

CREATIVE HUB

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# CREATIVE HUB

## APRIL EDITION

Welcome to your monthly update on all things creative in Exeter. Our April edition includes an insight into our next exhibition and the collaboration between artist Harriet Bowman and writer Daisy Hildyard, explores the local spoken word scene, and hears more about the making of *Kindle*, a performance inspired by growing up in the South West. Plus lots more!

### What have you been up to this month?

Have a piece of creative news or an opportunity you'd like to be shared? Send us a message on the [Creative Hub Facebook page](#) and we'll include what we can in future editions.

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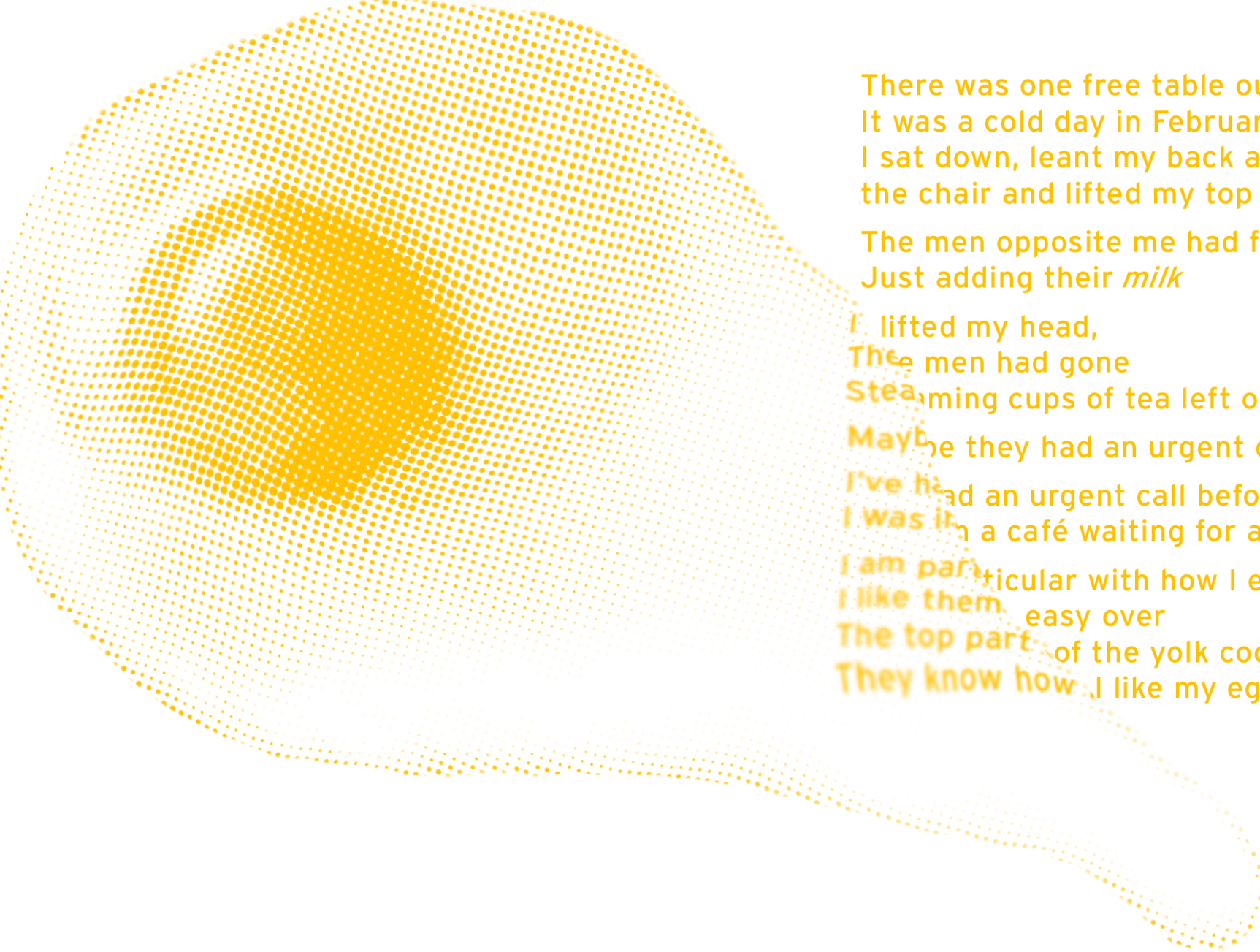
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There was one free table outside the cafe  
It was a cold day in February  
I sat down, leant my back against the metal bars of  
the chair and lifted my top to feed

