

YEAR IN REVIEW



2022

exeter phoenix



INTRODUCTIONS

HOWARD NOYE



We are delighted to present Exeter Phoenix's first ever Year in Review - a chance to share and celebrate the achievements of the last financial year. And what a year it was: supporting 893 artists, presenting 222 live performances, sharing 17 contemporary art exhibitions, screening 164 films, and delivering 312 creative courses and workshops for all ages!

But Exeter Phoenix is so much more than the numbers. We exist to enrich lives; bringing colour and depth to everyday, enabling our visitors and audiences to view the world through a new lens, broadening horizons, and developing creative connections between people, communities and ideas.

We hope that you will enjoy reading and learning about the myriad creative opportunities and experiences that it has been our privilege to present over the past year, and we thank you for your continued support as we strive to do more in the future.

CHAIR OF EXETER PHOENIX

PATRICK CUNNINGHAM



2021-22 was a year like no other. I am immensely proud of the way that Exeter Phoenix was able to bounce back from successive lockdowns and deliver a full and exciting programme to our community.

We are deeply grateful to our audiences, artists, donors, volunteers and staff for such steadfast support through this turbulent period. Far from resting on our laurels, this year saw us expand our ambitions, opening our new bar, The Mermaid on Gandy Street, launching regular Scratch Nights to develop new creative work, and making our work more environmentally sustainable.

This year also saw the launch of our new strategy with an enhanced focus on inclusivity, sustainability, community and quality. We know that there are challenges ahead, but we approach this confident in the strength of what we do and with the determination to deliver the best possible cultural opportunities and experiences for all.

DIRECTOR OF EXETER PHOENIX

GALLERIES

ACROSS SIX GALLERY SPACES EXETER PHOENIX HAS EXHIBITED WORK BY AROUND 50 ARTISTS AT ALL STAGES OF THEIR CAREERS: FROM COMMUNITY ART GROUPS ALL THE WAY THROUGH TO INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED

17th August - 15th September 2020: Correspondence 01

As a means of tackling isolation and encouraging creativity during the pandemic, we partnered with the Broadway Gallery in Letchworth on Correspondence 01. Twenty artists from the Exeter and Letchworth areas were paired up and offered the opportunity to share ideas and collaborate, before making and exchanging new pieces of work, culminating in physical exhibitions across the two Galleries.

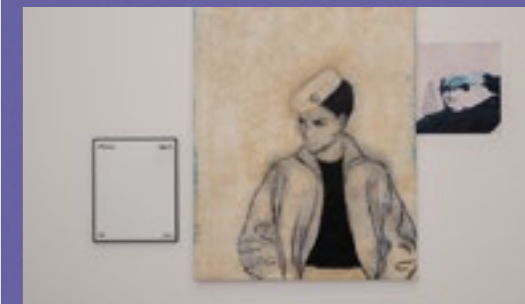
"it's strengthened my communication skills - having spoken to different participating artists and both exhibition curators - and made me believe in myself ... I know it's something I won't forget and I remain extremely grateful and thankful for it."
- Exeter-based exhibiting artist

19th September - 7th November 2021: Men Falling, Naomi Frears

A key solo exhibition by Cornwall-based Naomi Frears, spanning painting, print and featuring the eponymous film work Men Falling, created with the support of the Exeter Phoenix Artists Moving Image Commission. The exhibition was also complemented by the exhibition of a new piece commissioned by our neighbours at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum and displayed in their Courtyard Case.

"An Intriguing, absorbing and altogether marvellous exhibition" - Naomi Frears 'Men Falling'
- exhibition visitor

Also in this year, to support our exhibitions and create new accessible and affordable ways of buying art, Exeter Phoenix launched a limited-edition print offer.



COMMUNITY AND PARTNERSHIPS:



SUPPORT FOR ARTISTS:



CREATIVE OUTPUTS:



AUDIENCES:



COMMUNITY COURSES AND WORKSHOPS



DELIVERING 50 CLASSES AND COURSES ATTENDED BY 322 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE, AND 262 CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS ATTENDED BY 1768 ADULTS

Throughout the year we have delivered a broad range of courses and workshops for people of all ages and abilities. From photography to painting, and drawing to sculpture, there has been plenty to stimulate and support people to try something new and develop their own creative skills.

