THE SCRIPT'S THE THING! 3

DORSET FESTIVAL OF SCRIPTWRITING
10TH & 11TH OCTOBER 2026

DorchesterArts

Welcome

We are delighted to welcome you to The Script's The Thing!

We're back for a third year and delighted to welcome you to The Script's The Thing: TWO days celebrating all things writing for performance! Once again, we were overwhelmed by submissions from writers for stage, TV, film, radio drama, animation, and all types of performance writing. The Script's The Thing offers writers the opportunity of presenting 15 minutes of new work. A simple act, but a vital focus for all writers in the development process. We all know how tough it is to get new writing out there – to produce new work for stage and screen that is genuinely making a difference – so having the opportunity to write and present work like this is invaluable. Every writer creates something distinct and we ask you to join us in celebrating their work over this weekend. Whether it's a first draft or an extract from a show that is touring, The Script's The Thing provides writers with two things that are vital but all too rare: a platform and an audience.

Putting writers at the centre is something we wholeheartedly support and we're very pleased that the Festival is having an impact both in Dorset and beyond - with scripts at previous Festivals going on to regional and national tours, development with the National Theatre, and even on to off-Broadway next year. Not only is The Script's The Thing celebrating new work, but it is also connecting producers, actors, directors and all those involved with new writing.

We look forward to continuing to support and develop writers' work, offering opportunities to audiences across Dorset and beyond to discover a wealth of writing talent, and to strengthening relationships and making new connections for future collaborations.

The Script's The Thing!

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

With thanks to: Grassby & Sons, Nantes Solicitors, Move Clinic, Crickmay Stark Architects

How to Use This Guide

Scripts in this guide are listed alphabetically by title of work for both Saturday then Sunday. There is then a list of events happening on Saturday and Sunday to inspire, inform and motivate writing for performance. You are welcome to EVERYTHING!

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. In each description you'll also see the time and which venue the work is being performed in. For a plan of the Corn Exchange see the centre pages, and for a map of the venues see the back of the guide. Please note 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. You'll need 2-5 minutes to get from space to space, and longer if you are making a trip from Tom Browns all the way up to the William Barnes Room at the Sleeping Bear Hotel. 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.

We do encourage a relaxed informal approach so you are welcome to come and go from all scripts and events as you wish. Please be respectful to writers, performers, and what is happening in the space, if you are leaving or joining.

There'll be seating available in all spaces – there is a lift in the Corn Exchange for wheelchair access to the Town Hall and Council Chamber.

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.

A note on feedback: if you would like to comment on any of the scripts, you are welcome to use the feedback forms available at venues and in the Writers Hub. We would love to hear what you've enjoyed about the day and how you would like the Festival to continue to develop and support writers. We can be contacted at: **scripts@dorchesterarts.org.uk**

SATURDAY

A Shaggy Dog Story by I J Stewart

A piece of nonsense that rambles, builds expectations, and ends in anti-climax; in short, a shaggy dog story concerning the travails of Edith and Vera, alleged diamond thieves, pursued by an inept detective, his clever secretary, and a dog (of course)!

Stage – Comedy - Absurdism Venue: Casterbridge Room, King's Arms | Time: 1.15pm

A Wise Old Owl by Christine Diment

We often make misjudgements and things are not always as they appear to be. Inspired by nursery rhymes and fairy tales that often have a darker meaning, this script looks at the shared problems of two different people of different ages who come together by chance in a cafe. A man in his 40s strikes up a friendship with a teenage girl but it is misconstrued. Where will it lead? What will happen? Who is right and who is wrong? How do you, the audience, feel about it? Is this a problem of our modern age or has it always existed?

Stage – Drama – Modern Venue: Auditorium, Corn Exchange | Time: 10.15am

Afterlife by Katy E. Wall

It's Summer 2026, the ladies are sitting on a bench in a graveyard in a Dorset Village. Nearby the famous mystical Wishing Well trickles and the sun is shining. The ladies have just been to a 'Meet a Spiritualist' event in the nearby Old Mansion House. They are all a bit jaded by the whole experience and need a debrief. But is all as it seems? This play is inspired by the writer's teenage fascination with the Ouija Board. Katy E. Wall lives in Cerne Abbas, Dorset with her husband and three children.

Stage – Thriller – Drama Venue: William Barnes Room, Sleeping Bear | Time: 1pm

Almost a Spice Girl by Maria Speight

In 2012, the Spice Girls reunite for the London Olympics. Mel A is not there because she made it to the final 8 of the girl band Touch in 1994 and was sent home. Mel A shows us her story of growing up hungry against the Spice Girl's success, through the narrative of lad culture, feminist strides and women's rights, all while instructing spin classes to remixes of Wannabe. Mel A gains the courage to accept who she is, her spin classes a sanctuary for every extra-ordinary woman, and finds meaning in her ordinary life.

Comedy – Stage - Drama Venue: Tom Browns | Time: 12.15pm

Attempt 99 by Brook Hopper

What does it mean to take the correct path in life? Is there even such a thing? When an otherworldly being offers Paul the ability to undo his mistakes and do-over 100 moments of his life, he must learn what it means to truly make decisions and live with his consequences before the weight of this power crushes him.

Drama – Stage – Film Venue: Green Room, Corn Exchange | Time: 1pm

Battered by Tim Poultney

With the impending closure of The Silver Fish Grill, Nicky and Liam have choices to make about their future, but Nicky's obsession with the past and determination to save the chip shop might just knock out Liam's chances of getting away from The Fish before he's even thrown the first punch. Battered is a slice-of-life drama about two young men seeking purpose and the suffering that search brings upon themselves and each other. (Trigger warnings: Strong language and occasional crude references)

Stage – Drama – Contemporary Venue: Council Chamber, Corn Exchange | Time: 11.45am

Boss by Taylor Ayling

Boss is a darkly comedic one-act construction site theatre piece, written by an actual labourer, that peers into the life of two degenerate carpenters and the day that their cushy routine is blown apart. It's a naughty, chaotic and moving expose inside the dust and noise of the building trade. Boss is a play about sticking your head above the parapet, doing what's right, even if it alienates you from everything you've ever known. It's also about male friendship and working-class identities inside the construction trade. www.taylorayling.co.uk

Stage – Comedy – Social Commentary Venue: Victorian Hall, Dorset Museum | Time: 4pm

Ceci n'est pas une pipe M. Magritte by Non Vaughan-O'Hagan

Enter man stage left with an umbrella. Why? An audience would like to know. And frankly so would the playwright. Will he explain it all to her? Or is he waiting for her to put the words in his mouth. A exploration of inspiration and whether an umbrella can be a metal detector.

