



**PITCH UP** helping theatre-makers and venues start conversations

# 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 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 South Street for hosting us today, and to you for being here. We look forward to saying hello.

[housetheatre.org.uk](http://housetheatre.org.uk) | @housetheatre #pitchup

house on tour during spring-summer 2019



from left: *Beowulf*, *Nest*, *The Star Seekers* and *Duckie*

venues and dates: [housetheatre.org.uk](http://housetheatre.org.uk)



# SCHEDULE

- 14:00 Arrivals and refreshments
- 14.15 Welcome and session one:  
Alibi: Say You Were There  
The Missing Blonde  
Pangolin  
Atlantic  
Not Namibia! (I can't breathe!)  
Nightmare in Punk Alley
- 14.50 Elevator pitches:  
South Street, Reading  
The North Wall, Oxford  
The Theatre Chipping Norton  
The Old Firestation, Oxford  
Reading Rep
- 15:00 Break
- 15.45 Session two:  
The Land of The Great Big Dogs  
Your World  
REST  
A Wall Between Us  
Holocaust Brunch  
Sussex Violets  
Protest
- 16.15 Elevator pitches:  
Slough Curve  
The Mill Arts Centre, Oxford  
The Place, Bedford  
West End Centre, Aldershot  
New Wolsey, Ipswich
- 16.25 Closing comments before  
conversations continue  
over a drink



HELEN SEYMOUR  
Alibi: Say You Were There



Photo © Mark Dawson

Spoken-word-human-performance-person Helen Seymour analyses whether she is secretly capable of murder in this dark and funny show that explores doubt, (the notion that deformity is a signifier of evil, delirium and... dedication to acting as Helen pretends she is living in a lighthouse but doesn't have the cash to buy stairs or a bulb.

*Pitch:* I am in the R&D stage of this project. I am looking for support from venues to help the creation of the show and the development of myself as an artist. This can be through support in kind rehearsal space, marketing help or securing dates for work-in-progress/completed versions of the show.

About Helen Seymour

I toured my first show, *To Helen Back*, with house theatre to break the boundaries of spoken word, comedy and performance art. As a disabled artist I champion diversity but bring more than a discussion of my limitations to the stage.

Contact

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whatthehelen.net | @heronseasaw

RUTH CURTIS/WAWOW Limited  
The Missing Blonde



Photo: Unsplash - Court Prather

There's who people say we are. Who we think we are. And who we actually are. In this comedy of misconceptions, three amazing women try to solve the mystery of what has happened to their friend – the fourth non-bimbo blonde. They will encounter ageism, sexism and blond-ism. Along the way they may even discover themselves.

*Pitch:* At an early stage of development, I am looking for support in creating the full-length production (a three-hander with cast already identified). I hope to workshop ideas and structure for the play and then would like dramaturgy and directorial input. Space to rehearse and work in and performance opportunities would also be welcome.

About Ruth Curtis

Ruth Curtis is an experienced actor/theatre maker. Following diagnosis with multiple sclerosis in 2009, she withdrew from small scale theatre touring. She broadcasts on Radio Cherwell including regular WAWOW shows and performs in other theatre, film and voice projects.

Contact

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SHIPS IN THE NIGHT  
Pangolin



Photo © May Jennifer Davies 2019

created by Sheryl Hill and Jon Boustead presented in association with Born Free Foundation

*They're poaching for pangolins, one of a kind, Creatures with features so oddly designed. Their rarity fetches a most handsome price, And Mum's setting out to capture her slice!*

With puppets and poetry, *Pangolin*, a new play for families, shines a light on the plight of the world's most trafficked mammal, and the power of courage in your convictions.

*Pitch:* I am seeking theatres to support *Pangolin* as co-producers, for the duration of the project; financial and in-kind support; mentorship on producing, and artistic feedback on the production.

Secondly, I hope to book up to 12 venues for a four-week Autumn 2019 UK tour.

About Ships in the Night

*Ships in the Night* was founded by Sheryl Hill to create work exploring the issues in contemporary society that in ten, twenty, even one hundred years time, we look back and wish we had interrogated more when we could.

Contact

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EMMA CLARK AND PJ STANLEY  
Atlantic



Photo © Carlota Caldera, 2018

The middle of the ocean. A man and a woman. A crack in the earth. This is a romance about tectonic plates. It is also about borders, nations, and people. It's about connecting across impossible distances. And in the end, it's about love.

