

*Passionate*

**about artists**

north east  
england

North East Venues & NewcastleGateshead Cultural Venues  
Updated Jan 2013

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## Introduction

Here in the North East of England, there is a growing group of people who are truly passionate about supporting artists.

The North East Venues group have come together with Newcastle Gateshead Cultural Venues to publish 'Passionate about artists'.

We want to support artists who are living and working in this region to make outstanding performance work, not just by programming it, but by supporting its development too.

Despite the challenging economic climate, we are working both individually and collaboratively to provide more support and opportunities for artists than ever before.

We know that money isn't everything – although it helps – but aside from financial support, we can also provide space for rehearsals, sharings and performances; technical, marketing, financial and creative advice; and support for funding. We can act as advocates for your work with potential funders and programmers, and most importantly, we can see your work and provide critical analysis and feedback to help with its future development.

We believe the North East is a fantastic place to live and work whatever you do, and we want to ensure we are supporting artists to fulfil their creative potential. That is why we are publishing this document, which outlines some of the opportunities available. Whilst it is not an exhaustive list, we hope it provides a useful starting point for artists seeking support and not least, demonstrates our commitment to making the North East *the* place for artists to create exceptional new work.

Annabel Turpin  
Chair, North East Venues

## NewcastleGateshead Cultural Venues

NewcastleGateshead Cultural Venues (NGCV) is an alliance of ten North East building-based producers and presenters operating 22 venues and delivering cultural events and programmes in the fields of visual arts, performing arts, music, dance, film, writing and literature, heritage and museums and science communication.

Together each year we have over 4.3m attendances at our cultural activities and over a million engagements in learning and participation, including 700,000 children and young people. We are also active and influential regionally, nationally and internationally.

We work together to maximise the artistic and economic potential of the cultural sector in the North East. We achieve this by developing strategic and creative initiatives, sharing practice and resources and by being a strong collective voice.

### Membership:

Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art  
Centre for Life  
Dance City  
Live Theatre  
Northern Stage  
Seven Stories  
The Sage Gateshead  
Theatre Royal  
Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums  
Tyneside Cinema

## North East Venues

The North East Venues group came together in June 2009, as an informal group of venue managers and programmers looking to share information and practice across the region. We share a passion for performing arts, and over the past three years we have discussed everything from pricing to programming. We meet approximately 3-4 times per year.

### Members:

Alnwick Playhouse  
ARC, Stockton Arts Centre  
Arts Centre Washington  
Customs House, South Shields  
Dance City, Newcastle  
Darlington Civic Theatre  
Gala Theatre, Durham  
Gateshead Arts Development  
Hartlepool Town Hall Theatre  
Lamplight Arts Centre, Stanley  
Live Theatre, Newcastle  
Middlesbrough Theatre  
Middlesbrough Town Hall  
Newcastle Theatre Royal  
Northern Stage, Newcastle  
Queens Hall Arts Centre, Hexham  
The Empire Theatre, Consett  
The Maltings, Berwick  
The Sage Gateshead

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# ARC, Stockton Arts Centre

## Artistic Policy

ARC's artistic policy is to present work that is contemporary and relevant. By that, we mean we want to show work that helps us understand and enjoy the world as it is today. We want to look forward, to excite you about the future.

ARC presents some of the newest and most exciting performance work being made in the UK today. Our programme features nationally-renowned artists and companies, who are making work we believe is relevant to people's lives today.

Often we bring work to ARC that challenges perceptions of what performance might usually look like, that offers audiences a different kind of experience to more traditional forms of theatre.

We don't generally book work that is based around classic texts or adaptations.

Our dance programme is limited to two or three performances a year, usually by national touring companies making contemporary dance theatre.

Ultimately, we present work we are passionate about, so there are exceptions to everything. If you are an artist or company interested in being part of our programme, please email us.

Our programme is usually booked 6 – 12 months ahead. If you are approaching us about your work, please let us know how you think it fits into our programme, and how you can support us to engage and develop audiences.

## ARCADE

ARCADE is a free membership scheme open to professional practitioners working in performance (primarily theatre, dance and spoken word) in the North East region. It is designed to bring professional practitioners together, to network and collaborate, to share ideas and resources, and to support the creation of new work in the region.

ARCADE activities include:

- regular 'scratch' nights designed to enable artists to show work in progress for critical feedback

- professional development workshops to assist with the development of artistic practice
- opportunities to perform at ARC on a shared risk basis, to provide a platform for the work to be seen by funders, programmers and local audiences
- one-to-one surgeries with ARC staff, to provide advice and guidance
- free tickets to drama, spoken word and dance performances at ARC, to encourage exposure to professional work

## **Artist and company residences**

Each year ARC supports four development residencies for artists and companies we feel have a particular talent, or need more professional support to develop their work. We invest in their development by providing a week-long package including free rehearsal space, funding for basic costs, and where appropriate, a high calibre artistic mentor or associate. We use these residencies to strengthen our relationship with selected artists and companies with whom we want to develop a longer term relationship, using them as an opportunity for more intense dialogue about future collaborations. There is no formal application process, artists and companies are identified by ARC.

## **Associate Artists and Companies**

ARC continues to develop enhanced relationships with a number of selected regional artists and companies whose work we feel is valuable to ARC's artistic programme. Packages of support are tailored to the needs of the individual artists, but the relationship is intended to lead to the presentation of work at ARC.

