

Norfolk & Norwich Festival 2024

Friday 10 – Sunday 26 May

nnfestival.org.uk

01603 531800

WELCOME!

Spring has sprung and the Festival is back. Put away that big coat, take in the smell of freshly cut grass and join us out and about across Norwich and around Norfolk for another great Festival adventure.

There are countless treats for everyone in this year's Festival. Whether you're ready to be engulfed by a wave of music, want to gasp with delight at acts of human dexterity, share joyful moments with the whole family, or discover new artistic gems. All are waiting for you.

There are many ways to navigate the Festival. Choose by date using the brochure's chronological listing, plan special nights out with family and friends, or try something new with events which catch your eye and offer new experiences.

This year, we've also put together some stories to help you explore routes through the Festival, bringing together shows and events that share common themes. 'Whisper & Shout' draws our attention to ways artists communicate - from small, intimate moments of contemplation to bold, in-your-face brashness. 'Our East voices' shares the work of some of the most exciting artists from our region, and 'A Greener World' explores how artists tackle our concerns for our natural world.

You'll be able to uncover a little more about each of these in the brochure, and perhaps curate your own Festival adventure through the shows featured in each story.

Excitingly this year we also have a special celebration of the expressive nature of the human body. Working with Norwich Theatre, we have curated an outstanding programme of international dance and performance.

With our new Festival Connect & Create initiative, we share more of our work in the community this year. You can look forward to projects, such as Book of Thetford and On Our

Doorsteps as well as network events for artists, educators and young creatives.

Whether Norfolk is your home or you're just visiting, take some time to enjoy all the Festival has to offer. Each Festival takes an enormous

amount of planning and thanks go to all those who come together and make it happen – our board, staff, freelancers, volunteers, sponsors and funders. And, of course, thanks to all the artists - from down the road and around the world - who make our Festival so special.

Daniel Brine
Artistic Director & Chief Executive

In 2024 Brenda Arthur steps down as Chair of Norfolk & Norwich Festival.

Brenda has been an outstanding Chair, not only leading the organisation through the challenges of the pandemic, but also playing a key role in our move to Norwich Guildhall and helping the organisation evolve to be more rooted in our community. Her passion for fairness, inclusivity and respect has guided the Festival and she leaves us a better and stronger organisation. All Norfolk & Norwich Festival staff and board thank her for her leadership and extraordinary service that has inspired us for almost a decade.

The Festival

- 5 Performance
- 31 City of Literature Weekend
- 40 Visual Arts

Visiting

- 52 Venues
- 61 Booking
- 78 About Us

Book your tickets

Under 26? Get tickets for £7.50 with YoungNNF Free to join

Online at nnfestival.org.uk

Call us 01603 531800

Or visit us at Norwich Guildhall, Gaol Hill, Norwich, NR2 1JS

Full opening hours online

Join the conversation #NNF

Facebook: NNFestival

X: @NNFest

Instagram: @NNFest

Join our email list at nnfestival.org.uk

All information correct at time of print

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Norfolk & Norwich Festival supports artists to create bold new work, delivers creativity to classrooms, and brings a massive community celebration to our city and county.

We do this thanks to our funders, sponsors and donors but times are challenging for all cultural organisations. We are no different.

Find out how you can support us nnfestival.org.uk/support-us

FAMILY FUN ACROSS THE CITY!

FRIDAY 10 – SUNDAY 12 MAY

WELCOME WEEKEND

Welcome in the Festival with a free weekend of spectacular street shows for all the family!

FRIDAY

L'HOMME DEBOUT

MO & THE RED RIBBON

Friday 10 May, 9pm Norwich City Centre

Winding through the city street, Mo, a beautifully crafted giant puppet will captivate your heart in a sequence of colourful and larger than life scenes. A joyful, playful and poetic show that explores the experience of migration from a child's perspective.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

Circus, theatre, laughs and gasps, a weekend-long programme of free outdoor shows including:

JEANEFER JEAN-CHARLES

PATOIS

What happens when patois and dance meet?

RAGGLE TAGGLE ARTS

BETTY BROWN BAGS

All singing, all dancing, spoon playing interactive show.

NO FIT STATE CIRCUS

BAMBOO

An improbable circus playground that defies the laws of physics.

TIT FOR TAT CIRCUS

NOW I AM BECOME D/DEAF (DESTROYER OF WORDS)

An exploration of identity and hearing loss through circus.

BUREAU OF SILLY IDEAS

ISLAND STORM

Circus, fun and stunts in a magical arcade action world.

MECHANIMAL

CRAP AT ANIMALS

Lots of animals. Lots of stupidity. A really wild clowning spectacular!

VARIABLE MATTER

WORLD KIOSK

An intimate digital sound and light installation.

DOT HOWARD AND SORREL MUGGRIDGE

A HANDFUL OF TIME

A travelling exhibition of tactile clay artifacts.

FRESHLY GREATED

**JOYLAND SNAILS & GREAT POSTCARDS FROM
YARMOUTH**

A celebration of the people and places of Great Yarmouth.

Full programme information available from mid-April.

Free Outdoor Programme Partner: Page Bros Group
Supported by the Paul Bassham Charitable Trust

Norfolk and Norwich Festival is a partner in Without Walls, a consortium of festivals and arts organisations bringing fantastic outdoor arts to people in towns and cities across England. Find out more on www.withoutwalls.com. Shows at the Welcome Weekend are co-commissioned by Norfolk & Norwich Festival and a number of partners.

LJ HOPE PRODUCTIONS PRESENT STEVE WATERS

PHOENIX DODO BUTTERFLY

Saturday 11 May, 7.30pm UEA Drama Studio

Saturday 25 May, 7.30pm The Drill House, Great Yarmouth

What future do we want to live in? On a Norfolk farm, Martin and Becky seek to find their way through three futures: one of flood, one of fire, and one of drought. Does their estranged daughter Aimee hold the secret to survival? Followed by a panel discussion on the climate crisis, including speakers Patrick Barkham (at UEA) and Tom Heap (at The Drill House).

Tickets £20 (Norwich), £16 (Great Yarmouth)

U18/YoungNNF £7.50

Saturday 11 May will be BSL interpreted

AURORA ORCHESTRA

EROICA BY HEART

Saturday 11 May, 6pm & 8pm Norwich Cathedral

Aurora Orchestra present a unique performance of Beethoven's Symphony No. 3. Performed entirely from memory and stripped of music stands, get up close and personal in the atmospheric surrounds of Norwich Cathedral.

Sponsored by Birketts

Tickets £27 U18/YoungNNF £7.50

GUILDHALL SESSIONS

Saturday 11, Sunday 12, Saturday 25 & Sunday 26 May,
11am-4pm drop in Norwich Guildhall

Six new music films screened in Norwich Guildhall. Over 600 years the building has been home to the centre of city government, a jail and courthouse and is now home to the Festival. This history inspired commissions by Stick in the Wheel, Laura Cannell, Rakhi Singh, Tamsin Elliott, Una Lee and Sian Croose.

Supported by PRS Foundation's The Open Fund

Free no booking required

The works are also available to view online, and to buy as a limited-edition CD or download.

The showing on 11 May and 12 May will take place up a flight of stairs.

BBC RADIO 3

NEW GENERATION ARTISTS

Our partnership with BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artists Scheme supports young musicians on the threshold of an international career. Enjoy some of the world's most promising new talent.

10% off when you book for three or more BBC New Generation concerts

CHAOS STRING QUARTET

Tuesday 14 May, 1pm Octagon Chapel

Founded in 2019 on the principles of chaos in the arts, science, and philosophy, the Chaos String Quartet has rapidly established itself on the international music scene and has won numerous awards at some of the most prestigious international competitions.

Luigi Boccherini String Quartet Op. 2 No. 1

György Kurtág Officium Breve

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart String Quartet No. 22, Kv 589

Tickets £17, £15 **U18/YoungNNF** Free

MICHAEL PANDYA & KEVAL SHAH

Tuesday 14 May, 7pm Octagon Chapel

Michael Pandya is a pianist and conductor increasingly sought after across Europe. Keval Shah has been recognised for the artistic and intellectual originality of his playing.

These two rising collaborative pianists take to the Octagon stage for an evening of beautiful piano duets with a lively programme including Chopin, Brahms and Erik Satie.

Tickets £17, £15 **U18/YoungNNF** Free

MICHAEL PANDYA & ANDREW HAMILTON

Wednesday 15 May, 7pm Octagon Chapel

In Michael Pandya's second concert, he is joined by British baritone, Andrew Hamilton. Part of the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich, Andrew is an enthusiastic interpreter of song with an astonishing wealth of expression. The programme includes work by Debussy, Strauss and Rachmaninov.

Tickets £17, £15 **U18/YoungNNF** £7.50

GENEVA LEWIS

New Zealand born violinist, Geneva Lewis, makes a welcome return for a trio of county-wide concerts at this year's Festival. Following her 2023 appearance, this remarkable violinist has made her BBC Proms debut and worked with the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

Wednesday 15 May, 1pm Octagon Chapel

Johan Goerg Pisendel Sonata in A Minor

Reena Esmail Darshan

Cheryl Frances-Hoad Suite No. 1

Andrew Norman Sabina

Eugène Ysaÿe Sonata No. 5 for Solo violin

Tickets £17, £15 **U18/YoungNNF** £7.50

Thursday 16 May, 1pm Sheringham Little Theatre

Friday 17 May, 1pm The Corn Hall, Diss

Johann Sebastian Bach Partita for violin No.3 in E major, BWv 1006.1

Reena Esmail Darshan

Andrew Norman Sabina

Eugène Ysaÿe Sonata for Solo violin, op.27, No.5

Tickets £15 **U18/YoungNNF** £7.50

LAURA CANNELL

ANTIPHONY OF THE TREES

Sunday 12 May, 7.45pm Norwich Cathedral

Norfolk's own Laura Cannell presents the live version of her seventh solo album Antiphony of the Trees. Inspired by

birdsong, the album has been transformed into a live project. Armed with electronics and an armful of recorders, she creates a sublime sonic folk experiment not to be missed.

