

CREATIVE HUB

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## NOVEMBER EDITION

Welcome to your monthly update on all things creative in Exeter. In our November edition we find out about the creative practice of stickerbombing, get an update from this year's film commissions, and discover the history of cinema in Torquay.

### 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 our social media channels and we'll include what we can in future editions.

### Want more updates, opportunities and creative news?

Follow us [@exeterphoenixcreativehub](#) on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).



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## Torquay Cinema Heritage Project



The team at Exeter Phoenix have been busy this summer working on the Torquay Cinema Heritage Project, a collection of short films that look at the history and impact of cinema and film in Torquay and how the people, places and memories of cinema going continue to influence the town. They launched the project with a screening at Kents Cavern in October, and below is an insight into the project so far.

### Why were you interested in taking on this project?

The project came about after we ran a similar project in Exeter a few years ago, collecting memories and oral histories of cinema going in the city. When the opportunity came up to do the same in Torquay we jumped at the chance. Torquay has such a deep connection with

cinema, and we wanted to capture some of the stories and history around that, and hopefully open up some conversations about the importance of oral history in preserving memories of everyday life.

### Have there been any particularly interesting stories that have come up?

We've collected lots of great stories as part of the project - much more than we could fit in the final films! We've heard about some of the seven cinemas that existed, the films that were shot in Torquay





and the importance of cinema to the town. I think my favourite story might be when we were filming at Kent's Cavern for their Cave Cinema event and heard about how the event isn't just a continuation of the cinema going tradition of Torquay, but we also a continuation of the tradition of gathering to hear stories in the caves that will have gone back to the earliest human ancestors who inhabited the caves tens of thousands of years ago.

### **What is the importance of telling these stories and how do they impact the future culture of the area?**

It's important to capture the stories around social spaces like the cinema, not just to preserve them, but to make people appreciate their importance as centres of the community. Hopefully if more attention is paid to the value of these spaces then more can be done to ensure that this type of community meeting place isn't lost. It's also important to capture day to day recollections to make people realise that their own stories and memories have value, and we should share them.

If you missed the first screening, join us for an [additional screening](#) of the Torquay Cinema Heritage Project on Wed 06 Nov, 2pm at the New Central Cinema, Torquay.





## Come As You Are - A Q+A With Fragment



Come As You Are, our one-day festival exploring gender identity and celebrating the trans, non-binary and gender diverse communities of the South West, returns in November. This year our programme hosts a range of interactive activities and drop-in crafts, informative talks and discussions, music and art, and much more! Ahead of the festival we spoke to artist Maple Bloom (AKA Fragment) about the creative practice of stickerbombing.

### What is stickerbombing and how did you get inspired to start making some yourself?

Stickerbombing is the practice of putting a large amount of stickers into a collage - think like how people decorate their laptop lids, skateboard decks, journals... if you've done something like that before, congrats, you've made a stickerbomb! I've always grown up with an appreciation for street art and during a trip to London and Camden Market with a friend a few years back, I had my eyes opened as to the power of what stickers could do, seeing artwork, name tags and rallying cries on any surface they could be stuck to. So, on my way

back home, I got some cheap office labels from WHSmith and started brainstorming. Over time I've made hundreds of stickers and collected hundreds more from local and worldwide artists for spreading and sharing across the cities I roam, like little artwork installations.

### What do you enjoy most about the South West/Exeter creative community?

Tight knit togetherness and collaborativeness. As I've gotten to know more of the community in the city and seen more sticker artists spring up we've all found ourselves regularly getting together, throwing around ideas, having drawing sessions... We've all found ourselves really inspired by each other and I think that shows a lot when you see everyone's stickers around Exeter's streets, with friends' art being right next to each other, people having conversations with strangers through stickers, it's a very friendly and encouraging environment to be in.





## What advice would you give to other creatives who want to start their own practice?

Get started as soon as you can, but don't rush into it. Let yourself take the time to develop your craft, and have patience with yourself potentially being bad at things - I don't know anyone who was naturally talented at what it is they do without putting a lot of work over the years. Yes, you're going to suck at doing something new, even if you have some experience with other crafts, and yes, looking at other artist's work compared to your own can feel demoralising. Don't let it stop you. Embrace it, use it as a chance to experiment, let yourself truly have fun with the process and over time, you can learn methods for yourself that make things easier, pick up tricks that make your art look better, and in two to three years time, you'll be able to look at the art you do now, and then look at the art you did when you started, and say to yourself... "WOW, I SUCKED back then". Which is always a sign everything's getting better.