The men opposite me had fresh cups of tea  
Just adding their *milk*

I lifted my head,  
The men had gone  
Steaming cups of tea left on the table

Maybe they had an urgent call

I've had an urgent call before  
I was in a café waiting for an egg bap

I am particular with how I eat eggs  
I like them easy over

The top part of the yolk cooked to cream yellow

They know how I like my eggs here

## Harriet Bowman: *Maybe they had an urgent call*

April sees a new exhibition opening in the Phoenix Gallery, titled *Maybe they had an urgent call*, by Bristol-based artist Harriet Bowman. The previous image is from a digital print of the same name, created for an earlier version of the show staged at Devonshire Collective gallery in Eastbourne in 2022.

Working across sculpture, text and performance, Bowman's work is informed by an ongoing autofiction narrative which evolves through materials and their site of production. In the year leading up to her Exeter Phoenix exhibition, Bowman has been in conversation with writer Daisy Hildyard, who has written a new text in response to their conversations. The text will take the form of a pamphlet, designed and produced by Conway & Young, and is printed in a limited edition of 500 that will be available to take away from the gallery on request. Below is an excerpt of the text written by Daisy Hildyard:

*'A few years ago, she started taking photographs of tyre marks left on roads, where a car had braked sharply. She took more and more photographs of these tyre skids notations made by accident. She compiled hundreds of images. Each one presented an identical subject: a layer of rubber heat-printed onto tarmac. A moment of disaster, or disaster averted. But each mark was a unique and unrepeatable arrangement of a singular passage through time and space'*

As part of the exhibition, Harriet Bowman will use Hildyard's text as a starting point for a walk around the city (Sun 21 May); she will read from the text and talk about the show at specific locations around Exeter.

[Sign up to the event here](#)

Right: *Car/body (noted internal rattle)*, 2022



## Spoken Word in Exeter: City Slam

It's verses versus verses on April 3rd, as we launch the inaugural Exeter City Slam in the auditorium of the Phoenix. Co-produced by Exeter City of Literature, the winner will represent Exeter in the prestigious UNESCO Global Slamovision competition this autumn, as well as receiving a cash prize of £150.

As well as the competition, the night will feature a headline slot from Craft-D; a Bristol-based poet and rapper, whose songs include iTunes UK Hip-Hop chart-topper *Letter to Corbyn*.

The strength of the local spoken word scene is amongst the best kept secrets in Exeter and Devon, from friendly open mics to large-scale shows. There's an incredible array of events happening across the county, and a wealth of talent.



## But what is spoken word? And what's a slam??

Spoken word is the performance of any form of poetry designed to be spoken aloud. It encapsulates everything from the formal to the lyrical, sonnets to rap, social commentary to surreal humour. Such variety guarantees all spoken word nights are stuffed full of diversity and difference, from the silly to the serene, the whimsical to the what-the-f\*ck.

A Slam is a knock out competition to find the “best” spoken word poet on a given night. Contestants are judged on the quality of their writing, performance and audience engagement. Originally conceived in Chicago in the 1980s as an engaging way of bringing poetry back to the people, slam has since gained a worldwide audience for spoken word and continually attracts new devotees.

Slam planted itself in Exeter's fertile poetic ecology in October 2010 as part of the first Exeter Poetry Festival. This annual competition has been held ever since and has provided a launch pad for many successful careers, including that of Safiya Kamaria Kinshasa who won in 2017, later progressing to win three UK national slam championships and many other accolades. Meanwhile, in recent years Spork! has also been running annual slams, with celebrated local comic and current Bard of Exeter Edward Tripp winning the first in 2021.

**Join us on April 3rd** and prepare to be wowed and wooed by some local talent, and an incredible headliner! See you there

- Chris & Tim (Spork! and Taking the Mic)

## Phoenix Film Club



The Phoenix Film Club was set up as a space where anyone who makes, wants to make, or just appreciates film, can meet, network and share their creativity.

Our bimonthly meet-up is known as the Tuesday Collective. It is a space open to anyone with an interest in film and video production, and also gives filmmakers a place to present ideas they're working on, projects they've completed, or simply see what other people are making. We have filmmakers of all levels showing their work and it's great to be able to offer a platform for people to discuss their projects in a friendly and supportive environment. Once a filmmaker has presented their work, we open up the discussion and there's a chance for the audience to ask questions and give feedback. It's really valuable for filmmakers to be able to present their work to a crowd. It's often a bit of a nerve-wracking experience, but we try to show a few different filmmakers' work each time, so you're never presenting alone.