Tickets £16 **U18/YoungNNF** £7.50

ASHLEY GROTE

NIGHT PIPES: OLIVIER MESSIAEN ORGAN WORKS

Sunday 12 May, 9pm Norwich Cathedral

A night-time meditation featuring music by Olivier Messiaen, performed on the newly refurbished organ of Norwich Cathedral. Master of Music, Ashley Grote, plays three towering works of the organ repertoire, displaying the full range of the instrument, from the quietest whisper to the mightiest thunder.

Tickets £10 **U18/YoungNNF** £7.50

10% off when you book both Antiphony of the Trees and Night Pipes: Olivier Messiaen Organ Works

SHEILA GHELANI & SUE PALMER

COMMON SALT

Tuesday 14 & Wednesday 15 May, 6pm Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery

Common Salt is a performance around a table – a show and tell, exploring the colonial and geographical history of England and India. Sue and Sheila activate insights into our shared past, laying out a home museum of objects and stories; creating ‘a miniature with epic undertones.’ Accompanied by laments on the shruti box, a traditional Indian instrument.

Tickets £16 **U18/YoungNNF** £7.50

Wednesday 15 May, 6pm Live Stream

Free please book in advance

NORFOLK FOLKLORE SOCIETY & LAURA CANNELL

DARK TALES FROM THE GUILDHALL

Wednesday 15 May, 7pm Norwich Guildhall

In a wonderfully atmospheric setting, the Norfolk Folklore Society and performer Laura Cannell will join to create a magical night filled with music, tales of ghosts, witchcraft, secret tunnels and dreadful murders linked to Norwich's Guildhall, a distinctive building which has been at the heart of the Fine City for centuries.

Ages 16+

Tickets £10 **U18/YoungNNF** £7.50

FESTIVAL GARDENS

With the arrival of the iconic Adnams Spiegel tent, the Festival Gardens opens its doors to welcome in the summer. Soak up the atmosphere, enjoy free music, relax with a beer and this year, join us for a fantastic pop-up dining experience in the Festival Speak Easy!

The Adnams Spiegel tent is generously sponsored by Adnams

THE BAND STAND

Thursday 16–Sunday 19 & Thursday 23–Sunday 26 May
Festival Gardens

Beautiful evenings of alfresco tunes, The Band Stand returns with the best young music-makers bringing you beats to sink your beer to. Full line-up to be announced at nnfestival.org.uk

Sponsored by Yawn Marketing

Free

FEAST FROM THE EAST

WITH CHEF ALEX FIRMAN

Friday 17 & Saturday 18, Friday 24 & Saturday 25 May

Sittings at 6pm & 8.30pm Festival Gardens

Chef Alex Firman hosts a special Festival dining experience in the Festival Speak Easy. A delicious three course vegetarian menu curated with the finest seasonal ingredients procured from Norfolk growers, farmers and makers. Further information at nnfestival.org.uk.

£40 per person

CIRCOLOMBIA

CORAZÓN

Wednesday 15-Sunday 26 May, 7.30pm (Sundays 5.30pm)

Adnams Spiegel tent

A brand new show. All the way from South America and created especially for the Adnams Spiegel tent!

Circolombia invites you into their home to experience Corazón (Heart). This world premiere, commissioned by Norfolk & Norwich Festival, is a fun-fuelled circus concert, packed with

breathless circus feats and infectious music where you, the audience, are warmly invited right into the beating Latin heart.

Sponsored by Dipple & Conway Opticians

Tickets Weekdays £25, £22 Fri, Sat & Sun £27, £24
U18/YoungNNF £7.50

On previous Circolombia shows:

‘One of the most electrifying, exciting troupes I’ve ever seen’
Sunday Times

‘A show with real attitude. it’s a great night out’ The Guardian

‘Hugely entertaining, bristles with attitude... infectiously energetic’ The Times

BOOK OF THETFORD BOOK LAUNCH

Thursday 16 May, 2pm The Carnegie, Thetford

Join us in celebrating the Book of Thetford! Created by children, aged 8-11, from Thetford schools in collaboration with artists Andy Field and Beckie Darlington. Part fictional imagining, part actual guidebook, the book is an opportunity for adults to see and experience a place through the eyes of some of its youngest inhabitants.

Tickets £5

Copies of Book of Thetford will be available at our Box Office from 17 May. While stock lasts.

HINAKO OMORI

STILLNESS, SOFTNESS...

FOR PIANO, STRINGS AND HARP

Thursday 16 May, 8pm St Peter Mancroft

Japanese born composer Hinako Omori presents new arrangements of songs from recent album Stillness, Softness... Originally written for synthesizers, these reimagined versions with strings and harp explore the boundaries between natural and synthesized sound worlds, on themes of dreams versus reality, solitude, and reconnecting with and finding peace within ourselves.

Sponsored by Ashtons Legal

Tickets £22, £16, £10 **U18/YoungNNF** £7.50

'The songs are immaculately crafted' Clash Magazine on Hinako Omori

TANIA EL KHOURY

MEMORY OF BIRDS

Thursday 16–Saturday 18 May, every hour 11am–4pm
Sainsbury Centre Sculpture Park

Immerse yourself in a guided sensory experience. In collaboration with a trauma therapist and migrating birds, Memory of Birds is an interactive sound installation in the trees. The work explores political violence that both literally and figuratively gets buried in contested lands.

Ages 14+

Tickets £16 **U18/YoungNNF** £7.50

TANIA EL KHOURY IN CONVERSATION WITH LOIS KEIDAN

Saturday 18 May, 4pm Elizabeth Fry Lecture Theatre, UEA

Join Tania El Khoury as she talks to Lois Keidan, founder of the Live Art Development Agency, about Memory of Birds and

notions of migration, the production of collective memory and the cultivation of solidarity.

Tickets £5

LUCY MCCORMICK

LUCY & FRIENDS

Thursday 16 May, 10pm Adnams Spiegeltent

In a despairing world, Lucy McCormick attempts to create community and connection the only way she knows how – through a smattering of sing-a-longs and a celebration of silliness. A master of theatrical manipulation and crushing personal vulnerability, Lucy leaves her audiences needing a hug, a cry and an immediate shower.

‘Shameless, Unhinged, And Quite Brilliant.’ The Skinny

Ages 18+

Contains strong language, scenes of a sexual nature and nudity.

Tickets £18 **YoungNNF** £7.50

HIGH TIDE & MOLLY NAYLOR

MAKE ME

Thursday 16 May, 6pm

Walter Roy Theatre, Hewett Academy

Set around a struggling secondary school in Ipswich, Make Me tells the story of an inept drama teacher with a saviour-complex, and the three young women she’s determined to save.

A Festival Connect & Create project, in partnership with High Tide, Make Me was devised in collaboration with GCSE drama pupils of Hewett Academy.

This is a work in progress performance.

Tickets £7.50

COMPLINE BY CANDLELIGHT

Friday 17 May, 9pm Norwich Cathedral

The Girl Choristers, Lay Clerks and Choral Scholars of Norwich Cathedral Choir sing the ancient monastic office of night prayer in the stunning candlelit surroundings of Norwich Cathedral.

Free no booking required.

PONGO

Friday 17 May, 10pm Adnams Spiegelent

The Queen of Kuduro, Pongo mixes genres and languages, drawing from her Angolan and Portuguese roots. Connecting Kuduro to Afrobeats, Favela Funk or even Afropunk, Pongo sets the tone for her debut upcoming project 'SAKIDILA': powerful and addictive party and club music.

Sponsored by Howes Percival

Tickets £17 (£20 on the day) **U18/YoungNNF** £7.50

KING CREOSOTE

Saturday 18 May, 8pm Norwich Cathedral

Kenny Anderson (AKA King Creosote) has developed a reputation for his goosebump-inducing brand of folk-pop. Lyrics both ethereal and everyday are plotted against

kaleidoscopic musical terrain that explores everything from accordions to vibraphones.

Sponsored by Savills

Tickets £27, £25, £17, £10 **U18/YoungNNF** £7.50

A FILM BY DAN CANHAM, WITH KATIE BOAG, ASH GOOSEY AND BENJI BOWER

FENLAND ELEGY

Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 May, 11am-4pm drop in The Gallery, The Forum

A short and stirring dance film shot at sunset in the Fens of East Anglia, Fenland Elegy combines heart-rending symphonic music with the immense technical and expressive form of Krump dance to lament the passing of a landscape.

Free no booking required

RAGROOF TEA DANCES

The legendary Ragroof Tea Dances return to the beautiful Adnams Spiegel tent – expect vintage music, glamorous costumes, and glorious dance displays. Enjoy a tippie at the bar, or tea and a delicious Jarrolds scone!

Tickets £18 **U18/YoungNNF** £7.50

THE STRAWBERRY BALL

Saturday 18 May, 11am Adnams Spiegel tent

Put on your fanciest frocks and join us to dance whimsical Waltzes and feathery Foxtrots.

THE COCONUT CLUB

Sunday 19 May, 11am Adnams Spiegel tent

A tropical cocktail of vintage Latin favourites, from sizzling Sambas and sexy Salsas to melodic Mambos and merry Merengues.

Sponsored by Jarrolds

268 YEARS OF REVERB

COMPOSED BY JONNY GREENWOOD PERFORMED BY
JAMES MCVINNIE & ELIZA MCCARTHY

Saturday 18 May, 2pm Octagon Chapel

268 years of reverb was written to summon all the music, voices and sounds that have ever filled the air and soaked into the walls of a room: to shake or coax them out of the fabric of the building, so they can be heard again – distilled and concentrated into eight hours.