To complement our existing Young and Animated project, which offers animation and film-making courses for 8-13 year olds, in this year we launched a new project, Young and Animated+ specifically designed for young people with autism.

"My key observation from these classes is that animation can really unlock something authentically magical... With its mixture of art and practical conceptual exercise I've witnessed animation unlock extraordinary potential often hidden behind anxiety."

Ashely - Young and Animated Tutor

We have also continued to deliver Freefall and Freefall+, our free weekly art groups for young people and young people with additional needs. During the year the groups have taken part in a range of activities including developing sound-effects to support film-making, building LED light installations and creating cyanotypes from photographs.

"EXCELLENT COURSE, FELT STRETCHED IN EVERY CLASS, LOTS OF NEW TECHNIQUES AND I NOW FEEL ABLE TO START PRACTICING ON MY OWN. THANK YOU!!"

"I ENJOYED EVERYTHING ... FIRST TIME EVER DOING DRAWING AND PAINTING - LOTS OF GREAT TECHNIQUES"

"GREAT TEACHER WHO ADVISED BUT DIDN'T INTERFERE WITH YOUR PROCESS, GREAT MODEL, INTERESTING CONVERSATIONS."



EXETER PHOENIX IS PROUD TO DELIVER ONE OF THE BROADEST MUSIC PROGRAMMES IN THE AREA, SPANNING JAZZ, REGGAE, FOLK, ELECTRONIC, ROCK, COUNTRY AND MORE BESIDES. OUR AUDIENCES TRAVEL TO US FROM MILES AROUND TO ENJOY THE BEST LIVE MUSIC IN A FRIENDLY AND WELCOMING ATMOSPHERE

Supporting New Music

Across our organisation we are proud to support and showcase emerging artists, and our music programme is no different. Over the year our new band showcase, Bright Young Things, and other events have helped to introduce a range of new artists and performers.

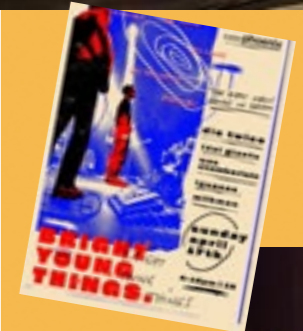
"Exeter Phoenix has given us so much support and countless opportunities. We had our first ever gig there in November last year, and since then we can't get enough of it. Our Phoenix gigs are milestones in our early career as a band. Every gig we have done there has been exciting, busy, so much fun and has boosted our name so high. Exeter Phoenix gave us our voice." - Die Twice emerging band

Comedy

Exeter Phoenix has also become a go-to venue for comedy. Platforming emerging local talent alongside national award-winners and Fringe Festival staples, we are proud to have kept our audiences and communities chuckling throughout the year.



PERFORMANCE MUSIC & COMEDY



PERFORMANCE THEATRE & DANCE

2021-22 SAW ANOTHER YEAR OF GROWTH FOR OUR THEATRE PROGRAMME, PRODUCING AND PRESENTING WORKS FOR AUDIENCES OF ALL AGES INCLUDING OUR POPULAR ANNUAL FESTIVE PRODUCTION BY QUIRK THEATRE



This year's production by Quirk Theatre, Rhia and the Tree of Lights, saw the introduction of a new "Pay it Forward" ticket model, whereby generous audiences were able to add a donation on to their ticket to enable families from Refugee Support Devon to enjoy the performance too. This was a wonderful scheme which will be repeated for selected shows and with a variety of partners throughout the year.

"THANK YOU FOR DRAWING A SMILE ON OUR CHILDREN'S FACE WE ALL APPRECIATED IT."