Find Fragment in Studio 1 at [Come As You Are](#) (Sun 17 Nov) for a Stickerbombing workshop and to see their stall at the Art Market.







## Alice Clough

### Artist's Moving Image Commission Update

Alice Clough is a research-led artist with a background in archaeology and anthropology. Her work interrogates cultural storytelling, asking questions like: which stories shape our lives? How do stories reside in objects and materials? Which stories take on a life of their own? Alice is making a film that explores the space between fact and fiction. Inspired by ancient myths and using traditional folk tales as a starting point, she will focus on horse-human relationships to ask what the nonhuman can teach us about kinship and care.

Alice has been busy collecting footage for her Artist's Moving Image commission 'I would crawl into a horse's left ear' and has shared some behind the scenes photos and updates with us!

#### How does your AMI commission relate to your practice?

For the last couple of years I have been making work about horses, initially inspired by living near Dartmoor and later by moving to a home where horses also live. This theme is continuing in my Artist Moving Image commission, which explores attention, closeness and relationships between humans and animals.

I'm using the commission as an opportunity to really deepen and expand my creative practice. Throughout the process I have been working with incredible mentors exploring filmmaking, writing, 16mm filming and processing, and sound design. Together, these skills are helping me develop a kind of expanded sculptural practice which feels very new and exciting to me.



## What have you been up to so far?

At the time of writing this I'm busy editing the various pieces of footage, text, and field recording into something that feels whole. Whereas many filmmakers might do detailed planning and storyboarding before they start filming, the fact that I've been working with horses has led to a more documentary style, where I am responding to what is happening in front of me and following my intuition. This approach has continued into the editing process, where I find myself having to make bold decisions about what to include or exclude.

## What have you enjoyed most about the process?

This commission has been such an enjoyable process, and a massive learning curve! It's been a series of firsts for me, from the first time using professional cameras and lenses to the first time collaborating and seeking support from other creative professionals. I think one of the loveliest things about it has been having a reason to spend long periods of time in the company of horses, and I also feel really excited by the sort of patchwork process of experimentation in the edit - seeing how image affects sound, words affect image, etc.

If I had to sum it up I'd say the commission is an incredible way to grow and evolve as an artist, especially if you are new to the world of moving image. I'm so grateful for the opportunity, and to the horses and humans who have been so generous along the way :)

We're looking forward to seeing the finished work at **Two Short Nights Film Festival** in February 2025. Find out more about Alice's work [here](#).





## Biophilia



In November South West Dance Hub are curating Biophilia, a trio of magical performances by Devon based artists from the collectives Swift Dance Co, Noon, and Chhya Youth. We chatted to Ruth Bell, member of SWDH and Swift Dance Co, about the inspiration behind the themes and curation of the event and the importance of collaboration and creative collectives.

### **How has the natural world informed or inspired your performance?**

The initial inspiration for Glimpses of Wonder came from the collections of sea creatures within RAMM. I became interested in this human need to place specimens behind glass and dissociate ourselves from the natural world. My question is how do we view our place within nature and how can we reconnect to our animal selves and the natural world? My work is often inspired by landscape, nature and what it means to be human. The costumes for this project are inspired by the glass sculptures of Steffan Damm, RAMM.

### **What do you enjoy most about being part of a collective/group?**

Being part of the Swift Dance Company and South West Dance Hub offers me space to explore ideas, take risks and develop new work. I love the mix of artists we work with and the support being part of a collective offers. I feel very lucky to be part of this creative mixing pot.



## What advice would you give to people wanting to get involved in the South West dance/performance scene?

Come to the South West Dance Hub, at the Exeter Phoenix on Tuesdays. We are a very welcoming space, encouraging collaboration and offering professionally facilitated sessions in an experimental and supportive atmosphere. We welcome dancers and makers who wish to deepen their practice and connect with others. We also encourage artists from other disciplines who wish to explore collaboration with dance.

Join us for [Biophilia](#) on Tue 26 Nov, 7.30pm, and head to our website to find out more about each collective and how you can get involved.





## **Watershed Winter Residencies 2025 | Deadline: Mon 04 Nov**

Watershed's Winter Residencies offer an opportunity to develop an idea merging art and technology, that responds to the theme of Actual Reality. This is a chance to share ideas, meet incredible people, experiment, make and think.

There are two residencies available. Each comes with a structured programme, work space at the Pervasive Media Studio, a network of peers, plus financial, technical and critical support. This is a rare opportunity for people who make artwork with technology, to have time, resources and freedom to get an idea off the ground.