Stage – Drama - Comedy Venue: Victorian Hall, Dorset Museum | Time: 4.30pm

Charlie Boys by Martin Rogers

Charlie Boys is a comedy about a customs officer (Jimmy) who is contacted by his nephew, (Craig - an inept drug dealer), in the course of a psychosis Craig is experiencing from cocaine overuse. Craig owes a dangerous drug dealer four thousand pounds and to protect him, Jimmy must come up with a plan, and quickly. He pretends to use his position to smuggle in a 'new' kind of coke, but it is really regular coke, mixed with the ashes of his dead mother, and some Kashmiri chilli. This is a riotously funny comedy about desperation, the misuse of ashes, idiot nephews and Kashmiri Chilli!

Drama – Comedy - Thriller Venue: Tom Browns | Time: 12.45pm

Congratulations Eric Bennet by Matt Lockett

Exploring modern relationship dynamics, young parenthood and asking what even is the perfect life? There's so much pressure to do life a certain way, but for Eric Bennet, trying to find love as a young parent isn't easy, especially without the support of family friends and ex-partners!

Drama – Comedy - Stage Venue: Community Space, Dorset Museum | Time: 11.15am

Don't be Sad, Have A Shag! by Ella Ritsema

In our turbulent Tinder age, Don't be Sad, Have a Shag! is a comedy sketch show exploring the ups and downs of trying (and often failing) to find 'the one' when you're in your twenties. Performed in Bath as part of a university project, it's now cuming to Dorch for another special show with hopes to take it further (hopefully to the Fringe!)

Comedy – Sketch Show – Romance Venue: Green Room, Corn Exchange | Time: 2.30pm

Doors Closing by Megan Clarke

What happens when the exit is blocked and there is no way to escape from your past? After a devastating diagnosis, Iris is trapped in a broken lift with two strangers: endometriosis patient, Daisy, and misogynistic surgeon, Logan. As their phones fail to gain signal and panic surges, they are forced to talk to each other. But, when patience wears thin and personalities clash, it's only a matter of time before secrets emerge from the shadows, blurring the line between right and wrong. The clock is ticking. And none of them are leaving without blood on their hands. Please stand clear of the closing doors…

Stage – Drama – Contemporary Venue: Community Room, Dorset Museum | Time: 12.15pm

Dorothy by Ciaran Parsons

Dorothy is a biopic based on the journal of Dorothy Lawrence, the first and only woman to see combat in WW1. Beginning as a journalist, against the odds she finds herself embroiled in an adventure that has far reaching consequences. With her comrades' help she disguises herself as a man, facing dangers behind and in front of enemy lines, her story is one of great hope, courage and tragedy.

Historical – Drama – Film Venue: Casterbridge Room, King's Arms | Time: 10.15am

Flight by Micha Colombo

Edna and Joan have been friends forever. When, at the end of her 80th birthday celebrations, Edna announces that she is dying, the pair have to choose how to approach the time they have left together. Joan prefers honesty but Edna chooses to keep her illness secret from her family. When, through a series of miscommunications, Joan lets the cat out of the bag, she tests their friendship and prompts Edna to reveal some truths of her own. A bittersweet journey exploring the strength, the humour and the love of a friendship that has seen it all together.

Drama – Comedy – Stage Venue: Green Room, Corn Exchange | Time: 2pm

Four Small Steps by Gerard Harris

In 1951, two brave young Soviet Space dogs are sent into space. The question is, do they trust Mission Control to bring them back or do they take fate into their own paws?

Audio Drama – Historical – Comedy Venue: Wiliam Barnes Room, Sleeping Bear Hotel | Time: 12.30pm

Free Diver by Lucy Alder

A Tudor salvage diver recalls his past while bringing up the cannons of the Mary Rose. Inspired by the career of Jacques Francis, a 16th Century free diver from North-West Africa, the short play asks what is lost when a young man's relationship with nature is hijacked by a pursuit of wealth.

Theatre - Drama - Historica Venue: Casterbridge Room, King's Arms | Time: 1.45pm

In Case of Emergency by Kathryn Robinson

In Case of Emergency is a sharp, darkly comic drama that follows Amy, a driven professional struggling to maintain composure while experiencing severe, ongoing pain. As she navigates work pressures from home, she battles an unresponsive healthcare system that repeatedly dismisses her concerns. Her attempts to get help are met with delays, indifference, and minimisation. Reaching breaking point, Amy pulls the emergency cord in the surgery toilets out of desperation. Ultimately, it is only when someone truly listens that her situation is taken seriously, highlighting the emotional toll of being unheard and the importance of empathy in care.

Screen – Dark Comedy – Drama Venue: Community Room, Dorset Museum | Time: 3pm

Inevitable by Lee Crompton

Tom has been given six months to live. In his kitchen, a stranger called Brian has quietly made himself at home. He knows where things are. He has opinions about the kitchen handles. He is not a ghost. He is something more unsettling: the man who will one day live in Tom's house, and be called Dad by Tom's children. A darkly comic two-hander about fear, legacy and the human need to be remembered.

Dark Comedy - Theatre - Drama Venue: Green Room, Corn Exchange | Time: 11.30am

Kuru by Grainne Byrne

Be careful what you ask for. A black comedy with a sinister twist, Kuru encompasses an ancient relic, an auctioneer and a curator of a museum. Or, so it seems. The curator agrees to examine a sunken human head from Papua New Guinea that the auctioneer has acquired and would like valued. Much to his horror, it is not what he bargained for and strange happenings come back to bite him on the bum. Karma and its mysterious ways is out to teach a very big lesson.

