



CREATIVE HUB

SEPTEMBER EDITION

Welcome to your monthly update on all things creative in Exeter. In our September edition we hear about the programming of the upcoming Harvest Season, announce a new Creative Hub social with CAMP and have sourced a load of new opportunities for you to get applying to!

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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Spork! Summer Roundup



In August Spork! hosted a Summer Special event for our Theatre in the Park programme. As regulars at Exeter Phoenix, we wanted to find out more about how Spork! came about, and what else they get up to! Here's Chris, lead producer at Spork! and associate artist of Exeter Phoenix.

How did Spork! come about? Does the name mean something?

Spork! started as an open mic in one of our favourite pubs (Little Drop of Poison,) after the Bike Shed Theatre closed, and their regular spoken-word night went with it. We wanted to make sure that as much fun, affordable & accessible live poetry was being brought to Exeter as possible. Since then we've put on over 60 events around the South West. The name actually doesn't mean much at all - it's just a silly word that sounds a bit like spoken-word... spokren-word?? It sort of works?

What has been your favourite event so far and why?

There have been so many beltters, but our Christmas show last year was one of our biggest, and one of my faves! There was such a melting pot of different stuff and a real celebration of all things great about live poetry, from the glorious Exeter Railway Band, to our phenomenal headliner Luke Wright, to some local talent, including 17 year old Evie who won our Exeter College Slam. And even a surprise visit from a very sultry Mrs Clause... it was a lot of fun.



Do you have any advice for people wanting to get into poetry writing/performance?

Just give it a go if you can! It can be nerve-wracking, but the scene is lovely and supportive, and I really truly believe that we're all secret poets, and capable of writing poetry in our own way. Absorb stuff, read stuff, come and see stuff. Find out what you love and try to

emulate it (but in your own way!) A great place to start is the Phoenix's other flagship poetry event, Taking the Mic - a monthly open mic with a beautiful, supportive community vibe.

- Chris, Lead Producer at Spork! Poetry CIC



Spork! Dead Poets Slam will feature the incredible UK Slam Champion Rick Dove, plus 6 famous faces brought back to life in a "Dead Poets Slam" - [join them](#) on the **29th October!**

... want to take part? Head to the opportunities section at the end to find out more!

Image credits: Jorbein Photography



CAMP x Exeter Phoenix Creative Hub

Saturday 17 Sep
11am - 4pm

We're excited to be collaborating with CAMP Membership for their **CAMP ON TOUR** event in Exeter. CAMP is a member-led support and professional development network for artists, arts

producers, arts curators and arts writers in Devon and Cornwall.

The day includes a morning workshop, followed by refreshments and a 'Not Speed Dating' networking event in the afternoon. Open to CAMP members and all Exeter based creatives.

All Welcome! CAMP members, non-members, all comers.

FREE! But booking essential, details below:

WORKSHOP 11AM - 1PM

Make a Pinhole Camera Workshop, plus create a Solargraph and Other Pinhole Processes. With Nicola Westlake. [Book here](#)

LUNCH 1PM - 2PM

NETWORKING 2PM - 4PM

Not Speed Dating. A fun, informal and friendly way to meet other artists and creatives! [Book here](#)

This CAMP on Tour event has been organised by CAMP members in the Moving Image / Lens Based KIN Group.

Time To Reap What You Sow | Social [practice]



Ahead of our autumn program 'Time To Reap What You Sow' we chatted with courses programmer Kathy about the process of curating a season of courses and the importance of Social [practice].

"I've had lots of fun programming workshops and events for Time To Reap What You Sow working with Claire (EP's Film Programmer) finding connections to contemporary themes and creative practice across the art forms we work with, especially around Folk traditions and food production. I think a lot of the workshops I programme are rooted in the seasons. As well as being such a universal theme Harvest links to so much that happens here in Devon.

As always, we are balancing creating an engaging commercial offer with finding accessible opportunities to explore wider issues.

Social [practice]

A lot of the Harvest workshops sit within the Social [practice] programme which is an alternative platform to gallery or display spaces here at Exeter Phoenix. We felt it was important to recognise that visual artists don't always make work to display and wanted to build an offer that could provide some opportunities for artists and other creative producers to develop and test out work that involves hosting, skill sharing and exchange. Exeter Phoenix is such a great venue to do this in.

