



# THE SCRIPT'S THE THING!

DORSET FESTIVAL OF SCRIPTWRITING

Saturday 28th October 2023

Free Entry

DorchesterArts

Corn Exchange, [Dorchester](#) | Tom Browns

# Hello!

Welcome to Dorset's 1st Festival of Scriptwriting at the Corn Exchange and Tom Browns. We have a packed programme of scripts, talks and Q&As, a workshop, exhibitors, and everything scriptwriting – because The Script (Really!) is the Thing! You may have seen fantastic writers, actors, directors, and other creative professionals talking about the Festival on our social media – offering tips for writing and what they think makes a great script (@ScriptsTheThing/ Facebook: The Script's The Thing)

The Festival is completely FREE – so if you're interested in writing for performance whether as a professional writer or performer, if you're new to the craft, or if you just have an interest and LOVE watching plays, movies, TV ... and want to know more, then you're very welcome!

You can watch 15 minutes of work from over 70 scripts either excerpts from longer work or work that has been written specifically for the Festival. The writers take responsibility for presenting their work which means it will either be read by themselves, performed by actors or presented script in-hand. All the work is at different levels of development – some theatre work is ready to tour, other TV and film work is in development, and some work will be just story idea with characters that writers are keen to try out.

We hope you have a brilliant day journeying through a dazzling mix of drama, comedy, horror, family shows and romance! We can't guarantee that will all happen in one script, but there will be something for everyone in SIX spaces across the Corn Exchange and at Tom Browns. There'll be excellent coffee and pastries from the coffee box. Grab a pint and some food at Tom Browns and join us for the celebratory party with live music at 7pm from Stealing Whiskey.

And remember - the Script's The Thing!

Ed Viney – Festival Director  
Mark Tattersall – Artistic Director, Dorchester Arts

## DorchesterArts



With seed funding from



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# How to Use This Guide

Scripts are listed alphabetically by title of work followed by a list of talks and introductory events. You can also find a digital version of this guide on the Dorchester Arts website together with a downloadable spreadsheet listing all events by time.

There is a brief description of each script, plus three words chosen by the writer to give you a little bit more of what the piece is about. You'll also see the time and which venue the work is being performed in. For a map of the venues see the back of the guide.

Some of the Q&As and talks will be longer than 15 minutes.

Do make sure you give yourself enough time to arrive at each space – especially if going along or coming back to Tom Browns. You'll need 2-5 minutes to get from space to space. If you need assistance or information, please ask one of the stewards.

Everything will begin and finish promptly, but in most of the spaces you will be able to find standing areas towards the back if you're running a bit late or joining after another performance has just finished. There'll be seating available in all spaces – there is a lift for wheelchair access to the Town Hall (Performance Space 3 & Writers' hub) and Council Chamber (Performance Space 4).

A note on feedback: some writers may welcome conversation about their work and this will be indicated by them or by the hosts/stewards in each room. If you have been invited to feedback on the work or would like to make comment, you can use the QR code or printed questionnaires available in each space.

We would love to hear what you've enjoyed about the day and how you would like the Festival to develop and can be contacted at [scripts@dorchesterarts.org.uk](mailto:scripts@dorchesterarts.org.uk)



## A Dorset (Backyard) Wedding by Angie Porter

Ex-Rockstar turned TV Host, Davina Wild, is facing the end of her career unless she can increase the ratings and get a second series of "Backyard Wedding". On camera she is the glamorous fairy godmother to the brides, but off camera she is a raging hot mess with compassion fatigue. Will the team finish all the preparations within the 48-hour deadline, or will Davina's stress-filled antics unleash a nightmare wedding to remember? This wonderful cast of TV cast-offs could all be sent barking mad if not for the balancing presence of Massive Dog to calm the set. Strong language.

**TV – Comedy** Time: 12pm | Venue: Green Room

## A Feather on the Breath of Gawd by Simon MacDonald

In a time of global anxiety, two people agitate for change and meaning. For them it's about making their mark, but who will notice with everything else that is going on?

**Drama – Theatre – TV** Time: 12.15pm | Venue: Tom Browns

## A Girl's Girl by Ella Shipley

A one act play that explores the intricacies of adolescent friendships and the complexities of teenage sexuality. This particular extract is taken from a couple of pages into the play. Performed by Ella Shipley and Evie Molyneux.

**Drama – Comedy – Theatre** Time: 4.30pm | Venue: Green Room

## A Stranger on a Train by Will Benedict

A soliloquy inspired by a meeting on a train – the awkward interaction unwillingly collides the lives of four travellers and sends the speaker spiralling into the memories of an old childhood myth.

**Theatre – Drama – Comedy** Time: 10am | Venue: Green Room

## A Thing About Bing by Peter Gordon

Peter, about to perform, reminisces to his wife about the influence that his dad's "thing" about Bing Crosby had on his life.

**Musical nostalgia – Radio – Drama** Time: 10.10am | Venue: Town Hall

## A Tradition by Tom Marsh

The script is my adaptation of the Thomas Hardy short story 'A Tradition of Eighteen Hundred and Four'. This 15-minute excerpt is from the first half of the play.

**Historical – Theatre** Time: 1.30pm | Venue: Town Hall

## Act Your Age by Rosalyn Huxley

A rom-com in a retirement village. A story tackling ageism, jargon and the power of communal living, with laugh-out-loud moments and a happy ending. For integrated performances in non-theatre spaces, village halls, sheltered housing and pubs.

**Drama – Comedy – Community Theatre** Time: 12.10pm | Venue: Town Hall

## And Then There's Me and There's You by Emily Alder & Roni Neale

The play tells the story of two friends, Josie and Clara, as they try to navigate life growing up in rural Dorset. With social and educational pressures mounting, the play explores how their friendship changes as they grow up and try to find their place in the world.

**Theatre – Drama – Comedy** Time: 4.55pm | Venue: Town Hall

## Attic by Nat Wood

10 creepy china dolls and a hand drawn map of Horton-on-the-Green. What has been going on in the attic? For Sarah, David and their two children Lucas and Charlie, an influx of flies coming from the attic has them wondering what exactly is up there. Charlie thinks there's treasure, Lucas thinks it's the previous owner, now deceased. With a nosy neighbour watching their every move, the parents are trying to get a grip on the worsening situation. Is it just a misunderstanding or is there something more sinister afoot? An old house, a new family what could possibly go wrong!

**Comedy – TV – Family** Time: 4.45pm | Venue: Tom Browns

## Book Club by Katharine Jee

Book Club is a light comedy following five women's friendships, touching on the reality of post-natal depression and the challenges of living in a world where our lives play out on social media. New mum and wellness influencer Claire has the seemingly perfect life. On returning to her hometown, she attempts to live up to the polished online persona she's created, forced to confront her struggles with motherhood and discovering what's important.