We're hoping to expand the Phoenix Film Club Offer this year with more opportunities to network and attend talks and screenings. We have a Phoenix Film Club mailing list with all the latest goings on, and discount offers on tickets for special screenings and events. Of course, we're going to continue to give filmmakers a platform to show and talk about their work, and we're excited to see what comes out of that as the Phoenix Film Club continues to grow.

If you are interested in presenting in our next meet-up (**Tue 11 Apr**) email us at: [digital@exeterphoenix.org.uk](mailto:digital@exeterphoenix.org.uk)

## A Village With A View: RAI Film Festival



Exeter Phoenix commissioned documentary, *A Village with a View* (2021, Dir. Joe Inman & Bear Behind You) will be screened at this year's Royal Anthropological Institute RAI Film Festival and has been selected for the RAI & Marsh Short Film Prize. It was commissioned in 2021 as the Exeter Phoenix South West Documentary Short Film Commission, and premiered at Two Short Nights in 2022.

*A Village with a View* is a living document of a small village in Cornwall. The village has existed for 80 years, being built over time by the people who live there. As the tourist industry in Cornwall explodes, the landowner wants to take the land back, and the residents have to fight to keep the houses and the community they share.

The RAI Film Festival was established in 1985 by the Royal Anthropological Institute (UK) and offers a diverse programme of films, workshops, masterclasses and events that question our complex, shared world, and promote social justice and dialogue. The festival nurtures relationships between filmmakers and audiences, creating brave spaces for dialogue and learning. **RAI Film Festival 2023 takes place online globally from 3 - 31 March.**

## Adam Garratt: *Embodied Labour*



Exeter-based artist Adam Garratt will be presenting a new body of work titled *Embodied Labour* at Studio KIND. in April. Adam has previously exhibited work at Exeter Phoenix in Platform Gallery (2022), *Correspondence 01* (2021) and Gallery 333 (2016). Adam has responded to some questions taken from Instagram and talked about the process of creating a solo show.

‘My practice has evolved around constraints of space, the use of material and repetitious making processes. Much of the work is made on reclaimed materials and is specifically made to expand into an installation when it is not neatly folded, stacked and rolled for storage in the garden shed. Conscious not to make extra waste, I choose carefully which materials to make work with. They come with their own history of use and they bear the marks of an embodied labour, often with holes, creases, tears, dirt and stains.

Building site sheeting and reclaimed event banners make up the bulk of the surface that I print onto, and often ratchet straps are

used in the work to create tension and a sense of force. Using the already damaged plastic surface as an art material enters it into the world of preservation and collection, and raises questions around creative value.

*Embodied Labour* is my current project which will culminate in a solo exhibition in April at studio KIND. in Braunton, North Devon. This show will feature new work using Hi-Vis workwear and domestic processes such as sewing, folding and textile alterations. The work is dictated by what is found or donated to me and embraces the material forms, allowing its own narrative to inform the work. Much of my work starts with play and curiosity: *What does it look like folded or piled? How well does the surface hold a printed image? Where is this material normally used? Can this be draped, cinched or tailored?* These investigative processes culminate in bursts of intense activity that ultimately come together in the space.’

### **What is your favourite material to print on?**

I prefer to print onto the reclaimed event banners. They have a mixed fabric/plastic texture which allows for good image making. They are also partially worn or damaged when I print on them so they bring additional surface quality prior to becoming my print material.

### **What’s exciting about making work for an exhibition?**

The unknown. Studio KIND. are keen for their artists to take an ambitious path with no restraints. So beginning this process with very few ideas but lots of materials I let the process lead the way. This is exciting because for a lot of the lead in time I didn’t know what I was going to make. This allowed for exploration where new ideas could be discovered.

### **How much time do you spend making work?**

Well, I have a full time job, so usually my days off will be filled with some kind of art practice, from drawing to sewing or printing to admin. I plan ahead for my days off in order to book studio time at Double Elephant. I also do micro dose on work in the evening. Sometimes 20 minutes on emails or editing my website is enough while tea is in the oven. Then I use annual leave from my job to have week long making sessions. Some of my work relies on me becoming the artist machine & I have to print a mass amount in just a few days. This suits my practice & feeds into my Embodied Labour aesthetic.

### **How do you find being an artist in Devon?**

Devon seems to be slower paced than elsewhere, which for me provides a good chance to get to know other people in the arts community. As it's not as saturated here & I feel like everyone has more time to really delve into each other's practices/professions.

