwich Festival for hosting today's event.

greenhouse is supported by Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and Arts Council England, and delivered by Farnham Maltings.

housetheatre.org.uk @housetheatre #pitchup

SCHEDULE

- 13.30 Arrivals, teas and coffees
- 13.50 Introduction and a welcome from The Garage
- 14.00 **Dizzy O'Dare** Rise
Martin Figura The History of Accounting
Vanessa Earl Salt
ThisEgg Me and My Bee
The Seagull Casting the Community
Wells Maltings The Granary Theatre & Community Play
- 14.45 Break
- 15.00 **Irene Ros** The Snow Queen - a Faust for Children
Vamos Theatre Touring Programme 2017: Developing Audience Diversity
The Old Market Industrious Creatives: New Technologies in Theatre
Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds Associate Artists Programme
Katie Lyons & Ella Grace Blackout
- 15.35 Break
- 15:50 **Sheringham Little Theatre** Little Theatre, Big Ambitions
Elinor Cook Fens Play
Bola Agbaje & Pippa Cleary The Jungle
House of Blakewell Thor & Loki - The Musical
- 16.20 A word from Norfolk & Norwich Festival and closing comments
- 16.30 The conversations continue over a drink

DIZZY O'DARE

Rise

Photo: Rachel Cherry



A new indoor circus and theatre piece, *Rise* will use tightwire, dance, clown, live music and projection to capture Dizzy O'Dare's surreal, eclectic and eccentric style.

Based on the theory of eternal return - the idea that we are destined to repeat personal encounters over many lives - *Rise* explores a love story of two people meeting each other again and again in different scenarios, with different results; of maturing and letting go.

Combining the talents of real life partnership Alana Jones and Michael Imerson, *Rise* will be a highly personal show that strikes a delicate balance between comedy and pathos.

Contact

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About Dizzy O'Dare

DIZZY O[★]DARE

Dizzy O'Dare has created a wide range of work, including mid-scale circus spectacles, busking shows, roaming characters, cabaret acts and bespoke events.

Dizzy O'Dare creates alternative, exciting and engaging shows for a variety of audiences, thriving on artistic and creative challenges.

Other projects

Photo: Rikard Osterlund



The Giant Balloon Show

Take everything you know about balloons, and twist that into a highly entertaining 45minutes that will have the whole family in stitches and awe. Expect feverous balloon sculptures, high energy comic performance and the all important giant balloon! This is a small-scale show, which plays big.

“A masterclass in entertainment!”

MARTIN FIGURA

The History of Accountancy

Photo: Helen Ivory



It begins with marks on a cave wall, through the foundations of civilisation, the dark ages, the Renaissance, on to financial and environmental apocalypse. There are balance sheets on the Elgin Marbles. Leonardo Da Vinci illustrated Luca 'father of double entry book-keeping' Pacioli's *De Divina Proportione*.

A perpetual protagonist begins as a humble shepherd needing to count sheep. Over the ages, he rises in status to book-keeper and onwards, being corrupted along the way. By the final act, he has risen by financial devices to rule the world. Last man alive, he jet-skis from his mountain cave, pockets weighted down by gold, and sinks against a sunset.

Martin is looking to extend his theatrical range by collaborating with a theatre company on this project.

Contact

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About Martin Figura

Martin Figura is an award winning poet and spoken word artist. *Whistle*, his multi-media spoken word show, ran for five years at various venues, including a residency at the Roundhouse, a run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and performances in India with the British Council.

Other projects



Dr Zeeman's Catastrophe Machine

Martin Figura turns to Sir Erik Christopher Zeeman's Catastrophe Machine, the moon and photographs to help him sort out love, loss and when to let go.

Created with multi-media provocateur Ross Sutherland, *Dr Zeeman's Catastrophe Machine* goes to the Roundhouse and regional venues this year, including the Norfolk & Norwich Festival.

VANESSA EARL

Salt



What happens when the person you love the most disappears?

Set on England's East Coast, a lighthouse keeper loses her fisherman husband to the North Sea. Along her journey of acceptance, she decides to swim to his last known coordinates. *Salt* is about the sea, long-distance swimming and the East Coast fishing community. It will explore absence and presence; isolation and resilience; light and dark.