*Pitch:* Originally developed for a 30-minute work-in-progress, we seek support for developing a 60-minute version for future presentation and touring. Specifically: a commission or other commitment of financial resource toward developing the full-length version of the project. We are particularly interested in partners local to the South East, and institutional partners interested in long-term conversations around this project, our work, or an interest in 'transnational' performance and building a practise across the US/UK divide.

About Emma Clark & PJ Stanley

Emma Clark & PJ Stanley are a British/American performance duo. They work at the intersection of the personal and the political, collaborating across multiple genres and forms to create playful spaces charged with compassion, precariousness, and possibility.

Contact

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## STONECRABS THEATRE

Not Namibia! (I can't breathe!)

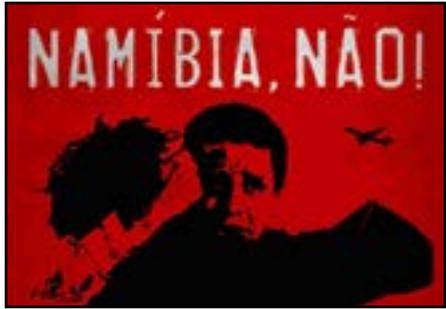


Photo courtesy of the artist

*Not Namibia! (I can't breathe!)* is a black comedy exploring the plight of two black Brazilians following a government decree where all citizens with high melanin-levels are being 'sent back' to Africa. Contemporary drama that shifts political and social paradigms of our globalised world, jarring preconceived ideas about post-colonialism and our own sense of belonging.

*Pitch:* We have started developing this piece with two actors and a music director, after successful sharings at King's College London and at the Soho Theatre. We're looking for a venue that can support in commissioning or partnering as a producer to help us develop the project fully, to take it on UK tour.

### About StoneCrabs Theatre

StoneCrabs Theatre provides the YES to the development of young theatre-makers and the production of new and international untold stories through physicality, charged word and strong imagery in London and across the UK. We are passionate about diverse, engaged and engaging theatre-making!

### Contact

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stonecrabs.co.uk | @AlmiroAndrade

## MOXIE BRAWL

Nightmare in Punk Alley



Photo courtesy of The Pepoe Pile

A new family show like no other. An immersive experience for all ages that celebrates how individuality makes up our society. Disabled and non-disabled dancers and live musicians, all in one room. It gets the audience dancing and brings out people's inner anarchist. The piece is inspired by the Masque, an LA punk club where many bands originated, a place that inspired so many but was only open for a short while – we want this show to do the same. We dance hard and soft, costumes merge into each other as the music vibrates around the room.

*Pitch:* to garner support to R&D and make the show. We are looking for a commissioning partner(s) who can provide funds, space, producing support.

### About Moxie Brawl

Moxie Brawl is a fresh all-female inclusive dance theatre company that makes work for indoors, outdoors and places where performance shouldn't be. Our cross-art form work is dance-meets-stand up-meets-theatre, and can interact with and draw an audience in without alienating and terrifying them.

### Contact

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## ELEVATOR PITCHES



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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readingarts.com/south-street |  
@southstreetarts



The North Wall is an arts centre in Oxford. Based on the campus of St Edward's School, the venue houses a flexible 200-seat theatre, an art gallery and drama and dance studios. The theatre programme focuses on showcasing high-quality contemporary work, alongside the flagship ArtsLab scheme, a series of residential artist development projects for early-career theatre-makers.

Amy Walters  
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thenorthwall.com | @thenorthwall

## THE THEATRE

### CHIPPING NORTON

A strange and wonderful little place, bringing 50,000 people a year to the backstreets of a Cotswold hill town. Full professional arts centre programme, in-house producing, and a nationally renowned traditional panto. A wide community outreach programme, arthouse cinema, gallery and an auditorium built into a Victorian Salvation Army Citadel.

John Terry  
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An arts centre in the heart of Oxford, focussing on three things:  
- Presenting great new work across artforms  
- Supporting artists  
- Including people facing tough times  
End-on: 91 seats. Thrust: 124 seats.  
All art forms welcome!