I actually grew up in the Midlands & have lived in Devon for almost 14 years (17 including University) & feel like my practice still draws heavily on the concrete of Coventry. The places I grew up around have been retained within my aesthetic. That being said, Exeter has some amazing Rurbanfringe areas which are where I've been taking inspiration for this project, I have even collected some of my materials there. These spaces have no doubt been brought on by Exeter's urban expansion.

***Embodied Labour* will be at Studio KIND. from Wed 22 Apr - 13 May.**



IGUANAS DIE TWICE IDOL GIANTS SENECA

exeter phoenix

THE BEST NEW BANDS IN DEVON

die twice  
iguanas  
seneca  
idol giants

saturday 15th april

PRETTY YOUNG THINGS

7.30pm | £7 (£5 students)

## Pretty Young Things: Emerging band night

Devon's best new bands are coming to Exeter Phoenix on **Sat 15<sup>th</sup> April**! Join us for an evening of music from up and coming local talent, spanning a wide range of genres. You heard them here first!

### Die Twice

Die Twice is Olly Bayton (Vocals, Songwriter) Zee (Rhythm Guitar, Vocals, Songwriter), Blue (Bass), Remi (Lead Guitar) and Fig (Drummer). They are most inspired by Blues, Jazz, Latin, Funk, Reggae, Rock and Hip Hop.

### Iguanas

Iguanas are a high energy Rock band from the southwest of England selling out shows in Exeter, Bristol and and Plymouth. Iguanas put on a show with high octane stage presence from the frontman Ollie Zaffiro, guitarist Archie Hooper, Drummer Arch Feetenby and Zak Zaffiro on bass. Iguanas play all original songs in the genre of Hard Rock, with some of their more mellow tunes scattered in between.

### SENECA

SENECA pulls from a wide range of influences blending angularity, technicality and progressive elements with a highly energetic and engaging stage presence.

### Idol Giants

Idol Giants are a 3 piece Indie band from Devon who met in 2018 at Saunton Road Studios Open Mic, Braunton. They are influenced by bands such as Oasis, Stone Roses, Pixies and No Doubt. They are Renie Crossland (Bass and Vocals) Charlie Phipps (Lead Guitar) and Rio Capron (Drums).

## An Insight into *Kindle*, by Hattie Collins



Helloooo, my name is Hattie and I am a playwright and theatre maker who grew up in Exeter! My new play, *Kindle*, will be at the Exeter Phoenix on the 15th and 16th April, so I wanted to tell you a little bit about it, and where it began...

The idea behind *Kindle* was inspired by the area of the world that I grew up in, and as a writer, I want to champion voices and stories based in the South West. Back in 2019, I began thinking about how the move towards greener infrastructure will impact rural areas more than urban areas. For example, how will the combustion engine ban in 2030 affect rural and cut-off communities who are heavily reliant on fossil fuels? And then in 2020, when the pandemic caused a worldwide halt on travel, and the price of oil reached an all time high, the questions I was asking about our relationship with fossil fuels became all the more prevalent. Eventually, after many drafts, *Kindle* has

become a play that explores rural vs. urban community, climate change, and the cost-of-living crisis all weaved together with beautiful music by Bristol based composer Rowan Evans.

But nestled amongst all these larger world issues are the relationships at the heart of the play between a mum and two daughters. I've always been fascinated by interpersonal conflicts, and how love and ideology doesn't necessarily align. I wanted to explore the idea of how far people will go in order to survive, even if it means going against their own personal beliefs, or hurting the people they love most in the world.

### My journey leading up to writing this play...

I didn't realise that playwriting could be a viable route for me until my third year at Warwick Uni when I chose the playwriting module on a whim, and somehow, I got the highest grade since starting university. So... I thought there could be something in it!



Jump forward a year and I was starting the MA in Writing and Dramaturgy at Goldsmiths University in London. A course which gave me the tools and a portfolio to step out into the industry. After graduating in 2017 and moving back to Exeter, I've been having a go at lots of things to get my writing out there (consisting of a huge amount of application writing, and lots of rejections too!). But here are some of the positives... I self-produced my play *Fissure*, showcased work at a scratch night in London, won a writer's residency with the Causley Trust, was invited to be part of Theatre Royal Plymouth's writers' group, received a commission from Down Stage Write, was awarded a DYCP grant from Arts Council England, before, most recently, *Kindle* received support through a National Lottery Project Grant.

