



H.A.N.D.S



HELPING.ARTISTS.NEEDS.DEVELOP.SUSTAINABLY

CONVERSATIONS

THE NORTHERN CONSORTIUM THROUGH THEIR
HANDS PROJECT PRESENT
'CONVERSATIONS'
A MINI SYMPOSIUM, PITCHING AND SHOWCASING
EVENT

BURNLEY MECHANICS 1PM - 7.30PM
WED 21 JUNE 2023

**BURNLEY
WORDS
FESTIVAL**



THE NORTHERN CONSORTIUM OF RURAL TOURING SCHEMES HANDS PROJECT PRESENTS: **CONVERSATIONS**

1.00 pm	Arrival & Refreshments	In The Loft
1.15	A Northern Welcome HANDS- A summary of the project Conversations - Schedule for the day	Sue Robinson (<i>Culturapedia</i>) Gail Ferrin (<i>HANDS co-ordinator/Blaize Touring Schemes</i>)
1.40	Session 1 - Conversations with	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rachel Maffei & Fern Wareham (<i>Coalesce Dance Theatre</i>)• Peter Stone (<i>Just Some Theatre</i>)• Josh Hawkins & Natalie Morell (<i>Hawk Dance Theatre & The Knotted Project</i>)
2.30	Break	With Digital Work by Parvez Qadir
2.45	Session 2 - Conversations with	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joyce Branagh & Lisa Howard (<i>Ladies That</i>)• Parvez Qadir – In conversation with Rob Howell (<i>Culturapedia</i>)• Quick Fire Pitches
3.30	Break & Refreshments	Digital Work by Parvez Qadir
3.50	Session 3 - Conversation Starters	Speed dating, break out groups, Vox Pops, and time for your conversations
4.20	Session 4 - Conversations With	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sophia Hatfield (<i>Stute Theatre</i>)• Balbir Singh (<i>Balbir Singh Dance Company</i>)
4.50	Round Up and What's Next	Sue Robinson
5.00	Dinner and Refreshments	Downstairs bar
6.00	Evening Showcases	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Greatest Robot Ever (<i>Hawk Dance Theatre & The Knotted Project</i>)• Dewey Extracts (<i>BDSC</i>)
7.30PM	Ends	



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ABOUT THE NORTHERN CONSORTIUM OF RURAL TOURING SCHEMES

The Northern Consortium is a supportive network of schemes who meet regularly to plan joint commissions, tours and other rural touring initiatives.

THE NORTHERN CONSORTIUM INCLUDES:

Arts Out West, Arts Alive, Cheshire Rural Touring Arts, Spot On, Rural Arts ON Tour, ArTERY and Live Lincs, Blaize, Highlights Rural Touring Schemes.

A SHORT VIDEO EXPLAINING THE NORTHERN CONSORTIUM



LINK TO VIDEO

[HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/667270673](https://vimeo.com/667270673)



Cheshire Rural
Touring Arts

highlights
rural touring scheme



ABOUT THE H.A.N.D.S PROJECT

H.A.N.D.S (Helping, artists, needs, develop, sustainably) is a 2 year mentoring programme working with 9 diverse-led emerging small-scale touring companies. The activity builds on a Pitching & Mentoring initiative across 6 rural touring schemes that ended in 2020. Rural Touring Scheme who are partners in this bid are Blaize (ArTERY & Live Lincs Rural Touring), Highlights Rural Touring, Rural Arts ON Tour, Spot On Rural Touring and CRTA Cheshire Rural Touring Arts

THE PROGRAMME AIMS TO SUPPORT COMPANIES TO:

- Build a sustainable and resilient touring model
- Develop new work for community venues and libraries
- Develop innovative and flexible approaches to presenting work
- Enhance artistic practice and produce high quality and adventurous work
- Support artists to adapt work for live and online settings



THIS IS ACHIEVED THROUGH:

- Allocation of a specific RTS mentor for each company
- Workshops and 1-2-1 sessions with industry mentors and experienced rural touring artists/companies
- Commissioning online resources
- Training in pitching and mentoring, marketing, bid writing and audience engagement
- Training in Covid-19 compliance (if necessary/relevant)
- Artist residencies in rural venues
- Provide experience of showcasing work to RT promoters (inc at Conversations event at Burnley Mechanics June 2023)