[Find out more here](#)

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## **CAMP Programme Coordinator | Deadline: Mon 11 Nov**

A Programme Coordinator is required to support CAMP to deliver its programme (including workshops, residencies, member-initiated events) alongside associated tasks including managing budgets, maintaining the CAMP website, preparing the monthly Newsletter, communications, promotion and supporting the team of co-directors. Initially the contract is for 1 day-per-week for 3 months.

[Find out more and apply](#)

## **Barnstaple Town Centre Public Art Commission | Deadline: Mon, 18 Nov, 5pm**

Are you an artist who is passionate about making public art that engages with local heritage, addresses modern needs, and is valued by the community and its visitors? Flourishing Barnstaple is seeking accomplished public realm artists to create iconic works for Barnstaple town centre.

The total budget for all the commissions is £200,000, to be divided between the selected works. This could involve a single large commission or several smaller ones - please come up with your best ideas.

We welcome applications from artists at all stages of their careers, including students and recent graduates.

[Apply here](#)

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# OPPORTUNITIES

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## **Theatre West: Coralations | Deadline: 28 Feb**

120 plays and 35 years later, Theatre West is celebrating its coral anniversary with a brand new project! In a tough new writing landscape, but with our new BOV Associate Company residency, we want the women in our region to get writing over the next 18 months.

[Find out more here](#)

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Sam Gilroy is a producer seeking projects to support: she helps artists with planning, project management, coordinating, budgeting, administrating, and marketing tasks for projects to run smoothly.

Sam is also a free funding bid writer currently working with artists in the South West, as an Access Support Writer on Arts Council England's (ACE) National Lottery Project Grants and funding for Developing Your Creative Practice. Sam can offer DYCP and NLPG support for artists who are disabled, neurodivergent or have a long term health condition.

Are you thinking of applying for a Project Grant, or DYCP funding from Arts Council England (ACE)? Do you face barriers to making an application through disability, neurodivergence or a long term health condition? Sam can support you with making your application free of charge, as the service is fully funded by Arts Council England. You can apply for NLPG access support anytime. You can apply for DYCP access support from 14th October, ready for the next round of DYCP applications which opens on 14th November 2024, with a project start date from March 2025 onwards. Get in touch if you're looking for an access support worker, or want to find out more about the process.

Contact [samgcreates@gmail.com](mailto:samgcreates@gmail.com), and check out her website: [www.samgcreates.com](http://www.samgcreates.com)

## **Exeter Phoenix South West Animation Film Fund**

**Deadline: Sun 17 Jan**

Exeter Phoenix will offer one South West based filmmaker £500 in cash funding to support the production of a short animated film which is 3-5 minutes in length. The fund includes access to mentoring, training and equipment.

The production could use a range of animation styles such as hand-drawn, CGI or stop-motion. Applicants will be required to pitch their ideas at Two Short Nights Film Festival, Thu 6 Feb 2025.

[Find out more and apply here](#)

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## **Literature Works - TLC Free Reads | Deadline: Sun 01 Dec**

Literature Works are offering low-income writers in the South West the opportunity to get free professional, constructive feedback on their writing via The Literary Consultancy, the UK's leading editorial consultancy. The scheme is open to writers across all forms and genres and is a brilliant opportunity to progress with your writing.

[Apply here](#)







## Networking

- [Playwrights Cafe Exeter](#) | First Thursday of the month | Exeter Phoenix | £6 OTD
- [Reclaim Presents: Creative Gathering](#) | Thu 14 Nov, 12pm | Exeter Northcott
- [Sketchbook Sessions](#) | Tue 19 Nov, 5.30pm – 8pm | Sacred Grounds cafe

## Professional Development

- [Legal issues - protecting yourself and your work](#) | Wed 06 Nov | 3pm - 5pm | Exeter Phoenix
- Physical Theatre & Dance Exploration with South West Dance Hub | Tuesdays, 3.30pm - 5pm | [Find out more](#)

## Recommended Events

- [Come As You Are](#) | Sun 17 Nov, 11am - 9pm | Exeter Phoenix
- [Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2024](#) | 28 Sep - 07 Dec | KARST, The Levinsky Gallery and MIRROR (Plymouth)
- [DOCLAB at Exmouth Film Festival](#) | Wed 20 Nov, 7pm | Scott Cinema, Exmouth
- [Reclaim Festival](#) | Mon 11 Nov - Sun 17 Nov | Exeter Northcott

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