Support is likely to include ARC staff acting as an ongoing creative mentor or producer, as well as more practical assistance such as help with funding applications, rehearsal space, production, technical and marketing support.

'Associate' relationships are regularly reviewed, usually at the end of each project or production, to ensure that they remain of mutual benefit.

## **Projects**

Alongside ARC's core artist development activities, we also look to proactively develop projects with other partners. Previous examples of this include:

- Amuse Bouche, an initiative with Apples and Snakes to support spoken word artists moving towards professional performance
- Verb New Voices, a spoken word talent development project with BBC Radio 3

## Routes North

Routes North is a North area initiative run by ARC in conjunction with Theatre in the Mill, Bradford and The Lowry, Salford. We jointly select and support a company to rehearse and perform a new piece of work through a package support including rehearsal and performance space across all three venues.

Routes North has an open application process, but is now closed for 2012/13. The application process for 2013/14 will open in early 2013.

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## Arts Centre Washington

### Artistic Policy

We are committed to programming the best theatre and dance from across the country, as well as supporting new and emerging artists from the North East.

We are looking for theatre work that takes risks, experiments and tests the market in terms of what will work for audiences. We like new adaptations, work which offers new experiences or perspectives, fresh, compelling, challenging theatre; quirky and political theatre or issued based work that can be funny or serious.

If you would like us to consider your work, subject matter is key: tell us what the show is about, what the issues are or which book it is adapted from. We need to know about you, your track record (previous shows, funding etc), who the individuals involved are and any recommendations from fellow programmers.

Do invite us to see your work in person or send a DVD or online video links.

### Community Music Space

Community Music Space (funded by DCMS) offers practise space, recording sessions and performance opportunities at Hothouse for emerging artists up to the age of 25yrs. There is accompanying mentoring and technical support from professional musicians and ACW's technical staff. It is the final stage in a progression route that offers music opportunities to children and young people through Pic 'n' Mix (8-12yrs) and Remix (13-19 yrs). At present CMS is funded up to Sept 2012. Hothouse is ongoing.

### Remix

Remix includes a scheme to host final year students from Sunderland University as secondary Remix workshop leaders giving them experience of leading arts workshops in drama, music, dance, visual arts, film and photography whilst also helping to develop a pool of workshop leaders based in the Sunderland area. These placements will last as long as the funding does – at least until March 2012.

## Residencies and rehearsal space

Arts Centre Washington is able to host artist residencies where funding is available, and also offers free rehearsal space on an ad hoc basis to theatre and dance companies.

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## Dance City, Newcastle

### Artistic Policy

Dance City programmes up to 12 professional shows per year, as well as six commissions. We are looking for work that introduces new audiences to dance as well as more established work to help create a breadth of access points into dance across the programme.

We are particularly interested in work that contributes both to the dance sector, challenging and inspiring the creative process, and to developing and engaging audiences for dance, particularly where work is challenging and offering new experiences.

If you are approaching us about your work, please let us know how you think it fits into our programme, and how you can support us to engage and develop audiences.

### IGNITE

IGNITE is a series of free development seminars, classes and workshops for professional artists. Guest speakers, practitioners and touring companies deliver a range of activity as part of Dance City's continued commitment to regionally based dance professionals.

IGNITE includes daily professional classes, 9.30am – 11am, covering a variety of styles led by a mix of regular and guest artists, tailored CPD and skills development workshops and seminars and talks on dance issues hosted by leaders in their fields. Forthcoming guest speakers include Claire Pencak (Tabularasa Dance Company), Tim Rubidge, choreographer, Maggie Clarke (Xtrax), Louise Klarnett (CommonLand Dance & Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance), and Abby Warrilow & Lewis Gourlay from Cagoule Productions.

### Creative Summer

Dance City offers eight weeks of applied for/curated free studio space called Creative Summer.

Artists and companies are able to apply, or will be approached by Dance City, to take up a week in the Creative Summer programme. This provides time for artists/companies to explore new ideas, begin new collaborations and develop their skills and work. It is a great opportunity to access the spaces at Dance City for free without having a particular project or piece of

work to deliver. Artists are asked to offer open class during the week and to show progress to date at the end of their Creative Summer week. This provides an opportunity for Dance City to consider the work for one of their regular platform events.

## **Platforms**

Fresh, an artist led initiative at Dance City, is an open forum for sharing and discussing work in very early stages of development.

Public Announcement is Dance City's showcase for North East based dance makers. Work featured will include pieces from the most exciting companies and artists in the region.

Northern Platforms is an opportunity to perform as part of a Northern Platform in Leeds, Liverpool or Edinburgh. Artists/companies are selected by Dance City's Artistic Director.

## **Commissions**

Dance City commission up to six new dance works each year. These range from £1k to £15k, although smaller and larger commissions can be considered where appropriate. Some will be selected by Dance City and others will be by open application. We will be focusing these commissions on North East artists, but not exclusively. Each commission will premiere at Dance City and be offered a range of professional support from the in-house Dance City team.