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GAIL FERRIN

HANDS COORDINATOR & EVENT MANAGER

Gail is Scheme Manager for Blaize Rural Touring Scheme ArtERY (East Riding of Yorkshire) and Live Lincs (North Lincolnshire) part time and is also Strategic Relationship Manager for Northern School of Contemporary Dance for the NPO and CYPDNN (Children & Young Peoples Dance Network North). Gail holds a degree in dance and has worked in the performing arts for over 30 years. She has had a portfolio career including community and outreach roles, programming, producing, tour booking, festival and event management, dance commissioning, fundraising and the development of international networks through showcases and cross-border working with a particular connection to Canada having also worked there (2014-2016) within the performing arts. Northern Projects have included co-ordinating #DanceAcrossTheNorth working with the Northern Consortium of Rural Touring Schemes promoting diversity through a programme of house concerts, performances, flashmobs and community engagement events and HANDS coordinating this project on behalf of several of the Northern schemes.



SUE ROBINSON

CONFERENCE LEAD

Sue Robinson is Co-Director of Culturapedia, an independent arts engagement company based in Blackburn. They are a team of 4 people who work as creative catalysts, nurturing relationships between people, artists and unusual spaces. Sue's career started in the participatory arts sector as a drama practitioner in rural communities. She then worked briefly for the Regional Arts Board and local government before taking on the development of Spot On, Lancashire's rural touring network. She set up Culturapedia in 2004 and now strategically develops Spot On as a county-wide rural and library service, amongst other arts engagement and research projects. Culturapedia are the coordinators of the Burnley Words Festival. In 2017 she took a one-year sabbatical and completed a master's degree in Culture, Art and Society at Erasmus University in Rotterdam. Sue is Chair of Culture Burnley and an Executive board member of Arts in Rural European Areas.



ROB HOWELL

INTERVIEWER

Robert Howell is Co-Director of Culturapedia alongside Sue Robinson. Following a short stint in museums, Robert worked in textiles-based participatory arts in West Yorkshire before moving to Lancashire to work in local government arts management. He co-founded Culturapedia with Sue Robinson in 2004.

Like Sue, Robert works strategically on a number of projects focused on empowering people to engage in arts and cultural experiences in democratic and familiar spaces. Robert also has a Master's from Erasmus University, Rotterdam, in Cultural Economics and Entrepreneurship.



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JUST SOME THEATRE

PERCEPTIONS OF RURAL TOURING



WHO WE ARE?

Just Some Theatre are a North West Arts Organisation Created in 2012 by Peter Stone & Jake Urry.

WHAT WE DO?

Just Some Theatre specialise in touring new writing works for Rural & Urban audiences as well producing Off West End productions. The pair recently produced a rural tour of The Killer Question, a comedic Thriller that let the audience decide which actor played which character. As a company committed to pushing boundaries, Just Some Theatre launched the groundbreaking online new writing festival "Forward Dialogue" in 2020, which employed over 50 creatives during the height of the global pandemic. With a focus on creating a 'good night out' experience for audiences, Just Some Theatre is currently developing a range of exciting new works while nurturing new writing talent.



OUTLINE OF THE SESSION

They will present a short behind the scene film about Just Some Theatre and our 2022 rural tour "The Killer Question"

Accompanied by a presentation/talk showing the differences between urban and rural touring, the income and expenditure of both, as well as discussing audience engagement and production value.

Finishing on an open Q&A



@JustSomeTheatre



www.JustSomeTheatre.co.uk



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BALBIR SINGH DANCE COMPANY

DEWEY SHOWCASE



WHO WE ARE?

Balbir Singh Dance Company is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation under the Artistic Direction of Balbir Singh, based at Yorkshire Dance, Leeds.

WHAT WE DO?

The company has extensive experience of rural touring including the Strategic Touring Dance Across the North. Most recently the company presented Love and Spice in Dorset this year. The company has 5 strands of work: Celebrating Age, An Appetite for Dance, Classical Revisited, Sport and Art, Blue/Green outdoor work. The company is currently creating Cricket Green a large scale outdoor commission for Bradford Council bringing together the worlds of climate change and cricket.



OUTLINE OF THE SESSION

Dewey is a new production created for performing in libraries, about libraries, with libraries, collaborating and adapting to different library settings. It takes as its starting point the universal Dewey Decimal Classification system. Through dance, music and storytelling it brings to life how some of the Balbir Singh Dance Company repertoire can fit into various strands using the starting point of Classical Indian dance style Kathak as a form of visual literacy and storytelling. The work makes sense of the universe through the lens of a library. At the same time asking the question how relevant is the Dewey system today. A fun, celebratory piece about stories for all the family and the cultural vibrancy of libraries.