**Theatre – Comedy – Drama** Time: 5pm | Venue: Magistrates Room

## Burner by Samuel Freeman

A young regional man recounts his time living in London when he unwillingly enters and struggles in a controlling relationship. After an attempted break up fails without him even realising, he is forced to pull off a heist-level escape from the big city. Funny, scary but ultimately thrilling, Burner explores the complicated and abstract world of non-violent abuse and how a victim can overcome, reflect and grow.

**Theatre – Twisted Rom-com – Thriller** Time: 2.45pm | Venue: Tom Browns

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## Call Yourself an Irishman by Declan Duffy

You're born in one country. But your parents come from a different one. So what does that make you? And what if the two countries in question share a history, a profound and complex history, one of conquest and subjugation, of resistance and rebellion? But which happen to be closest neighbours across the Irish Sea, and have grown to a mutual understanding, and (a sometimes uneasy) co-existence? Where do you, born and raised in one of those countries, but with ties and binds to the other, find your identity? How do you define yourself?

**Theatre – Autobiographical – Music** Time: 3.55pm | Venue: Town Hall

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## Carrion by Sally Whyte

A red kite, a buzzard and a kestrel meet at a roadside where they are on the lookout for their next meal. They jostle for position in this comic piece of writing as they exchange their views on endangered raptors, political awareness, and their preferred prey. When the buzzard takes a turn for the worse it gives rise to a somewhat mixed reaction... The piece is punctuated throughout with a delightful selection of bird puns. A playful entertainment with only one slightly rude word!

**Theatre – Drama – Comedy** Time: 1.15pm | Venue: Tom Browns

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## Cleansed by Hannah Soulsby-Phillips

Cleansed is a one-act play set in Ireland, which explores the plight of women in the Magdalene Laundries. The play spans the 1960s, 80s and 90s as we follow Mary's attempt to heal through retribution. The play weaves in and out of the Laundry and Care Home as a confused and frail old Nun tries to remember the part she played.

**Theatre – Drama** Time: 5.15pm | Venue: Tom Browns

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## Cold Store by Susie King

Inspired by Angela Carter's 'The Bloody Chamber', this one-woman show tells the story of a young wife. She waits in the basement of her husband's manor house, not entirely sure what to expect from him when he eventually arrives but trying to work out how she got there. Her story starts with their marriage, covers his previous wives and their mysterious disappearances, then explores her memories of the last weeks with him, and her increasing sense of danger. The gothic horror style encompasses themes of female sexuality, relationships within patriarchy and complicity.

**Theatre – Horror – One-Woman Show** Time: 1.30pm | Venue: Green Room

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## Days of Shaking by Rohan Gotobed

In the aftermath of the English Civil War, a faithless man goes on an Odyssey as he comes to terms with the acts he has committed. It was originally written for the Mercury Theatre in Colchester and I am currently redeveloping it.

**Drama – Thriller – Historical** Time: 12pm | Venue: Council Chamber

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## Erl King Will Do You Grievous Harm by Molly Dunne

This short piece was written in response to the 2015 radio production of 'The Skriker' by Caryl Churchill, directed by Sarah Frankcom. Churchill's 'nonsense speech' casts a hypnotic spell on the listener, telling the story of a malevolent shapeshifter. I paired this with Angela Carter's 'Erl-King', another shapeshifter from 'The Bloody Chamber'. This piece aims to combine the strange styling of Churchill's writing, with the dark explicit tones of Carter's character, all whilst reflecting the common themes of pursuit and manipulation of young women. It is explicit, deeply rooted in feminist criticism, and it is relevant now more than ever.

**Adult themes and strong language.**

**Theatre – Thriller – Horror** Time: 10.30am | Venue: Green Room

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## Every Little Thing by Jurassic Projects

A pilot project to create a short VR film that explores the beauty of the Dorset countryside from the back of a blood bike. As a volunteer rider brings a package from Cerne Abbas to Dorset Community Hospital, a woman's voice can be heard explaining how so much of what's important often gets overlooked or ignored, and why it's the little things that make such a crucial difference. Made with support from YFW (Yeovil Freewheelers) and thanks to Dorset County Hospital.

**VR – Short film – Drama** You can watch this film in the foyer area.

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## Face Time by Christopher Gill

The play takes place entirely in an 'online', Face Time scenario and consists of a lengthy group call between Dad and his three grown up children, all of whom live in different parts of the world but are used to regular online get-togethers. The four protagonists enter and leave the conversation pretty freely throughout as bits of their 'real' life get in the way. Dad spends the whole conversation trying to persuade his children to spend Christmas with him.

**Theatre – Drama – Comedy** Time: 1.30pm | Venue: Auditorium

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## Failure of the System by Lisa Wright

This is a cautionary tale about a young woman who has spent her lifetime since the age of 6 in the care system and now as an adult has all kinds of issues that interfere with and prevent her having the life she craves. Her resentments are simmering at the disparity of life, and they reach boiling point when she encounters the girl who has it all. Her rancour turns to unrelenting malice – this is Fatal Attraction Meets Falling Down.

**TV – Drama** Time: 3.10pm | Venue: Council Chamber

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## Flight of The Fearless by Ayse Muge Bakircioglu

Eliza Collinson, a workaholic who dedicated herself to working in the family company in A.I & Robotics after the loss of her mother, remembers her human side when she encounters an actor, Martin, at the park who is dressed as a giant sea urchin.

**Theatre – Film – Comedy** Time: 2.50pm | Venue: Magistrates Room

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## Flying Our Great and Glorious Flag by Alfie Brigstocke

Cole Brooks is a junior minister for our current government, sent forward to read a very aggressive statement addressing sexual assault allegations against three of his fellow party members. At least until the wheels completely come off, Brooks reveals the truth of what exactly has been happening in the Commons..

**Theatre – Drama** Time: 2.30pm | Venue: Town Hall

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## Fort by Tabitha Hayward

It's Iam on an Iron Age hillfort and 15-year-old best friends, Viv and Daisy, are waiting for a ghost to turn up. Daisy has seen him three times – apparently. He looks like a soldier and he sometimes catches and eats birds – apparently. Now Viv wants to see for herself. Set entirely on the hillfort, at the end of a summer when everything is changing, the play pushes the girls' friendship to its limits as both are forced to question who and what they can really believe. Fort is a new play developed with Dorset-based theatre company, Dorsetborn.

