

CREATIVEHUB

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OCTOBER EDITION

Welcome to your monthly update on all things creative in Exeter. In our October edition we have more updates from our commissioned filmmakers, hear from Devon-born adventure filmmaker James Levelle and announce the October Scratch Night artists. 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 and we'll include what we can in future editions.

We have a new Instagram account!

Follow us @exeterphoenixcreativehub to get even more updates, stories and opportunities in Exeter.



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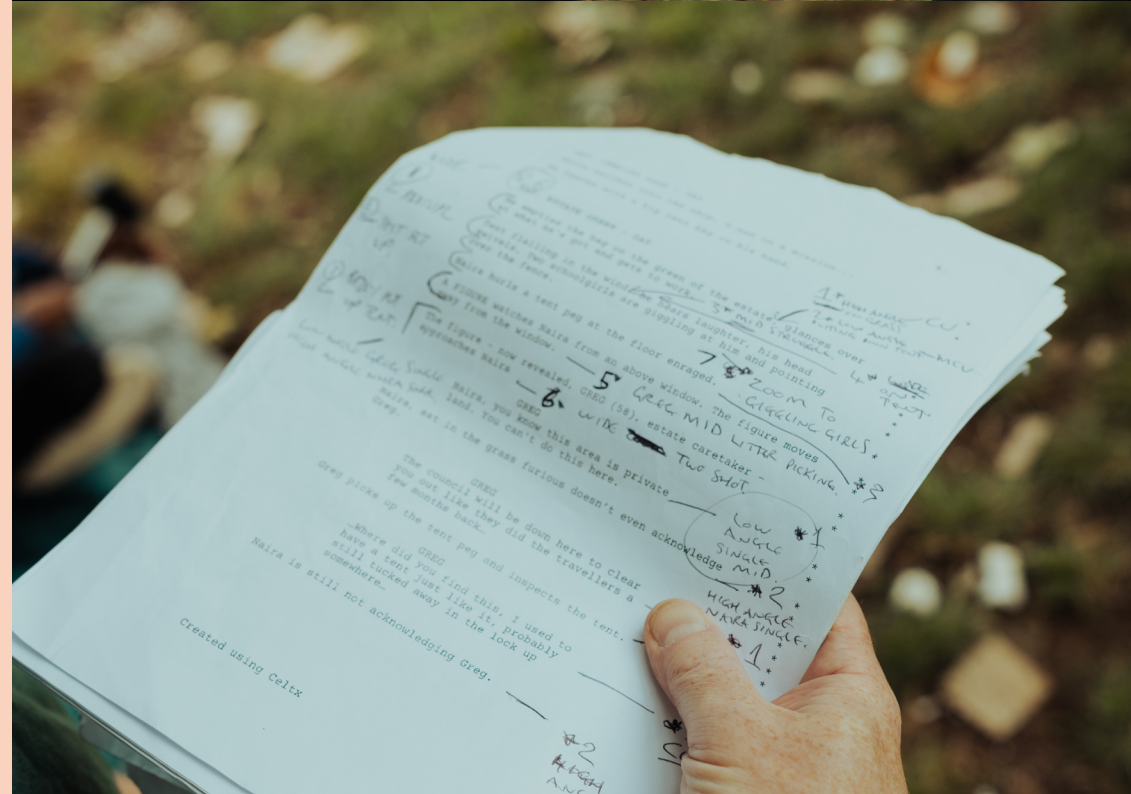
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Film Commission Update: Luke Fannin



We caught up with Luke Fannin who recently completed filming on his film *Space(s)* for our Denhams Digital Short Film Commission. Despite some unexpected rain Luke said everything went really well, with the cast crew and locations all coming together perfectly for shoot. The behind the scenes photos Luke sent over look incredible, and we can't wait to see the finished film at Two Short Nights 2024.