Radio – Stage – Drama Venue: Casterbridge Room, King's Arms | Time: 11am

Late Bloomer by Nat Wood Fox and Debs J Roberts

One minute to find one love. Widower Bob is lonely and feels ready to find love. Gardener Grace has been weeding out losers for a while! A pop up 'Speedy Dating' night at the village hall seems just the thing the pair are looking for, but will the rather forthright, no filter Shazza, ruin it? Or, will the unexpected attendee Balloon Man blow the evening apart? Who knows? Whatever happens tonight romance is fast-tracked. Let the Speedy Dating commence! A comedy script in hand performance, of Late Bloomer, involves laughs, sadness, physical comedy, and perhaps a happy ending!

Screen - Comedy – Romance Venue: Green Room, Corn Exchange | Time: 4.45pm

Mad Not Bad by Edie Walwyn

This extract is from 'Mad Not Bad', a new one-act comedy. Audrey is a twenty-first-century writer one rejection away from throwing in the quill (or pen) for good. When Audrey meets Adam the Scribe, the copyist of Geoffrey Chaucer (fourteenth-century writer of 'The Canterbury Tales'), she discovers that feelings of failure are not unique to modern times. Inspired by Chaucer's infamous poem berating Adam for his transcription errors, as well as Edie's own frustrations with writing, 'Mad Not Bad' is a love letter to failure, friendship, and the ridiculous business of making art. Contains very strong language and adult themes.

Stage – Comedy – Contemporary Venue: Casterbridge Room, King's Arms | Time: 4.15pm

MANBand The Story by Tim Baker with songs by Pete & Jo Hanlon - Bloomin' Good Productions

Set in everyone's favourite pub, our story centres on four men from different backgrounds, older, though not necessarily wiser, and all with dreams. Kev, Bas, Eric and Frank are too old to form a Boyband. But what about a MANBand? They hope for one last shot at fame and fortune, sending women wild with their sensible haircuts and cuddly physiques. Adapted from the acclaimed MANBand The Musical, MANBand The Story is a comedic extract of the show ready for touring around the country. The piece is an uplifting feel-good story of word and song. It contains a few adult references.

Comedy - Music - Drama Venue: Tom Browns | Time: 4.30pm

Metamorphosis (The Ancient One) by Guy Purnell

Stage adaptation of three stories from the book 'Tales from Ovid' by Ted Hughes. Which is a collection of Greek myths with a connecting theme of change of the body. We're exploring the value of that change under a modern lens. We intend it to be funny and light-hearted.

Stage – Comedy – Mythical Venue: Green Room, Corn Exchange | Time: 10.30am

Miriam's Ark by DK Nwosu

Amidst the suffocating Great Smog of December 1952 London, a Black Jamaican nurse shelters an unwell Caucasian burglar in her small flat forcing them to confront their prejudices and humanity over five harrowing days of survival and reckoning.

Drama – Romance – Historical Venue: Green Room, Corn Exchange | Time: 3.30pm

Mister Mittens by Stephen Graves

When Mister Mittens' owners fit him with a cat camera, it reveals shocking secrets – about what he saw in the house, what really happened when he was injured…and his encounter with the Thing in the Woods.

Screen – Thriller - Mystery Venue: Casterbridge Room, King's Arms | Time: 12.45pm

My Life as a Seagull by Emma Williams

What if the solution to grief requires a big padded costume and a long hard beak. My Life as a seagull is a one woman show about the year my only sister rolled off her sofa and died. Months later I was offered a job, to dress up as a giant seagull and entertain the crowds. In desperation I took it. The show follows my journey from terrified street performer to celebrated seagull. It is not a guide on how to recover from loss, but it is a compassionate observation of someone trying to do just that.

Stage – Drama – Contemporary Venue: Green Room, Corn Exchange | Time: 11am

My Mum and Dad by Tony Bell

A boy's journey growing up in seventies suburbia. This funny, moving monologue dives into the performer's relationship with his mother (a thwarted feminist) and his father (a neurodivergent mathematician), as he dodges the crossfire of their conflicts and finds an outlet in make believe. A raw, honest and deeply personal piece that tackles resonant universal themes such as grief, generational difference, toxic masculinity and family mental health. Tony is an established actor currently appearing in series 3 of Sherwood for BBC. He has recently started performing at Poetry open mics. This is his first attempt at writing script.

Family – Intimate - Tragicomedy Venue: Council Chamber, Corn Exchange | Time: 3.15pm

Never Forgotten by Ella Shipley

'Never Forgotten' gives an intimate look into a therapy session, where Laura is asked about the worst day of her life. As suppressed memories begin to tumble out from years gone by – the happy, the funny, the devastating – Laura battles with the truth of her past. People often say, 'hindsight's a wonderful thing', but what if hindsight isn't so wonderful after all?

Drama – Stage – Contemporary Venue: Council Chamber, Corn Exchange | Time: 11.15am

No more kings by Giorgia Ciampi Tsolaki

This is an experimental piece that explores the allure and the pitfalls of power across the ages of human society. A disembodied female voice speaks to a seemingly powerful but voiceless figure – is it a techno-billionaire or a king of old in the throne room of his palace? At times the voice seems to give shape to his thoughts, at other times reassure him, instruct him or even taunt him. Simultaneously a song rises from an unexpected place: is it protest or lament? A prisoner, a rebel or simply a hallucination? May contain some strong language.

Stage – Physical Theatre – Monologue Venue: Victorian Hall, Dorset Museum | Time: 11.30am

Of Kith and Kin by Paul Ogden and Steve C Walters

This two hander stage piece is an exploration of the relationship between people, families, communities and the land upon which they live. It is an extract from a play made up of about 12 sections which alternate between live spoken word (poetry and prose), recorded music (original and traditional; vocal and instrumental) performed against a back drop of illustrative images. The themes include identity, historic migration, the individual's role in society, their relationship with family, land and environment. The themes are wide ranging but non specific, i.e. they don't relate to any particular time, place or person.