**Theatre – Drama – Comedy** Time: 3.45pm | Venue: Magistrates Room

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## **Fury by Alice Flynn**

Ruth lives a tidy life. Until a fox rips through her dreams. The wild awakens: Ruth walks the coast, alone, at a time of climate crisis, rape and femicide. The Furies – a raucous chorus – seek Ruth as their emissary of vengeance, offering: pleasure, freedom, an end to the domination of Earth and women. It's tempting... Ninety-minute drama (radio and stage). All-female cast. Embodied choral speech. Myth meets reality, inviting new narratives around power. Thanks to: Dorset Community Fund's CPD Bursary, managed by the Arts Development Company, mentor Anita Sullivan, Lighthouse Poole's Sanctuary 2023, ArtfulScribe, LITFEST 23, Activate Performing Arts. <http://www.alice-flynn.com>

**Drama – Radio – Genre-busting** Time: 4.25pm | Venue: Town Hall

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## **Headless by Colin Dowland**

Headless takes place on the singularly most important day of the educational year – school inspection day. It is an exploration of the farce that school inspections already are and an exposure of how skewed the education system is when the status, reputation, livelihood and futures of the staff are on the line. Headless is a one set, six-handed, two act farce with roles for 3 females and 3 males. In May 2019, Headless won the prestigious Liverpool Hope Playwriting Prize...then lockdown came. It is a national award-winning play, by a Dorset writer, yet to receive its World Premiere.

**Theatre – Comedy** Time: 4.30pm | Venue: Council Chamber

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## **Henry, Dearest! By Gary Dooley**

Deep in the Sussex countryside, female impersonator Henry Horn lives trapped in the persona of Hollywood screen icon Joan Crawford. The arrival of a new 'Christina' sparks a catastrophic series of events culminating in a deadly showdown between 'Joan' and her arch nemesis, Bette Davis. This tragi-comic, full-length play is the bastard lovechild of Pirandello's 'Henry IV', and 'Mommie Dearest'. It asks serious questions... why do we choose the identities we do? What's left when we finally stop playing a role? ... and what happened to all the bloody wire coat hangers?

**Drama – Comedy – Theatre** Time: 2pm | Venue: Green Room

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## **In Search of Stardom & Plastermind by Sue Wylie**

In Search of Stardom (excerpt from a full-length script) Based on her own experiences, Sue Wylie's In Search of Stardom lifts the lid on the trials and tribulations of becoming an actress. From the Brownies to Basingstoke via Botox, it's a rollercoaster ride... Plastermind (comedy sketch) Sue Wylie (Kinetics, What A Load Of Balls: The Parkinson's Lottery) takes to the famous black chair to answer questions on her specialist subject – her body and Parkinson's...

**Topical – Theatre – Real Life** Time: 11.30am | Venue: Green Room

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## **I See You by Erin De Frias**

New to the quiet life of living in the West Country, Cam has decisions to make when she falls for the boy in the grocery store. Should she carry on pretending to be the perfect example for the children she teaches? Or should she admit her side business, as an online sex worker?

**Theatre – Drama – Rom-com** Time: 5.30pm | Venue: Green Room

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## **Jackie and Will by Will McConnell & Jackie Webb**

Songs with short sketches about the joys of middle-age!

**Sketch show – Comedy – Cabaret** Time: 6pm | Venue: Magistrates Room

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## **Knocking Off by Vince Jones and James Cuthill**

Knocking Off is a two-handed comedy for two females set in a seaside clairvoyant's psychic's tent.

**Theatre – Comedy** Time: 1pm | Venue: Green Room

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## **Laura's Birthday – 50 Years, 5 Friends, 1 Weekend by Perwina Whitmore & others**

Laura invites her somewhat mismatched friends on a weekend away to celebrate her fiftieth birthday. She hopes for fun and laughter, not misery and chaos. A collaborative project written by Perwina Whitmore, Gail Aldwin, Maria Pruden-Meads, Sarah Scally, with additional contributions from Jane Rayner.

**Film – Drama – Community Theatre** Time: 12.50pm | Venue: Town Hall

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## **Life After £20 by Adam Forster**

A fast-paced female-led comedy drama centred around a first-time offender trying to set things right. The only problem is she's dead.

**Comedy – Genre-busting – Murder mystery** Time: 3.45pm | Venue: Tom Browns

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## **Lions Led by Donkeys by Tim Baker**

A two-hander involving First Earl Douglas Haig meeting with Dee Dee Eath (Death) in Purgatory while he waits for "The Powers That Be" to decide his fate. Has history been unkind to Haig or does he deserve his nickname "Butcher Haig?" A short piece that will entertain and inform.

**Drama – Comedy – Historical** Time: 1.45pm | Venue: Tom Browns

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## **Lucks by Alex Wallace**

A house can be decorated with the nicest furnishings money can buy, fortunately for the impoverished Lucks the feeling of "home" can't be bought. Recently widowed, Penny (33) struggles through life with her four children. There are the eccentric twins, Tuppence (16) and Guinea (16), Shilling (14) the adventurer of the family and finally Florin (13) a sometimes taxidermist. This close-knit family rent a small scruffy house on the harbourside of Port Gannet. Unluckily for them, new properties are springing up around them as part of a luxury complex and somehow their little house is beginning to be in the way of all the building works.

**Drama – TV – Comedy** Time: 4.30pm | Venue: Auditorium

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## **Misplaced (3 scenes from a film script) by Mark Tattersall**

Against all odds, a teenage refugee from Sarajevo finds love and hope in London, but the pull of his war-torn homeland proves hard to resist. Misplaced is the story of a refugee; of a young life shattered and the effort to rebuild it; of lost love and the quest to find it; of a moment of happiness remembered, and the fear of destroying a perfect memory by trying to recapture it.

**Film – Drama – Romcom** Time: 12.30pm | Venue: Council Chamber

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## **Octopus by Stephanie Dale**

We're sharing the first scene from a gritty new play called Octopus, which follows the antics of a seemingly promiscuous middle-class man and his encounters with various people across Birmingham. As the play progresses, the audience realise nothing is what it seems and witness how quickly all that someone knows and loves can disintegrate. The piece is directed by Chloe Masterton, performed by Lisa Linscott and Richard Crisp.

**Contemporary – Drama – Sexy** Time: 5.55pm | Venue: Town Hall

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## Pass Time by William Powell

Abel Revel, an ex-youth pastor now working at a launderette, can see the fate of strangers mere hours before they take their own lives. Be these vile visions a gift or a curse, Abel must uncover the interconnectivity which leads these damaged individuals to such fatal extremes, in order to help them help themselves, and discover the theological circumstances of this strange power. This is an ambitious and audacious limited series which centres around godlessness, forgiveness, and the forgotten kindness found in the stranger. A theme not only contemporarily pressing but also personally near and dear to the writer.