Tickets Full 8 hours £50 (on the day £60)

1 hour 50 minute time slots £20 (on the day £25)

U18/YoungNNF £7.50 (available for 1 hour 50 minute time slots only)

GIRL RAY

Saturday 18 May, 10pm Adnams Spiegeltent

One of the most exhilarating and original pop bands around, Girl Ray look back to the post-disco dancefloors of the early eighties. Their latest album Prestige is a life affirming celebration of the transformative power of pop music at its most glorious.

Sponsored by Howes Percival

Tickets £17 (£20 on the day) **U18/YoungNNF** £7.50

‘They’ve gone full strutting disco and 80s-style synthpop...the record embodies an enticingly fun and loose world.’ The Guardian on Girl Ray

LAURA CANNELL

MODERN RITUAL

Sunday 19 May, 8.30pm Adnams Spiegeltent

Modern Ritual brings together a collective of musicians and writers who respond to the idea of what modern ritual means to them. This wonderful evening will transport you to enchanted landscapes with communal tales and song.

Tickets £17 (£20 on the day) **U18/YoungNNF** £7.50

BBC INTRODUCING PRESENT

BAND NIGHT

Monday 20 May, 7pm Adnams Spiegeltent

Watch some of the most exciting up-and-coming artists from Norfolk’s thriving music scene, as they take to the Adnams Spiegeltent stage. Headlined by Floral Image, Band Night features some of the most promising local talent, in a night programmed by BBC Introducing.

Tickets £10 (£12 on the day) **U18/YoungNNF** £7.50

KARINE POLWART

LIGHT BEYOND THE WINDOW

Tuesday 21 May, 10pm Adnams Spiegeltent

Karine Polwart is a multi-award-winning Scottish songwriter, folk singer and storyteller. Her songs evoke a richness of place,

hidden histories, scientific curiosity and folklore. She conjures the beauty and magic, the sorrow and complexity of the world out of the corner of her eye, with lyricism and tenderness.

Sponsored by Howes Percival

Tickets £17 (£20 on the day) **U18/YoungNNF** £7.50

NORWICH THEATRE PRESENT OCKHAM'S RAZOR

TESS

Tuesday 21 & Wednesday 22 May, 7.30pm Norwich Theatre Royal

Classic literature, physical theatre and circus collide in Tess; a groundbreaking adaptation of Thomas Hardy's novel Tess of the D'Urbervilles. An inventive and evocative retelling, Tess has extraordinary relevance for contemporary audiences, exploring privilege, class, poverty, sisterhood and female desire.

Ages 12+

Tickets £25, £20, £10

Part of Norwich Moves

TOAST AT THE FESTIVAL SPEAK EASY

Tuesday 21–Thursday 23 May Festival Gardens

TOAST is poetry, but not as you know it. Norfolk's biggest poetry night is taking over the Festival Speak Easy for three days of poetry, spoken word, storytelling, and performance.

Funny, emotional, and entertaining, TOAST redefines what poetry is and can be.

Tuesday 21 May
4.30pm **HARRY BAKER**
6pm **DEAN ATTA**

Wednesday 22 May
4.30pm **KATE FOX**
6pm **LUKE KENNARD**

Thursday 23 May
4.30pm **SALENA GODDEN**
6pm **NIKITA GILL**

Ages 14+

Tickets £10 **U18/YoungNNF** £7.50

Sponsored by Big Sky Living

ROBIN DEACON

THROUGH THE ROUND WINDOW

Wednesday 22 May, 7.30pm Norwich Arts Centre

Robin Deacon presents his haunted memories of 1970's and 80's television culture. Robin charts his journey as a child, learning from the television screen to his adult experiences as a lecturer and a professor, examining the relationship between education and representation.

Tickets £16 **U18/YoungNNF** £7.50

NUBIYAN TWIST

Wednesday 22 May, 10pm Adnams Spiegel tent

A blend of virtuosic players, skilled producers and inspired composers join forces to create a unique, infectious sound drawing on jazz, hip-hop, afrobeat, dancehall, soul, reggae and

dance music. Expect ultra-tight musicianship and a powerful nine-piece, big band sound.

‘The type of record that should be blasted over a sun-drenched festival crowd.’ Clash

Sponsored by Howes Percival

Tickets £17 (£20 on the day) **U18/YoungNNF** £7.50

XENIA AIDONOPOULOU

SKYDIVER

Wednesday 22 May & Thursday 23 May, 11.30am & 1.30pm

The Garage

Take your little ones on a magical journey with Skydiver and experience how movement, sound and stunning visuals bring whimsical characters to life in an enchanting encounter in the skies.

Age recommendation 3-5 years.

Sponsored by Jarrolds

Tickets £11 **U18/YoungNNF** £7.50 Group of 4 £30

CHAMBER CHOIR IRELAND

Wednesday 22 May, 7.30pm Cathedral of St John the Baptist

The dazzling voices of Ireland’s national chamber choir bring the best of contemporary choral music - featuring Arvo Pärt’s sublime O Holy Father Nicholas; a ‘cacophony of private secrets’ in Cassandra Miller’s The City, Full of People; eccentric Irish-ness in David Fennessy’s chOirland; and Caroline Shaw’s origami- inspired How to Fold the Wind.

Tickets £25, £20, £15, £10 **U18/YoungNNF** £7.50

The City, Full of People was commissioned by Eamonn Quinn of Louth Contemporary Music Society with funding provided by the Arts Council of Ireland and Robert D. Bielecki Foundation.

With thanks to Director's Circle Supporter, Lynn Biggs.

STICK IN THE WHEEL

Thursday 23 May, 10pm Adnams Spiegelent

This radical East London duo are known for their intense live shows exploring the raw holler of folk, electronica, spoken word and intricate rustic dobro guitar. Centuries-old work songs are fused with contemporary electronica and speak on issues of class with a razor-sharp authenticity.

Sponsored by Howes Percival

Tickets £17 (£20 on the day) **U18/YoungNNF** £7.50

SPARE TYRE

ON THE BEACH

Thursday 23 May, 11.30am & 2.30pm Sheringham Little Theatre

Saturday 25 May, 11.30am & 2.30pm St. George's Theatre, Great Yarmouth

An intimate and interactive sensory experience for six to eight people living with dementia and their carers. Join us for a day in the life of a working beach, as we explore its myths, magic, perils and ever-changing beauty through dance, music and visual storytelling.

Book via venues.

Tickets Pay what you want, £15, £10, £5, £3

On The Beach is entirely non-verbal. As such, it can be enjoyed by d/Deaf audiences and those with English as a second language.

RACHEL NÍ BHRAONÁIN

MOSH

Thursday 23–Saturday 25 May, 7.30pm Epic Studios

MOSH is a high-octane dance, theatre and music show about the culture of the mosh pit. Consisting of five dancers, one drummer, one guitarist, humour, heart, and a hell of a lot of headbanging, this show is like nothing you've ever seen before.

Ages 12+

Supported by Zeitgeist Irland

Sponsored by Artlist

Tickets £20 **U18/YoungNNF** £7.50

MAHAN ESFAHANI

Thursday 23 May, 8pm Octagon Chapel

Mahan Esfahani kicks off his residency with a solo programme featuring two warhorses of the harpsichord repertoire by Rameau and Buxtehude. Kaija Saariaho's Jardin Secret II combines harpsichord and electronics, and a new work by Marcus Rock receives its world premiere.

Tickets £22, £18 **U18/YoungNNF** £7.50

MAHAN ESFAHANI

WHISPERED SPELLS

Friday 24 May, every 15 minutes between 2-3.45pm & 5-6.45pm Secret City Centre venue

Mahan Esfahani plays the quiet yet seductive European keyboard instrument, the clavichord. In a secret location revealed after booking, tiny audiences will be treated to intimate, ten-minute recitals of music, curated by Esfahani for his Festival residency.

With thanks to Director's Circle Supporters, Julia Leach & Patrick Smith.

Tickets £5

APARTMENT HOUSE

Friday 24 May, 8pm Octagon Chapel

Apartment House present The Marble Index, the seminal post-gothic, harmonium-sick 1968 album by Nico and John Cale, featuring Francesca Fargion as vocalist, alongside a new work for cello and ensemble by Cassandra Miller.

'immensely haunting and immensely beautiful' The New Yorker on Apartment House

Tickets £20, £17 **U18/YoungNNF** Free

NORWICH THEATRE PRESENT

MARC BREW & SIDI LARBI CHERKAOUi

AN ACCIDENT / A LIFE

Friday 24 & Saturday 25 May, 7.30pm Norwich Theatre Royal

In this exciting new collaboration, Marc Brew and Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui find new forms of movement and question socially standardised images of people with disabilities. They explore profound events and fraught memories using dance, storytelling, film and a car.

Ages 14+

Tickets £35, £32, £28, £24, £10

This show includes integrated captioning.

**SUSANNAH HEWLETT & ORIGINALPROJECTS; PRESENT
HARD LEISURE**

Friday 24 May, 8pm

The Jube, Great Yarmouth

An anarchic club night of performance and disco, bringing together some of the most outrageous queer talents from across the country. Hosted by Great Yarmouth's very own Bigg Taystee, with Pussyfoot, keeping you on the dancefloor until 2am.

Tickets Pay What You Can £20, £15, £10, £5

LUKE WRIGHT'S SILVER JUBILEE

Friday 24 May, 5pm Adnams Spiegeltent

Luke Wright tries to celebrate 25 years of service on the literary frontline but ends up taking a deep dive into himself and the England that raised him. Big glittering showpieces alongside tender tear-jerkers on class, excessive consumption, love and adoption.

Supported by Norwich Arts Centre
Sponsored by Chadwicks

Tickets £16 **U18/YoungNNF** £7.50

LAURA MISCH

Friday 24 May, 10pm Adnams Spiegel tent

Laura Misch is a saxophonist, vocalist and composer whose work bridges the worlds of electronica and jazz. Her brilliantly inventive arrangements and lush textured sounds are woven through with beautiful folk-esque vocals, to provide a wonderful leftfield pop sound.