- Pay it Forward ticket recipient

"MY CHILDREN LOVED THE PLAY, IT HAD A LOTS OF THINGS THAT MADE US THINK ABOUT DEVON"

- Pay it Forward ticket recipient

Contemporary dance also made a spectacular return to Exeter Phoenix during the year, with powerful performances from Chhaya Collective, Heather Agyepong and Excessive Human Collective.



FILM & DIGITAL

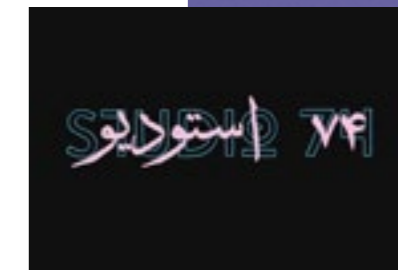
OUR SOLAR-POWERED CINEMA, STUDIO 74, BROUGHT A STUNNING ARRAY OF FILMS TO AUDIENCES OVER THE COURSE OF THE YEAR, FROM HOLLYWOOD BLOCKBUSTERS LIKE 'JAMES BOND; NO TIME TO DIE' TO ENCHANTING ART HOUSE CREATIONS LIKE 'PETITE MAMAN'



In line with our endeavours to bring the best of world cinema to local audiences, we also delivered a series of themed programmes to broaden horizons and offer new experiences. One particularly successful initiative saw a rekindling of our engagement with the Japan Foundation to share a season of thoughtfully selected works from Japan's rich artistic repertoire.

Young audiences were brought to the centre of our work in 2021, with the introduction of our Young Audience Panel who helped to feedback on our current activity and inform our future plans and programming to enable us to engage more with this under-represented audience. This project led to an exciting new youth-led rebrand for Studio 74 as well as the introduction of £5 tickets for under 25s.

After a hiatus caused by the pandemic, 2022 saw the return of Two Short Nights - our sector-leading short film festival. Over two days novice and established filmmakers were able to share and view a wide range of film work while networking with peers and learning from industry experts. An outstanding success, this year's festival saw 205 submissions received from 27 countries, 60 films shown across seven screenings and welcomed 372 guests.





CREATIVE HUB



A HUGE PART OF OUR WORK INVOLVES SUPPORTING ARTISTS AND CREATIVES TO FURTHER THEIR CAREERS AND DEVELOP NEW WORK

Over the course of the year we have supported nearly 900 artists through platforming work, sharing equipment, resources and spaces, offering commissions, running festivals and competitions, holding networking and socials, and providing employment as tutors and course leaders.

Within the year we were able to award a series of artist commissions including our first ever theatre commission, and our artist moving image commission which was awarded to Dan Guthrie and went on to be screened at the Whitstable Biennial.

In performance, we launched a new series of Scratch Nights. These live events offer performers from a range of disciplines (including theatre, dance, music and spoken word) the opportunity to share their works-in-progress with a full technical complement before a live audience. The events enable performers to trial new ideas and access audience feedback to support and encourage the development of new works.



YOUR SUPPORT

THE REAL STARS OF THE SHOW...YOU!

None of this would have been possible without you. We rely on the generous support of individuals, groups, businesses and grant-makers to enable us to deliver a broad range of accessible creative and cultural opportunities and activities to our community.

From supporting our Crowdfunder in 2021 which raised funds for secondary glazing to enable us to preserve the look and feel of our beautiful historic building while improving our energy efficiency and reducing our environmental impact, to enabling more people to access our services through donating to our Pay it Forward ticket scheme - we count ourselves very lucky to have such kind and generous audiences, participants, customers and supporters.

THANK YOU!



KEEP IN TOUCH



JOIN THE EXETER PHOENIX MAILING LIST AND BE THE FIRST TO HEAR OUR LATEST NEWS, OPPORTUNITIES, OFFERS, EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING APPEALS.

WHAT'S ON



OUR PROGRAMME IS BURSTING AT THE SEAMS WITH A WIDE VARIETY OF CULTURAL EVENTS AND ARTISTIC ACTIVITY TO SINK YOUR TEETH INTO.

MEMBERSHIPS



OUR FRIENDS WILL BECOME PART OF THE MAGIC THAT IS EXETER PHOENIX.

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