**Drama – TV – Thriller** Time: 5.25pm | Venue: Town Hall

## Peace Unknown by Wendy Maggs

Set in a pub the character of Mary is the willing accomplice to Leigh's desire, secondary characters help to drive the plot forward. Along with dramatic suspense the script includes elements of dark humour and shows a shift of status between characters. **Strong language.**

**Theatre – Comedy – Crime** Time: 4.15pm | Venue: Tom Browns

## Power Play by Gavin Egan

This is the second mini play in a planned series of five. It is a humorous look at how power and control can quickly shift and change. Will the spider win? Strong language – 16+

**Theatre – Drama – Comedy** Time: 4pm | Venue: Green Room

## Pumpkins by Brave Bold Drama

Stand in solidarity with the gourd family by taking the pumpkin pledge! Join forces with Gourdon and Melonie as they invite you to reflect on your Halloween waste habits in this silly, not-at-all-scary, sketch perfect for October month! Featuring original song, clowning and some gentle audience interaction. Suitable for all ages.

**Theatre – Comedy – Halloween** Time: 12.40pm | Venue: Magistrates Room

## Rank by Dan Gaisford

A taxi driver recounts an epic encounter with a young woman and her two small children as they travel cross country to buy a horse. As the odyssey unfolds and the woman's plight becomes known, the taxi driver must decide whether to get the job done or act like a decent human being. But, as he battles to tell his tale against the backdrop of an ever-ringing phone, it is apparent he has become far more involved in the lives of his passengers than he ever intended.

**Theatre – Comedy – Thriller** Time: 12.55pm | Venue: Auditorium

## Searching for Marketa by Tony Horitz

An attempt to use theatre to explore family history, in particular my Czech Jewish relatives, who perished in the Holocaust. The play combines several art forms, storytelling poetry, music and video to explore childhood memory and imagine memory.

**Theatre** Time: 10.50am | Venue: Town Hall

## Sex Litter by Michael Sells

The piece is inspired by certain spots in Bournemouth and Sussex. It is loosely based on real-life events that took place in Bournemouth/Brighton. Two sex workers were terrorising the local gay cruising community. The play explores male sexuality and the power dynamics between the lover and the loved.

**Drama – Real-life – Thriller** Time: 5pm | Venue: Green Room

## Smile and Nod by David Young

My screenplay is about a trip full of hectic and unhelpful experiences where we see a disabled person's courage to keep laughing through adversity. The script aims to show the ableism in society and how it grates on a disabled person. It follows Gary, a communication aid user, and his carer Penelope to the big city from the comfort of their home in the South West. They encounter all types of people, helpful and ignorant, whilst Gary narrates his funny internal monologue. At his final destination, Gary explodes in anger at the lack of sensitivity and thoughtlessness to disabled people.

**Film – Drama – Comedy** Time: 1.25pm | Venue: Council Chamber

## Sniper by John Foster

Sniper is a surreal drama concerning a nondescript man who has murdered numerous people in a gun-attack on a peaceful square in a Cathedral city. The play imagines that the sniper is dead, having 'turned the gun on myself,' and is speaking in direct address to the audience, all of whom are also dead and who constitute the sniper's assembled victims. Two victims complete the three-member cast and, while acting as a chorus, become inveigled in debate concerning media hysteria, stereotyping and monsterring, fidelity with the truth of what actually happened, the capriciousness of memory and the vagaries of verification.

**Theatre – Drama** Time: 10.05am | Venue: Council Chamber

## Speedy by Deborah Angharyd Beale

A family feud and snail racing. Family dynamics and relationships. A family drama using fun and music with songs and puppets.

**Puppetry – Drama – Children/Family** Time: 11.50am | Venue: Magistrates Room

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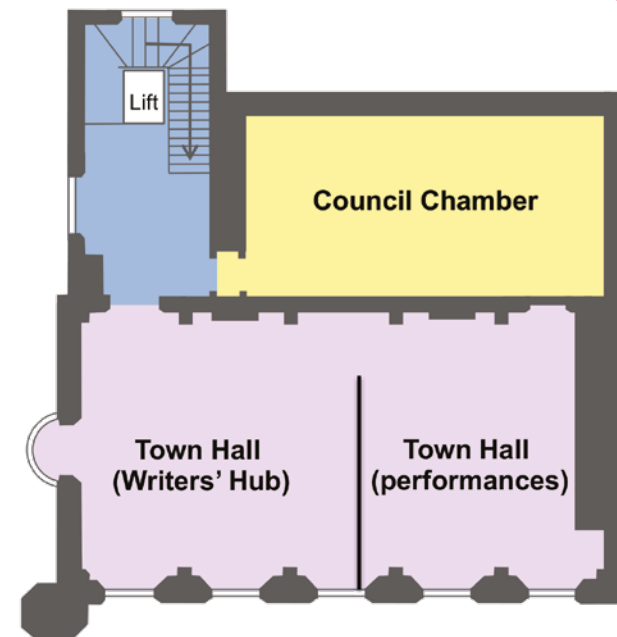
the art of shock wave

# Corn Exchange guide

## GROUND FLOOR



## FIRST FLOOR



## Spitfire Girls by Katherine Senior

1959. New Year's Eve. Two sisters, separated by the war, finally meet again as the rain hammers down on the windows of The Spitfire pub. As the two women mine their memories, we're transported back to the moment they replied to the advertisement that changed their lives forever. "It's built for us, isn't it? The Spitfire. Built for Women". Inspired by the extraordinary true story of the female pioneers who flew thousands of aircraft during WWII & the incredible bond that ties these two women together.

**Theatre – Drama – Historical** Time: 3.30pm | Venue: Auditorium

## Spitfire Patrol by Charly Armstrong

Set during the Second World War, the play follows an ambitious group of Girl Guides whose otherwise peaceful patrol camp is disturbed by the arrival of an injured German "spy". His appearance in camp, and the top-secret information he discloses, forces them to step up and take action, though their combined skill sets leave much to be desired.

**Theatre – Comedy – Outdoor Performance** Time: 10.35am | Venue: Magistrates Room

## Stud by Emily MacBean

A short comedy play set in a sex clinic. The story delves into three female characters, all dealing with sexual repercussions such as pregnancy, emergency contraception and sexual transmitted diseases. The three girls from different backgrounds realise they have one thing in common; the man that is at the route of their sexual situations.

**Drama – Comedy – Sketch Show** Time: 11.30am | Venue: Council Chamber

## Tattoo by The Outsiders Project (performance – 30mins)

We are the originals. The Outsiders. We scar our bodies to never forget. Every tattoo has a story and these have never been heard before. With stories from prison, the depths of addiction and recovery rooms – we tell the stories buried under ink and time. They're raw, exquisite, fearless, and uncensored. Every word is written and performed by our outstanding outsider artists. Expect strong language, uncensored stories and brilliant writing.