‘Leaning in to her trademark saxophone loops, she built outwards, crafting entire worlds in the process’ – Clash

Sponsored by Howes Percival

Tickets £17 (£20 on the day) **U18/YoungNNF** £7.50

BACH: MAHAN ESFAHANI & BRITTEN SINFONIA

Saturday 25 May, 7.30pm St Peter Mancroft

The twenty-first century’s leading champion of the harpsichord, Mahan Esfahani returns to Norfolk & Norwich Festival. Joined by the innovative and vital Britten Sinfonia, they perform a programme of uplifting and era-defining concertos by Bach.

Johann Sebastian Bach:

Orchestral Suite No. 2 BWV 1067

Keyboard Concerto in D minor, BWV 1052

Keyboard Concerto in E major, BWV 1053

Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 BWV 1050

Tickets £40, £30, £22, £15 **U18/YoungNNF** Free

BAQUE LUAR

Saturday 25 May, 10pm Adnams Spiegeltent

Baque Luar, meaning 'Moonlit Beat', are a collective of diverse female and non-binary vocalists and percussionists, united by their love of Brazilian and Afro Brazilian music. The group combines original multivocal compositions and arrangements with powerful percussive grooves. Their music praises nature and reawakens a cultural imagination to care for our living planet and all its inhabitants.

Sponsored by Howes Percival

Tickets £17 (£20 on the day) **U18/YoungNNF** £7.50

CITY OF LITERATURE WEEKEND

FRIDAY 24 - SUNDAY 26 MAY

City of Literature Weekend is a Norfolk & Norwich Festival and National Centre for Writing presentation, programmed by National Centre for Writing.

Holly Ainley, Head of Programmes & Creative Engagement at National Centre for Writing, invites you to consider: whose voices are going unheard?

In the maelstrom of modern-day conversation, which voices rise above the commotion? Whose voices often go unheard, and how can we make sure that we're listening?

These questions form the basis of this year's City of Literature weekend: three days of events, creative workshops and open spaces that celebrate the multiplicity of voices in our community and explore important questions of communication and representation.

Dazzling authors of fiction, poetry and creative nonfiction will take to the stage to discuss what it means to be an 'outsider', how to find your authentic voice, and what happens when words or language become a barrier for you.

Join us for family-friendly craft and storytelling activities that encourage a lifelong love of words. We also invite you to explore brilliant and bold local talent through our popular Publishing Fair and an updated edition of Wandering Words, a walking tour of Norwich UNESCO City of Literature.

By listening and making space for others to speak, we have an opportunity to grow and connect; to allow greater freedom and acceptance in the stories we tell about ourselves and our world.

Book three or more events and get 10% off*

***not including workshops**

WANDERING WORDS

Throughout the Festival

Experience Norwich through fresh eyes and make discoveries about it's past, present and future by embarking on a self-guided literary walking trail of the city.

FREE No Booking required

Visit nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/wandering-words to download the map. Alternatively, pick up a physical copy of at the Festival Box Office.

A National Centre for Writing and Norfolk & Norwich Festival presentation. Sound production by Access Creative College.

FRIDAY 24 MAY

PICTURE BOOK ADVENTURES

WITH KATE READ

Friday 24 May, 10.30am, Adnams Spiegeltent

Kickstart your day with an energising interactive storytelling session!

Children's author and illustrator Kate Read invites you to join her on a colourful journey through the natural world. There will be counting, singing and craft activities to enjoy.

Suitable for families with children up to seven years old.

Tickets £5 per child, adults free

Supported by Bookbugs & Dragon Tales

DARING TO DREAM

WITH FERDIA LENNON & CLARE POLLARD

Friday 24 May, 3pm, National Centre for Writing, Dragon Hall

When the stakes are high and reality is shrouded in darkness, how can storytelling help us to carry on?

Connecting our present moment to ancient history and folklore, Ferdia Lennon and Clare Pollard discuss how their historical fiction explores themes of belonging, conflict, truth and myth.

Tickets £10 **U18/Young NNF** £7.50

THE DISTANCE BETWEEN US

WITH CARYS DAVIES & JON MCGREGOR

Friday 24 May, 6pm, National Centre for Writing, Dragon Hall

Multi-award-winning novelists Carys Davies and Jon McGregor reflect on the human impulse to connect and tell our stories – even when words fail us. Through the prism of Davies' latest novel, *Clear*, they will explore solitary landscapes, hidden selves and the intricacies of language.

Tickets £10 **U18/Young NNF** £7.50

SATURDAY 25 MAY

POEMS AS FRIENDS

FEATURING ROY MCFARLANE & HANNAH JANE WALKER

Saturday 25 May, 10am, Adnams Spiegel tent

Sit back, relax and be taken on a journey in the company of poems by Dylan Thomas, Carol Ann Duffy, Katherine

Mansfield, Seamus Heaney, and many more. A warm and uplifting morning event featuring Roy McFarlane and Hannah Jane Walker, who will share readings and insights on the life-changing power of poems as companions.

Tickets £10 **U18/Young NNF** £7.50

in partnership with The Poetry Exchange

HARRIET MARTINEAU LECTURE

WITH VAL MCDERMID

Saturday 25 May, 12.30pm, Adnams Spiegel tent

The Harriet Martineau Lecture celebrates the legacy of this remarkable, world-changing woman by inviting globally renowned radical speakers to respond to her life and work. This year's lecture will be delivered by one of the UK's most accomplished and respected novelists, Val McDermid.

PAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE

Saturday 25 May, 2pm, The Plantation Garden

Our global shared reading event returns! Pick a book, bring a cool drink and turn off your phone for a well-deserved detox read in the beautiful surroundings of The Plantation Garden. Simultaneous events will be taking place in UNESCO Cities of Literature across the world.

in partnership with The Book Hive.

Celebrating Norwich UNESCO City of Literature

Tickets £2 donation on entry

A SIGN OF HER OWN

WITH SARAH MARSH

Saturday 25 May, 3pm, National Centre for Writing, Dragon Hall

A Sign of Her own is a mesmerising tale of historical fiction that explores the legacy of the telephone. It is an empowering story of Ellen's journey towards finding her authentic voice and accepting her deaf identity, and

casts new light on the inventor and the invention that would forever change how we communicate.

Tickets £10 U18/Young NNF £7.50

This event will be BSL interpreted.

GROW WHERE THEY FALL

WITH MICHAEL DONKOR & SANTANU BHATTACHARYA

Saturday 25 May, 5.30pm, National Centre for Writing, Dragon Hall

Two intelligent and compassionate novelists come together to discuss the themes of past lives and blossoming identities in their fiction. Michael Donkor (Hold, Grow Where They Fall) and Santanu Bhattacharya (one Small Voice) will explore coming of age voices, queer and racial identities, and how familial ties and childhood events can affect the adult you become.

Tickets £10 U18/Young NNF £7.50

BURNT TOAST

LATE NIGHT OPEN MIC POETRY

Saturday 25 May, 8pm, National Centre for Writing, Dragon Hall

TOAST, the team behind Norfolk's biggest regular poetry night, is mixing things up with an after-hours slam poetry open mic! Grab a slot, show off your best work, and help us to celebrate East Anglia as a hotbed of creative talent. Includes a headline set from Jasmine Gardosi.

Tickets £10 U18/Young NNF £7.50

SUNDAY 26 MAY

CITY OF LITERATURE PUBLISHING FAIR

Sunday 26 May, 10am – 4pm, National Centre for Writing, Dragon Hall

From hardbacks to zines and everything in between – discover the vibrant publishing culture of the East of England at our popular biannual publishing fair!

Meet the publishers, browse and purchase their work, and take part in a series of interesting talks throughout the day.

FREE No booking required

UPROOTED

WITH MARCHELLE FARRELL & JESSICA J. LEE

Sunday 26 May, 10.30am, Adnams Spiegeltent

What is home? What can nature teach us about belonging, and how can we plant new roots when we feel out of place?

Join Marchelle Farrell and Jessica J. Lee for a hopeful and healing discussion on finding a sense of home through plants and reconnecting to the land.

Tickets £10 **U18/Young NNF** £7.50

WORKSHOPS

POETRY WORKSHOP: GIVING PLACE A VOICE

WITH ELIZABETH LEWIS WILLIAMS

Friday 24 May, 11am–1pm National Centre for Writing, Dragon Hall

How do you give a place a voice? In this relaxed poetry workshop, you will consider the spirit of place and how the landscapes and settlements deeply

etched in our minds can be given a voice to speak. How might new voices harness poetry to represent these places anew?

Ages 18+

Tickets £35 **Concessions** £25

in partnership with The Poetry Exchange

BUILD A COMMUNITY PICTURE BOOK

Saturday 25 & Sunday 26 May 10am–11am & 1-2pm,

National Centre for Writing, Dragon Hall

We're making a picture book! Can you help? Draw, cut and stick a page for our community book inspired by Dragon Hall and the people who have lived and worked here over hundreds of years.

There will also be activity packs for you to take home.

Ages 5–11 years

Free please book in advance

Limited spaces available, please book a place for your child in advance. One accompanying adult is permitted per child (ticket for adult not required).

WRITING CONFLICT IN FICTION

WITH MICHAEL DONKOR

Saturday 25 May, 10am–12pm National Centre for Writing,
Dragon Hall

Bring your characters to life and propel your story forward by learning how to create conflict in your fiction writing. Learn tips and tricks from Michael Donkor, author of *Hold* (shortlisted for the Desmond Elliott Prize) and *Grow Where They Fall*.

Ages 18+

Tickets £35 Concessions £25

BOOK BINDING

WITH JUDITH ELLIS

Saturday 25 May, 3–4.30pm National Centre for Writing,
Dragon Hall

Try your hand at bookbinding in this practical session led by writer and professional bookbinder Judith Ellis. Whether you're a zine maker, a poet or you dabble in creative non-fiction, anyone can learn how to turn their work into a simple but beautiful binding.