Photo credit: [Eljaybriss](#)

Film Commission Update: Robyn Egan

The shooting date for Dolls was 3rd-6th of this month, also known as the surprise September heatwave of 2023. The majority of filming took place in a cosy attic bedroom, where the temperatures rose so high (30 degrees!), we had to down tools one afternoon as our wonderful cinematographer, Jamie Hobbis, feared his camera was overheating. Luckily my mum, Wendy, was on hand to feed everyone ice lollies to keep up morale until everything cooled down a little. Despite the heat, filming went swimmingly as I happened to luck out with the most amazing cast and crew, for whom I shall forever be eternally grateful for. Luke Hagan and the rest of the Exeter Phoenix team have continued to be so supportive and understanding throughout the process, too. The shoot was an enormous learning curve, but one of the best experiences I've ever had. I'm currently in post production and looking to find the right editing team, as well as organising some voice over dialog that will be recorded in the next few weeks. I'm really happy with the footage and can't wait to see it come together, along with the other commissions at the Two Short Nights film festival in February.

On the first day of filming, we were lucky enough to have the lovely Stills Photographer, Jim Elton (IG: @winglessjim) capture some great shots. There are many more snaps from the shoot on our instagram @dollsfilmdevon



James Levelle: Race For The Future



Devon born adventurer James Levelle is an award-winning filmmaker and speaker advocating for the protection of the natural world. He has worked with the National Geographic and the BBC on various programmes spanning from uncovering the illegal tiger trade in China to chasing hurricanes!

Inspired by the next generation's efforts to make their voices heard in the climate emergency, James set off from the UK on a 9000-mile race to document youth climate messages and deliver them in a film to the United Nations climate conference in Chile, using fossil-fuel free methods of transport to get there. In his upcoming talk at Exeter Phoenix, he'll be sharing his adventure and the messages he documented along the way.

We hear from James about the importance of film in sharing messages about the climate, as well as his top tips for starting off on your own filmmaking adventure!

Raising awareness about environmental issues is clearly something you are very passionate about, is there a take home message that you would like audiences to come away with?

It's true, I'm very passionate about raising awareness of social and environmental issues, though I'd say I'm even more passionate about overcoming them. We're living through an existential crisis so massive and overwhelming that if you try facing up to it alone you risk paralysing yourself with fear and hopeless apathy. The key thing I think is to understand you're not alone and reaching out to good folk around you is crucial. Human history has proven that when we share a common vision and work together, we can achieve anything. I've put this to the test on some pretty extreme adventures and so I hope in sharing my stories I can spark a little more faith in humanity, inspire us all to dream big and encourage



each of us in our own unique way to get busy transforming our dreams into reality.

Has your filmmaking created any opportunities for you to advocate for environmental issues? How can television and film help to get these messages across?

Before I worked for National Geographic, I made short documentary films for human rights and environmental NGOs and ever since advocating for these issues has been a massive motivation for me. The problem with film and television is it trends towards 'negativity bias'. TV news can be a nightmare with its focus on doom and gloom scenarios that scare audiences to grab their attention. Fear's a very powerful emotion. Now, if you're in a deadly situation fear is incredibly useful because it gives you the razor-sharp focus you need to stay alive... so long as you don't panic. So, fear is great for making us pay attention, but it's rubbish for creative thinking and imagining new possibilities. Now I love a good drama as much as the next person, but I reckon film and television would make a massively positive impact if, instead of captivating minds with fear, it did more to liberate minds and inspire us all with extraordinary uplifting stories that champion the best of humanity

Do you have any tips for someone starting out in filmmaking?

The great thing about starting out in filmmaking today is that we all have access to the basic tools we need to do it, all in the palm of our hand. Mobile phones can shoot high quality video and edit the footage you've shot too. A lot of people think you need to go to film school to figure out how to make films, but the truth is, whilst that's a great route for some, it's not essential. If you think about it, we watch so many movies and TV shows that most of us already

intuitively understand how to put a film together. Once you start mentally pulling the filmmaking process apart and identifying the different pieces you soon see how much you already know. Then it's just a question of practicing what you know. Get the camera out. Start shooting. Start editing. Put the pieces together and learn from your mistakes. And for those concerned by the increasingly competitive lay of the land just remember, anyone can point a camera at stuff, but few can tell a great story. Story is everything.

Join James for his talk [Race For The Future at Exeter Phoenix](#) on Wed 18 Oct.



Scratch Night: October Selected Artists



Four of Swords – The Magical Screentest of Isobel Jeffery

When Isobel was 12 years old, she suffered a series of epileptic fits which left parts of her brain damaged which were crucial to speaking and reading. Ironically perhaps given these difficulties, Isobel has grown up with a burning passion for story-telling, theatre and film, and a desperate desire to be an actor. She also has one of the wackiest and brilliant imaginations ever! This show is the true story of how Isobel has dedicated herself to following her dream, conquering speech therapy and developing all kinds of innovative strategies. It is punctuated by skits and sketches co-written by Isobel and Philip Kingslan John from Four of Swords.