@Balbirdance



www.balbirsinghdance.co.uk



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HAWK DANCE THEATRE & THE KNOTTED PROJECT

THE GREATEST ROBOT EVER



WHO WE ARE?

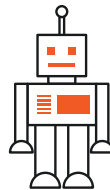
The Knotted Project create theatrical experiences and events, with and for young people. The Knotted Project was established in 2013 in Cumbria. Led by Simon McElligott and Natalie Morrell, The Knotted Project's productions have since toured nationally, funded by Arts Council England.

Hawk Dance Theatre (HDT) is an award winning Manchester based contemporary dance company, launched in 2015, led by choreographer Josh Hawkins.

WHAT WE DO?

Hawk Dance Theatre research, develop, create & tour of our own projects. Since 2016, HDT have been supported as Artist in Residence at the University of Salford where we offer regular technique and creative classes.

The Knotted Project deliver a diverse program of work, from touring theatre productions to short films, interactive museum experiences to workshops in schools. Inspiring young people through creativity.



OUTLINE OF THE SESSION

Josh Hawkins from Hawk Dance Theatre and Natalie Morrell from The Knotted Project will perform a work in progress sharing of 'The Greatest Robot Ever'. They will also present about their work created in collaboration, as well as their independent projects.



@hawkdance

@theknottedproject



www.hawkdancetheatre.com

www.theknottedproject.co.uk



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STUTE THEATRE SOPHIA HATFIELD



THE SELF PRODUCING ARTIST/ TOURING WORK TO LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY SETTINGS

WHO WE ARE?

Sophia Hatfield is a freelance performer and theatre maker. She established Stute Theatre CIC in 2016 and has since gone on to tour original work to library and community spaces, working with rural touring organisations, theatre and libraries across the UK.

WHAT WE DO?

Over the years Sophia's work has grown from solo storytelling shows, to shows with larger touring teams. She specialises in creating and touring work that meets the demands of library and community spaces, including council led spaces, community and volunteer led spaces and schools, whilst maintaining the quality and impact required to work in theatre spaces.



OUTLINE OF THE SESSION

This session will cover the creative and practical considerations of creating and maintaining high quality work on the road when producing work for library and community settings. In this Sophia will cover a practical guide to creating and producing your own work as a performance artist, talk a little about her work to date and the key processes she follows when establishing every tour, from the development of new ideas, to booking venues and managing a team on the road.



@Stutetheatre



www.stutetheatre.co.uk



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COALESCE DANCE THEATRE

COALESCE PITCHING PANTS! & WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

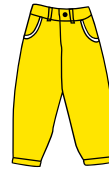


WHO WE ARE?

Coalesce Dance Theatre (2017), Fern Wareham & Rachel Maffei, are passionate about making down to earth dance shows with & for the local communities across their home base, Manchester, the North & wider UK. Their ethos is to work closely with diverse community groups to deliver inclusive, educational & accessible creative activities to address wellbeing, connection & change.

WHAT WE DO?

Coalesce develop socio-politically relevant dance theatre work that is engaging for wide audiences, through the raw & impulsive physical dance style combined with whimsical story-telling, ideal for libraries, rural touring & community settings. Setting themselves up to be a leading dance organisation for environmental change.



OUTLINE OF THE SESSION

Fern and Rachel will do a live talk on Coalesce and the work they do. Pitching Pants! to the room, discussing themes, settings and steps of production. They will cover the input and engagement of Young People in their work and the issues of connecting to audiences.



coalescedance@gmail.com



@coalescedancetheatre



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PARVEZ QADIR

NO NEED TO WHISPER



WHO WE ARE?

Parvez is a creative facilitator who is passionate about sharing stories from people in all walks of life. Working as a professional actor for more than 15 yrs, being involved in a two time Bafta award winning Drama series. He comes from a South Asian heritage, second generation, and puts community at the heart of what he creates.

WHAT WE DO?

He has facilitated and produced a range of creative projects from live theatre, film and animation with a range of diverse young people from all different types of backgrounds and delivered in a variety of settings including theatres, schools, colleges and community groups. He launched 'Blurred Lines' in 2019, a short film tackling child criminal exploitation and the dangers of modern slavery. In 2020 he shot 'Changing The Narrative' uncovering what it means to be female and British Muslim. He is currently planning projects for 2021 including a film about Knife Crime and a Domestic Abuse documentary.