Ages 18+

Tickets £15

Hear more from National Centre for Writing by signing up to their newsletter at nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk

BOOK COVER DESIGN

WITH PAM SMY

Sunday 26 May, 11am–12.30pm National Centre for Writing, Dragon Hall

Try your hand at designing a book cover at this practical workshop led by illustrator and lecturer, Pam Smy.

Explore issues around page layout and cover design for books of all ages and genres, then practise collage techniques.

Ages 18+

Tickets £15

NATURE WRITING WORKSHOP: INNER LANDSCAPES

WITH MARCHELLE FARRELL

Sunday 26 May, 2-4pm National Centre for Writing, Dragon Hall

What does it mean to be in an intimate relationship with the landscape? Therapist, writer and gardener Marchelle Farrell leads a relaxed creative writing session where you are encouraged to explore the relationship between our inner and outer worlds. Take time out to notice our everyday landscapes and the ways they shape us, then use this experience to reshape and reimagine the stories we tell ourselves through writing.

Ages 18+

Tickets £35 Concessions £25

VISUAL ARTS

EXHIBITIONS

DANIEL & CLARA

THE LOST ESTATE

Saturday 20 January 2024 – Sunday 12 January 2025

Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery

The Lost Estate is a new photographic series by Daniel & Clara created in response to the works of the Norwich School of Artists. The series explores the relationship between humans and the natural world through imagined narratives, taking place in the gardens of a country estate.

Standard museum admission

Presented by Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery

HOLDING SPACE

From Saturday 3 February, Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery

Holding Space brings together works from Norwich Castle's modern and contemporary art collection. Works by Michael Andrews and Bruce Lacey are displayed alongside major new acquisitions by contemporary artists including Beatrice Gibson, Ibrahim Mahama and Florence Peake.

Standard museum admission

Presented by Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery

WHAT IS TRUTH? SEASON

Saturday 17 February - Sunday 20 October, Sainsbury Centre

During their new season What is Truth?, the Sainsbury Centre will investigate how we can know what is true in the world around us through a series of fascinating, interlinked exhibitions.

Against the backdrop of fake news, elaborate scams, and the burgeoning presence of Artificial Intelligence, the art museum will ponder whether we are experiencing a time when increasingly sophisticated technology can distort reality and diminish our own sense of authenticity.

The dynamic 2024 programme consists of four key, interlinked exhibitions:

IN EVENT OF MOON DISASTER

Saturday 17 February - Sunday 4 August

LIQUID GENDER

Saturday 17 February - Sunday 4 August

JEFFREY GIBSON: NO SIMPLE WORD FOR TIME

Saturday 24 February - Sunday 4 August

THE CAMERA NEVER LIES

CHALLENGING IMAGES THROUGH THE INCITE PROJECT

Saturday 18 May - Sunday 20 October

For ticket information see sainsburycentre.ac.uk

Presented by the Sainsbury Centre

ART FOR THE ENVIRONMENT: ARTISTS FROM AER INTERNATIONAL RESIDENCY PROGRAMME

Saturday 16 March - Saturday 8 June
GroundWork Gallery, King's Lynn

Art for the Environment showcases some of the most exciting artists from University of the Arts London, drawing attention to our fragile planet. Using materials from nature and a range of media, each piece is concentrating on environmental sustainability and biodiversity.

Free no booking required

Presented by GroundWork Gallery

ZAKIYA MACKENZIE, TIITU TAKALO & WE LIVE HERE

ON OUR DOORSTEPS

Friday 10 May–Sunday 9 June, Norfolk Wildlife Trust Sweet Briar Marshes

Explore a wilderness in the city. Bristol-based writer Zakiya Mackenzie and Finnish graphic novelist Tiitu Takalo unearth the stories of those who love Sweet Briar Marshes in a series of newly commissioned artworks, but you'll need to get out there to find them. Created in collaboration with local people and Norfolk Wildlife Trust, on our Doorsteps is part of a nationwide project exploring the relationship between urban communities and the green spaces around us.

Visit nffestival.org.uk for location details.

Free no booking required

We spoke to Tim Harrison, the artistic director of We Live Here, about on our Doorsteps.

Why did you set up We Live Here? Can you tell us a bit more about your journey so far with this new project?

We Live Here is about celebrating the natural world and the deep connections that we have with our environment. It's about working together to understand, value and protect what we still have. It's also about addressing some of the barriers that prevent people from experiencing the huge benefits of spending time in nature.

How do you think On Our Doorsteps will enhance people's connection to where they live and to nature?

The project was developed with local people living near Sweet Briar Marshes Nature Reserve, run by Norfolk Wildlife Trust.

By visiting the exhibition installed there, you'll be able to share the experiences and personal stories of people who love the place. Hopefully it will help people to see this beautiful and biodiverse landscape with fresh eyes.

In your view, what role do artists have to play in the ecological crisis we are facing?

How we confront this crisis depends on how we feel about it, how much we understand and care. Artists can draw attention to the natural world in ways that touch us personally, whilst also sharing real knowledge and understanding. They offer new ways to shout about it and to change minds. If we're going to change, we all need to care.

What are your plans for the future of this project, where will it take you next?

After Norwich, the project goes to Lancaster and Hull, building connections between local, urban communities through their experiences of nature.

Beyond that, I'm exploring how We Live Here can connect communities globally around ecological themes. I'm planning a

project that will connect people, landscapes and wildlife from the Arctic Circle to West Africa.

OUTPOST AT 20

Thursday 18 April - Thursday 20 June, OUTPOST Gallery

OUTPOST at 20 celebrates 20 years of East Anglia's oldest artist-led space. This 10- week exhibition revisits the 165 exhibitions, diverse residencies, events, and studio activity from the last two decades.

Free no booking required

Presented by OUTPOST

FABRICATE: A TECHNICIANS' SHOWCASE

Tuesday 7 May - Saturday 8 June East Gallery, Norwich University of the Arts

A fabulous mix of digital and physical, traditional and cutting-edge artworks made by the technicians at Norwich University of the Arts.

Free no booking required

Presented by Norwich University of the Arts

EMILY STAPLETON JEFFERIS

LITTORAL: A CERAMIC INSTALLATION

Friday 10 - Sunday 19 May, The Potters Arms

Taking coastal rock pools as a starting point, Emily Stapleton Jefferis dives into their fractal worlds; discovering the intricate relationships that lie within, looping and folding back on themselves. Their life cycles, metamorphoses and symbioses

serve as a lesson on the limitations of individualism, and inspiration for this ceramic installation.

Free no booking required

Curated by Caroline Fisher Projects

SPRING AT HOUGHTON

ANTONY GORMLEY

TIME HORIZON

Sunday 21 April - Thursday 31 October, Houghton Hall

Time Horizon, one of Antony Gormley's most spectacular large-scale installations, is being shown at Houghton Hall. The show features 100 life-size sculptures installed at the same datum level – some partially buried, some on columns – to create a single horizontal plane across the 300-acre parkland.

Supported by Thaddaeus Ropac and White Cube

MAGDALENE ODUNDO

Sunday 12 May - Sunday 29 September, Houghton Hall

One of the world's most revered ceramic artists, Dame Magdalene Odundo, presents an exhibition of sculptures made and sited in response to the state rooms at Houghton Hall.

Supported by LOEWE

For ticket information see houghtonhall.com

Presented by Houghton Hall

SUSANNAH HEWLETT

TV DINNERS

Saturday 18 May - Sunday 9 June, PrimeYarc, Great Yarmouth

Susannah Hewlett's work mixes live performance, video, comedy, theatre and sound. TV Dinners brings together some of her work from the last 20 years - a buffet selection of her finest cold cuts; a platter of audio and televisual highlights and be-wigged character performance. Not to be missed!

Susannah will be giving a talk about her work and the exhibition at 4pm on Saturday 18 May.

Free no booking required

Presented by originalprojects; and Norfolk & Norwich Festival.

Supported by Look Again, Gray's School of Art, RGU, Aberdeen

ROGER ACKLING

SUNLIGHT

Saturday 18 May - Sunday 22 September, Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery

Sunlight is the first survey of the British artist Roger Ackling. The exhibition reveals the breadth of Ackling's practice, from early experiments with a lens to the works made in the final years of his life. Sunlight includes works not previously exhibited in the UK.

Standard museum admission

Presented by Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF THE SAINSBURY INSTITUTE: FROM NARA TO NORWICH

Monday 20 - Saturday 25 May, The Atrium, The Forum

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures, this special exhibition explores their archaeology and heritage projects – featuring a 16m replica scroll painting from the medieval Buddhist temple of Hasedera in Japan. On Saturday 25 May there will be performances of chanting at the scroll. Full details to be announced at nnfestival.org.uk.

Free no booking required

Presented by Sainsbury institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures

TALKS & WORKSHOPS

SENSING TREES

Sunday 12 May, 3pm GroundWork Gallery, Kings Lynn

Join an interactive listening and walking event led by sound artist Beth Robertson and composer Stevie Wishart.

Tickets £18 **Concessions** £16

Presented by GroundWork Gallery

LITTORAL WORKSHOP

Tuesday 14 May, 4pm & Wednesday 15 May, 10am
The Potters Arms

Join artist Emily Stapleton-Jefferis in this three-hour workshop. Following her process, you'll make your own drawings and ceramic sculpture inspired by coastal rock pools.

Ages 8+

Tickets £40 **Concessions** £20

Curated by Caroline Fisher Projects

MALI MORRIS RA, PAINTER TALKS ABOUT HER WORK

Wednesday 15 May, 7pm, Norwich School Blake Studio

British painter Mali Morris' career stretches back over 50 years. Her experiments with colour, layering and pictorial space have made her one of the most intriguing abstract painters in the UK today.