## **Residencies**

Dance City offers one or two week long residencies, sometimes funded, to dance artists and companies to support their development. Invitations are made by the creative team to regional, national and international artists. Those undertaking residencies are expected to deliver some free classes and/or an end of residency sharing of their work. Residencies can include some support from the Dance City artistic and technical team.

## **Choreographic Associate Artists**

Dance City appoints two choreographic associate artist/companies each year. Those selected receive artistic and technical support and mentoring as required. Free space is offered in our studios and theatre. Choreographic associate artists are expected to deliver a number of free workshops throughout the year, by negotiation.

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## **Gala Theatre, Durham**

### **Artistic Policy**

We programme popular and mainstream music, drama and comedy, which can be challenging and inspiring. As well as producing our own work, from single handers to ensemble pieces and pantomime, we also book intelligent and original touring work. Being commercial is important, so the work we book must have the scope to be seen by a mainstream audience.

If you would like us to consider your work, send an email about your show telling us why it is great, why it is appropriate for Gala's programme and who will come and see it. Please don't send production shots, scripts or DVDs but be clear about what you want from us.

### **Productions**

Over the last six years, Gala has created and produced 18 productions in-house. From classic and contemporary drama to new writing and an annual pantomime, the range of work is broad.

We are always keen to make contact with directors, writers, designers, musical directors and costume designers to help us bring our productions to life. For organisational reasons, our production strand is currently dormant (with the exception of pantomime), but this is something we aim to re-start in 2013. This will create many opportunities for creative practitioners to work on our productions.

### **Programming**

Gala's programme is a mix of music, drama and comedy; and last season, our average audience capacity was 80%. But we don't just stage work by established producers. If you think there is an audience for your work, and we think it is something which fits with our programme, we are happy to consider it. If you have a proposal for an event or production you want to stage, we are always happy to hear your ideas.

### **Space and time**

For those artists who we are keen on building a relationship with, we have a small rehearsal space we can offer to give you time to develop your work. We can offer technical support and practical advice, and an audience to see your work in progress.

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## **GIFT: Gateshead International Festival of Theatre**

GIFT is an annual international festival celebrating contemporary theatre that takes place over a May bank holiday weekend. GIFT provides a platform for regional, national and international new theatre-makers in a unique artist-led festival context. In addition, GIFT curates and hosts a series of one-off events throughout the year.

The festival programme offer a range of professional development opportunities for artists through a varied programme of events including performances, workshops, discussions, and social events all underpinned by a commitment to promoting dialogue and exchange.

We embrace work that is concerned with experimentation, collaboration, crossing disciplines and cultures; work that responds to the times we live in; work that is relevant and challenging, and provides audiences with unique experiences. We are particularly keen to support artists in the region who might not otherwise have an obvious platform for sharing their work in the North East. We want to develop artists and audiences by inviting them to see new work they wouldn't see elsewhere.

### **GIFTed**

Within the festival, the GIFTed programme brings together students and recent graduates - nationally and internationally - to showcase work and facilitate cultural and intercultural dialogue and conversations. GIFTed also provides opportunities for networking and professional development for GIFTed artists within the main programme of work.

If you are interested in performing at GIFT, please send us an email, and come along to the festival and GIFT events.

### **Contact:**

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## Live Theatre, Newcastle

### Artistic Policy

Live programmes new writing, text based work and theatrical stories that provoke and entertain audiences. We have a growing international reputation that is evolving and redefining itself.

We are interested in finding new voices and untold stories that speak to contemporary audiences and have something to say about how we live now. We are open to what new writing and text based work means – we want people to surprise us and interrogate what this means in the 21<sup>st</sup> century in theatre, it may look different to traditional models.

We have two performance spaces, the main house and a studio theatre, which is flexible and intimate for more experimental work.

We are also looking to programme work for children, families and young people, in particular, programming the best and most innovative work outside of the Christmas period.

We are open to establishing relationships with individuals and companies but we are not looking for dance, large cast musicals or adaptations of classic works or novels.

Please email us and invite us to see your work, particularly in the development stages (scratches, readings, works in progress); if this is not possible then we will look at scripts.

### Live Theatre/The Empty Space Bursaries for Emerging Artists

Live Theatre and The Empty Space run a bursary scheme for emerging artists, awarding at least one bursary every year. The bursaries enable artists and companies to develop an idea with dramaturgical and technical support over a ten day period in appropriate rehearsal space at Live. There is a public showing of the work in progress and there then follows a discussion between the artists, Live and The Empty Space about future planning for the piece. Recent bursary winners have gone to further development at Live and elsewhere and one has received a full production at Live.

## Scratch Nights

Three times a year Live Theatre, in association with The Empty Space, curates a Scratch Night in the Studio Theatre as part of the Live Lab programme of new work. These nights provide the opportunity for emerging artists to show their work to a discerning and enthusiastic audience. In addition, it enables Live to connect with the most promising emerging artists and companies from around the country and bring them to the theatre, offering them a level of support and audience engagement with development that they might not be able to access elsewhere. Scratch Night artists have the opportunity to spend up to a week in rehearsal at Live, with appropriate dramaturgical and technical support, and financial assistance of around £250. Each of the nights is designed to have a balance between regional and national artists on the bill.