OUTLINE OF THE SESSION

What comes to mind when you think about libraries and museums? Do you think of quiet contemplative spaces? Director Parvez Qadir, sound engineer/artist Jo Kennedy and producer Jodie Ratcliffe (Breaking Barriers) have been touring some of Lancashire's libraries and museums to find out what they really sound like. Supported by a curatorial panel of young librarians and museum staff, Breaking Barriers have created an immersive soundscape evoking the actual sounds of books, objects, paintings, computers, buildings and people.



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JOYCE BRANAGH & LISA HOWARD



HOW TO MAKE WORK WHILST CHATTING AND EATING CAKE

WHO WE ARE?

Joyce Branagh is an actor director and writer living in Todmorden. She has written several new plays, and pantomimes, recently winning a Great British Pantomime Award for 'Best Script'. She is the writer of Ladies That Bus, and Ladies That Dig.

Lisa Howard is an actor, singer and theatre practitioner based in Leeds. She has performed in many productions countrywide. Most recently appearing in Ladies That Dig with Joyce.

WHAT WE DO?

Ladies That Dig is a comedy drama with original music about the great outdoors and the people who enjoy it. It's about friendship and green-fingers, isolation and community, nature, nurture, and ultimately what it means to 'grow'...

A fertile blend of live music and inter-twining tales from women who aren't afraid to get their hands dirty. Collected from interviews, the play is based on the true life stories of local women! Ladies that Dig uncovers stories where budding love blossoms, hidden roots are unearthed, buried secrets revealed and golden treasures discovered.

OUTLINE OF THE SESSION

Joyce and Lisa 'The Ladies of Ladies That' will present a talk, showing videos and discussing their last two productions. Ladies That Bus, and Ladies That Dig, and the step-by-step process they have developed, (whilst chatting and eating cake), for researching and developing disparate stories into new comic plays with music.

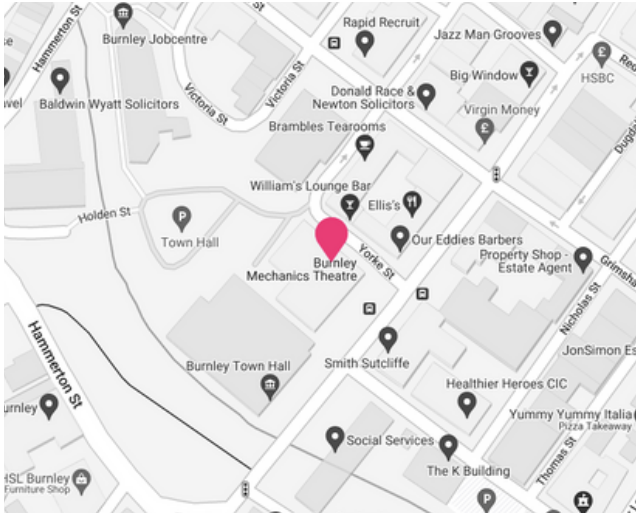


@ladiesthatdig



www.ladiesthatdig.co.uk

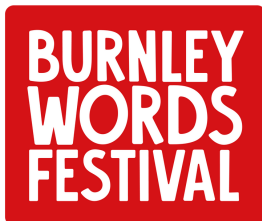
BURNLEY MECHANICS THEATRE INFORMATION



Manchester Road, Burnley, Lancashire, BB11 1BH

www.blcgroup.co.uk//locations/burnley-mechanics-theatre/

Burnley Mechanics is situated in Burnley town centre next door to the Town Hall on Manchester Road.



Hands "Conversations" is part of the Burnley Words Festival.

A celebration of all things wordy!

The festival will takeover Burnley Town Centre 16th June – 2nd July 2023

See their website for more information of all activities and events.

www.Burnleywordsfestival.co.uk

CONTACTS FOR THE NORTHERN SCHEMES

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SPOT ON

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BLAIZE -ARTERY LIVE AND LIVE LINC'S

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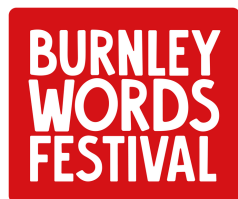
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highlights
rural touring scheme



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