Generational - Drama – Genre-busting Venue: Community Room, Dorset Museum | Time: 12.45pm

Ooser by Ross Cleaver

The Ooser. A big wooden head that is sitting in a museum in Dorchester. People all around the country – all around the world – are writing articles about it, making podcasts about it, drawing pictures of it, and posting pictures of it on their social media. They are seeking out a second-hand book from the 1970s that has it on the cover just so they can gain online cred for finding and owning it. But no one knows what that big wooden head is, or what it is for. Why is it called an Ooser (or an osser)? Join Ross – or an actor who is better at performance than Ross – for a story (I'm not saying it's a true story) of the giant head. That is the Ooser's big head, not Ross's.

Folk – Comedy – Drama Venue: Community Space, Dorset Museum | Time: 11.45am

Out on a Limb by Gavin Egan

Claire is in the final months of her life, a life that is ebbing away from a cruel disease. Frank, her husband is struggling to cope. Their daughter Sarah lives on the other side of the world, which has caused a rift between them. Kate, Claire's closest friend is strangely absent. But this is not Claire's story- it's about the devastating effect her situation has on those around her, as they battle to make sense of mortality, love and regret.

Drama – Stage – Contemporary Venue: Green Room, Corn Exchange | Time: 12.30pm

Paid for Dinner by Dave Young

The Shouting Mute and Lee and their carers Ted and Hannah meet at a restaurant to have a meal together. Lee and The Shouting Mute tease Ted about his food choices and each other about a heavy night drinking. Some stranger pays for the meal and The Shouting Mute and Lee have different opinions on this gesture.

Sketch Show – Drama – The Shouting Mute Venue: Council Chamber, Corn Exchange | Time: 12.15pm

Restore to Factory Setting by Dan Gaisford

Agency worker, Stewart, is up early; on his way to a new cleaning job in the county's most imposing factory. Amidst the clamour of the giant machines, Stewart finds himself lacking in purpose and in human interaction. Yet something strange begins to make its presence felt, and Stewart is forced to question: Is it help or hindrance; friend or foe? A dark comedy short about work, the working class and AI, 'Restore To Factory Setting' is a one-sided existential conversation (with subtitles).

Screen – Drama - Comedy Venue: Green Room, Corn Exchange | Time: 12pm

SETTERAGIC ON by Tom Marsh

This play is an adaptation of a short story by Sylvia Townsend Warner. It was published in The New Yorker magazine in September 1941. The story is set in a tobacconist's shop on the seafront of a small Dorset town (picture the Esplanade in Weymouth). At the time she wrote it, Townsend Warner was living in Frome Vauchurch, near Maiden Newton, and working in Dorchester for the Women's Voluntary Service at 27 High West Street. Performed with permission from Sylvia Townsend Warner Estate and support of the Sylva Townsend Warner Society.

Stage – Drama - Adaptation Venue: Williams Barnes Room, Sleeping Bear Hotel | Time: 2pm

Spectacles, Testicles, Wallet and Watch by Oliver Hickey

A pair of crooks from South West London who have pulled off the biggest heist of their careers now intend to leave the UK with their loot. However, their boss is on his way with some bad news for the pair which may mean an abrupt and violent end to their careers in crime. Frequent swearing throughout.

Crime - Comedy – Drama Venue: William Barnes Room, Sleeping Bear Hotel | Time: 4.30pm

Spots Before Their Eyes by Sally Whyte

This tongue in cheek text is a playful look at the world of contemporary art, introducing audiences to the 'EVERY PICTURE …' project, which uses figures from modern art to develop pieces of drama and dance. A highly successful community engagement strand engaging older learners has already received a £1k commission from Hampshire Cultural Trust. Other funding is sought through Arts Council England. This particular piece has been written specifically to test whether an element of audience participation would be a good way of introducing adults or families to the general theme as a precursor to other performance pieces.

Stage – Drama – Comedy Venue: William Barnes Room, Sleeping Bear Hotel | Time: 3.45pm

The Ballad Of Hedra Blight by Flynn Fitzgerald

Southwest Cornwall, 1947. After a series of deadly accidents in the Wheal Dyowl tin mine, pub landlady Hedra Blight encounters a mysterious stranger lurking around the crossroads. Torn between caring for her dying father and fighting to save her failing business, Hedra is the last remaining bastion of the village's long-forgotten folk heritage. As the miners laugh at their forefather's antiquated superstitions, Hedra begins to wonder if there is more underneath the village than just tin…

Folk Horror – Stage – South West Venue: Victorian Hall, Dorset Museum | Time: 12.30pm

The Crop Circle Café by Polly Tisdall

Beneath the Cherhill White Horse, in a lay-by beside the A4, sits The Crop Circle Café: a portacabin filled with treasures, testimonies and Victoria Sponge. Here, three friends meet to discuss science-fiction, faith, history - and death. Pat is the café owner, a believer in the impossible. Rhik is a Bristol PhD student, studying chalk grasslands. And Marz is an American history nut, whose ancestors were Calne's banished Quakers. When the fields adjoining the café are put up for sale, each of their stories must scrabble for space. This is contested land - and all is not as it seems.

Drama – Sci-Fi – South West Venue: Tom Browns | Time: 1.45pm

The Girl on the Ledge by Max Kyte

Max trained at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School after previously studying film and script work at the BFI Academy. In 2023 he received the working writers award and his debut play 'A Bomb We Called Sam' longlisted for The North East Playwriting Prize. His monologue play 'I'm Not Afraid of the Sky' toured London fringe venues in 2024. This year 'The Girl on the Ledge' was shortlisted for the VCA Playwriting Award ahead of its first public reading at the Pleasance Theatre, London.