I think my fave Social [practice] event so far has been 'Feast' and this interest in food production, cooking and sharing has led to partnerships with Exeter Seed Bank, Make Tank and now through the Food on Film Programme here at Exeter Phoenix, University of Exeter MA Food Cultures.

Art Courses

Inspiration for the content of our art courses and workshops comes from the rich mix of artists and craftspeople who deliver the courses and the belief that being able to explore ideas



Corn Dolly Workshop as part of the Harvest Season

through materials is a rewarding and vital activity for many people.

We aim to build participants' confidence with a regular 'beginner's and 'introductory' courses working with popular mediums such as acrylic and watercolour and where possible we also like to bring in specialists so that we can give people something new to try like Japanese Woodblock printing, Ceramics or paper making. For example this Autumn we are introducing Book Arts which explores experimental approaches using the book format as a vehicle to express creative ideas.

It's great to try out different ways of working and a few years ago we introduced multi-generational 'All Ages' workshops in which children and adults can work alongside and learn from each other this has been a real winner."

Find out more about the upcoming Harvest season [here](#).



Images from 'Feast'



OPPORTUNITIES

Tell us about your experiences by completing Visual Arts South West's new Annual Survey

We want to advocate for better conditions and investment in visual arts. The information collected via VASW's new annual artists & artworker survey will be used to understand lived experiences and advocate for better conditions and investment.

The survey questions will help to:

- Understand the needs & experiences of artists and artworkers in the South West
- See the reality of pay, employment and funding conditions
- Know who lives and works in the region, and what the barriers are to diversity & inclusion

The report VASW will create will be shared to set the priorities for the future of visual arts in the South West.

Deadline to complete the survey: 31st October 2023

Complete the survey [here](#)

Present Makers 2023 Call Out | Deadline: 29 Sep, 5pm

Present Makers 2023 (11 November - 23 December) will feature hand-crafted gift ideas showcasing the talent and innovation of contemporary craftspeople and design makers in the South West.

[Apply here](#)

National Trust Creative Opportunity - A la Ronde | Deadline: 06 Sep

The National Trust will be commissioning a visual artist, designer, artisan, craftsperson, sculptor, maker, or artist collective to produce an exciting new sensory space at A la Ronde, which will be a creative response to the beautiful and fragile Shell Gallery and Grotto Staircase. The 'Room of Discovery' will become a permanent part of the visitor experience enjoyed by 50,000+ visitors a year.

[Find out more here](#)

OPPORTUNITIES

Open Call: Digital Commission for South West-Based Artists 2024

Deadline: 01 Oct

Spike Island is pleased to invite applications from artists based in the South West of England to develop a new digital commission. The commission is for South West-based artists from all backgrounds, including those already working digitally as well as those new to digital media. The commission can be on any theme and in any digital format (from sound and video to animation or performance) but it must be created specifically to be experienced online, and will ideally explore innovative ways of using digital media to engage and connect with diverse audiences.

[Apply here](#)

Maker (Emerging) for The Company of Wolves in North Devon

Deadline: 07 Sep

Burn the Curtain are seeking an emerging maker based in North Devon for upcoming outdoor promenade production of The Company of Wolves, in Lee, North Devon.

We are needing someone who can help remount this previous production (last performed in 2017). Adjustments and/or running repairs to costumes and props. To work with our lead designer, who will mentor you through the process of working on an outdoor, promenade theatre production.

[Find out more here](#)

Casting Call

Bristol based commissioned Filmmaker Luke Fannin is casting for short film 'Spaces'. We are looking a white male actor aged 30-45 to play the role of a camper.

In the film we will be capturing Naira's (lead) first encounter with the campers who display covert racism. Due to the nature of the role we are looking for talent who are of course happy with what the role entails.

The role requires two days shooting, 9th and 10th September, in Bristol, please note this is an unpaid opportunity but Luke will be providing lunch and contributing to travel expenses. Please get in touch on spacesshortfilm@gmail.com for more details.