Tickets £10 **U18/YoungNNF** £7.50

in association with Norfolk Contemporary Art Society

STREET PARTY

Thursday 16 May, 6pm OUTPOST Gallery

OUTPOST is throwing a street party to celebrate their 20th birthday. Come along for an evening of guest speakers, art, book stalls and food.

FREE no booking required

As part of the street party, there will be a double bill film screening, Tenants in Revolt and Zone á Défendre at 7.30pm and 8.15pm.

Tickets £5, £7 with donation to OUTPOST. Please book in advance

ON OUR DOORSTEPS: ARTIST LED WALK

Sunday 19 May, 1pm & 3pm

Norfolk Wildlife Trust Sweet Briar Marshes

Join artists Zakiya Mackenzie and Tiitu Takalo with Denzil Dean of Norfolk Wildlife Trust for a walk around Sweet Briar

Marshes Nature Reserve to hunt for the artworks they are presenting across this unique and beautiful landscape. It's a chance to hear more about the history of the reserve, its amazing biodiversity and its relationship with the local community.

Tickets £5

Presented by We Live Here

SUSANNAH HEWLETT

THE GREAT BRITISH CACK OFF

Saturday 25 May, 2pm Great Yarmouth Marketplace

The ultimate poo making competition using only edible ingredients! A hilarious interactive cackactivity, poopular with all the family! Could you be crowned the next Cack Master? Adults and children, all welcome. All ingredients will be provided (nut free).

Free no booking required

Presented by Susannah Hewlett & originalprojects;

NETWORK EVENTS

As part of the Creative Leaders strand of Festival Connect & Create, we have built a number of networks to help develop, support and advocate for those who help bring creativity into our lives. We are hosting a trio of events during the Festival.

ARTIST EVENT

Sunday 19 May, 2–4.30pm Speak Easy, Festival Gardens

Bringing together artists from across the region who work in socially engaged practice, this is an inspiring afternoon of conversation, networking and learning.

Artists will hear insightful talks from industry experts and participate in workshops to develop and enrich their practice.

Free Limited tickets available from April, please visit nnfestival.org.uk for more information

FLOCK x NNF

YOUTH GATHERING 2K24

Monday 20 May, 5 -7pm Speak Easy, Festival Gardens

Aged 18-25? Interested in the arts as a career or as a creative outlet? FLOCK is our network for emerging young creatives – our future arts leaders. Fun and friendly, this is a great opportunity to meet other young creatives from across the region. There'll be workshops, Q&As and we'll also be joined by The White Pube who'll bring their own perspective to navigating your way through the art world.

Ages 18-25

Free please book in advance

Sign-up to FLOCK to receive regular news and opportunities at nnfestival.org.uk

CREATIVE EDUCATORS EVENT

Sunday 26 May, 12.30 - 3pm Adnams Spiegeltent

An event for teachers and arts educators plus a chance to hear about some of the first schools projects delivered by Festival Connect & Create.

Local and international artists deliver insightful talks about their school residencies, learn about the power of networks, meet like-minded peers and ask questions of our industry experts in Q&A sessions.

Free please book in advance

Sponsored by Hatch Brenner Solicitors

Stay in touch with our schools and community work.

Facebook: NNFestival

X: @NNFest

Instagram: @NNFest

VOLUNTEER WITH THE FESTIVAL

Want to meet new people, learn new skills, learn all about Norfolk & Norwich Festival?

FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS

Over 100 people join us every year as part of our volunteer team. There's all kinds of roles from Event Stewards, Assistant Event Managers, Office Assistants, Festival Drivers and much, much more. Want to join the team? Deadline Monday 11 March.

FESTIVAL FOREVER VOLUNTEERS

A volunteer-led project that researches, records, and celebrates the history of Norfolk & Norwich Festival and the people whose lives it has touched. Deadline Friday 12 April.

To find out more, visit nnfestival.org.uk

Festival Forever is a National Lottery Heritage Fund project, with thanks to National Lottery players. Special thanks as well

to Norfolk Record Office, Norfolk Heritage Centre, Museum of Norwich at The Bridewell, and lead researcher Rob Mitchell

YOUNG NNF

Aged 18-25?

You can gain access to almost all Festival shows for just £7.50, and some you can even access for FREE! Just sign-up to our FREE YoungNNF membership.

By becoming a YoungNNF member, you will get access to:

- Reduced ticket prices
- Receive emails about handpicked events
- Find out about creative opportunities to get involved with the Festival, such as FLOCK, our network for Young Creatives

Sign up for free at nnfestival.org.uk/youngnnf

VENUES

Norwich Guildhall (Main Box Office)

- Accessible toilet
- Internal lift from entrance to ground floor
- Induction loop/infrared system in Box Office
- Assistance dogs allowed

Adnams Spiegel tent

- Accessible toilet
- Ramped approach up to entrance
- Assistance dogs allowed

Festival Gardens

- Accessible toilet
- Level entrance
- Assistance dogs allowed

Box Office, Festival Gardens

The Carnegie, Thetford

- Accessible toilet
- Ramped entrance
- Assistance dogs allowed

Cathedral of St John The Baptist

- Accessible toilets
- Ramp access to entrance
- Designated accessible parking
- Induction loop/ infrared system
- Assistance dogs allowed

The Corn Hall, Diss

- Accessible toilet
- Gender inclusive toilet
- Level entrance
- Internal lift

- Induction loop/ infrared system
- Assistance dogs allowed

The Drill House, Great Yarmouth

- Accessible toilets
- Gender inclusive toilets
- Level entrance
- Assistance dogs allowed

East Gallery, Norwich University of the Arts

- Accessible toilet
- Internal lift
- Ramped access at rear/side
- Assistance dogs allowed

Elizabeth Fry Lecture Theatre, UEA

- Accessible toilets
- Level access entry
- Internal lift
- Designated parking
- Reservable / Paid general parking on site
- Induction loop/ infrared system
- Assistance dogs allowed

Epic Studios

- Accessible toilet

- Level entrance
- Internal lift
- Assistance dogs allowed

The Forum/ Millennium Plain

- Accessible toilets
- Level entrance
- Internal lift
- Designated parking
- Reservable / Paid general parking on site
- Assistance dogs allowed

The Garage

- Accessible toilets
- Level entrance
- Internal lift
- Assistance dogs allowed

GroundWork Gallery, King's Lynn

- Accessible toilet
- Level entrance to ground floor, one flight of stairs to first floor

Houghton Hall

- Accessible toilet
- Level entrance

- Designated parking
- Assistance dogs allowed

The Jube, Great Yarmouth

- Accessible toilets
- Designated parking
- Level entrance
- Assistance dogs allowed

National Centre for Writing, Dragon Hall

- Accessible toilet
- Ramped entrance at side of building
- Internal lift
- Induction loop/ infrared system
- Designated parking available by prior arrangement

Norwich Arts Centre

- Accessible toilets
- Level access entry
- Ramp access to auditorium
- Induction loop/ infrared system
- Assistance dogs allowed

Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery

- Accessible toilet

- Ramped approach up to entrance
- Internal lift
- Induction loop/ infrared system
- Assistance dogs allowed

Norwich Cathedral

- Accessible toilets
- Ramped approach down to entrance
- Induction loop/ infrared system
- Internal lift
- Designated parking
- Assistance dogs allowed

Norwich School Blake Studio

- Accessible toilets
- Ramp access to entrance
- Ramp access to auditorium
- Induction loop/ infrared system
- Assistance dogs allowed

Norwich Theatre Royal

- Accessible toilets
- Ramp entrance at rear/side
- Designated parking
- Induction loop/ infrared system

- Assistance dogs allowed

Octagon Chapel

- Accessible toilets
- Ramped access at rear/side
- Designated parking
- Induction loop/ infrared system
- Assistance dogs allowed

OUTPOST Gallery

- Level entrance
- Ramp access to entrance
- Assistance dogs allowed

The Plantation Garden

- Accessible toilet
- Ramped approach to entrance
- Steps to some areas
- Designated parking
- Assistance dogs allowed

The Potters Arms

- Ramped entrance
- Assistance dogs allowed

PRIMEYARC, Great Yarmouth

- Accessible toilet
- Ramped approach to entrance
- Designated parking
- Reservable parking on site
- Assistance dogs allowed

Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts and Sculpture Park

- Accessible toilet
- Level entrance
- Internal lift
- Designated parking
- Reservable / Paid general parking on site
- Induction loop/ infrared system
- Assistance dogs allowed

Sheringham Little Theatre

- Accessible toilets
- Level entrance
- Assistance dogs allowed

St George's Theatre, Great Yarmouth

- Accessible toilet
- Level entrance
- Assistance dogs allowed

St Peter Mancroft

- Level entrance
- Induction loop/ infrared system

Norfolk Wildlife Trust Sweet Briar Marshes

- Public thoroughfare, access varies
- Assistance dogs allowed

UEA Drama Studio

- Accessible toilets
- Ramp access to entrance
- Induction loop/ infrared system

Walter Roy Theatre, Hewett Academy

- Accessible toilets
- Level access entry
- Reservable / Paid general parking on site
- Assistance dogs allowed

Secret City Centre Venue

- Accessible toilet
- Ramped entrance at side of building
- Internal lift
- Assistance dogs allowed

BOOKING

ONLINE

nnfestival.org.uk

BY PHONE

01603 531800 Monday–Friday 10am–5pm

During the Festival Monday–Sunday 10am–6pm

IN PERSON

Norwich Guildhall, Gaol Hill, Norwich, NR2 1JS

Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays, 10am–3pm

During the Festival Monday - Sunday 10am–6pm

From Wednesday 15 May

Festival Gardens Box Office Chapelfield Gardens NR2 1RP

See website for opening times

ON THE DAY

Any unsold tickets will be available on the door from 30 minutes before an event. Tickets can still be bought online until just before the event starts.

START TIMES

All times listed in the brochure are event start times, doors open approximately 30 minutes before the start.

DISCOUNTS & CONCESSIONS

Concessions are available on most events priced £10 and over, subject to availability.