**Theatre – True Stories – Drama** Time: 2pm | Venue: Council Chamber

## That Was Him and This is Me by Tim Poultney

An exploration of memory, identity and trauma – Anita just wants an apology from Pat, while Pat just wants to know who Anita is and who she was to him.

**Theatre – Drama – Romance** Time: 2.15pm | Venue: Tom Browns

## The Cypriot Olive Tree by Sharon Coyne

The Cypriot Olive Tree is an investigation into our origins. It asks questions about nature and nurture. The first act is a conversation between two middle-aged women who grew up together. Jen has recently discovered through a DNA test that she is not where she originally thought she came from. Lottie questions if this discovery really makes any difference. After all, Jen's adopted parents were good people. The second act moves into a fantasy world. It is there that a conversation takes place between a daughter and her lost father. The play is based on personal experience.

**Theatre – Radio – Drama** Time: 2.30pm | Venue: Auditorium

## The Deprivation of Liberty by David Emery

A comedy about mental health services.

**Theatre – Comedy** Time: 5pm | Venue: Council Chamber

## The Devil and the Philanthropist by Teddy Monroe

I got dumped in Dorset in the bleak mid-winter of 2020. My girlfriend at the time was from Bournemouth. We took a road trip around the Dorset area, exploring the majestic lands and rather flat, rolling hills (if you'll pardon the oxymoron). Then on a particularly calm evening sitting by a fire, she found a small pocket knife, tore out my heart and started burning it. Not the most enduring connection to Durnovaria but very substantial in my growth or degrowth. The script is a focused exploration of transphobia, using the classic tale of an encounter with the devil.

**Theatre – Dark Comedy** Time: 3.30pm | Venue: Green Room

## The Moselle Inheritance by Chip Tolson

Old friends, recently moved to Dorset hold a party for Julia to introduce her father, Sir Gerald Keble. A bitter argument breaks out between Virginia and Anne-Marie breaking up the party. The argument brings home to Sir Gerald the secrets he has buried of his criminal past as a soldier in post war Germany.

**Theatre – Radio – Drama** Time: 2.30pm | Venue: Green Room

## The Jam Factory or As a Man is, so he Sees by Joe Collins

We see things differently, as do the two leads in the script. A comedy based on a true story!

**TV – Theatre – Radio** Time: 3pm | Venue: Green Room

# DorchesterArts

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## The Secret Life of Carolyn Russell by Gail Aldwin

A monologue where a redundant journalist reflects on her career and plots a way forward. While sorting her study ready to rent out as a bedroom for a lodger, Stephanie discovers clippings from her early days as a trainee reporter at the West Country Post. She finds one about the missing schoolgirl Carolyn Russell and wonders what happened to her in 1979. At the time, Stephanie was reprimanded for inaccurate reporting on the case. Could developing a podcast be a means of correcting her earlier mistakes and help to find out what really happened to Carolyn Russell?

**Theatre – Drama** Time: 3.15pm | Venue: Tom Browns

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## The Train by Ella Ritsema

A play about 12 normal people on a train which mysteriously stops when a storm is quickly brewing outside. It increasingly becomes scarier for the passengers, especially as all contact to the outside world gets cut off. The beginning of the play shows the passengers.

**Theatre – Drama – Thriller** Time: 10.45am | Venue: Auditorium

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## The Witches of Door Chester by Olivia Murphy

Wendy and Wilma are sisters with a love of trick or treating (or stealing children's sweets!). This year they are in the town of Door Chester and Wendy is hoping for a Toblerone. What lengths will she go to? And why does Wilma keep falling off her broom? Expect silliness, suitable for all ages. (co-written with Katharine Jee).

**Theatre – Family – Halloween** Time: 10.05am | Venue: Magistrates Room

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## The Women by Olivia Gagan

Widowed and facing financial ruin, Johanna Van Gogh's last hope lies in selling the unorthodox paintings of her late brother-in-law, Vincent. But when she struggles to find any buyers, Johanna realises that she must delve deeper into the mind of the artist himself.

**Drama – TV – Historical** Time: 11.20am | Venue: Magistrates Room

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## There's a lot I need to tell you by Brook Hopper

It's a bittersweet exploration of grief and how it helps and hinders us. The 15-minute section I'm submitting doesn't reveal this, but the entire events of the play are all within the mind of the protagonist, imagining moments he can no longer have with his father.

**Theatre – Drama** Time: 12.30pm | Venue: Green Room

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## This Frame is Part of the Painting by Maya Pieris

A monologue in 3 sections about a woman trying to come to terms with life. Each section gets closer to the person and problem(s).

**TV – Theatre – Talking Heads** Time: 11am | Venue: Green Room

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## Three Dog Day by Peter Ludgate

The visit to an elderly relative no-one wants - including the relative.

**Radio – Theatre – Drama** Time: 12.45pm | Venue: Tom Browns

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## What Happened on Dorset Street by Matthew Emeny

Set in Bath's own Oldfield Park, a young couple battles with the terrors of a new dooming virus from their living room, making them forced to survive and resist the pressures of conspiracy that begin to surround them. This is an extract taken from the final monologue, set 5 years after the event of the play, commissioned back in 2020 by Wassail Theatre and Arts Council England. Written and performed by Matthew Emeny.

**Dark Comedy – Thriller** Time: 5.45pm | Venue: Tom Browns

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## What Have You Got Against Gaby Roslin? by Noni Lewis

Is it really our oldest friends who know us best? Or is it with them that we feel most trapped? Trapped in our pasts along with all of the teenage behaviours that continue to define us, two old friends get actually trapped in spooky surroundings on a pleasant day trip, which leads to a warm and comedic exploration of their friendship – and the discovery that after 30 years, people can still surprise you.

**Theatre – Drama – Comedy** Time: 3.25pm | Venue: Town Hall

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## When Shall We Three Meet Again? by Christine Diment

A short light-hearted sketch which looks at the insincerity of three female friends who meet up for a get together having not seen each other for several years.

**Theatre – Comedy** Time: 2.05pm | Venue: Magistrates Room

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## When We Were Magnificent by Hettie Hudson

Two boys dream of sharing their stories with the world, and as the dream becomes a reality truths are revealed and people get hurt.

**Drama – Romance – Historical** Time: 1.25pm | Venue: Magistrates Room

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## Written Off by Lucinda Osmond

A fifty-five-year-old woman is forced to re-evaluate who she is and what she has to contribute to a world that seems to have written her off when her partner leaves her for her best friend.

**TV – Drama** Time: 11.30am | Venue: Town Hall

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## YOU by Linda Morse

YOU is an experimental drama for two actors and a hat stand. It is designed to give the actors and the audience a creative space in which to decide what is taking place, between the three characters.