Two Devon-based female actors (25-35) required for low budget comedy short.

Casting two females playing ages mid-20s to mid-30s for principal roles. Actors need to be based in Devon and available for a workshop audition in Exeter on Sunday 17 September.

Shooting in East Devon from Friday 10 to Sunday 12 November & Friday 17 to Sunday 19 November (6 days total).

This is a self-funded low budget production so the roles are unpaid but generous expenses, on-set catering and showreel footage will be provided.

Please send headshot, CV and showreel links (if any) to contact@jeffsleeman.com



OPPORTUNITIES

Apply for Come As You Are Open Mic - Sunday 12th November

Deadline: 02 Oct

Come As You Are is a vibrant one-day festival which interrogates issues around gender identity and celebrates the local trans, non-binary and genderqueer community.

As a way to platform members of the community we are aiming to host an open mic to end the day's activities and would love you to get involved! Ideas don't have to be fully formed, we're just looking for 10 or so minutes of music, poetry, performance, or anything you can think of really.

[Apply here](#)

Youth Voice Theatre Workshops call out for facilitator

Deadline: 20 Sep for October course

Looking for a drama facilitator /theatre director with interest or experience in working with young people for paid work co-facilitating a series of drama workshops this Autumn devising a choreographed performance together developing public speaking skills. Open to working with facilitators at an early stage of their career.

[Find out more here](#)

Take part in the Spork! Dead Poets Slam | Deadline: 04 Oct

Ever wanted to see Bukowski, Byron, Plath & Poe going head to head in a poetry slam? Well now's your chance! Six famous poets will rise from the dead, brought to life by six contemporary artists for one night only! They'll battle it out in a chance to win everlasting life, plus a cash prize of £100. Using a mixture of their own poetry, the work of their alias, and some stuff they make up on the night.

To apply, and for the full list of rules, email Spork! on sporkpoetry@gmail.com.

Just let us know:

- Where you're based
- Who you'd like to play, and why
- A couple of sentences about yourself & previous experience

Deadline: Friday 4th October. The competitors will be announced Monday 9th October

Apply for Exeter Phoenix Scratch Night - 10 Oct 2023

Deadline: 5pm, 15 Sep

Got an idea that needs a platform? Exeter Phoenix Scratch Night offers artists in need of an audience a chance to stretch their ideas and the opportunity to test their work in the Phoenix Auditorium, along with £150 to help develop their idea and a small amount of rehearsal space before the Scratch Night.

[Find out more and apply](#)

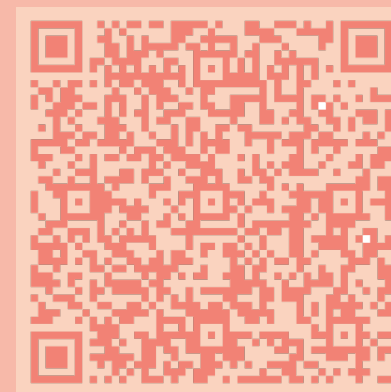


Events

- [Time To Reap What You Sow: Social \[practice\]](#) | 03 Sep - 01 Oct | Exeter Phoenix
- [Playwrights Cafe](#) | Thu 07 Sep, 7pm - 9pm | Exeter Phoenix
- [CAMP on Tour](#) | Sat 17 Sep, 11am - 4pm | Exeter Phoenix

Exhibitions

- [Exeter Contemporary Open 2023](#) | 15 Sep - 05 Nov | Exeter Phoenix
- [Hyperlocal](#) | 19 Aug - 09 Sep | Studio KIND.
- [Olivia Brelsford-Massey](#) | Sat 02 Sep - Sat 30 Sep | The Plough Arts Centre
- [Hollow Earth: Art, Caves and the Subterranean Imaginary](#) | 23 Sep - 7 Jan | RAMM
- [Sublime Symmetry: the mathematics behind De Morgan's ceramic designs](#) | 20 May - 10 Sept | RAMM
- [Threads](#) | 08 July - 01 October | Arnolfini, Bristol | *featuring previous Exeter Phoenix exhibitors Young In Hong and Will Cruickshank*



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.



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