## Development Time for Emerging Artists and Companies

This is given primarily in order to facilitate the development of a new piece of text-based work. Live is keen to invite a variety of interpretations of what text-based work might be. They recognise that development may take many forms and are happy to accept proposals for different outcomes and ways of working. Artists might want to test an already existing text in some way or spend the week devising with some actors to enable the creation of text. There is no obligation to have a sharing or showback of work at the end of the development time at Live, but these can be arranged if it would be useful to the process.

Subject to availability and suitability, Live can offer:

- 1 week's rehearsal space, in either rehearsal room or studio theatre
- Dramaturgical support and advice from our literary department

If you are having a showback, Live are happy to advise and help with invites for industry members. For development work, Live is unable to accommodate a public showback of the work but will enter discussions about the inclusion of the work at a Scratch Night or other appropriate Live Lab session.

## Contact:

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# Middlesbrough Theatre

## Artistic Policy

Middlesbrough Theatre aims to deliver a diverse range of professional and non-professional performing arts to the people of Middlesbrough, the Tees Valley and surrounding districts in friendly and welcoming surroundings. To this end, we provide:

- a programme of quality professional productions encompassing a wide range of drama, music, dance and popular entertainment.
- opportunities for young people to experience the creativity of theatre and the performing arts, both as participants and spectators, through a regular programme of productions and workshops.

We welcome interest from any artists and companies who feel they can help us achieve these goals.

The theatre was originally built as a playhouse for the local amateur dramatic society – who still perform here regularly – and our emphasis remains on the presentation of drama, both one-nighters and longer runs. Our core audience is older but we are keen to reach out to younger audiences and have had particular success in recent years with the presentation of new adaptations of classic texts. We are especially keen to present plays that have a “northern voice” and can speak to the experiences of local audiences.

The theatre is a traditional proscenium arch theatre, seating 484 on two levels, and whilst this feels quite intimate, it is not really suited to the more experimental studio-scale productions. There is a new studio space in the neighbouring Toft House – the headquarters of the local amateur dramatic society, Middlesbrough Little Theatre Ltd – who are keen to develop it as a performance space and may be interested in collaborating with us in the presentation of new work.

The theatre is managed and wholly funded by Middlesbrough Council, whose budgets are under ever-increasing pressure in the current economic climate. This severely restricts the theatre’s ability to take risk and our programming is being ever more commercially-driven. Our ambitions to drive the programme forward are consequently countered by these demands. We are therefore regrettably not in a position to offer substantial funding to artists/companies, but welcome expressions of interest by those who understand our position and are happy to work with us on a shared risk basis.

We are happy to receive outline proposals by e-mail in the first instance. Or call the Theatre Manager for an informal chat.

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## **NewcastleGateshead Initiative (NGI)**

### **Festivals and Events**

The Culture Team at NewcastleGateshead Initiative currently produce and deliver a number of key festivals and events. In addition to this we also work with partners in response to opportunities that arise. In 2012 the Culture Team is involved in a range of cultural activity being developed in response to the London 2012 Games including the torch relay and Olympic Football at St James Park.

The festivals and events we deliver are individually programmed, some of which will include opportunities for artists, producers and performers. However we often programme in response to proposals from artists.

We can provide opportunities for artists to create work for high profile festivals and events in NewcastleGateshead, and we often look to engage new artists and create new work for each of our festivals, with an emphasis on local artists.

We are interested in work which takes unusual venues and spaces in the city and thinks about how they can be used and what stories could be told. Collaborations are key, so we would be looking to work together with you, venues, businesses and others.

For 2012 there will be opportunities for artists in our annual Winter Festival event, Enchanted Parks (details below), where artists will work with highly experienced outdoor production company, Magnetic Events in creating and developing a new, site specific work.

There will also be further opportunities for artists within other festivals and events in 2013 and beyond, and we would be interested to meet and work with new artists. Email us your ideas.

### **EAT! NewcastleGateshead**

EAT! NewcastleGateshead champions local food producers, restaurants and culinary talent in North East England through a programme of events that includes; The Big EAT!, a mouthwatering weekend of street food markets, themed satellite festivals, cookery demonstrations, competitions and food adventures. Other edible festival highlights include; Cakebook, an ambitious plan to create a giant edible map using landmark heritage structures, modeled out of cake.

## **NewcastleGateshead Bridges Festival**

The world famous cityscape of NewcastleGateshead, recognised all over the globe by its iconic seven bridges, will be brought to life with a free festival in August celebrating the twin cities' riverside icons.

We have previously commissioned artist Julia Barton in the transformation of the Swing Bridge into Lord Armstrong's Lost Garden, Set of Drawers, who created giant festival bunting with a range of North East community groups and Verity Quinn for a Nautical Photo Booth.

This year Bridges Festival is in its second year and will explore and promote the values of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, using the background of the River Tyne and the historic Quayside and bridges as a distinctive location for these activities.

## **Juice – NewcastleGateshead's festival for children and young people**

NewcastleGateshead's award-winning festival for children and young people is packed full of activities and events for children, young people and their families. Juice is presented in the world-class venues, facilities and open air locations that make NewcastleGateshead such a brilliant place to live, grow up in, and visit.

## **Enchanted Parks**

Enchanted Parks is an innovative after-dark outdoor arts experience developed and co-commissioned by NewcastleGateshead Initiative and Gateshead Council as part of the annual NewcastleGateshead Winter Festival. Members of the public are invited to join us after-dark to explore Gateshead's Saltwell Park through atmospheric installations, light, sound and performance in this magical and intriguing event for all the family.