**Theatre – Drama** Time: 6pm | Venue: Green Room

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## Stealing Whiskey

After the Festival, join us for THE celebratory party with live music from Stealing Whiskey! (tickets £5 - see website)

**Music**

Time: 7pm | Venue: Corn Exchange



# Talks & Events

## From First Spark to First Night – Playwright & screenwriter Jemma Kennedy (Q&A – 30 mins)

The work of playwright and screenwriter Jemma Kennedy has been seen internationally, and at Hampstead Theatre and the National Theatre London. Having grown up in Dorset, she'll talk about things that have transformed her writing and you'll be able to ask questions about practical tips that can refresh and strengthen your writing. Find Jemma's book, *The Playwright's Journey*, at the Nick Hern Book stand in the writers' hub which will help you to transform ideas into stories that feel alive on the page, the stage, and the screen.

Time: 2pm | Venue: Auditorium



## Where Do You Start Writing? – Ashley Pharoah (Q&A – 30mins)

Screenwriter Ashley Pharoah (*Life on Mars*, *Ashes to Ashes*, *Wild at Heart*, *Around the World in 80 Days*) talks about the joys and pains of writing for screen. From beginnings to creating some of the most successful British television in recent years, how does a screenwriter turn ideas into award-winning projects? And how would you start writing for screen if you were to start from now?

Time: 4pm | Venue: Auditorium



## Writing Dialogue That Matters: Making the Audience Care – John Foster (talk – 30 mins)

John Foster, playwright and BAFTA award-winning screenwriter (*Z Cars*, *Crown Court*, *Letters from a Killer*), tackles the essence of great scripts: making the audience care! How do you make great stories play on stage and on the screen? What is convincing dialogue? And how does great dialogue also power the plot?

Time: 10.35am | Venue: Council Chamber

## Bridport Arts Centre – Claire Tudge, Director (introductory event – 15mins)

Claire Tudge, newly appointed Director of Bridport Arts Centre, talks about the responsibility of investing in new work. How does a venue like Bridport Arts Centre take risk and help support the development of new work? Come and meet Claire – a champion of the South West! – and continue the conversation in the writers' hub.

Time: 2.30pm | Venue: Magistrates Room

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## Using Comedy Sketches to Spark Ideas for Scripts – Gavin Egan & Richard Law (event – 30mins)

In this fun session, we look at the process behind creating and writing engaging comedy sketches. How can you use short form improv to develop characters and themes in longer scripts? We'll read and deconstruct finished sketches, then look at creating a new one from scratch – with your help! Gavin and Richard have written and performed many sketches together on the Hampshire comedy circuit, and Richard has also written sketches for BBC comedy shows. Strong language 16+.

Time: 5.40pm | Venue: Council Chamber

## The Writers' Guild of Great Britain (WGGB) – Joe Abel (introductory event – 15mins)

Joe Abel from the Writers' Guild of Great Britain (WGGB) talks about the work of the trade union that represents professional writers in TV, film, theatre, audio, books, comedy, poetry, animation and videogames. WGGB negotiates better pay and working conditions for writers and campaigns and lobbies on issues that affect them. Its members also include emerging and aspiring writers, including students. In this session, Joe will outline key information and resources the union has developed to help writers, producers, venues and others that commission writers ensure fair, equitable practice. You can then find Joe and Sarah Swords (WGGB Wessex Regional Representative) in the writers' hub to ask further questions.

Time: 11.50am | Venue: Writers' Hub/Alcove in the Town Hall

WGGB THE WRITERS' GUILD

## What Makes a Great Script? – Oriane Messina (Q&A – 30mins)

TV, Film and Radio writer Oriane Messina (*Green Wing*, *Death In Paradise*, *Brief Encounters*) talks about what she thinks makes a great script! Come and ask some questions about comedy and drama writing as well as chat about her most recent works writing on *Breeders* for Martin Freeman.

Time: 5pm | Venue: Auditorium



## Bringing Scripts to the Stage with Tilted Wig Productions – Katherine Senior & Matthew Parish (Q&A – 15 mins)

Katherine Senior and Matthew Parish formed Tilted Wig Productions in 2017. They have over 15 years' experience producing and touring plays throughout the UK both as Tilted Wig and Creative Cow – a Devon-based theatre company co-founded in 2007. Over this time they have taken over 20 productions out on the road. In this Q&A, they'll talk about their latest production *Frankenstein*, how theatres look for a title to attract audiences, and how they bring together a vibrant and innovative team to create opportunities for writers.

Time: 2.55pm | Venue: Writers' Hub/Alcove in the Town Hall

## From Page to Performance – Natasha Nixon (workshop – 45 mins)

"What happens in a rehearsal room when you hand the script over? How does a company interpret your writing?" Director Natasha Nixon has worked with playwrights including Mike Bartlett, Simon Stephens and Moira Buffini and with directors Nick Hytner, Marianne Elliott, Ian Rickson and James MacDonald. In this practical demonstration Natasha is accompanied by two actors to demonstrate how what you write on the page can come to life.

Time: 11.55am | Venue: Auditorium



## Writing Epic Drama for a Large-Scale cast – Stephanie Dale (talk – 30mins)

Stephanie Dale talks about the process behind Dorchester's community play, *Spinning the Moon*, and Poole's community play, *Salt*, created with Angel Exit. How does a playwright combine historical incident, enthralling narrative, and opportunity for a cast size of nearly a hundred?! Stephanie has written some of the UK's most prestigious large-scale plays and she is currently developing an outdoor show for Ludlow Castle. In addition, she writes for stage and BBC Radio Four, with a particular focus on the environment and the refugee crisis. Her most recent play *Losing Paradise* can be found on BBC Listen Again. For further information, please go to [www.stephaniedale.org](http://www.stephaniedale.org)

Time: 3.40pm | Venue: Council Chamber

### **Dorsetborn – Rohan Gotobed (introductory event – 15mins)**

Rohan Gotobed (Writer, Director of Dorsetborn) will talk about their work across Dorset including their recent tour of 'Georgia and the Iceberg' and 'Pride', a new immersive audio drama at Kingston Lacy. He'd love to meet new writers with links to Dorset for an upcoming project and is always available for dramaturgical support.

Time: 11.00pm | Venue: Writers' Hub/Alcove in the Town Hall

### **The Work of DYT – Jo Simons (introductory event – 15 mins)**

DYT (Dorchester Youth Theatre) is for young people 6-19+ who have a passion for theatre and are interested in performance. Artistic Director Jo Simons talks about the importance of script in their work, and the challenges in finding a suitable play! Jo gives an overview of DYT's work, including recent productions and future projects.