Alex Coke  
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oldfirestation.org.uk | @ArtsatOFS



Reading's resident professional theatre combines high-quality productions with ground-breaking education and community engagement

to help transform Reading and the surrounding area's cultural landscape. Reading Rep: Produces diverse new voices on the stage. Working with new directors, playwrights and practitioners, we present plays from classics to new writing, revivals to musicals; producing outstanding productions of world class plays for the widest possible audience.

Paul Stacey  
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readingrep.com | @readingrep

## VIEW FROM HERE The Land of the Great Big Dogs



Photo © Philippa Mannion

*The Land of the Great Big Dogs* by Rob Drummond is set in Glasgow against an apocalyptic backdrop. As a sniper guns people down in the city centre, a curfew forces single mum Kate into close proximity with her sons, as they confront a traumatic experience they cannot articulate, and to communicating with her estranged husband through his television news broadcasts of the world crumbling around them.

*Pitch:* Looking for partners who could provide: in-kind rehearsal space for R&D and sharing; technical support for AV and sound elements; or space for the writer to develop the play after R&D and prepare it for full production. We are also looking for partners who can assist the company with funding and fundraising and help us realise it to full production.

### About View From Here

View From Here are UK-focused production company sharing untold stories from across the country. We have run three successful festivals in association with Theatre503, from which we have developed several lasting relationships with the artists involved.

### Contact

Philippa Mannion  
viewfromherefest@gmail.com  
viewfromherefestival.com | @viewfromhere\_\_

## JAMAL HAREWOOD Your World



Photo © Jamal Harewood

Freedom. What does that word mean to you?

*Your World* is the working title of an audience-led participatory event that explores the subject of freedom and what is needed to achieve it within society; questioning what freedom is and what it looks like to a group of individuals.

*Pitch:* I'm looking for venues to support the development and future tour of the work, and I'm hoping to acquire partners that will support the development, in the form of space for R&D, and a future tour of the work.

### About Jamal Harewood

Jamal Harewood is an artist who creates temporary communities through audience-led participatory events that focus on identity and race. I believe these events should be playful experiences that allow everyone to get involved.

### Contact

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## TINA SEDERHOLM REST



Photo © Danny Pandolfi

REST is a solo spoken-word theatre show about workaholism. In a world that worships being 'on' 24/7, what is the price of exhaustion, and how do we live productive lives without killing ourselves?

REST is my fifth solo show, combining spoken poetry, physical movement and memoir, suitable for small theatre spaces.

*Pitch:* To make the transition to studio theatres and rural touring I'd like to partner up with a theatre or producer for promotional and marketing purposes, or ideally, be commissioned to make the show. More generally, I'd love to find out if my shows will work in the venues represented here, and what changes I need to make in my approach to create work that I enjoy and that audiences outside of Edinburgh want to see.

### About Tina Sederholm

I am a poet and theatre-maker, principally performing solo shows and headline sets. I combine memoir, poetry, comedy and audience participation to create shows described as:  
'Utterly enthralling' \*\*\*\*\* (edfringereview)  
'Beautifully humbling' \*\*\*\*\* (Three Weeks)  
'Must-See' (Fringe Review)

### Contact

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## SINGLE SHOE PRODUCTIONS A Wall Between Us



Photo: Gary Thatcher © Single Shoe Prods.

You move country. A friend dies. You fall in love. We all cross between worlds.

Single Shoe presents a surprising interactive comedy about two immigration officers who work across the cubicle wall from each other. What begins as petty office aggression spins out into an urgent investigation of something much deeper... What would you surrender in order to belong?

*Pitch:* Seeking a single commission or multiple co-commissions for the project during 2019-20 that would include rehearsal space, accommodation, technical support and potentially seedfunding to support the creation process. These partnerships would provide the foundation from which we can apply to additional funders.

### About Single Shoe Productions

Single Shoe Productions devise universal theatrical experiences that transcend language, nationality and creed. We combine unexpected forms to tell poignant, human stories that challenge boundaries, explore the connections that hold us together and celebrate our shared humanity.

### Contact

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singleshoe productions.com | @single\_shoe

## TAMARA MICNER Holocaust Brunch



Photo © Sophie le Roux

We invite you to hear from a panel of Holocaust survivors, and discover their life stories, over a delicious brunch. There will be the opportunity to reflect on their stories and discuss how, as the next generation, we can keep the memory alive. Or, which memories to keep alive. And whose memories. Hang on, why are we doing this? And where's all the food?