## **New Year's Eve Winter Carnival**

Newcastle's New Year's Eve Winter Carnival will see an array of theatrical creations take over the streets and entertain crowds with dancers, musicians and performers.

## **Chinese New Year**

The Chinese New Year Festival returns to Newcastle upon Tyne in February 2013 to celebrate the Year of the Snake, bringing a programme of Chinese Lion, Dragon and Unicorn dancing through the streets of China Town,

performances, a number of stalls, and creative educational activities for children and families.

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## Northern Stage, Newcastle

### Artistic Policy

We produce and present work both inside our venue and on tour. We are interested in collaborating with the most inventive regional, national and international theatre and dance artists to present their work. Five key words describe what guides us in making programming choices: contemporary, relevant, diverse, participatory and ambitious.

We programme across our three spaces:

Stage 1 – mid- scale classic, national and international productions

Stage 2 – small-scale, new writing and emerging companies

Stage 3 – informal work in a cabaret setting, installations

Northern Stage also curated a programme of work at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2012. Northern Stage at St Stephen's is a three year project dedicated presenting work from the greater North.

Approach us by email detailing the creative team, target audiences, dates available and costings; video links and script extracts are also welcomed. We programme up to a year in advance, holding regular programming meetings with representatives from all departments within the organisation. Everything gets considered through this process, but it may take some time.

### First in Three: Northern Stage's scratch-night

A chance for theatre-makers, writers and performers to showcase new work and try it out for the first time in front of an audience in the Stage 3 space. The audience are asked to give written feedback, answering questions set by the performers, and are encouraged to stay around afterwards, have a drink and chat to the performers about their work. The evenings have a lovely, collaborative and generous feel to them and are a great chance for artists to see each other's work and make connections. All contributors are unpaid and submissions are accepted up to six weeks before each event.

### Time in Two: an opportunity for artists/companies who have the seeds of an idea and early creative connections

A week in Stage 2 allows artists the time and space to try ideas out without any pressure or commitment. Artists may spend the week messing around,

trying out things or may refine, polish and hone an idea to the point of wanting to show it in front of an audience.

Included in the offer is in-kind support, with appropriate negotiated access to Northern Stage staff; marketing, participation, finance, administration and technical who can advise artists. This package represents a significant financial sum, which would stand those companies who may also look to apply for additional funding in good stead. There is no formal application process, but artists will be identified and encouraged by our creative team. Please note that this strand is not appropriate for writers as funding is not in place to subsidise performers.

### **Title Pending: The Northern Stage Award for New Theatre**

Title Pending is an annual award for the most innovative, thoughtful and intriguing proposal for a new piece of theatre. It is a competitive process. Artists are asked to submit an idea and a national panel of theatre professionals short list and interview candidates before deciding on a winner.

The prize is a two week, fully supported residency within the Northern Stage building and a cash bursary of £2,000 to really develop an idea or work on a current project in a professional theatre setting.

### **Spare Room**

A way to share our resources. Free last-minute spaces to any individual or group, for the purposes of creative work. This can be anything from one of our main stages down to a dressing room. Allocated on a first come, first served basis. Artists need to register their interest and sign up to our email list, then on a Thursday they will receive the breakdown of what space we have available for the following week. This is given on a room only basis so no technical support can be offered.

### **Talking Shop**

A series of sharing and development workshops for professional actors from the North East. It is a chance for them to come together and explore their skills. Everyone is expected, and encouraged, to share elements of their own practice, as well as looking at the ideas of key practitioners. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Springboard: the next step for performing arts graduates

Northern Stage create a young company of approximately 15 of the region's most talented and exciting performing arts graduates to take part in a two week summer residency. The company will work from a challenging script and explore fresh ideas with new talent. Springboard participants receive:

- An intensive two-week creative residency
- Performance technique training (voice work, approaches to text and movement)
- Optional specialist skills training (audition skills, setting yourself up as an artist, marketing techniques, technical skills)
- Rehearsing with professional directors, designers and technical teams
- Performing with full production values in a professional theatre
- A public and invited audience of agents, producers and promoters
- Support from creative, technical, marketing and administrative teams

The cost is £200 per person, some bursaries available.

## NORTH

NORTH is a three month training initiative, that will provide seven young theatre makers, either from the North East or who have made a commitment to making work within the North East, with a platform to make and develop their own work. The programme has two strands to it: to enhance current performance skills, by introducing the company to a diverse range of theatre makers from across the Greater North. It will also provide the NORTH company with a picture of the industry, as a whole, both regionally and nationally; by introducing the company to regional and national decision makers, producers, fundraisers and industry marketing professionals. The three month opportunity will provide the seven individuals with a 'toolkit' to enable them to make a step change in their careers.

During NORTH the company will:

- Spend 10 full weeks at Northern Stage
- Receive a weekly liveable wage
- Enhance their skills and learn new techniques in workshops lead by industry professionals
- Create and perform two new pieces
- Receive advice and practical skills on creating work in the future including mentoring on producing, marketing and fundraising

- Get an ongoing commitment from Northern Stage to support NORTH's development
- Be tasked with establishing a 'young' artists network to help develop an ecology that could provide a sustainable fringe throughout the North East

### Periodic workshops

We always try to capitalise on our presented programme and offer workshops and masterclasses with visiting artists when possible. These offers are always made to our full Creative Residencies mailing list and are usually allocated on a first come, first served basis.

