

YEAR IN REVIEW

2022 / 2023



exeter **phoenix**

ABOUT US

Exeter Phoenix is a vibrant, inclusive multi-arts venue in the heart of our city. With a programme spanning music, visual art, theatre, dance and film, we provide our community with access to hundreds of creative and cultural opportunities each year.

Off the stage and screen, we nurture a thriving creative community, supporting people of all ages and abilities to explore and develop their own creativity. From paid opportunities for professional artists, to free workshops for young people, Exeter Phoenix has something for anyone looking to experiment with art and bring their ideas to life.

“FOR ME PHOENIX IS THE BEST CULTURAL DESTINATION ON THE EXETER MAP”

“ONE OF THE BEST LITTLE VENUES IN THE WORLD”

“WITHOUT DOUBT OUR FAVOURITE VENUE”

INTRODUCTIONS



HOWARD NOYE

I am pleased and proud to present our Year in Review for 2022-23. This has been an exciting year that has seen us present hundreds of engaging opportunities to be inspired, get creative and build connections.

From exciting new projects such as our Summer Art Camp, which delivered a summer full of free-to-access creative activities for people of all ages, to continuing valuable work such as our Creative Networking events, enabling local artists to expand their personal and professional networks, Exeter Phoenix have provided something for people from all background and at all levels of creative practice.

None of this would be possible without you – our generous audiences and supporters – and the many organisations and business it has been our pleasure to partner with over the year. We are deeply grateful for your support and hope that you enjoy reading about and remembering the last year, as much as we enjoyed delivering it.

CHAIR OF TRUSTEES



PATRICK CUNNINGHAM

DIRECTOR

The last twelve months have been incredibly busy for Exeter Phoenix, continuing to deliver a packed programme for the community while developing our organisation to ensure that we can meet the needs of our communities now and in the future.

We were delighted this year to win not one, but two Exeter Living Awards in the Arts and Culture and Civic categories, recognising our outstanding contribution to the local creative scene and our work with the wider community, with our retail outlet MakerMart and not-for-profit cocktail bar The Mermaid also shortlisted for awards in their respective categories.

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank our Trustees, artists, volunteers and staff, whose hard work and dedication, year-on-year enable us to continue to grow and strive to meet the cultural and social needs of our community. Against ongoing uncertainty, we will need to continue to innovate and evolve to meet future challenges, but everyone at Exeter Phoenix remains steadfast in our commitment to bringing the best possible creative opportunities to everyone in our community in a sustainable and conscientious way.

HIGH QUALITY CULTURE

We have enjoyed another year of bringing world-class cultural and creative experiences to audiences in the South West. Across our programmes we have platformed the best in emerging, home-grown talent alongside internationally renowned and award-winning performers and artists.

Our nationally significant music programme is one of the most diverse in the region, and has platformed over 130 performances representing many genres, from 2 Tone ska legend Neville Staple (The Specials) and Manchester art rock band Everything Everything, to Bosnian avant-garde hip hop group Dubioza Kolektiv, critically-acclaimed funk and soul band Brother Strut and local folk rock band Wildwood Kin.

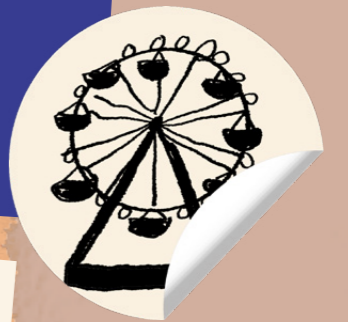
Across six free-to-access gallery spaces we have presented a series of contemporary art exhibitions. Shows have included maximalist and immersive sculpture from South West artist Laura Robertson, London-based, Irish artist Anne Ryan's intensely coloured three-dimensional paintings "Fighting on the Dance Floor", and "Cover Versions" co-curated by brothers Anthony and Graham Dolphin featuring artists from the UK, the USA, Australia and Japan.

Our dance, theatre, spoken word and comedy programmes have presented a huge range of work across five locations, bringing to the stage the work of national and international award-winning companies, writers and performers. One particular highlight came from Exeter Phoenix favourites, Quirk Theatre, with their festive family show telling the story of celebrated (and feathered) local war hero, Mary the Pigeon.

