# CREATIVE HUB
# DECEMBER EDITION

Welcome to your monthly update on all things creative in Exeter!

**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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## Quirk Theatre: The Fabric of Home

The Fabric of Home is a community exhibition currently in our Walkway Gallery by Quirk Theatre in partnership with Refugee Support Devon, HIKMAT and RAMM.

In Summer 2026, they led creative textile workshops for members of the Exeter community at RAMM as part of the development of their new festive show, Yeti. Led by local artist, Aga Eden, and inspired by flags and banners from cultures around the world, participants from Refugee Support Devon and Hikmat were invited to explore what home means to them whilst creating their very own personal fabric banner. We caught up with Quirk to find out more about the project.

**Tell us about the creative workshops you did - what were you inspired by and how have they fed into your show YETI?**

We make theatre for all generations and pride ourselves on being a meaningful alternative to panto during the festive season. Our shows always respond in some way to what's happening in the world, and try to tell stories that matter. We developed YETI last year, when there was a lot of tension around flags and identity and as a collective of artists we were keen to use art and creativity to gently shift the conversation. YETI follows the story of an isolated hilltop town reckoning with a new neighbour- a climate refugee yeti- so we were thrilled to get to work with Exeter's wonderful refugee, asylum seeker and migrant communities with The Fabric of Home project. It was such a joy to hold a creative, social, colourful space for members of Hikmat and Refugee Support Devon to play, make and eat together, led by brilliant



local artist Aga Eden. The aim was to create beautiful fabric banners that capture what home means to different people and we have a totally gorgeous display of the banners up in the Walkway Gallery at the moment. But we were also inspired by the conversations that were happening around the table, the acts of kindness we witnessed and the stories that we were told, all of which have made their way into the fabric of our show.

Aga said "This workshop was special on so many levels. Having lived in England for 20 years after moving from Poland, the idea of home has always interested me — like a plant that has been moved to a different part of the garden, finding new roots while still carrying the old ones. Working with Refugee Support Devon and Hikmat was a real joy. Listening to their stories opened my eyes to how many layers of identity we all carry; we are never just one thing. I loved seeing people proud of their creations, bringing their cultural symbols to the table, as well as being part of the show by helping Fi make the belly of the Yeti costume. It was especially meaningful for me that Katie Villa asked me to facilitate the workshops, as my nine-year-old son has grown up on Theatre Quirk's Christmas shows — this project has been really special for both of us."

- Aga Eden, artist lead

**Some of the creative outcomes are featured in the show - why was this important to you and how do you make the local community a part of your performances?**

Co-creation has become the beating heart of our company and how we make things. We are so deeply rooted in Exeter, we make our work here and perform it for Exeter audiences of all generations, and so it is a wonderful privilege to make that work with the local community. It's obviously a wonderful thing to do and creates valuable opportunities for local people to get involved in the arts. But for us it also just makes the work better! We find that the shows we co-create become so much richer, more relevant, layered and celebratory because of that collaboration. So it really is a total win win!

**What do you enjoy most about bringing these shows to local audiences?**

Everything! Exeter is our home and we love bringing a hilarious, heartwarming show to the Exeter Phoenix every year. It really is very special to create shows that are made in, with and for our local community. A Quirk show is often a child's very first experience of live theatre and that's a responsibility we take very seriously (whilst having a lot of fun). And the opportunity to display incredible artworks from our local community alongside it is a real dream come true.

**You can visit the exhibition in our Walkway Gallery until Sun 27 Dec and find out more about Quirk here.**



## Film Commission Updates

Every year Exeter Phoenix commissions new moving image work from artists and filmmakers based in the South West region. This years' commissions are well underway and we are pleased to be sharing some behind the scenes photos and updates from some of the films!

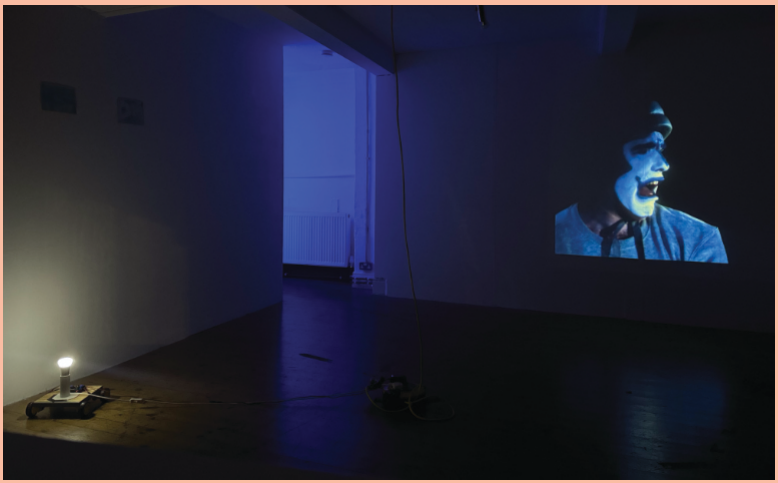
### Artists Moving Image Commission – Sam Machell: Colosseum / Abyssal Zone

Sam Machell is an artist, writer and game developer based in Plymouth. His multi-disciplinary practice networks drawings, texts, performances and videos to conjure absurd fictions. He is interested in knotty, complex ecologies and systems of power; in the emotional and bodily experiences of the frail consciousnesses caught within them.