Drama – Stage – Gripping Venue: Tom Browns | Time: 1.15pm

The Love Test by Robbie McGann and Sophie McCudden

This play is performed as a dystopian near future reality TV show where a young couple is connected to an AI that reads their thoughts out loud in their own voices. The audience of the play are positioned as the audience of the reality TV recording. Robbie McGann and Sophie McCudden are a real-life couple who have written this play together to explore what it means to love someone. How much of our thoughts represent who we truly are? And how could a reality TV show use this technology for their own ends? Contains adult themes.

Drama – Science Fiction – Genre-Busting Venue: Victorian Hall, Dorset Museum | Time: 3.30pm

The Fortieth Woman by Victoria L. Humphreys

'Her field name was Blandine. Her operational name was Earthstar. And her circuit was codenamed BEEKEEPER.' This is the extraordinary claim of Cassie-Louise, a doctoral student researching the secret World War Two espionage organisation known as The Special Operations Executive (SOE). But who was Blandine? And why is Earthstar absent from the history book? What was the controversial mission of the BEEKEEPER group? History insists that 39 women agents were dropped into Nazi-occupied France during World War Two to wreak havoc on the enemy, but Cassie-Louise believes she has stumbled upon a Fortieth Woman and she's determined to uncover #herstory.

Drama – History - Espionage Venue: Green Room, Corn Exchange | Time: 4pm

The Rufus Stone by Imogen Usherwood

On 2nd August 1100, King William II was killed in the New Forest when his companion tried to shoot a deer, but the arrow glanced off a tree and hit him instead. 798 years later, on 2nd August 1898, thirteen-year-old Billy Lovell went missing, having been last seen in the exact same spot. Now, in the summer of 2024, an academic is writing a book about New Forest folklore: what she thinks will be a straightforward research trip becomes something else entirely. A new play about the myths we tell and the truths they belie. Originally commissioned by Forest Forge.

Theatre – Dark Comedy – Magical Realism Venue: Victorian Hall, Dorset Museum | Time: 1.15pm

The View from the Burj Khalifa by Betsy Wragg

Wannabe comedian Kath is forced to drop the act when her longtime friend Emma is hospitalised for anorexia. Kath's reluctant visit turns into a genuine opportunity to rekindle a lost connection and help her former best friend, but first she must face her own problems. This play explores the tensions in female friendships that arise during formative years, unpacks the nuances of providing support in difficult times, and considers how relationships evolve as people change. Trigger warnings: strong language, eating disorders, mental health hospital

Stage – Drama – Contemporary Venue: William Barnes Room, Sleeping Bear Hotel | Time: 1.30pm

The Visit by Miriam Coley

How can Vita write the eulogy for her dad, Gary, when she is furious? She's struggling because she is angry about the years when her father was absent. Her teenaged son, Dizzy, tries to help, but he is full of grief and walking on eggshells as his dad has just re-married. Vita is searching through photos and documents, there's also a box file that she can't bear to open. Vita sets to work, then, frustrated she declares, 'I can't do this'. There's a knock at the door. Enter Cal, Gary's army friend, who maybe has some answers for them.

Stage – Drama – Generational Venue: Casterbridge Room, King's Arms | Time: 3.15pm

This is not a Christmas dinner by Rachel Fullegar and Monika Brodowska

A wonderfully anarchic Christmas celebration and you're all invited! Part comedy, part theatre, and a sprinkle of dance, this is a Christmas dinner like no other. Expect an absurdist take on those ridiculous family dynamics and social expectations that heighten when you're trying to look like you're having the best time at the most joyful time of the year. Can one family withstand the pressure and solve their impending Christmas reputational crisis, retaining their exemplar status in the eyes of their community, and of course in the eyes of the big man, Father C?

Stage – Comedy – Anarchy Venue: Auditorium, Corn Exchange | Time: 4.15pm

This Line Means Divide by Charlotte Baars

Tensions are running high in Miss Newell's maths support class for sixth form students with special educational needs. A-Levels are months away, the class are stuck on their fourth attempt at passing GCSE maths and to make matters worse, a divisive new student has arrived, bringing with her a personification of the maths specific learning difficulty that taunts them all. This Line Means Divide is a tender and skilful play that asks what it means to fail, and to succeed, in a system that stacks the odds against you. Some strong language.

Stage – Comedy – Drama Venue: Victorian Hall, Dorset Museum | Time: 10.45am

This Play Has an Iguana for a Protagonist by Liz Dooley

When nervous iguana Arthur discovers that his human/best friend Mari has been bleeding and feeling ill for days, he jumps to the only logical conclusion: she must be fatally ill or injured. Being the noble iguana he is, he decides to "put her out of her misery"—whether she likes it or not. Part madcap comedy, part menstrual health PSA.

Stage – Comedy – Puppetry Venue: Victorian Hall, Dorset Museum | Time: 12pm

THUNDER STONE by Jon Nash

After confronting violence at a refugee housing centre in Plymouth, Nick runs back to his old family home-a farmhouse in North Devon where his two older, estranged siblings live. While he fears the consequences of his actions, they fear the presence of strangers and trespassers on the farm and wonder how they can defend themselves. Fear of the other might be closer to home than any of them realise. Developed by Paines Plough's Tour The Writer Year Three programme, the play explores how we confront extremism and our connections to place and each other. Age guidance: 12+

Drama – Contemporary – South West Venue: Tom Browns | Time: 2.15pm

Top of the Mountain by Mark Brown

Set in the aftermath of an 18th century boxing match in which Black American fighter Bill has killed the reigning champion. An unexpected result that causes Bill to ruminate over what it is to be top of the mountain. He got into boxing to earn money and stability in a previously unstable life. he didn't expect, nor care, to be at the top. Yet here he is. So is a title worth a man's life? And is the top of one mountain for one man the same as another mountain for another person?

Drama – Historical – Stage Venue: Tom Browns | Time: 2.45pm

Under The Sun by Michele O'Brien

Inspired by the Greek sun god Helios, I explored the mythological figures Oceanid Perse, his wife, and their daughter Circe. I had long wanted to experiment with choral work. The circular, sunlit space at Dorchester Arts Centre with the Luke Jerram Helios provided the inspiration to develop and realise this creative ambition.