Mattie Konig – Cleft in Twain: A Dispatch from Doggerland

“Cleft In Twain: A Dispatch from Doggerland” is the latest outburst from multi-disciplinary artist Mattie Konig (she/her), and the latest stage of a wider multimedia project that has been in the works since 2019. This Menippean slop of video, audio and still imagery invites you to consider if life on another Earth would really be any better than our own – and if bridging the gap between the two would really make things better for either of us.



[Note: autist/artist pun intentional!]



Ghost Light Productions – Exposure: A New Ghost Story

Therapists are supposed to help aren't they? After a troubling series of events, Jules visits Simone, a unique therapist highly recommended by her mother. In order to help decipher Jules' problems, Simone decides to try a new type of treatment using live video recording. Unfortunately, Simone is unaware of the fact that Jules believes she is being haunted. But as things start going amiss and the camera starts to glitch, maybe Jules' theory might not be entirely wrong...

Tash & Friends – STORIES, or How to Lift a Family Curse

STORIES, or How To Lift A Family Curse is a one-person documentary play that tells the true story of a family living in Devon, some of whom believe in the existence of a generational curse. It is also the story of the playwright's own experience as a new migrant, who finds herself entangled in the family's story while also trying to navigate the landscape of her new home. Weaving in stories of her own family in Indonesia and Aotearoa New Zealand into this distinctly West Country tale, STORIES is an exploration of what it means to be part of a family, told through storytelling, recorded interviews, and archival material.



Haiku Films In An Old Age: Meditations on Growing Old



Branch changes river

In these short films I have attempted to provide glimpses of some personal feelings, thoughts and pre-occupations that are accompanying my journey into this territory, in the hope they might provide some insight.

The films have been inspired by and, hopefully, are in the spirit of Haiku poems, without, in any way, attempting to emulate their formal properties.

Haikus are short Japanese poems – three lines long – mostly observing natural phenomenon, and like Haikus these little films are meditative in nature, with time and space around them.

They can be found [here](#)

To mark the UN's International Day of Older Persons which is celebrated on the 1st October this year, Exeter-based creative Peter Hulton has shared his video poetry and how he has been inspired to make as he's got older.

“As an old man in my 80s, I am struck by the fact that old age appears to be one of society's hidden territories – not the dementia, diseased, physical pain kind of old age which receives some attention, but the everyday, on-going, not-so-bad, everywhere you look kind of old age.



Launch of DOCLAB 23



We're really excited to be launching our new DOCLAB 23 initiative, in collaboration with OSBD Media Charity.

DOCLAB 23 is a documentary making pilot project that seeks to bring together novice and emerging filmmakers from across Devon who currently, or aspire to, make short and longer form documentary films. The aim of this pilot scheme is to inspire and enable participants to create new work through networking, film screenings and workshops and ultimately discover who is out there and what is needed regionally to support documentary filmmakers.

OSBD Media Charity have developed a wealth of creative talent across the UK through their documentary film fund, and have invaluable experience supporting and creating documentary films. They've already helped get DOCLAB23 off to a great start by hosting a sold screening of A Year In A Field in Studio 74, so we're

looking forward to working with them further to support regional documentary.

DOCLAB 23 will officially launch with a networking event at Exeter Phoenix on [Wed 11 Oct](#), and the scheme is already accepting signups for its first Lab session on [Wed 08 Nov](#).

These Lab sessions are a safe space to talk about, workshop and develop documentary film projects. They offer peer and professional support and feedback, giving filmmakers a chance to hone their documentary ideas. To find out more about the Lab events contact luke.hagan@exeterphoenix.org.uk or check out the event on our website.



OPPORTUNITIES

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Tell us about your experiences by completing Visual Arts South West's new Annual Survey | Deadline 31st October 2023

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.

Complete the survey [here](#)

Artist Commission | Deadline: Wed 04 Oct

Exeter UNESCO City of Literature is looking to commission an artist to revitalise Exeter St Davids train station thanks to funding from GWR's Community Fund. You could be an illustrator, graphic designer, or painter, and you can either be at the start of your career or have an established portfolio. We're looking for artists who have a clear, visual style and who are comfortable creating work for large areas.