Time: 12.30pm | Venue: Writers' Hub/Alcove in the Town Hall

### **Writing a Great Script & How the NT Bring New Work to the Stage – Jessy Roberts (talk – 30mins)**

Jessy Roberts, Senior Reader at The National Theatre, gives a personal view of what makes a great script and how the NT develops new writing for the stage. Does the NT accept unsolicited scripts? What happens when you send a script in? What's the role of the NT Studio in developing new writing for the stage? This will be your opportunity to ask some questions about how the National Theatre works with new and established writers.

Time: 11.15am | Venue: Auditorium



### **What's NEW at Portsmouth's New Theatre Royal? – with Dr Anna Farthing (introductory event – 15mins)**

The New Theatre Royal is a receiving house with strong community links, comprising a beautiful Grade II\* listed Phipps/Matcham Victorian theatre and the Minghella Studio. Dr Anna Farthing became CEO of New Theatre Royal in September 2023. She has a track record of creating new work for media and performance and supporting others to do so. Anna is interested in exploring how new work for mid-scale touring can be created through collaboration between writers, producers, venues and audiences. You are invited to bring ideas and experiences to share during this session and continue the conversation in the writers' hub.

Time: 1pm | Venue: Council Chamber

### **Co-Creating Scripts; inclusive writing with communities – Gemma Alldred (talk – 15mins)**

Gemma specialises in community arts practice and has been working in the arts since 2007 as a theatre writer, performer and director. In this session she talks specifically of her work as a writer with Extraordinary Bodies Young Artist, exploring how she used her range of experiences to work with the young company, to co-create a script from their ideas and voices, that was accessible both to be performed for a cast, and received by an audience of disabled and non-disabled people.

Time: 12.15pm | Venue: Magistrates Room

### **The Script's Not The Thing! – Kas Darley and Mark Stevenson (talk – 30mins)**

Teatro Vivo is a critically acclaimed theatre company making playful and exciting immersive shows in unusual spaces. They tell stories in surprising ways – bringing Shakespeare to supermarkets, exploring The Odyssey on the streets of Deptford, or reimagining the story of Dangerous Liaisons through the eyes of a punk band holding an illicit gig in Weymouth after dark. Joint Artistic Directors Kas Darley & Mark Stevenson explain how their 'writing' is done in the rehearsal room and leave you to decide whether the script really is the thing!

Time: 4.15pm | Venue: Magistrates Room

### **OffPiste Theatre: Figuring it out as we go along – Archie Rowell & Elliot Millson (introductory event – 15 mins)**

Founded in 2019 because of a want for more professional acting opportunities in Dorset, OffPiste Theatre are now an Associate Company to the National Youth Theatre of GB. Director, Archie Rowell and Cinematographer, Elliot Millson discuss how the company has evolved over the past few years, their personal creative careers, and about their 'process' of working on projects with/without scripts and how they think this has translated to some of their films being selected for BAFTA-Qualifying film festivals and theatre projects receiving Arts Council Funding. They're figuring it all out as they go along. (You can see OffPiste's film of "What Makes A Great Script?" playing in the foyer space)

Time: 10.30am | Venue: Writers' Hub/Alcove in the Town Hall

### **BBC Writersroom: Who We Are and What We Do (talk – 30mins)**

Simon Nelson talks about the work of BBC Writersroom and how it discovers, develops and champions new and experienced writing talent across the whole of the UK. Look out for his other session 'Top Ten Tips for Writing a Screenplay'

Time: 10am | Venue: Auditorium



### **Building Relationships With Venues**

#### **– Martha Earley, Lighthouse Poole (Q&A – 15 mins)**

Martha Earley, Creative Engagement Manager at Lighthouse Poole, talks about the Lighthouse's latest projects and its role in supporting the writing community across Dorset. How does the theatre engage with writers? How can writers develop their work to a point where larger venues can get involved? And – why can't the theatre produce all my plays?! There'll be opportunity to ask questions and learn more about plans for the future.

Time: 1.45pm | Venue: Magistrates Room



### **Calf2Cow – Matt Emeny (introductory event – 15 mins)**

Matt Emeny, Artistic Director of award-winning Calf2Cow, discusses the process of making a show from initial idea through to booking venues. From performances of old classics with a refreshingly new twist and devising fresh tales from scratch, Calf2Cow have fast made a mark on the outdoor touring circuit. Their most recent Summer show, The Jabberwocky and Other Nonsense, played to great acclaim across Dorset and the UK. In this session, Matt talks about future projects and his role as co-producer of the Bath Garden Theatre Festival.

Time: 3.20pm | Venue: Magistrates Room

### **MA Drama Writing at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School (introductory event – 15mins)**

Recent graduate Max Kyte gives an introduction to Bristol Old Vic Theatre School's MA in Drama Writing – a highly practical and vocational postgraduate course nurturing students to find their distinctive voices as writers for stage, screen and radio, all within the setting of one of the UK's leading drama schools. The course is delivered through masterclasses, workshops and seminars with top industry professionals and experienced practitioners alongside practical collaborations with many other courses at the school. You can go to BOVTS at the writers' hub to find out more.

Time: 11. am | Venue: Magistrates Room

### **Top Ten Tips for Writing a Screenplay – Simon Nelson (30 mins)**

Simon Nelson from BBC Writersroom offers a personal view on writing a screenplay... ten top tips for writing great scripts! Look out for his other session on the work of BBC Writersroom.

Time: 2.55pm | Venue: Auditorium

### How New Operas Differ From Established Masterpieces (introductory event – 15mins)

Opera singer Jon Valender introduces the work of Destination Opera which will fill Sherborne Abbey on 2nd March 2024 with some of the greatest music the world has known! Jon talks about working in opera, the process of bringing text alive with music and how knowledge of past work can inspire new work. He'll also give a demonstration of the power of the human voice!

Time: 2.10pm | Venue: Writers' Hub/Alcove in the Town Hall

### The Scene Podcast – Janno Media & Get Over It Productions (introductory event – 15 mins)

The Scene Podcast is a collection of little plays – pieces of portable theatre produced by Janno Media and Get Over It Productions. They are fanatical about giving new writing a digital life, outside the walls of fringe theatres and scratch nights. Come and hear how your work can be part of their next season of podplays! Visit them in the Writers' Hub to listen to some of the plays.

Time: 11.10am | Venue: Writers' Hub/Alcove in the Town Hall



### The Outsiders Project (introductory event – 15 mins)

The Outsiders Project supports artists. Our vision is to show that people side-lined from society can write, perform and create work at the highest level. We support our artists to push boundaries to prove they can create work of outstanding quality and worth. Join us for an informal introduction to the project and find out about our creative processes, the extensive work we do with unheard voices, and the journey from page to stage. We'll be talking about our upcoming tour of 'TATTOO' and the unique methodology used to capture real life experiences.