Drama – Romance – Choral Work Venue: Victorian Hall, Dorset Museum | Time: 3pm

WIDDERSHINS by Carl Grose, performed by David Mynne

WIDDERSHINS: a long-forgotten village buried deep in a dark corner of Cornwall. Here, Bob Droll (local raconteur and village-hall caretaker) will take you on a tour, where mystery lurks about every corner. But beware. The deeper Bob leads you into his forest of fables, the more lost you might get. WIDDERSHINS: 'tis hard to find but even harder to leave. Stories with a sting, poetry cracked and darkly comic, physical theatre alongside the usual irreverence and silliness. Under Milk Wood-ish… sort of. Only waayyy weirder! Adults / 12+ "It's like Under Milk Wood told by Wallace and Gromit!"

Drama – Stage – Fables Venue: Council Chamber, Corn Exchange | Time: 4.30pm

Writers Lab at Tobacco Factory Theatres – Two Scripts

Writers Lab is a writing for performance group running at Tobacco Factory Theatre in Bristol since 2023: In Loving Memory by Emily Chappell At some point we've all indulged in the idea of our own funeral (haven't we?) - the songs, the flowers, the turnout and exactly who will be utterly devastated by our loss. In this short comedy, a sombre task quickly spirals into an irreverent conversation about death, grief and the strange pleasure we take in imagining our own grand finale. Pomp and Mummery by Tony Bolger In this absurd, short comedy, Ed brings his girlfriend home to rural Ireland to meet his parents for the first time. She soon discovers a dark and hidden side to him that she never suspected was there, but had been slithering beneath the surface all along.

Stage – Drama - Touring Venue: Victorian Hall, Dorset Museum | Time: 2pm & 2.30pm

You Never Saw Me by Tor Cannell

Set over one evening in a children's play park in a small rural town, a 50th reunion brings Kelly and Jess, old friends, back face to face—not only with each other, but with their memories too. Something happened in the park when they were sixteen. Despite years of silence, it has never been forgotten. As the evening unfolds, memory, blame and buried truths unravel.

Stage – Drama - Contemporary Venue: Green Room, Corn Exchange | Time: 1.30pm

You'll Never Know by Mark Bastin

Three adult siblings and their elderly mother stay together at an AirBnB in St Ives, Cornwall, for the scattering of their late father's/husband's ashes. Over the course of five days relationships are tested and secrets are revealed leading to a shocking climax and denouement. You'll Never Know is a powerful yet relatable family drama about loss, expectation and the potentially dangerous and destructive force of a mother's love. Trigger warnings: contains references to suicide and homophobia and scenes depicting elder abuse.

Stage – Drama – Contemporary Venue: William Barnes Room, Sleeping Bear Hotel | Time: 2.30pm

SUNDAY

A Small Act of Rebellion by Ruth Beswarick

A woman approaching sixty sits down to tell you a bit about herself. Behind her is a cupboard. She has been keeping everything that happened in there - her marriage, her silence, the life she didn't live — and it's pushing at the door. A Small Act of Rebellion moves between a therapy room and a series of memories, asking what it costs to abandon yourself in order to be good - and what it means to discover, late in life, that what you were taught to contain was the very thing that made you alive. It ends with a yellow crayon.

Stage – Drama – Monologue Venue: Green Room, Corn Exchange | Time: 1.30pm

Always With Us by Shona Graham

When their cat knocks over an urn, Grace and Klara find themselves navigating grief, memory, and the limits of what we share with those we love.

Stage – Drama - Comedy Venue: Council Chamber, Corn Exchange | Time: 3pm

And The Word Was God by Matthew McConkey

A claustrophobic inheritance drama with a speculative twist, 'And The Word Was God' was a top 6 finalist in the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School's 'Future Playwrights' competition. When a renowned scholar of ancient languages summons his estranged children to his deathbed, jealousy, resentment, and distrust are quick to follow. As if family frictions weren't enough, he claims to have discovered the oldest language in the world: one which doesn't simply describe reality, but dictates it. While a lifetime of tension unravels, the siblings must reckon with the looming threat this discovery poses to meaning - and maybe reality - itself.

Drama – Sci-Fi – Stage Venue: Casterbridge Room, King's Arms | Time: 1.15pm

Apocalypse…Now? by Hannah Lobley

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse assemble in a pub for what should be humanity's final night. The only problem? They've been here before, and after countless false starts, the end of the world seems increasingly unlikely. As waiting for Armageddon becomes an existential crisis of its own, the Horsemen begin to question not only whether they're ready for the job they've been destined to do, but also whether the agents of the apocalypse are any more prepared for the end than the rest of us.

Stage – Dark Comedy – Sci-Fi Venue: Tom Browns | Time: 1pm

Aspirations of Women by Wendy Maggs

The stage adaption of Aspirations of Women follows on from a successful exhibition at the M Shed, Bristol. A verbatim piece, it uses the exact words of real people drawn from interviews. Valuable life stories are uncovered as women reflect upon their experiences as schoolgirls within a large comprehensive during the early 1980s. These marginalised authentic voices give personal accounts that expose overarching themes which include pupils that were overlooked and under-supported. The narrator of the piece helps to weave and establish the historical and societal sense of the time. Expect adult themes, including the fear and complexities of abuse.

Stage – Drama – Verbatim Venue: Community Space, Dorset Museum | Time: 1.30pm

Betty and the Yeti by Angel Exit Theatre

In a far away land of igloos and ice, the villagers panic when they see large footprints in the snow - could it be a Yeti?! But brave Betty knows that appearances are not always what they seem and sets off on an adventure involving an avalanche of lost property, northern lights, singing polar bears, and a super-speedy Arctic hare! Angel Exit Theatre present Betty and the Yeti, an adaptation of the picture book by Dorset writer Ella Burfoot which will premiere at Lighthouse Poole 22-30 October then be available for touring. www.angelexit.co.uk

Family Show – Adventure – Stage Venue: Auditorium, Corn Exchange | Time: 10.15am

Big Send Off by Eleanor Brotherton

The Crawley Family gather to give Gran her big send off. The vol au vents are plated, the sausage rolls are in the oven and a cheese and pineapple hedgehog has been assembled, but Sandra won't come out the kitchen. While the mourners in the next room pay their respects, tempers fray and old wounds reopen. Can the family give Gran a dignified send off or will sibling rivalry hamper proceedings?