Studio 74, our solar-powered independent cinema, has hosted some incredible titles over the year including major award-winner Everything, Everywhere All at Once, the spellbinding Moonage Daydream and British indie triumph Aftersun. We have also run a series of themed programmes and special events such as our screening of Japanese film Tampopo with ramen making workshop delivered as part of our Food on Film season, and our sharing of Häxan, 1922's seminal Swedish silent film about witchcraft supported by a breathtaking live score from musical duo Memorials.



54100 PEOPLE ATTENDING
1531 PERFORMANCES,
EVENTS, FESTIVALS AND
SCREENINGS



30 FREE GALLERY EXHIBITIONS

NURTURING CREATIVITY

Over the last year we have offered a plethora of opportunities to support people of all ages and abilities - from the amateur to the established professional - to explore and develop their creativity. From courses and workshops, via informal performance and exhibition slots, to commissions and residencies, we thrive on developing new talent by providing the tools, guidance and space to enable people to experiment, take risks and realise their best ideas.



181 CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS RUN

1386 ATTENDEES, INCLUDING 418 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

“Exeter Phoenix has given us so much support and countless opportunities ... 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.”



“I love Exeter Phoenix for all that it stands for and offers and I always look forward to a visit and joining half day art classes. It truly is a joyous environment.”

“The Artist Moving Image commission has been pivotal in the development of my practice ... I was supported throughout the process, developed skills through workshops, and extensions to my network. It has been a pleasure to work with the whole team, with Exeter Phoenix itself providing a warm welcome.”

37 TUTORS AND FREELANCERS EMPLOYED FOR COURSES AND PROJECTS



£15,500 WORTH OF COMMISSIONS AND SUPPORT AWARDED

Our workshops for young people, with school holiday filmmaking and theatre courses, term-time sessions in animation, and our free-to-access Freefall and Freefall+ programmes covering a variety of artforms, have provided high quality opportunities for young people to enjoy getting creative and developing their skills, whatever barriers they may be facing.



32 PIECES OF EQUIPMENT RENTED TO LOCAL ARTISTS

Our Two Short Nights film festival returned in February 2023 receiving 213 submissions from filmmakers from across the country and beyond. Over two days, 502 visitors and audience members attended, enjoying a broad and entertaining programme of new short films and a series of events to support and celebrate the people that make them.

The Exeter Contemporary Open returned after a three-year hiatus caused by the pandemic. Established in 2006, this has come to be recognised as one of the UK's most prominent contemporary art competitions and has supported many emerging artists to expand and develop their career. This year the competition welcomed 423 submissions and handed out more awards than ever before.

Maker Mart, our city centre sales space on Gandy Street, has provided a valuable opportunity for local artists and makers from across the South West to sell their makes and earn from their work. Our pop-up shop in the Guildhall Shopping Centre in December was particularly successful in enabling our network of creatives to reach new customers and raise their profile.



120 ARTISTS AND MAKERS STOCKED IN MAKER MART

“Two Short Nights is utterly unique in the atmosphere you manage to cultivate ... Very very lucky to have this festival in the south west.”

“Thank you Maker Mart for giving makers like myself the opportunity to showcase and sell my art. I have enjoyed volunteering in the shop and meeting the customer and lovely staff. The ability to connect with buyers has provided the recognition and confidence needed to expand my small business.”

COMMUNITY MATTERS

Exeter Phoenix flourishes thanks to the people and communities who surround and support us. Community is at the heart of all that we do, and using our platform to amplify the voices of these communities and share the causes that matter to them is central to our work.

We are firm believers in the arts as a powerful tool for social change and personal well-being and are proud to have been able to deliver a series of free events to support and celebrate marginalised groups within our community. From our Bloom festival for mental health and wellbeing, to our multi-generational Summer Art Camp incorporating support for Ukrainian refugees, and our Come As You Are festival, celebrating the creativity of the trans, non-binary and gender-diverse communities, we have been able to work with artists, charities and community groups to forge new connections, create moments of joy, share sources of support and show solidarity.

2022 saw the completion of our Cinema Heritage Project, shining a light on Exeter's rich cinema history with a landscape that included 12 venues showing film between 1910-1950. This project created a series of short films, gathering stories from those who remember this time, which have been shared publicly through a screening and online to preserve these memories and histories for future generations.