Time: 2.40pm | Venue: Council Chamber

### Brave Bold Drama (introductory event – 15 mins)

Brave Bold Drama is an award-winning community arts and theatre company run by Gill Simmons and Paul Lawless. They specialise in making devised theatre for intergenerational audiences as well as designing and delivering community art projects on a small and medium scale since 2013. They have a broad portfolio of community arts commissions under their belt which encompasses sound walks, storybooks, songwriting and youth theatre projects. They will talk about their approach to making theatre with a younger audience in mind and authentic community engagement.

Time: 12.55pm | Venue: Magistrates Room

### Producing and Touring New Work for 50 Years

Find out more about the nation's rural theatre company and how we work with writers. Pentabus is committed to producing new work that tours to communities across the UK and beyond. Our work brings communities & young people together, bringing outstanding contemporary productions with sector leading creative teams, directly to isolated rural communities, as well as platforming rural stories in urban settings. Over five decades we've produced over 300 new plays, supported 120 playwrights, and reached over half a million audience members. To celebrate 50 years, Pentabus has commissioned a new musical by Jeanie O'Hare. Making Good- the Post Office Scandal (working title). Touring Autumn 2024. [www.pentabus.co.uk](http://www.pentabus.co.uk)

Time: 3.10pm | Venue: Writers' Hub/Alcove in the Town Hall

# PENTABUS

### Thanks to the following who contributed to the film produced by OffPiste Theatre showing in the foyer:

Alice Barclay – Sandy Batchelor – Ewan Black – Paul Chahidi – Pandora Colin – Kirsty Cox  
David Eldridge – Beth Flintoff – Neal Foster – Dan Gaisford – Alexandra Gilbreath – Anna Girvan  
Felix Hayes – Victor Lirio – David Lloyd – Oriane Messina – Joe Millson – Jude Owusu – Ashley Pharoah  
Leigh Quinn – Mark Rylance – Jo Simons – Tamara von Werthern – Daniel York Loh  
Maanuv Thiara – Bill Ward – & many others!

### Thanks to the following:

Activate – Angel Exit – Arts Development Company – Artsreach – Arts Council England  
Artful Scribe – Bath Spa Productions – BBC Writersroom – Brave Bold Drama – Bridport Arts Centre  
Bristol Old Vic Theatre School – Calf2Cow – CoCreate Dorset – Destination Opera  
DYT (Dorchester Youth Theatre) – Dorsetborn – Dorset Scriptwriters – Honalee Media  
Janno Media – Lighthouse Poole – Lyric Theatre Bridport – Marine Theatre Lyme Regis  
NT New Work – New Theatre Royal Portsmouth – Nick Hern Books – OffPiste Theatre  
Opera Up Close – Producer Works – Scene Podcast – Shaftesbury Arts Centre  
Stuff & Nonsense Theatre Company – Teatro Vivo – The Outsiders Project – The Scene Podcast  
Tilted Wig – Westlands Yeovil – WGGB (The Writers' Guild of Great Britain & Regional Representative (Wessex)) – Various other independent producers & production companies.

Special thanks to Zoe Barnish for cover image [www.zoebarnish.com](http://www.zoebarnish.com)

Grateful thanks to all our hosts and stewards who have made this day possible.

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# DorchesterArts



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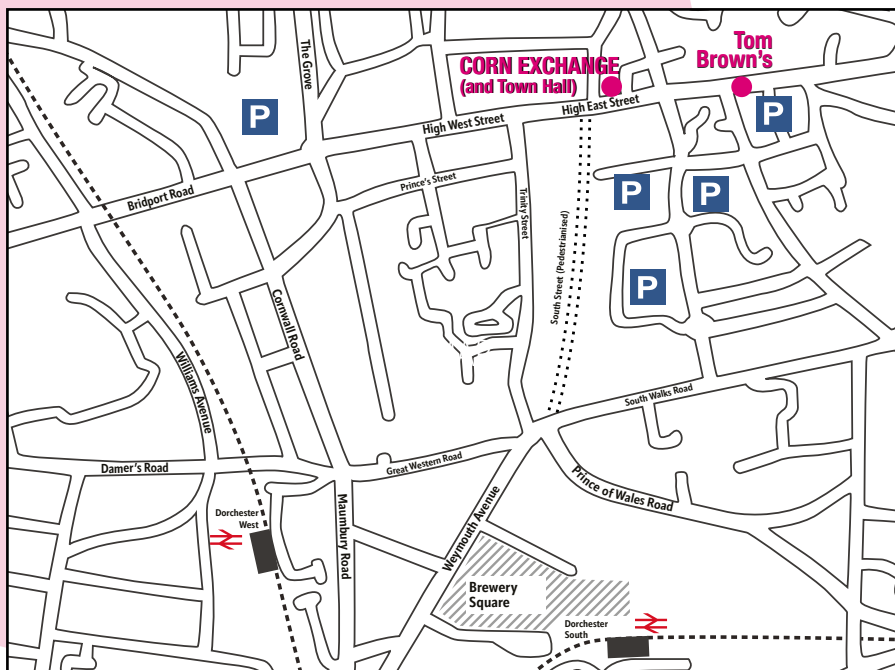
lighthouse  
Arts & Entertainment | Poole

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### Plan your visit:

The Festival is taking place across two venues: Dorchester Corn Exchange and Tom Browns pub. Both are located on High East Street in the centre of Dorchester and are easily accessible by public transport.

### Arriving by bus:

There are lots of bus stops dotted all around the town and good routes that link Dorchester to local towns such as Weymouth, Bridport and Blandford. The best place to plan your bus route is with the First Bus Journey Planner.

### Arriving by train:

Dorchester has two mainline railway stations within easy reach of the Festival venues.

Dorchester South has regular services by South Western Railway along the South Western Main Line. Dorchester West has regular services by Great Western Railway along the Heart of Wessex Line between Castle Cary and Weymouth.

### Arriving by bike:

Dorchester hosts a number of cycle routes out of or into the town. There are off road cycle paths as well as on road routes. Dorchester is part of the Sustrans National Cycle networks route 2 and route 26.

### Arriving by car:

Nearby parking can be found in the various town centre car parks. Unfortunately there is no parking available on site. For comprehensive travel, accommodation and amenity information, visit [www.discoverdorchester.co.uk](http://www.discoverdorchester.co.uk)

### Accessibility

Dorchester Corn Exchange has wheelchair access and toilet facilities for wheelchair users. If you have any specific requirements, then please contact [enquiries@dorchesterarts.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@dorchesterarts.org.uk) for more information.

Tom Brown has one step on the main entrance and two for the skittle alley entrance. There are ramps available for both. Toilets are on the ground floor, but there is no accessible toilet. For further information please email [tombrowns@oaktaverns.co.uk](mailto:tombrowns@oaktaverns.co.uk) and we'll be happy to help.

All information correct at time of going to press. Check website for latest updates.