Stage – Drama – Comedy Venue: Green Room, Corn Exchange | Time: 10.15am

Birds for Bonnets by Maya Pieris

A play about the three women and a man behind the creation of the RSPB who were early ecology activists.

Stage – Drama - Ecology Venue: Casterbridge Room, King's Arms | Time: 10.30am

Blackpool Glee by Deen Reinard

Can a struggling Disco Comedy Club, Joyce Grenfell, Charlie Williams, the 1980's, and Abba, be saved by an old comedian, or will a hideous, ancient evil be awoken to destroy a seaside town? Inspired by true events, one woman tells her horror story. Edinburgh Fringe, 2027. Adult content.

Thriller – Comedy – Drama Venue: Tom Browns | Time: 1.45pm

Bob's Your Uncle by Sinead Gannon

Local musicians gather every Sunday evening in a micropub in the heart of Dorchester for Folk Night. An eccentric young woman, Lara, often attends, but her contribution is not appreciated by the regulars. She bursts into the action this Sunday with news of a mystery American, a festival in honour of a global folk hero and an opportunity for them to perform. This seems wholly implausible, but the only link between the musicians and the opportunity to play at an event they could only dream of is Lara. Mild language. This play is suitable for all ages.

Stage – Drama - Comedy Venue: Victorian Hall, Dorset Museum | Time: 2.45pm

Fairy Queen by Molly Dunne

Fairy Queen is a lyrical monologue exploring infertility, ritual, and the unseen labour of trying to conceive. Blending contemporary experience with folklore, the play follows a woman as beauty routines, fertility treatments, and imagined fairy mythology intertwine. Through dark humour, poetic language, and direct audience address, she confronts the pressures placed upon women's bodies, the isolation of reproductive grief, and the invisible children she mourns. As fantasy dissolves into medical reality, she searches for agency in a body that has become both workplace and battlefield, asking what remains when hope itself becomes another form of labour.

Lyrical - Stage – Genre-Busting Venue: Green Room, Corn Exchange | Time: 11.30am

Family Ties by Sally Lewis

Two sisters return to their dying mother's house. In the charged intimacy of the family home, long held bitterness gives way to revelations about love, loss, motherhood and betrayal . As their mother's life draws to a close , the sisters must finally face the choices that divided them.

Stage – Drama – Comedy Venue: William Barnes Room, Sleeping Bear Hotel | Time: 12.15pm

Final Round by Stacie Bates

31 and 224 have at last made it to the final round. All that separates 31 and 224 from their dream job at The Company is the Processor's questions, but their answers could be a matter of life or death. Final Round explores the benefits and the pitfalls of an AI civilisation in the unassuming guise of a job interview.

Comedy – Drama – Contemporary Venue: William Barnes Room, Sleeping Bear Hotel | Time: 11am

Half Baked by 3-She

Greg has just one thing to do today and that is buy a cake. Should be easy, right? In this comic three- hander Greg soon begins to falter when faced with the intricacies of the baking world. 3-She (Gail Aldwin, Maria Pruden and Sarah Scally) work collaboratively to write short plays and comedy sketches, which have been staged at events in Bridport, Dorchester, Salisbury and Brighton.

Comedy – Drama – Sketch Show Venue: Victorian Hall, Dorset Museum | Time: 1.15pm

How to survive a drama class by Lily-May Solly

A comedy which looks into the struggles of six people that once studied A Level Drama and Performing Arts and their ways to survive a drama class

Comedy – Stage – Contemporary Venue: Victorian Hall, Dorset Museum | Time: 2.15pm

Keep Going by Richard Benson-King

Chris is a hard-working, poorly paid comedian on the edge of everything he's wanted: a national tour, a Time Out feature, and a slot opening the country's biggest comedy awards. But today, he was told something is wrong with his heart. He hasn't told anyone — not even Anna, his partner, eight months pregnant and still working because they need the money. When Chris comes home late, guilty and full of secrets, Anna knows something is off—an extract from Keep Going, a feature film script in early development.

Screen – Drama – Comedy Venue: Community Space, Dorset Museum | Time: 10.45am

Let's All Meet Up by Paul Nield

A piece exploring themes around contemporary climate change activism. The near future. The idealistic Rhea leads a small cell of environmental protestors - 'let's all meet up' is her message to convene. The cell has been exposed by a Democratic Guardian - a kind of secret policeman - and we join what may be its final meeting. In addition to Rhea, the group comprises Joff the lecturer, Mac the pensioner and Sophie the student. This is the final scene. *Content warning: contains one adult swear word, violence and a threat of self-immolation.*

Stage – Drama - Contemporary Venue: William Barnes Room, Sleeping Bear Hotel | Time: 2pm

Mrs Warren's Cremation by Katharine Jee

A scratch comedy drama inspired by George Bernard Shaw's play "Mrs Warren's Profession" (written in 1893). "Mrs Warren's Cremation" is a modern, queer reimagining which hopes to honour Shaw's strong women and his quick wit. It explores what happens to mother and daughter Mrs Warren and Vivie after Shaw's play ends, and imagines the unseen but talked about characters. Adult language.