Details on our website or through the box office.

YOUNGNNF

Join our FREE 18-25 membership scheme and get £7.50 tickets across the Festival and FREE tickets to chamber music recitals. Sign up at nnfestival.org.uk/youngNNF. Free tickets for chamber music recitals are made possible through CAVATINA Chamber Music Trust.

ESSENTIAL COMPANION TICKETS

Audience members requiring an essential carer/companion can get one free ticket.

Concessions or Under 26s discount can be applied to the paid ticket.

POSTAGE

A £1.50 postage charge is made on tickets mailed out. There is no charge for e-tickets or collecting tickets from our box office.

REFUNDS & EXCHANGES

We do not offer refunds. If an event is cancelled or postponed refunds may be paid at our discretion.

Tickets can be exchanged or returned to Festival credit up to 7 days before the event. See nnfestival.org.uk/booking for full details.

ADDITIONAL EVENT INFORMATION

Up-to-date information such as running times, age guidance, content warnings and venue access can be found on the event pages of our website.

ACCESS

We are dedicated to making Festival events accessible for everyone. We have a variety of initiatives in place to remove barriers to attendance and enable more people to enjoy our work, including:

- Free companion tickets for anyone that requires a carer/companion to facilitate their attendance of an event
- 10% off most tickets for under 18s, jobseekers, full- time students, D/deaf or disabled people & Go4Less card holders
- £7.50 tickets for Under 26s
- Large print brochure
- Audio format brochure
- videos with instructions of how to get to venues and what to expect when you're inside
- 360° photos inside venues and venue guides
- Festival Access Guide

CONTACT US

if you have any access queries or feedback please email us **access@nnfestival.org.uk** or call us on

01603 877750

All of our access resources can be found at nnfestival.org.uk/access

LARGE PRINT BROCHURE

To request a large print brochure or audio brochure to be sent to you please email access@nnfestival.org.uk or call 01603 877750

YOUR VISIT

Getting here

By train

Greater Anglia trains run to Norwich from London's Liverpool Street Station every 30 minutes during the day (Journey time: 1 hour 50 minutes). Trains on the hour stop at Colchester, and Ipswich. Trains at half past the hour stop at Stratford, Chelmsford, Colchester, and Ipswich. A direct service also links Cambridge to Norwich (Journey time: 1 hour 20 minutes).

By coach

National Express coaches travel to Norwich from London and other major cities and airports several times daily.

By air

Norwich Airport is a short bus ride from the City Centre.

For more information about visiting Norwich, see visitnorwich.co.uk, or visiting the Festival go to nnfestival.org.uk/visit

Travel Partner Greater Anglia

CREATING NEW LANDSCAPES

One of the stories woven through this year's Festival is 'A Greener World'. Therapist, writer, and gardener Marchelle Farrell is deeply curious about the relationships between our external and internal landscapes. Here, she explores that relationship and how we, as humans, interact with the land.

We shape our world through the stories we tell. It's an easy statement, but perhaps its simplicity belies the profundity of its meaning. We often take for granted the world we perceive as being unshakeable fact by virtue of its contact with our body's senses. But our awareness is no passive experience merely projected onto the brain's blank screen. The mind takes sensory input and actively constructs it into the universe we come to believe in using the stories we are taught about the world and how it should be. We then act on the world, moulding it into the form of the narratives we believe, reinforcing their strength.

What if the stories currently shaping our world aren't true? For a long time, our systems have been based on beliefs in unrestrained extraction fuelling continuous, limitless growth – economic, material, commercial. But this story of unending expansion is at complete odds with the narrative we witness in the rest of the natural world every day. There, nothing is linear; the script instead spirals. Nothing grows forever; every season of expansion is mirrored by one of contraction. Summer's lushness paired with winter's dormancy; a dry season's drought matched by monsoon rains.

In the current climate crisis we are living the consequences of untrue stories, ones so detached from the natural order of things as to have become unhinged. For millennia, it is through the arts that we humans have found ways to write new narratives for ourselves. It is our artists who have challenged our perceptions, and have time and again changed the world by

changing the way that we see it. So it is vital that at this time of needing to face head on the biggest crisis our species has experienced – one that we have created with our old stories of the world – that we use the arts to help us dream new possibilities into being.

This year's Festival programme invites us to see the world differently. From exhibitions that reveal the links between us and other living things, to powerful performances that remind us that the future dwells in our imagination, a host of talented artists aim to help us to change the world by getting us to see it differently through the thought-provoking stories that they share. We're invited to explore the power of relationships, not just in the human realm to which we so often limit ourselves, but with the rest of the natural world in the spaces that we inhabit – our habitat. And in the outdoor programme, a variety of performances take things whose stories we think we know – materials or objects with which we believe we are familiar – and turn them on their heads, giving us startling new perspectives on the world, and ourselves within it.

The future lives in our imagination and is limited only by the stories we can imagine for ourselves. Immerse yourselves in this programme and see what seeds of future worlds its stories hold.

Explore A Greener World:

NO FIT STATE CIRCUS: **BAMBOO** p6

BUREAU OF SILLY IDEAS: **ISLAND STORM** p6

MECHANIMAL: **CRAP AT ANIMALS** p7

STEVE WATERS: **PHOENIX DODO BUTTERFLY** p8

UPROOTED: WITH MARCHELLE FARRELL & JESSICA J. LEE p36

ART FOR THE ENVIRONMENT:

ARTISTS FROM AER INTERNATIONAL RESIDENCY
PROGRAMME p42

TIM HARRISON WITH ZAKIYA MACKENZIE, TIITU TAKALO
& WE LIVE HERE: **ON OUR DOORSTEPS** p42

EMILY STAPLETON JEFFERIS:

CANNELLITTORAL: A CERAMIC INSTALLATION p44

OUR EAST VOICES

Our Festival is distinct as we work with artists from around the world, but also those from just down the road. Together we look to explore the unique physical and cultural identities of our place. This year is no exception and we have drawn a special focus on some of the finest, richest voices of East Anglia.

Laura Cannell is one of our two resident artists this year. A true voice of the East, Laura resides in Beccles and has, over the years, explored the atmospheric spaces and unique acoustics of East Anglian landmarks in her recordings – be it the crumbling St Andrew’s Church at Covehithe on her album Hunter, Huntress, Hawker or Southwold Lighthouse on Simultaneous Flight Movement.

Alongside presenting her own work, Laura explores local folklore in a live podcast and is one of a group of artists who take the historic Norwich Guildhall, home of the Festival, as inspiration for newly commissioned pieces in the Guildhall Sessions.

Amazingly, Luke Wright celebrates his Silver Jubilee this year. Luke has never been afraid to explore his East Anglian home, whether through the evocative Here (commissioned by the

National Centre for Writing) – an elegy to Norfolk’s rich literary history – or through the leftfield lens of the roguish East Anglian antiques dealer, TV’s Lovejoy. His latest show provides another tender and funny poetic interrogation of himself.

Headed by Lewis Buxton and Daisy Henwood, TOAST is about good poetry, presenting the best of the national scene, and providing a platform for upcoming Norfolk poets. You’ll be able to sample some of that work this year in the Festival Speak Easy and at Dragon Hall, for Burnt TOAST.

Molly Naylor is a Norwich writer and performer. Co-writer and creator of After Hours, a Sky One comedy series directed by Craig Cash, Molly helps bring everyday local tales to life as co-host of True Stories Live at Norwich Arts Centre. In partnership with High Tide we’ve been working with Molly and pupils of Hewett Academy on Make Me – a story of an inept Ipswich drama teacher.

Catch Our East Voices at:

LAURA CANNELL p9, 11, 13 & 21

THE BAND STAND p13

HIGH TIDE & MOLLY NAYLOR: **MAKE ME** p17

ROBIN DEACON: **THROUGH THE ROUND WINDOW** p23

LUKE WRIGHT’S **SILVER JUBILEE** p28

TOAST: **BURNT TOAST** p35

WHISPER & SHOUT

Shhh! it's about to start.

Sometimes artists caress the audience and whisper in our ears. And sometimes they are in our face, shouting at the top of their lungs. We whisper to tell a secret, build confidence or make an intimate connection, and shout when angry, want to be heard, or just because we're excited and boisterous. This Festival follows a number of artists who have chosen to tell stories through moments of tremendous intimacy and reflection, or in-your-face truths.

Lucy McCormick's Lucy & Friends is about as brash and bold as it can be. But, behind the onstage bravado is an extraordinary story of personal vulnerability. Taking the opposite approach Tania El Khoury also has a personal story to tell but she invites

you to recline in a hammock while a soft voice lulls you to reflect on a family affected by political violence.

Rachel Ní Bhraonáin's MOSH explores the characters, energy and full body experience of the mosh pit. In this beautifully balanced dance theatre performance her company brings to life the world of moshing and balances physicality with emotional reflection.

Jumping into the mosh pit is just one way to experience music's range from pianissimo to fortissimo. Join Ashley Grote as he explores the full potential of Norwich Cathedral's refurbished organ, spend a day with Jonny Greenwood at the Octagon Chapel as he meditates on the passing of time, or join Mahan Esfahani for an intimate clavichord recital for a handful of people in a jewel-like setting.

And if you need to take a breath, join Page Against the Machine in Plantation Gardens for a communal hour of pure

reading bliss. But then throw yourself back in yelling GIVE ME MORE!

Uncover Whisper & Shout:

ASHLEY GROTE: NIGHT PIPES p12

TANIA EL KHOURY: MEMORY OF BIRDS p16

LUCY MCCORMICK: LUCY & FRIENDS p17

JONNY GREENWOOD: 268 YEARS OF REVERB p20

RACHEL NÍ BHRAONÁIN: MOSH p26

MAHAN ESFAHANI: WHISPERED SPELLS p27

PAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE p34

All the right moves

In partnership with Norwich Theatre, we present a special focus on shows that use the human body to move you. Journalist and former Culture Editor of The Sunday Times, Helen Hawkins, explores some of the powerful stories that have moved her.