### Being a South West based playwright...

One of the main things I have learnt from working in Devon is you have to be your own advocate and self-produce. It is undeniable that in this part of the world, and especially in the current economic climate, it is a hard time to be trying to carve out a career in this industry. So, let's all be extra kind to one another at the moment and actively support artists making work - it's a brave and tough thing to be doing right now!

And if you're interested in playwriting, and want a community to be part of, get in contact with Down Stage Write, who run a Playwright's Cafe the first Thursday of every month at Exeter Phoenix. And keep an eye out for the scratch nights at Exeter Phoenix, or the Masterclasses being hosted by Exeter Northcott! A handful of the lovely things taking place in Exeter...

**You can catch *Kindle* at Exeter Phoenix on the 15th and 16th April**



Photos by Charlotte East

# OPPORTUNITIES

## Call for Museum Consultants | Deadline 21 Apr

The Bill Douglas Cinema on the University of Exeter's Streatham campus (Exeter) are looking for a consultant to work with them on developing the best way forward for the museum.

The Bill Douglas Cinema Museum is the leading museum dedicated to the moving image in the UK. They recently celebrated 25 years as a public museum and have achieved a great deal in that time, but they want to look forward to the next 25 years and think how they can become the most exciting museum in the UK. To do this they would like to hire an experienced museum professional as a consultant to guide them on how best to attain our long-term goals.

[Find out more](#)

## Art Week Exeter: Callouts for participation

Art Week Exeter is a visual arts event happening Tuesday 13th to Sunday 18th June, citywide.

If you are an artist, a group, an association or organisation and you'd like to be a part of the event, please register below.

There are **four different opportunities** to get involved during Art Week, plus a callout for the **Sandra Finch Prize** (see next page).

[Apply to exhibit | Deadline 16 April](#)

[Apply for What's the Zine x Print! | Deadline 19 May](#)

[Apply for the Art Car Boot | Deadline 19 May](#)

[Apply for the Moving Image Screening at Library Lates](#)

## The Sandra Finch Prize | Deadline 20 April

This prize was set up to celebrate and honour the memory of a woman who was dedicated to arts and crafting activity. Sandra was a generous character, who loved to socialise and participate in arts and crafts activity. She was also a strong advocate for Exeter Scrapstore as both a customer and volunteer. We would like disabled artists to propose a new artwork on the theme of Inclusion. We will help them to display this work for Art Week Exeter.

[Find out more and apply here](#)

## Walkway callout: Exhibition opportunity for community projects

The Walkway Gallery is our community exhibition space, featuring the outcomes from a broad range of creative groups and projects. It's highly visible and accessible location at the heart of the building is perfectly suited to reflecting and celebrating the diversity of creative partnerships, activities and relationships we connect with here at Exeter Phoenix.

If you are working on a community-based creative project that you would like us to help you share, drop us a line at [art@exeterphoenix.org.uk](mailto:art@exeterphoenix.org.uk)

## Community Engagement Opportunity | Ongoing callout

Headway Devon are offering an excellent engagement opportunity for artists to run therapeutic art workshops for The Moving Tribe, a group of individuals experiencing communication difficulties after brain injury. We welcome applications from **any art form background**, including visual artists and sound and movement artists. Please contact Hannah Blatchford at [hannahb@headwaydevon.org.uk](mailto:hannahb@headwaydevon.org.uk) for more details.

## Dreadnought South West Designer callout | Deadline: 12 April, 12noon

DSW is looking for an individual with an established track record in graphic design. You must be familiar with freelance working and have a passion for championing stories about women.

Fee: £4,000 This is a freelance role to begin April 2023 for approximately 4 months

[Find out more and apply here](#)



# OPPORTUNITIES

## Two Short Nights: Artist Moving Image Commission

**Deadline: 5pm, Wed 05 April**

Exeter Phoenix Artists Moving Image Commission is specifically intended for contemporary visual artists who are based in the South West region. Exeter Phoenix will offer one Artists Moving Image Commission award of £1500.

We are looking for applications which outline original and engaging ideas, whether more traditional or experimental, conceptual, narrative or abstract in form and structure.

[Find out more](#)

## Two Short Nights: Studio 74 Sting Commission

**Deadline Extension: 5pm, Wed 12 Apr**

This commission is aimed at giving emerging visual creative talent the opportunity to develop a series of three short idents for our independent cinema, Studio 74. Exeter Phoenix will offer one Studio 74 Ident Commission award of £500 for the development of 3 inspiring and original branded idents of up to 20 seconds each.