Building a greener and more sustainable future for the arts in Exeter is one of our core aims, and we launched our Green Phoenix Project to focus our efforts as we work towards achieving carbon neutrality. We have made significant progress over the year, continuing to improve the energy efficiency of our historic building and instilling sustainable behaviours and practices, and in using our platform to support environmental events and campaigns such as Turn Up the Volume by Music Declares Emergency.

Another success of the year has been our Kurdish Screen which has delivered monthly screenings of this minority cinema. Working in partnership with the local Kurdish community, we have given audiences ownership and creative choice, resulting in the screening of powerful and engaging films otherwise unavailable in the UK, outside of London.



OVER 1000 PEOPLE ATTENDING FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS AND FESTIVALS



OVER 130,000KWH OF ELECTRICITY GENERATED BY SOLAR PANELS TO MARCH 2023

£15,477 RAISED TO INSTALL SECONDARY GLAZING ON 40 LARGE, ORIGINAL, SINGLE-GLAZED AND METAL-FRAMED WINDOWS



80 PAY IT FORWARD TICKETS PROVIDED FOR FREE TO FAMILIES IN NEED

“Oh my, feel seen, empowered, chilled + entertained. I left exeter at 16 because it didn't feel safe for my identity. This festival gives me a sense of belonging.”

“Thank you very much for planning, arranging, filming and producing the super film that we were privileged to see on Friday evening ... It was a lovely experience and it is so important that the social history of Exonians is recorded for future generations.”

“This has been the best day I have had in years have learnt, connected made memories I am very grateful for such an amazing event”

“Amazing! Thank you for creating this opportunity for people to come together, share experiences and celebrate self-care and mental health awareness!”



YOU MAKE EXETER PHOENIX

As a registered charity, we rely on our Friends, supporters and donors to ensure the people of Exeter, Devon and beyond have access to the absolute best the contemporary arts has to offer. Every time you buy a ticket, visit for a coffee, attend an art class, enjoy a cocktail in the Mermaid, or make a donation, every penny goes back into creating cultural opportunities for all.

Thanks to you, we are able to provide free access to our art galleries all year round, support emerging artists to develop new work and progress their careers, and provide free and discounted opportunities for those who wouldn't otherwise be able to access our activities.

If you love what we do there are a myriad of ways to get involved and support our work: from volunteering as a steward at our live performance or film events, to joining our Friends Scheme or remembering us in your will giving you access to exclusive behind-the-scenes content. However you choose to support us and our mission, we are truly grateful.

JUST A FEW OF OUR
WONDERFUL SUPPORTERS:



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



**The Arts
Society
Exeter**



MEMBERSHIPS

If the last few years have taught us anything, it's the importance of community and holding close the things that are dear to us. To that end, we wanted to create a membership scheme so that our generous supporters and patrons, who are so special to us, can get closer to our work and help us safeguard the future of expression and creativity in Exeter.

Our Friends will become part of the magic that is Exeter Phoenix. Every donation received through this scheme will be used towards our mission to create thriving creative spaces, deliver spellbinding events and festivals, nurture new talent, and enrich the lives of local communities.

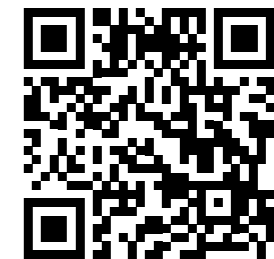
Every quarter, our Friends will receive a special behind-the-scenes newsletter with exclusive features, updates about our projects, and sneak peeks of future performances, workshops and exhibitions.

What's more, when you sign-up you'll receive an exclusive welcome pack featuring a limited-edition pin badge and an exclusive set of postcards designed by members of our community.

Exeter Phoenix is committed to equality and opportunities for all, so our Friends scheme has three price tiers enabling you to choose a level of support that is comfortable and affordable for you. All Friends will receive the same benefits and every donation is deeply appreciated.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU!

For more information and to sign up
please speak to our box office or visit:



EXETERPHOENIX.ORG.UK/MEMBERSHIPS

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.

exeter **phoenix**

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