If you are reading this, you have a pulse, a built-in rhythm section. And that's the starting point for appreciating dance. You already understand body language without needing a manual. If you can add a love of music of all kinds and of seeing bodies in motion, whether in full flow in a favourite musical, or sending a bicycle kick into the back of the net, you are fully equipped.

Most of us know personally the draw of dancing, too, of getting lost in rhythms and sounds. As an art form, dance is simply a

formalised version of that feeling: moves perfected and translated into sequences of steps and body positions. Which flavour you prefer is up to you: the awe-inspiring precision of classical ballet, the liberating energy of street dance and Latin, the heady sweep of ballroom, the arresting shapes and vigour of contemporary dance and modern ballet. Today's dancers aren't limited by body type, either: they look like you and me. I've seen great dance performed in wheelchairs, or by people approaching their eighties.

If anything, dance is becoming easier to access nowadays. It colours New Circus, where the moves are familiar earthbound ones but perhaps performed overhead on a trapeze or bouncing off a wall. It's there in the hybrid known as physical theatre, such as the work of Frantic Assembly, who tell vivid stories via contemporary dance moves. In the hands of Hofesh Shechter, it can be like a super-noisy rock concert with banks of onstage guitarists, whereas Crystal Pite uses her choreography to convey powerful messages about species extinction and the refugee crisis.

Contemporary dance is a great recycler of ingredients from all kinds of cultures. Hip hop has sent performers to the floor for some high-octane body-popping and gymnastic workouts, while the classical Indian style of kathak, brilliantly translated into quicksilver modern pieces by Akram Khan, has lent it sprightly stamping feet and clapping hands. I've even been bowled over by Chinese monks using moves based on their karate training. This piece was by the adventurous choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, whose collaboration with the wheelchair-bound dancer Marc Brew, an Accident/a Life, you can see at this year's Festival.

Even the formal techniques of classical ballet are traceable in a lot of contemporary dance – and you don't need to know

anything about ballet to enjoy the result. Take the witty work of Matthew Bourne's New Adventures company, now a byword for inspired adaptations of films and classic stories, from Swan Lake to Edward Scissorhands. Bourne has a rare knack for giving his classical training a larky spin – a bent foot, an odd angle of the body – that tell you as much about the characters as a lengthy speech might.

There's no need to swat up on what a dance piece might 'mean'. A good dancer is also a good actor, who can communicate a feeling with the tilt of a head or the yearning arc of a limb.

Bourne's Romeo and Juliet has the lovers locked in a lengthy kiss that goes on even while they are crossing a long walkway over the stage, a gesture that speaks for itself as a sign of a passion that knows no boundaries.

In Kenneth Macmillan's version of the same story, he conveys the rapture of the couple's romance by flinging them into embraces and wild lifts, then plunges them into the depths of misery as Romeo dances a desperate duet with Juliet's limp, seemingly lifeless body. I defy any theatrical production of the play to achieve the same heart-wrenching intensity.

Be moved! Explore the programme at Norwich Theatre Royal and across the city:

DAN CANHAM: FENLAND ELEGY p19

OCKHAM'S RAZOR: TESS p22

XENIA AIDONOPOULOU: SKYDIVER p24

RACHEL NÍ BHRAONÁIN: MOSH p26

MARC BREW & SIDI LARBI CHERKAOUI; AN ACCIDENT / A LIFE p27

RESIDENT ARTISTS

Over the last few years, we've been working with Resident Artists, enabling them to present an exciting and diverse range of projects across the Festival programme.

At the Festival, we have been developing a Resident Artist programme where artists present a cluster of diverse projects during the Festival. There is no set brief as to what they do, other than to guide audiences through a range of exciting and comfort-zone-pushing experiences that demonstrate the range of their work and interests. Each residency has different ingredients, be that premiering a newly commissioned work; performing a rare piece of music they've wanted to share; creating a new experience for one of the city's unique spaces; or collaborating with artists of other genres or disciplines.

This year features two artists in residence: Festival favourite Mahan Esfahani, an Iranian-American harpsichord player extraordinaire and champion of new music; and Laura Cannell, a Norwich-born, Beccles-dwelling recorder player, violinist, composer, and custodian of a vibrant and evolving East Anglian folk tradition.

Mahan joins us for three projects. He gives a solo recital in the crystalline acoustic of the Octagon Chapel, featuring the world premiere of a new work by Marcus Rock; he gives a series of intimate performances on the clavichord in a secret venue to be revealed, perfect for those looking for a dose of the unexpected; and for his finale, he performs Bach concertos together with long-time collaborators Britten Sinfonia.

During the Festival you'll find Laura filling Norwich Cathedral with a canopy of sound in Antiphony of the Trees, exploring tales of witches in Dark Tales from the Guildhall with Norfolk Folklore Society, and partaking in communal stories and songs

in Modern Ritual. On top of all this, you can also see Laura on screen as part of Guildhall Sessions.

MAHAN ESFAHANI p26

WHISPERED SPELLS p27

BACH WITH BRITTEN SINFONIA p29

LAURA CANNELL:

GUILDHALL SESSIONS p9

ANTIPHONY OF THE TREES p11

DARK TALES FROM THE GUILDHALL p13

MODERN RITUAL p21

CULTURE AND CREATIVITY FOR EVERYONE

The future of the Festival lies with the young. Anna McCarthy, Head of Festival Connect & Create, explains the transformation we are leading as we move to include and celebrate the creative voices of our children and young people.

It's so easy to only think about the Festival as an annual event each May, but our work encompasses so much more. Festival Connect & Create sees us working year-round in schools, towns and villages across East Anglia to enrich the lives of children and young people through creativity and culture.

The region is immense, encompassing nearly 5000 square miles of Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and across it there are alarming swathes of poor cultural

provision. It's within these cold spots that much of our work is focused.

If you're reading this, you're probably already aware of the value of creativity and of cultural participation, and the benefits they bring to young people; improved wellbeing and confidence; the ability to self-express and make sense of the world; ways to feel connected, involved, seen and listened to. At this time of rapid geo-political and societal change, opportunities for creative and cultural participation are needed more than ever. As such our approach is three-fold:

We support, develop and advocate for our cultural leaders – the people who bring creativity into our lives. Through our Creative Leaders strand, we support Local Cultural Education Partnerships (LCEPs); we have built three networks for Artists, for Educators and FLOCK for young creatives – designed to foster the next generation of arts professionals. We are investing £160,000 over the next four years to support artists and young creatives across the region through our Creative Bursaries programme.

Our Creative Schools programme is bursting with purpose; developing skills and confidence in young people, enabling artists to develop their practice and deliver projects that support teachers to continue future creative education. Book of Thetford (p16) saw children from four Thetford schools work with artists Andy Field and Beckie Darlington to create a book about their hometown. River of Hope is an international project, with our twin city of Rouen, which supports children to explore sustainability issues and solutions. We are developing new work with writer Molly Naylor, a residency with Action Hero, and running HotSpot – a three year project enabling young people to explore and celebrate the places where they live.

Our Creative Places programme puts children, their communities and cultures on the map. In locations with little

cultural provision, it seeks to build both community identity and local cultural infrastructure. We're supporting artist Dan Canham to work with diverse groups in Fenland to create a series of portraits. You can see his beautiful film, Fenland Elegy (p21) made with Krumpers from Ely which shines a light on this unique landscape and its people.

We're also forging partnerships with those who have an in-depth knowledge of a place and its communities. In Great Yarmouth we are working with Freshly Greated to enable their Community Producers to participate in the Welcome Weekend (p7), bringing the much-loved Joyland Snails to the event, alongside a special new commission.

As part of our partnership with Norfolk Wildlife Trust, we're connecting their wild spaces to new audiences. As they open their newly acquired site at Norfolk Wildlife Trust Sweet Briar Marshes, the first of our partnership projects designed to encourage local residents to enjoy nature, will begin. You can visit on our Doorsteps (p38) as part of the Festival.

A sprinkling of the work from Festival Connect & Create can be seen throughout this year's Festival. There'll be more to look forward to next year as the programme develops. Follow the Festival socials to hear more about this work, or if you're interested in joining one of our networks take a look at p44 for more information.

This year we awarded £40,000 in bursaries to artists looking to develop their work with schools and communities and to young people taking their first steps in cultural and community leadership.

Congratulations to:

Festival Connect & Create Bursaries for Artists

Rose Feather, Zannie Fraser, Hannelore Smith and Rosa Torr (Norfolk); Johann Don-Daniel, Kate Flurrie, Kara Jarrold and Rachel Sedgwick (Suffolk); Florencia Nannetti (Cambridgeshire) and Jack Wilkin (Peterborough)

Festival Connect & Create Bursaries for Young Creatives

Rosa Chalfen and Maddie Exton (Norfolk); Honey-Rose Cook, Isabella Grieco, Amy Falla and Natalie Whitney (Suffolk); Anna Benari (Cambridgeshire); Louise Garwood and Emillia Zirker (Peterborough)

We have also commissioned four HotSpot artists to work in extended residencies in schools:

Kate Munro at Cromer Junior School, Norfolk; Johan Don-Daniel at Westwood Primary School, Suffolk; Rose Feather at Cavalry Primary School, Cambridgeshire and Sarah Saxby at West Town Primary Academy, Peterborough.

Next bursary applications open September 2024.

ABOUT US

Norfolk & Norwich Festival is a charity delivering one of the country's longest running arts festivals and a year-round programme of creativity and culture for children, young people and their communities.

The Festival takes place in Norwich and around Norfolk for 17 days each May and is distinctive because we collaborate with artists to explore our unique physical and cultural identities and make art which is meaningful to the lives of our audiences.

Festival Connect & Create is the Festival's participation initiative, working across the region on projects that support and collaborate with educators, artists, young people and their communities.

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Thanks

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