[Find out more](#)

**Submissions for Depict! 2023 now open | Deadline Sun 14 May**

Depict is a super-short film competition running since 1998 as part of Encounters Film Festival (September, Bristol, UK). Depict is about creative freedom and imagination – it doesn't matter what your budget is or what genre you're working in as long as you show originality and are able to connect with audiences.

The competition is open to anyone from anywhere in the world, and entry is absolutely free – but there is ONE simple rule: your film MUST be 90 seconds or less in duration. Accept the Depict challenge and get creative in just a minute and a half to be in with a chance of winning!

[Find out more and apply](#)

## Cine Sisters Film Festival Callout | Deadline 10 April

Incorporating screenings, workshops and networking opportunities, we want to highlight the innovative work of womxn working within the boundaries of filmmaking within in Devon, Cornwall and the South West and we need your short films!

Films can be in any genre or format (narrative, experimental, animation and anything in between) and a £30 screening fee will be paid for each film shown. You must be based within Devon, Cornwall or the South West

[Apply here](#)

## Exeter Phoenix Scratch Night callout | Deadline 20 April, 10am

Whether you're currently working on a show and there's a new bit you'd like to get in front of an audience, or you've had an idea ruminating that is ready to be put in front of an audience – we'd like to invite you to apply to SCRATCH NIGHT, an opportunity to test up to 20 minutes of live work. You'll get a bit of rehearsal space, the opportunity to perform your work in front of an audience in the Phoenix Auditorium and £150 to support your practice - which you can use however you'd like.

[Find out more and apply here](#)

## Markets in Exeter x Maker Mart: 'Suitcase Pitches' open call

Ever wanted to try having your own market stall? The Suitcase Space is a fantastic place to start. Situated in Exeter Indie Market at the heart of the city on the Cathedral Green.

It will give you the opportunity to showcase your new business idea or side hustle in a low-risk setting. We want the Suitcase space to be an individual, unusual, fun bright space.

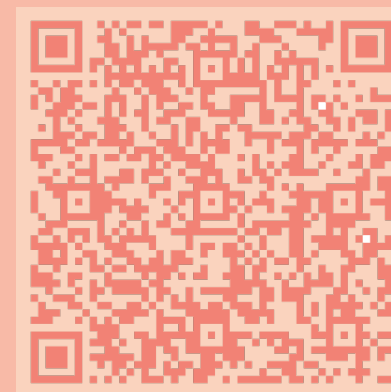
[Find out more and apply here](#)

## Events

- [City Slam](#) | Mon 03 Apr, 7.30pm | Exeter Phoenix
- [Phoenix Film Club](#) | Tue 11 Apr, 6pm | Exeter Phoenix
- [Exeter Phoenix Short Film Commissions 2022](#) | Tue 11 Apr, 6.30pm | Exeter Phoenix
- [Pretty Young Things](#) | Sat 15 Apr, 7.30pm | Exeter Phoenix
- [Hattie Collins: Kindle](#) | Sat 15 Apr - Sun 16 Apr | Exeter Phoenix
- [BFI Network South West Showcase + Afterparty](#) | Wed 19 Apr, 6.15pm | Exeter Phoenix
- [Rough Trade Books Presents: Richard Phoenix Talks to The Pelican Project](#) | Thu 20 Apr, 6pm | Devon & Exeter Institution

## Exhibitions

- [Harriet Bowman: Maybe They Had An Urgent Call](#) | Sat 29 Apr - 25 Jun | Exeter Phoenix
- [Still Moving: In-tuition](#) | Tue 04 Apr - 06 May | The Plough Arts Centre
- [Anna Boland: SPY-nu!](#) | 24 Mar - Sat 15 Apr | Studio KIND
- [Adam Garratt: Embodied Labour](#) | Sat 22 Apr - 13 May | Studio KIND
- [Design for Life: Art and Architecture - Part 1](#) | Sat 18 Mar - 02 Jul | Hestercombe Gallery
- [Will Cruickshank: Three Moons](#) | Sat 11 Feb - 16 Apr | Exeter Phoenix
- [Earth Spells: Witches of the Anthropocene](#) | Sat 11 Feb - 07 May | RAMM



We are looking to understand our Creative Hub a bit better, so that we can better highlight news and opportunities that match the interests of our followers. Please scan to complete our short anonymous survey.

Have a piece of creative news or an opportunity you'd like to be shared? Send us a message on the [Creative Hub Facebook page](#) and we'll include what we can in future editions.



# CREATIVE HUB



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