### Contact:

Jo Cundall, Programming Manager  
T: 0191 2427217  
E: [jcundall@northernstage.co.uk](mailto:jcundall@northernstage.co.uk)  
W: [www.northernstage.co.uk](http://www.northernstage.co.uk)

## Seven Stories, Newcastle

### Artistic Policy

Seven Stories is Britain's home for children's literature. We champion the art of children's books, ensuring their place as an integral part of childhood and of our national cultural life.

We hold a nationally important collection of artwork, manuscripts and archives created by Britain's highly acclaimed writers and illustrators for children from c.1930s to the present day. We are creative in the way that we share our Collection and bring books to life - sharing our knowledge through exhibitions, public programmes, learning and participation, research and digital media. Seven Stories' exhibitions have a child-centred approach to design and production, showcasing collections within immersive environments which stimulate play, creativity and learning. Many of our exhibitions tour nationally.

Located in the Ouseburn Valley, Newcastle's cultural quarter, Seven Stories has seven floors of galleries, creative and performance spaces, a specialist bookshop and cafe. A trained team of front of house staff and volunteers animate the centre. We run a year round public programme of author, illustrator and performer events, creative activities, talks, workshops and masterclasses at Seven Stories and other venues.

Our learning and participation programme offers approaches to books and reading that engage different learning styles, inspiring children, young people and families to enjoy books, extend their reading and encouraging them to express their own creativity through creative writing, drama, drawing and other art forms.

We are always interested to hear from artists who have small theatre shows for young children, particularly work which is inspired by children's books. We also programme a number of different creative workshops for young people throughout the year and welcome hearing from artists with different ideas for workshops and classes. Please make an initial approach by email with details on your work, including costs and photographs.

### Contact:

Lorna Duncanson, Events Officer

T: 0845 271 0777 Ext 721

E: [lorna.duncanson@sevenstories.org.uk](mailto:lorna.duncanson@sevenstories.org.uk)

W: [www.sevenstories.org.uk](http://www.sevenstories.org.uk)

## Stockton International Riverside Festival (SIRF)

### Artistic Policy

Stockton International Riverside Festival is a European festival of outdoor arts and street theatre held in public spaces in Stockton town centre, run by Stockton Borough council. We are interested in work of different scales e.g. large and small, spectacular and intimate, that tells wonderful stories and has lots of community engagement. We consider how things work in different environments and how we juxtapose shows next to each other and the landscape.

We are interested in premiering and presenting work that hasn't been seen elsewhere in the UK, and we also commission new work in partnership with other festivals, artists and organisations, for example, Without Walls Commissioning Consortium (outdoor arts festivals in UK) and Gone in 20 Minutes (national showcase for emerging artists and new work). Both include mentoring support and development funding as we want to help build work for outdoors.

Approach us via email, telephone, arrange a meeting or invite us to see your work. We want to build relationships and discuss your ideas about creating work for outdoors.

### Contact:

Jan Doherty, Artistic Director  
T: 01642 526465  
E: [jan.doherty@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:jan.doherty@stockton.gov.uk)  
W: [www.sirf.co.uk](http://www.sirf.co.uk)

## TakeOff Festival, Durham

### Artistic Policy

TakeOff Festival of Theatre for Children and Young People is an annual festival of children and young people's theatre for artists, makers, producers and funders passionate about creating theatre for young people. We are interested in work that shows respect for young audiences and how important they are, and we want to work with people who share our passion for creating good quality theatre for young audiences. We programme work on all scales from small groups to large theatre spaces.

The Festival works with a guest programmer each year with a specific focus, who programmes 15 – 20 companies from both within and outside the UK. Our ambition is to programme artists and companies from the North East.

There is an application procedure to show work at the festival which opens annually in December. We are also happy to have a chat with you about your work, so do call us to arrange a meeting.

### Scratch programme

Each year at TakeOff Festival, Theatre Hullabaloo will be offering opportunities for artists to present three new pieces of scratch work specifically for young audiences in the festival Departure Lounge. The scratch programme will provide a place to try out a new idea or for more developed work to find a platform to attract co-producers, partners, funders - or just advice. The festival provides a small budget for each piece, space, a delegate audience, a professional mentor and a free delegate pass so that artists can share in the full TakeOff programme. Applications open in June 2013 for this year's festival in October.

TakeOff 2013 is taking place in Durham City between 21 - 27 October with the delegate festival 22 - 24 October. Follow Theatre Hullabaloo on Facebook and Twitter for updates on the festival programme.

### Contact:

Miranda Thain, Creative Producer  
T: 01325 352004  
E: [Miranda@theatrehullabaloo.org.uk](mailto:Miranda@theatrehullabaloo.org.uk)  
W: [www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk](http://www.theatrehullabaloo.org.uk)

## Theatre Royal Newcastle

### Artistic Policy

We are currently developing our artistic policy and programming style for the Studio within the Theatre Royal. The space suits small scale dance and drama; children's theatre and puppetry; and media and visual work. It does not suit large bands, large scale musical theatre, or big dance events. We do not have any programming money for this space and work is programmed on a box office split basis. We are interested in partnerships with other venues and organisations.