For the artist moving image commission Sam will utilise ultra high frame rate cameras to capture and slow down choreographed movements of bodies and light to create sublime images of clowns in dance-like combat.

"The commissioned video work is its final stages of post production as we finalise the soundtrack mix. I recently experimented presenting the footage as an installation as a part





of my exhibition Battle of the Dying of the Light at 37 Looe Street (pictured, left)."

*This commission is generously supported by Indira Carr.*

**Micro Short Film Commission - Sam McLoughlin: My Beloved**



Sam graduated from a Film degree at Falmouth University in 2020, in which he specialised in location sound recording. More recently collaborating with filmmakers in the Southwest creating a plethora of short films, a feature film, and a TV pilot amongst many other projects.

'My Beloved' is a film that focuses on human emotion through the memories and connections we build through our lives with a key focus on the project's rich soundscape.

"We've now completed two of our three shoot days for My Beloved, with our final day of filming scheduled for the beginning of November. We're also making great progress in the edit, with a rough cut of the footage already taking shape. Discussions around the score and sound design are progressing really well, and it's fantastic to see everyone on the same page as we move into post-production. I can't wait to share the finished film with everyone in March!



**South West Short Film Commission - Daniel Granville: The Earthstoppers**

Daniel Granville is a British director and screenwriter. In 2025, he was a member of the Reykjavík International Film Festival Talent Lab. In 2024 he wrote and directed the horror short “Ghost Story” (2024), after winning the inaugural David Yates Fund, through Create Studios.

His new film, “The Earthstoppers”, inspired by the paintings of Joseph Wright of Derby, is a period horror set in 1773.

“We are in our editing phase, and the spirit of the film is taking on its form in exciting ways, through the pacing of event, and the elements of sound design. We’re very excited!”





**Find out more about our commissions past and present here.**




## Introducing our December 2026 Scratch Night Artists

Once again, Exeter Phoenix and Exeter Northcott Theatre are teaming up to bring you another fantastic Scratch Night. If you've ever wondered how great performance really comes to life, Scratch Night might just be the perfect event for you!

Scratch Night welcomes a vibrant mix of local theatre-makers, comedians, dancers, musicians, actors and clowns as they step out with brand-new ideas, near-polished gems and experimental moves. When you buy a ticket to a Scratch Night, you become one of the first people to see brand-new work-in-progress on the stage.

Our next collaborative Scratch Night will be hosted at Exeter Phoenix on Tue 01 Dec at 7pm, and we are pleased to announce the selected artists who will be bringing their new work to us on the day.



Photo credit - Edward Brown

### Going Nowhere Fast
### By Hannah Jacobs, Esme Lovell and Lucy Freeman

Going Nowhere Fast is a new dance theatre show performed on two static bicycles! It's a family friendly show that celebrates freedom and delight in cycling.

The dancers interact in unusual ways with two static bikes to create an energetic, humorous show that

entertains and surprises.

Through wacky costumes and bold choreography they embody characters we recognise lycra-clad sporty types, casual wheelers, commuters – and some we may not – the first female cyclists, aliens who have never seen bicycles before...

The piece takes the everyday activity of cycling, and makes it exciting and magical, encouraging audiences to be active and use this eco-friendly mode of transport safely.

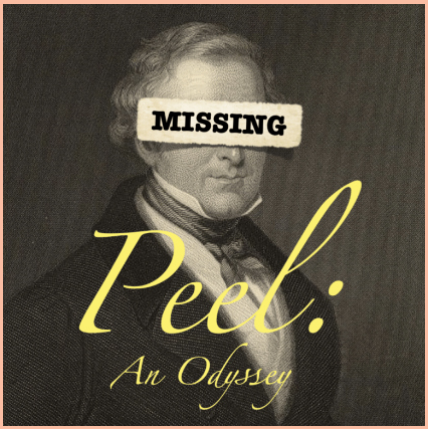


Image of Robert Peel taken from website Ranker: Famous people from bury.

**Peel: An Odyssey (Working Title) by James Phillips**

Peel: An Odyssey (Working Title), is based upon the historical and true story. In November 1834, King William IV appointed Robert Peel as Prime Minister after months of political turmoil. There is only one problem, he's on holiday in Europe. With no immediate way of contacting Peel, and with rumours that he is somewhere in Italy, 24 year old James Hudson is tasked to find him and bring him back home.