This will be a 60-minute piece of visual touring theatre working with Lecoq trained performers, puppeteer Sarah Fuller, composer James Keane (Pina Bausch, Hofesh Shechter), movement director Ed Woodall, marathon swimmer Karen Throsby and fishermen's wives'/community choirs.

Contact

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About Vanessa Earl



Vanessa Earl is a Lecoq trained performer and theatre maker who has worked with, amongst others, The Clod Ensemble, Complicite, the National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company. As a theatre maker, Vanessa collaborates with other artists to produce new interdisciplinary theatre.

Vanessa is also setting up an Arts and Health CIC.

Other projects



Seeing and Dreaming

A new piece of visual theatre that tells the intricate stories of two lives. Visual artist and puppeteer Sarah Fuller and performer and theatre maker Vanessa Earl are collaborating to bring these people's stories to life using shadows, objects, puppets and people.

THISEGG

Me and My Bee



Climate change is massive. Bees aren't. We want to help our fuzzy friends by making a show.

We imagine that the piece will follow the story of a young girl with an extraordinary fascination for bees. Combining the plight of bees with her determination to do good, the show will be about trying to save the world. A love story between a bee and a flower might feature as a subplot...

It will be equally silly and serious. It will be full of fantasy and reality. We plan to plant the seeds of thought for change.

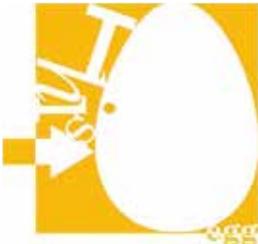
Me and My Bee will be a family show - for children AND adults.

Contact

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About ThisEgg



ThisEgg devises intimate theatre that mixes theatrical styles, celebrating different forms of entertainment to move audiences to laugh, cry and imagine; prompting them to ask big questions about the world we live in.

As a company, ThisEgg aims to make people feel more connected.

Other projects



Goggles

Gemma and Josie had pet fish, Sunny and Boo. But now they are dead. *Goggles* is an attempt to give Sunny and Boo the happy ending they deserved...

A quirky comedy about two people trying to hold their friendship together as they wonder whether they love each other equally.

THE SEAGULL

Casting the Community

Photo: william@phantasmagroph.co.uk



The Seagull has been incredibly active over the past few years, building links with local groups, schools and voluntary organisations, to increase the venue's ability to enhance the life of its community.

Casting the Community is part of The Seagull's aim to develop this work to raise local knowledge, appreciation and participation in theatre.

The Seagull is keen to engage local schools, the Harbour pupil referral unit, a local school for children with severe learning disabilities and/or other local voluntary and community groups, to work alongside professional theatre makers. In particular, The Seagull is looking for projects that connect to the curriculum or local stories and that might advance personal development, self confidence, educational attainment or aspirations.

Contact

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About The Seagull



The Seagull is an intimate 112 seat theatre in Lowestoft, Suffolk, that plays host to a regular stream of local talent, regional and national touring companies and bands, offering a diverse program for all ages and tastes. The venue also has three large studios and a licensed bar.

The Seagull is an independent venue and receives no regular funding.

Other projects



The Seagull Rep

A semi-professional in-house theatre company, working with paid local professionals alongside amateurs. The Seagull Rep has just finished its first musical to rave reviews and has plans to return to touring in 2017.

WELLS MALTINGS

The Granary Theatre and Community Play



As part of its heritage activity plan, Wells Maltings has secured funding to create a community play based on the life of Samuel Peel, a local man who did a huge amount for the town and county. He oversaw the reorganisation of post-war education in the county, laid the foundations for the National Health Service in north Norfolk and took on the establishment in his tireless efforts to bring changes to improve the lives of ordinary people. It has been said that there are few people, if any, who did more to shape Norfolk in the 20th century than Samuel Peel and Wells Maltings is looking for a theatre maker who can work with the local community to bring his story to life.

The redevelopment of the Wells Maltings itself is also a context for working with a theatre maker and an aim of the redevelopment is to increase capacity for presenting and supporting new theatre.

Contact

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About Wells Maltings



Wells Maltings hosts events from craft fairs to the annual Pirate Festival and is home to the 68 seat Granary Theatre and the newly developed Sackhouse with business and exhibition space.

Development plans are in place to transform the original building into an arts and heritage centre with a fully equipped 130 seat theatre, creating a year round destination for residents and visitors.