Approach us by email or phone and arrange to meet us or invite us to see your work. Tell us why you want to come to the studio and show your work in the space.

### Masterclasses

The Theatre Royal Learning Department runs a series of practical, one day masterclasses for professional artists. They also offer administrative support and advice about setting up projects and companies, and provide opportunities for regional artists to perform in the Studio.

### Contact:

Teresa Threadgall, Head of Learning & Participation

T: 0191 244 2502

E: [Teresa.Threadgall@theatreroyal.co.uk](mailto:Teresa.Threadgall@theatreroyal.co.uk)

W: [www.theatreroyal.co.uk](http://www.theatreroyal.co.uk)

## The Customs House, South Shields

### Artistic Policy

More than 60 populist plays have been produced at the Customs House over the last few years. Our core audience are older and we are keen to work with young and emerging companies to generate new audience and engage young people with theatre. We programme theatre and other shows across four performance spaces, and well as site specific work outside the venue.

If you would like us to consider your work, please take time to understand the venue – come and visit, get a feel for the spaces. We prefer not to receive DVDs or unsolicited scripts, but would rather you contacted us with some details, and if we are interested, we will arrange to meet you.

### Performance partnerships

The Customs House is eager to partner in joint touring bids with performance led artists and organisations to produce small to mid scale work. We actively support the production and performance of new work on shared risk basis with new and emerging companies and artists.

From 2013, we will be making £15,000 available to develop and produce with emerging theatre companies/artists on a matched funding basis.

We are interested in exploring the potential of our 140 seat Community Theatre space with work aimed at young people, children and families which might include an element of outreach work.

We can offer support in kind in the following areas: physical space, technical, marketing and administrative advice.

### Contact:

Tim Flood, Programme & Marketing Manager

T: 0191 427 8181

E: [timflood@customshouse.co.uk](mailto:timflood@customshouse.co.uk)

W: [www.customshouse.co.uk](http://www.customshouse.co.uk)

## The Empty Space

The Empty Space works towards a thriving, independent theatre sector. As well as working with Live Theatre on their programme of bursaries for Emerging Artists and Scratch Nights, and with Theatre Hullabaloo on their new scratch programme within the TakeOff Festival, The Empty Space also offers a range of direct support for the region's theatre makers.

### Advice

Artists can book surgeries with the Director, Natalie Querol to discuss any aspect of their work, from artistic development, to setting up a company, booking a tour or simply getting a sense of the landscape in the North East. The Empty Space also offers support for artists developing pitches for Meet the Programmers.

### Devoted & Disgruntled

In association with Improbable Theatre, The Empty Space run occasional Devoted & Disgruntled events across the region, offering opportunities for anyone that is passionate about theatre to meet with their peers to discuss a range of issues. Over the course of 2013 there will be a number of events connecting artists in the north east with artists all over the world.

### Ad hoc events and opportunities

For information on additional events and opportunities such as masterclasses or bursaries sign up for The Empty Space newsletter by joining the mailing list at [www.theemptyspace.org.uk](http://www.theemptyspace.org.uk).

### Contact:

Natalie Querol, Director

T: 0191 269 5593

E: [nataliequerol@theemptyspace.org.uk](mailto:nataliequerol@theemptyspace.org.uk)

W: [www.theemptyspace.org.uk](http://www.theemptyspace.org.uk)

## The Sage Gateshead

### Artistic Policy

The Sage Gateshead is a music venue with three performance spaces:

- Hall 1 (700 seated, 1550 standing capacity)
- Hall 2 (400 flexible capacity)
- Northern Rock Foundation Hall (flat floor space for small scale concerts)

We are interested in quality and diversity, commissioning new work and nurturing and developing new artists. We programme all genres of music and sometimes non-music artforms when they include live music, such as comedy or spoken word. We are particularly interested in ways artists can integrate learning and participation with performance.

Approach us by contacting us via email or telephone.

The Sage Gateshead's support for young and emerging artists falls into three areas:

### Performance opportunities

Regular student showcase events (across a range of genres and contexts); a pro-active policy of seeking out young and emerging artists/students for support slots and concourse performances; one or two popular and contemporary gigs per month featuring emerging local acts; Folk Rising showcase concert series, co-programmed with the English Folk Dance and Song Society, presenting emerging folk acts, ideally but not confined to artists from the North East; Folkworks Hexham Gathering festival presenting young emerging folk musicians. The Sage Gateshead also regularly commissions artists to create new work.

### Professional training

An ongoing programme including one-off master-classes; music business seminars; community music, teaching skills and workshop skills training; presentation training; bespoke mentoring on specific skills/roles (e.g. composition or teaching); co-mentoring for early and mid-career musicians; one-off bespoke work-based placements across The Sage Gateshead's programme. Professional artists are also welcome to attend workshops offered to the public. The provision of external tutors/visiting artists of

sufficient variety or high quality is a learning opportunity for professional musicians whom we work with.