[Find out more and apply here](#)

Nurturing Creativity: Embedding Rest and Care in Artistic Practice

Wed 11 Oct, 6pm – 8.30pm

As part of our online professional development programme, we are delighted to offer five places on Spike Island Associates' upcoming workshop Nurturing Creativity: Embedding Rest and Care in Artistic Practice by Roseanna Dias.

In this workshop, you can learn about incorporating rest and care practices into your creative work. We will discuss the importance of self-care and collective care, as well as the broader context in which we seek change. It's an opportunity to explore a variety of perspectives, tools and approaches for nourishment.

[Book your place here](#)



OPPORTUNITIES

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

Riddler In Residence: Green Words Poetry | Deadline Fri 20 Oct, 5pm

Are you interested in writing about people, places and wildlife? Would you like to see your words in print? The Riddler In Residence is looking for new poems exploring the natural world around Exeter Cathedral. Your writing could be published (with your agreement) in a new Exeter Cathedral Green Words Map and Digital Anthology, which is being curated by poet Aly Stoneman, Exeter Cathedral's current Riddler in Residence.

[Find out more and apply](#)

Pod 5: Immersive Art Residency 2024 | Deadline Fri 03 Nov, 5pm

This is an exciting opportunity for an emerging artist to come and live and work at East Quay in Watchet, Somerset, for up to two weeks in early 2024. We are looking for a hands-on individual with exemplary creative vision to realise an artwork in Pod 5 that can inspire our visitors and guests throughout 2024.

Practitioners from any creative background are welcome to apply and we are open to proposals from artists working in all mediums. We are seeking artwork which creates an immersive atmosphere within the space, engaging both physically and conceptually with the surroundings. We welcome wall-based proposals, but are also open to 3D concepts and ideas.

[Apply here](#)

Calling producers working on projects in the South West | Deadline: Fri 06 Oct, 5pm

Screen Cornwall is pleased to partner with BFI NETWORK South West and Exeter Phoenix again to create a third iteration of the Peninsula Producers Network, a development group for new and emerging producers in Devon and Cornwall.

This cohort will receive peer support and guidance, in a series of events held both online and in person, to develop their producing skills and expand their knowledge of distribution and audiences. These sessions will have a focus on career pathways. The final session will be an in-person event at the Two Short Nights Film Festival at Exeter Phoenix in February.

[Apply here](#)

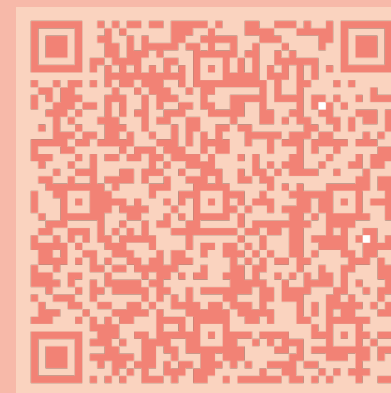
Events



- [Communities of Resistance](#) | Thu 19 Oct, 6.30-8pm | VASW (online)
- [DOCLAB 23 Launch](#) | Wed 11 Oct, 7pm - 9pm | Exeter Phoenix
- [Exeter Contemporary Open Exhibition Tours](#) | Sat 07 Oct + Weds 11 Oct, 1.30pm | FREE | Exeter Phoenix
- [Scratch Night](#) | Tue 10 Oct, 7.30pm | Exeter Phoenix
- [Drawn To It: Find Joy in Your Sketchbooks!](#) | Wed 25 Oct, 7pm | Exeter Phoenix
- [Exeter Creative Network: Using Ai for Marketing Workshop](#) | Thu 19 Oct | Exeter Phoenix

Exhibitions

- [Exeter Contemporary Open 2023](#) | 15 Sep - 05 Nov | Exeter Phoenix
- [Hollow Earth: Art, Caves and the Subterranean Imaginary](#) | 23 Sep - 7 Jan | RAMM
- [Against Apartheid](#) | 29 Sep - 02 Dec | KARST
- [Thelma Hulbert Open](#) | 02 Sep - 28 Oct | Thelma Hulbert
- [Otherworlds | Annwn](#) | 23 Sep - 25 Nov | Barnstaple Museum



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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