IRENE ROS

The Snow Queen – a Faust for Children



While Gerda and Kay grow their roses, a war is raging outside. It could be our grandparents' or the Palestinian conflict; it could be the war in Afghanistan, Libya or Syria; it could be any world's war. In this war kids learn how to shoot and they don't trust fairy tales anymore.

Andersen's *Snowqueen* is a fairy tale about good and evil, which hammers its message into readers' hearts as they glimpse their own world through the story's bewitched looking-glass.

It's a metaphor for youth, a Faust for children, with the potential to become an enchanting opera for children of 6+ and their families.

Contact

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About Irene Ros



As a director, Irene Ros seeks to discover the core of a script and to use different visual languages to emphasise it, often drawing on puppetry, physical theatre and music.

Championing an imaginative, interdisciplinary theatre, Irene creates work for children and families that succeeds in being both fun as well as intellectually stimulating.

Other projects



Lead

Enrico Mattei was the director of the Italian national oil company. He aimed to build a more respectful relationship with the Middle East but died in a plane crash in 1962.

In a darkroom, a journalist and a photographer lead the audience through the mystery of his death and wonder how different the world might be had he lived.

VAMOS THEATRE

Touring Programme 2017: Developing Audience Diversity

Photo: Graeme Braidwood / allienpen



Vamos Theatre's 2017 touring programme will develop the diversity of our audiences amongst some of society's most vulnerable groups. We are looking for partners to work closely with us on strategic audience development.

A re-tour of *The Best Thing* (Feb - April 2017) will develop our approach to creating mask theatre with the Deaf community, as well as offering relaxed performances for the first time. We aim to challenge ourselves and our venues to integrate accessibility into our everyday thought and practice.

A re-tour of award winning *Finding Joy* (Sept - Oct 2017) will build relationships between the care and theatre sectors. Through performances and workshops we will link venues with care providers in their area; developing arts in health networks.

Contact

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About Vamos Theatre



Vamos Theatre is the UK's leading professional full mask theatre company. Vamos Theatre tours innovative full mask theatre productions nationally and internationally; delivers training and education workshops in a wide range of settings including schools, colleges, businesses, care homes, festivals, and conferences; and takes walkabout theatre into the streets of Britain and beyond.

Other projects



Civvy Street

Neighbours Nancy and Dom meet in the wheelie bin; Dom seeks protection from his night terrors, Nancy searches through the rubbish for hidden treasures. Dom is an ex-soldier with PTSD, Nancy has a hoarding OCD. Through their eyes we build an understanding of the nature of human fear and the effects of war on the fragile human mind. This is Vamos Theatre's next production, scheduled to tour in Spring 2018.

THE OLD MARKET

Industrious Creatives: New Technologies in Theatre

Photo: Circa69 | The Cube



At The Old Market, we are running a series of development projects to build bridges between artists, makers, manufacturers and creative technologists.

Our focus for 2016 is on 360 video and virtual reality. These technologies have the ability to offer audiences a completely immersive experience. However, this poses a challenge for traditional storytelling as linear narrative structures fail to utilise the technology's full potential.

So, we need to develop new models of storytelling that allow the audience to have more agency. In September, we will work for three days with 10 storytellers (directors, writers, devising ensembles) to try out ideas. There are then two commissions available (£4k + support) to see these ideas through to creation.

Contact

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About The Old Market



The Old Market is a venue and production company based in Brighton & Hove. Owned and managed by Yes/No Productions (the creative team behind Stomp, Lost and Found Orchestra and various large format (IMAX) feature films), the venue is one of the key cultural institutions in the city showcasing a mixed programme of theatre, comedy, dance and music.

Other projects



Story Hack 2016

On 12 September, as part of Brighton Digital Festival, we are hosting a one-day event to bring together artists, manufacturers and creative technologists to learn from one another and address the challenges and opportunities that technology brings to our creative processes.

SAVE THE DATE – full details to follow in June.

THEATRE ROYAL BURY ST EDMUNDS

Associate Artists Programme



Theatre Royal Bury St Edmund's new Associate Artist Programme is aimed at artists who wish to create work with, and inspired by, individuals and groups based in the heart of East Anglia.

The programme is designed to be responsive to the creative ambitions of artists and our commitment to engaging people from our region in the creative process of theatre making.