*Pitch:* Having done a scratch performance at CPT in October 2018, and working toward a scratch at JW3 in May 2019, we are seeking support and partners for remaining development and presentation. We are seeking commissioning, studio space and tour dates for 2019-20.

### About Tamara Micner

A writer, performer and theatre-maker, Tamara foregrounds lesser-known stories from the past to help us imagine alternative futures. Her work strives to encourage healing and solidarity, and has been shown at Theatre503, Bush, Hackney Showroom, King's Head. She's a graduate of Central, Yale and Cambridge.

### Contact

Tamara Micner  
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## DIFFERENT THEATRE Sussex Violets



Photo © Depositphotos

*Sussex Violets* is about the Misses Allen-Brown who ran a "ladies' violet farm" in the 1900s, and wrote about violet growing. These quiet, inspiring women, who seemingly boycotted the 1911 census in protest about votes for women, had links with the suffragette movement and many royal patrons. Ada Brown and Decima Allen were not related, but likely a couple.

*Pitch:* Ideally I am looking for a commission for this piece, which is in the very early stages of development. Other than that, I would be looking for partners to support its development, including rehearsal space and casting, to enable to bring this hidden story to life.

### About Different Theatre

Sam Chittenden is Artistic Director of Sussex-based Different Theatre, creating intimate, female-centric theatre. Productions include *Sary*, *Metamorphosis*, *So You Say* and *Underworlds*. "Different Theatre spells magical story-telling and a poetic serenity in the face of the dark."

### Contact

Sam Chittenden  
sam@differentdevelopment.com  
differentdevelopment.com/Different\_Development/Theatre  
@DiffTheatre

## REDCAPE THEATRE Protest



Photo © Cassie Friend

We want to make a time travelling, genre busting show, uncovering unexpected, startling connections between different protests throughout history.

Mighty, Mog, Eliza, Annie and Alice are a riotous band of women crashing through the walls of history, facing down injustice and refusing to be silenced. Furies, Soothsayers – just who in the hell do they think they are?

Fusing the grip of a conspiracy thriller with ancient myths and interviews with veteran protesters and their children, RedCape are investigating how the arteries of power connect across centuries.

*Pitch:* looking for partners, venues with access to large groups of potential performers, production support, anyone with personal stories of protest.

### About RedCape

RedCape formed in 2008 with the multiple award winning *The Idiot Colony*. They have since made four shows including *1 Beach Road* and *Thunder Road*. We are drawn to stories of ordinary people thrust into extraordinary places and situations.

### Contact

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## ELEVATOR PITCHES

### THE CURVE

The Curve is Slough's iconic library and cultural centre, right in the heart of the town. Opened in September 2016, it houses the central library, an art gallery and a multi-purpose performance space amongst other facilities.

Dayna White  
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thecurveslough.com | @thecurveslough



The Mill Arts Centre is a multi-arts venue based in Banbury. As the only dedicated arts provision in the area, our vision is to

inspire creativity and enrich the lives of our communities by providing a high quality, varied artistic, education and participatory programme.

Emma Nooney  
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Since 2003 The Place Bedford has developed a reputation as one of the best places to see high-quality and cutting-edge professional theatre, as well as being the home of Bedford's

best community theatre companies. A year-round programme of theatre, music and film with events for everyone in the community.

Alex Levene  
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theplacebedford.org.uk | @theplacebedford

# ELEVATOR PITCHES



A maverick borrowed the keys of an old school in Aldershot under false pretences in 1975, and the West End Centre was born! Now part of Hampshire

Cultural Trust, it continues to deliver a rich programme of music, comedy, theatre, classes and outreach projects... still with a hint of maverick.

Barney Jeavons  
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westendcentre.co.uk | @teamwesty



The New Wolsey Theatre is a 400-seat producing house with accompanying 100 seat studio theatre and rehearsal rooms, with a national

reputation for the reach and range of the work it creates and supports. The offer is completed with a prolific Artist Development and Creative Learning programme, and the annual Pulse Festival of new work and new ideas.

Rob Salmon  
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farnham **maltings**



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**ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**