What unfolds is real life mishaps and mayhem as Hudson must travel through post revolutionary France and a fractured Italy, with everything and everyone against him. This is the story of the man history has chosen to forget, but without him British and political history could have been very different.

**Shed by Penny Nichols**

Frank has been kicked out by his wife. He's living in a bunker beneath the council park where he works. All he wants is a reconciliation; to go home to his wife and his neglected roses. But a teenage girl, Ellie, upends his life still further. She's homeless, vulnerable and a pain in the arse. He has a choice to make? Opt for an easy life? Or help her and face the consequences.


Photo credit - Ismay Fabling

Shed is a comedy/drama about a fragile, inter-generational friendship. It also answers questions that no-one asked for. Like; 'What time of year is good for pruning roses?' and 'Why has there only ever been one serial killer in Iceland?'



Photo credit - Daisy Higman

**Mockbeth by Struts and Frets (Daisy Higman and Jon Nash)**

Everyone wants to do Macbeth. It rocks. Sometimes Judi Dench is in it. Sometimes it is set on an oil rig. There are witches. And blood. And haggis (probably).

But what is the best way to do it? What hasn't been done yet?

Two actors want their big break have big ideas for how to stage the play.

If only they could agree...

Things could get a little ruff....

Katy Danbury (Exeter Phoenix Performance Programmer & Scratch Night producer) and Sam Parker (Northcott's Artist Development Producer) will be co-hosting a pre-Scratch gathering in the Workshop space at Exeter Phoenix from 6pm, inviting people to evaluate the year and feedback on the 2026 Scratch offer, suggest ideas on what you have seen work well elsewhere, and any other suggestions or thoughts you might have about the general artist development offer in Exeter. It is free to attend, but please email both Katy katy.danbury@exeterphoenix.org.uk and Sam S.Parker8@exeter.ac.uk to confirm your place so we have an idea of numbers.

**Join us for Scratch Night on the Tue 01 Dec at 7pm and be some of the first audience to see these bold, fresh, new work-in-progress performances!**

**FAILSPACE CHRISTMAS PARTY 2026 | Tue 15 Dec from 06.30pm**

Calling all South West artists! Failspace Christmas Party is an informal festive gathering for South West based artists, making a playful space to embrace FAILURE. Join us to reflect on your year of creating, share your glorious failures, and set some intentions for 2027.

This event is for creatives of any kind who are based in the South West, at all stages of their career – producers, makers, artists, performers, composers, poets, clowns – all are welcome. Especially those who haven't been to a Failspace before.

More information and free tickets here

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**Arts and Culture Producer and Fine Art Collection Lead | Deadline: 04 Dec**

The main purpose of the role is to support the delivery of the Arts and Culture Strategy, predominantly through managing projects, caring for the Fine Art Collection and providing advice and guidance to key stakeholders about embedding creative processes into University of Exeter activities, spanning research, teaching, student experience and civic engagement.

Find out more and apply

# OPPORTUNITIES

**Bristol Fringe Artist Grants | Deadline: Sun 03 Jan 2027 at 12pm**
Artist Grants are an opportunity for locally-based artists to deliver a project in response to the British Art Show 10 themes

Proposed projects must respond to the artist brief and can take the form of exhibitions / socially engaged or participatory arts projects / event-based projects including performances and screenings / artworks in a public realm / digital or print-based, and or other activity. You can apply for up to £5,000 (including VAT). The funding can be to continue something you are already doing, for a new activity, or testing new ideas.

Find out more and apply here

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**Spike Island Open Call 2028: South West-Based Artist Commission | Deadline: Sun 13 Dec**

Spike Island is pleased to invite applications from artists based in the South West of England to develop a major new commission to be presented in our galleries in summer 2028.

This is an exciting opportunity for an artist to realise ambitious new work(s) that they might not otherwise have the resources or opportunity to make. The successful artist will work closely with Spike Island's curatorial and technical teams to develop, produce and present the commission.

Find out more and apply

# OPPORTUNITIES

**Networking**

Playwrights Cafe Exeter

DOCLAB

Little Scratch Night

Exeter Film Collective

We Animate on Tues

**Professional Development**

South West Dance Hub

Exeter Film Collective Writing Group

**Recommended Events**

Exeter Seed Bank: Seed Packing Workshops | Sat 05 Dec, 2pm - 4pm

Pre-Scratch Night Gathering | Tue 01 Dec, 6pm

Connecting Regional Talent to National Platforms | Thu 14 Jan - Fri 15 Jan, 10am - 5pm

Intimations: Exhibition Tour and Book Launch | Sat 30 Jan, 12pm (tour) + 2pm (book launch)

# EVENTS IN EXETER

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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