Since September 2015 we have established relationships with five artists and piloted four projects. We hope our first new commission, *The Wisdom Club* by Danusia Iwaszko, will tour nationally in 2017 and be the first in a number of supported productions through this programme.

Contact

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About Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds



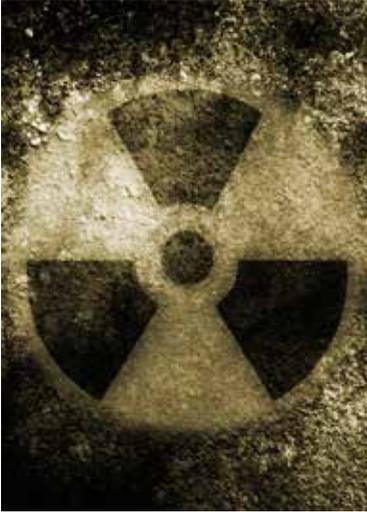
Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds is a 350 seat theatre with a year round programme serving the heartland of East Anglia. It is also a building of great historic significance and a National Trust property.

A creative organisation, Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds presents work by a wide range of visiting companies and artists and increasingly produces and supports theatre for national touring.

KATIE LYONS & ELLA GRACE

Blackout

Photo: seymoursurveyors.com



Nuclear power has been a much-publicised topic recently. With some of the UK's nuclear power stations reaching the end of their lifespan, the future of British energy is under the spotlight. Following the Paris Agreement on climate change, there has never been a more pertinent time for the UK to address our relationship with energy.

Blackout will be a site-specific immersive musical evolving from the community in which it's set. It will involve research workshops with local people and industry, as well as sessions with local musicians. We want to explore the footprint an industry leaves on a community and what happens to that community when that industry ends. We are seeking partners in places that have experienced this or are vulnerable to it.

Contact

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About Katie Lyons & Ella Grace



Katie's site-specific work creates narratives derived from the environment in which it is set, with a strong focus on audience interaction.

Ella Grace is a rock/pop songwriter and works with a number of youth theatre groups teaching singing and music.

Other projects



The Six Loves of Billy Binns

Billy Binns is 110. In his last few moments of life he questions whether he has ever been in love. Through an ensemble of actor/musicians and original music ranging from First World War ballads, 1920s music hall songs, 50s rock'n'roll, 60s pop and 70s rock, Billy relives some heart breaking and some hilarious encounters with the key people in his life.

SHERINGHAM LITTLE THEATRE

Little Theatre, Big Ambitions



Sheringham Little Theatre is a key community hub, a base for amateur drama groups and youth theatres, Sheringham’s busiest café and the home to the country’s last surviving professional summer repertory season. Serving up a mix of comedies, thrillers and classic plays for a 56th year, The Rep is an established training ground for young actors to hone their skills alongside experienced colleagues. The theatre also stages live music, comedy, dance, cinema and streamed performance.

With less than 10% of the theatre’s income coming through funding, it depends on the superb support of 400 Friends and an army of volunteers, and has a remit to be as self-sustaining as possible. This restricts the diversity of the programming and capacity for audience development; two things that the theatre would like to work with a theatre maker to explore.

Contact

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About Sheringham Little Theatre



Sheringham Little Theatre is an intimate 180-seat venue. An 1890 town hall that was occasionally used for concerts, the building was later a cinema and then a theatre, becoming a community arts charity in 1975.

The theatre, and its summer repertory season and Christmas pantomime in particular, draw strong audiences of north Norfolk residents and visitors alike.

ELINOR COOK

Fens Play

We all know about the opium addiction that proliferated in London in the 19th century. Far less well known is that Lincolnshire and Norfolk consumed more than half the opium that was imported into the country – an addiction that was endemic and all but invisible to the rest of the world.

Elinor Cook's play will explore the impact of this addiction on women and children, particularly the spike in infant mortality that resulted from over-reliance on the drug. It's a story about motherhood, exploitation, poverty and the politics of disease, in a landscape both startling and stark in its beauty. It's about a society quietly disintegrating in an England that was happy to let them, and the quiet revolutions, victories and tragedies that went on almost unnoticed.



Contact

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About Elinor Cook



Elinor was the winner of the George Devine Award 2013. She is currently under commission to Paines Plough and co-commissioned by the Gate and Warwick Arts Centre. Her play *Image of an Unknown Woman* was performed at the Gate Theatre in June 2015. *Pilgrims* will be part of HighTide 2016 and then will run at Theatr Clywd and the Yard Theatre.