### **Pre-professional training**

We offer roll-on, roll-off Creative Apprenticeships (work-based learning for people aged 18 – 25); BA (Hons) Community Music and BMus Jazz, Popular and Commercial Music (taught in partnership with Sunderland University); master-classes and rehearsal/workshops for composition students (which may lead to the performance of new works) Introduction to Community Music – workshop skills training course; and HE Access Course in Community Music.

### **Contact:**

Katherine Zeserson

T: 0191 443 4586

E: [Katherine.zeserson@thesagegateshead.org](mailto:Katherine.zeserson@thesagegateshead.org)

W: [www.thesagegateshead.org](http://www.thesagegateshead.org)

## **Tyneside Cinema, Newcastle**

### **Artistic Policy**

At Tyneside cinema we are interested in work which helps people understand the impact of the moving image on our lives and existence.

Approach us via email, telephone, Facebook or Twitter.

### **Pixel Palace**

Pixel Palace is the digital media arts programme of the Tyneside Cinema in Newcastle upon Tyne. The Pixel Place programme extends the cinema's mission by working with artists and curators to develop and deliver artists residencies, commissions, broadcasts, exhibitions, live events, research projects.

### **Artist residency programme**

In October 2011, Pixel Palace launched its first Artists in Residence programme at Tyneside Cinema. These artists worked across the fields of digital technology and new media spending eight weeks developing new work, mentoring The Factory group and presenting at events, including Meet the Artists and Datarama 15.

There will be more residency opportunities announced soon for residencies taking place between July and August.

### **Basic FM**

basic.fm is a broadcast project initiated by Pixel Palace. We are looking after it and nurturing it in the hope that one day it will grow up to be big and strong. basic.fm stands for Broadcast Art, Sound and Independent Culture. It is a slow growing project; each month we add new features and work. We will continue to commission new work for basic.fm that will sit in the background and play between timetabled and regular shows. We hosted the very successful Radio Boredcast project programmed by artists Vicki Bennett which was a 744hr long radio show designed to run alongside and compliment the AV12 theme of Slowness. We will be looking at future opportunities for collaborations with artists on this scale as well as continuing to develop and deliver an exciting regular programme. The summer theme for basic.fm is Lost and Found and we are actively looking for contributions in the form of one off pieces or regular shows.

## Datarama

Datarama is a unique and democratic data sharing event. The first Datarama took place in 2008 and it has run semi-regularly since. It attempts to be a non curated space where artists and hackers can meet and share projects they are working on. The room is set up with a projector, a PA and a bar, then we wait to see what happens. It has always been surprisingly good fun so far with talking sewing machines, singing, space station horticulture, lots of smart phones and synthesizers and an ever lasting torch. Lots of collaborations and new projects have started at a Datarama.

### Contact:

Dominic Smith, Digital Media Projects Manager

T: 0191 227 5508

E: [dominic.smith@tynesidecinema.co.uk](mailto:dominic.smith@tynesidecinema.co.uk)

W: [www.tynesidecinema.co.uk](http://www.tynesidecinema.co.uk)

# Wunderbar Festival

## Artistic Policy

Wunderbar Festival nurtures a culture of curiosity by bringing audiences and artists together on journeys of intrigue and wonder. We produce dynamic, creative projects that place the audience at the heart of the experience and bring work to unusual places and spaces that take in the city and invite people to take part; often the work only comes alive if people get involved with it.

Our projects are led by artists, but fuelled by unique contributions from those who take part, responding with creativity and playfulness to issues of relevance to real people, real places and real time. Wunderbar combines the personal, creative and the critical in a socially charged atmosphere, fostering new ideas for how to live, how to work and how to play. We like work that is playful, brave and mischievous and across every scale, from the most minute of interactions to grand, city centre spectacles.

We programme performance, installation, extraordinary happenings, interaction, social events and games, and events take place in both traditional venues, such as theatres, galleries, arts centres and cinemas, and non-traditional performance spaces, such as shopping centres, hairdressers, private homes and city streets.

Approach us by email, facebook or twitter and arrange to speak to us, and get involved with other projects we are doing so we can get to know you.

### Contact:

Ilana Mitchell, Creative Director  
T: 0191 2616326 / 0191 6451097  
E: [ilana@wunderbarfestival.co.uk](mailto:ilana@wunderbarfestival.co.uk)  
W: [www.wunderbarfestival.co.uk](http://www.wunderbarfestival.co.uk)  
F: [www.facebook.com/wunderbarfestival](https://www.facebook.com/wunderbarfestival)  
Tw: [www.twitter.com/wunderbarfestival](https://www.twitter.com/wunderbarfestival)

## Collaborative initiatives

### Bridging the Gap

Bridging the Gap is an annual project developed by ARC, Newcastle Theatre Royal and The Maltings designed to contribute towards the creation of new theatre work within the North East region.

In 2009-10, the three venues worked together for the first time to offer a joint package of in-kind support to enable an emerging North East based artist/theatre company to develop and present a new piece of work across the three venues.

Bridging the Gap is now entering its fourth year, having supported three new productions to date:

Rabbit Damage - *Wherever I Lay My Hat*, 2010  
INK Productions - *Wanting for Anghus*, 2011  
Daniel Bye – *Ash*, 2012

In 2013, Bridging the Gap expanded to include Alnwick Playhouse, Customs House and Northern Stage, and will support two new pieces of work.

### Contact:

Helen Ferguson  
T: 01642 665400  
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