Other projects



Pilgrims

Dan and Will climb mountains and long for the rush of discovering something new. Rachel studies folklore and thinks the world can be ruined by discovery. With 16,000 feet to climb, can love conquer ambition? *Pilgrims* is a play about adventure, betrayal, and man's impulse to conquer the world.

hightide.org.uk/productions/pilgrims

BOLA AGBAJE & PIPPA CLEARY

The Jungle



The plot revolves around a young British-Nigerian girl called Anna who embarks on a road trip with her dance group to perform at the refugee camp in Calais. The group ends up staying longer than planned when they realise that the French police have been ordered to close down the camp. They volunteer to help out and protest the closure, but when things get a little too real, the group learns the true meaning of freedom.

The Jungle will be a vibrant, up-tempo, funny, energetic innovative new show that says something about the world we live in today. *The Jungle* explores themes of immigration, belonging, identity, privilege, prejudice and love. It is a diverse piece that will use music to express the different cultures in the world.

Contact

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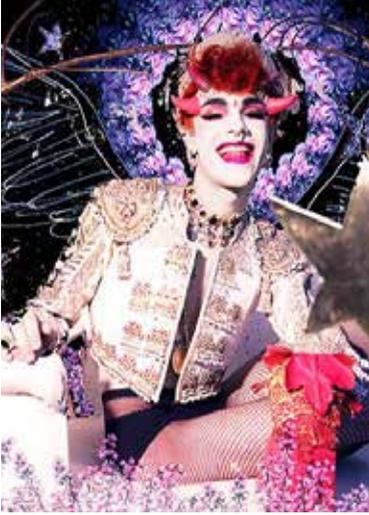
About Bola Agbaje & Pippa Cleary

Bola Agbaje's first play, *Gone Too Far!*, premièred at the Royal Court in 2007 and won an Olivier Award. Bola has also been nominated for the Evening Standard Most Promising Playwright award.

Pippa Cleary's credits include *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole*, *Jet Set Go!* and *The Great British Soap Opera*. Pippa has won The Times Carol Competition and the Arts Council Composition Fellowship.

HOUSE OF BLAKEWELL

Thor & Loki - The Musical



We are looking for regional partners to help create our first full length musical, *Thor & Loki*.

We want to reimagine the bleak world of Norse mythology with our signature brand of heart-warming musical comedy cabaret, bringing these ancient characters to life with our unique combination of power ballads, spoken word, multi-instrumental virtuosity and tap.

Thor has superhuman strength. His father Odin has raised him to fight giants but he's sensitive and increasingly reluctant to resort to violence. One day he meets the orphan Loki, half-god, half-giant. As Loki challenges the status quo, the pair form an unlikely friendship; they become swept up in Odin's dubious war and begin to see the world in a different light.

Contact

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About House of Blakewell



We are *House of Blakewell*, an award-winning duo that creates alternative musical theatre fusing music, cabaret, comedy, spoken word and performance art at theatres, festivals, tunnels, tents, clubs and pubs throughout the UK. We are composer Harry Blake (Old Vic 12), actor Alice Keedwell, producer Vicky Graham (Vicky Graham Productions) and director Valentina Ceschi (Dancing Brick).

Other projects



We Can Make You Happy

Harry and Alice want to make you happy. They sing and dance their way through positive psychology, Greek philosophy and the 5:2 diet, but will they find what they are looking for? Featuring woodwind duels, dance-offs and showstoppers, this cabaret musical will make you feel better about the world.

The Guardian's Cabaret Pick
'Funny, clever and touching' **** (Scotsman)

PARTNERS



greenhouse

Encouraging new relationships between theatre makers, audiences and venues in the house network, greenhouse is supported by Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and Arts Council England, 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



The Garage

A dynamic product of its community, its participants, its audiences and artists, The Garage is a place for meeting, making and training. The organisation aims to become the East's incubation centre for regional artists.

thegarage.org.uk



Norfolk & Norwich Festival

The flagship arts festival for the East of England with a reputation for innovative programming and commissioning across music, theatre, literature, visual arts, circus, dance and outdoor arts, enjoyed by over 75,000 people.

nnfestival.org.uk



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NORFOLK
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