Drama – Comedy – Stage Venue: Casterbridge Room, King's Arms | Time: 11.45am

Oh, Super! by Alice Flynn

Recently made redundant, caught in a messy divorce, Dawn's moved in with her parents 'while she gets back on her feet'. But Dawn wants to fly: an AI careers consultant has recommended that she becomes a super hero. Friends and family are unsure if she's having a breakdown or pioneering a new path. Swapping safety for uncertainty, Dawn's made a costume and placed an ad online. Will anyone respond – and what is a reasonable hourly rate for heroism? An audio comedy drama exploring themes of identity, value, purpose and connection. All while wearing a cape www.alice-flynn.com

Audio - Comedy – Drama Venue: Council Chamber, Corn Exchange | Time: 10.30am

Roach Girl by Eleanor Hope-Jones

What kind of person, or creature, will you evolve into if society fails? Raised in the South West by "working class done good" parents, Rosie moved to the big city years ago believing hard work and decency would lead to success. Until one night she loses it all: her fiancé to an AI chatbot, her scientific career to corrupt redundancies, and her flat to a cockroach invasion. As Rosie realises the moral framework she has relied on all her life may not work in a decaying society, a once-principled woman evolves into something tougher and stranger. Fleabag meets Philip Ridley in a one-woman tragicomedy.

Stage – Drama – Tragicomedy Venue: Green Room, Corn Exchange | Time: 1pm

Tehran / Bristol by Roxana Vilk

Tehran/Bristol is an epic, intimate drama spanning two countries and two generations, tracing the lives of one Iranian family and the friendships that sustain them through revolution, war and exile. Moving between Tehran and Bristol, the play follows artist Nilu, her childhood friend Shirin, historian Amir and soldier Masoud as they navigate censorship, displacement, love and impossible moral choices. Blending political history with deeply personal stories, it explores how memory, identity and home are continually remade across borders. At once lyrical and suspenseful, Tehran/ Bristol is a powerful portrait of resilience, friendship and the enduring human cost of history.

Drama – Thriller – Historical Venue: Green Room, Corn Exchange | Time: 2.30pm

Temperance by Izzie Harding-Perrott

Exeter gaol, 1682. Temperance and Susannah are the last two women in England to be hanged for witchcraft. They just don't know it yet. Based on the true story of the 'Bideford Three', 'Temperance' follows the final days of Temperance Lloyd and Susannah Edwards. Temperance's youthful defiance clashes Susannah's old-world, God-fearing puritanism. But as secrets come to light, they begin to question who the real enemy is. Sitting somewhere between Blackadder and The Crucible, this tragicomedy is a timely examination of state violence, community, and the power of the individual to resist. 'Fear not God. Fear man.'

Tragicomedy - Punchy - South West Venue: Casterbridge Room, King's Arms | Time: 11.15am

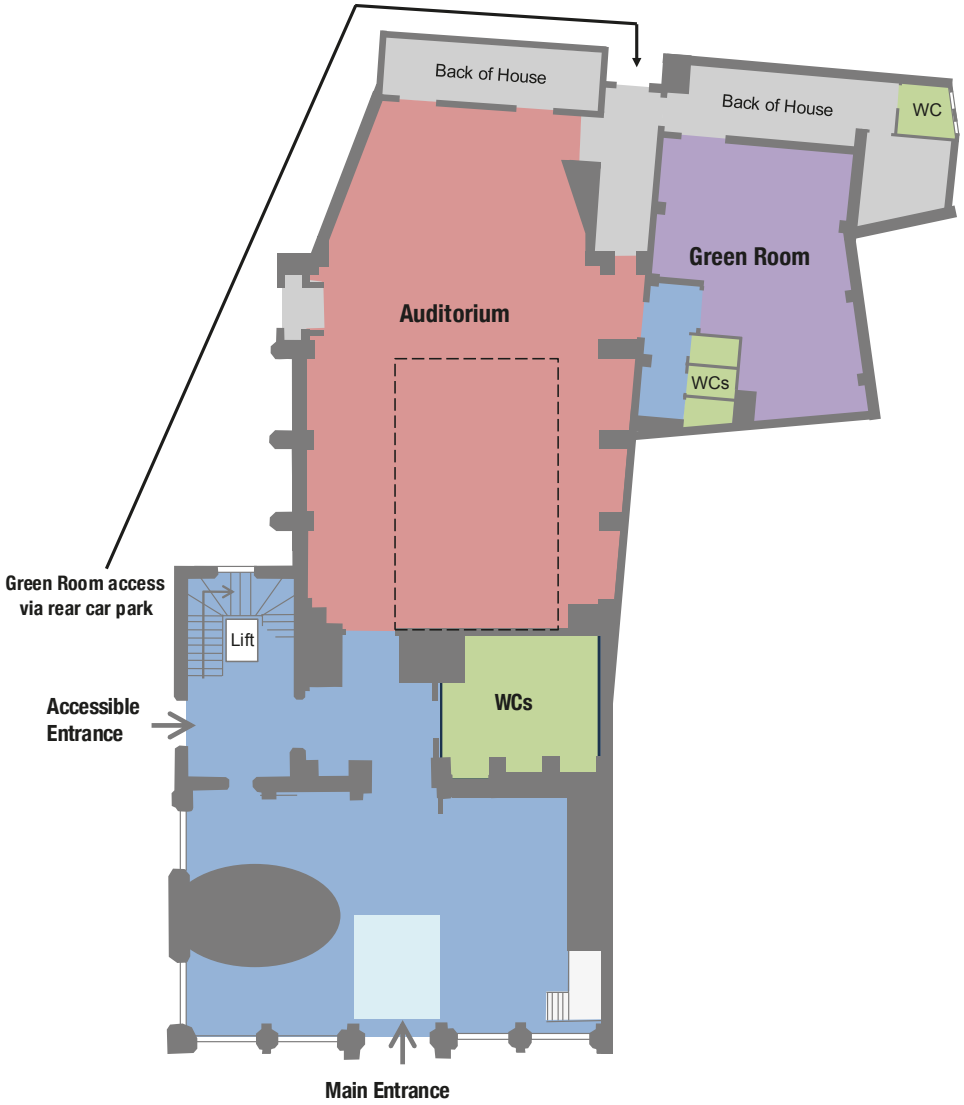
The Allotment by Steve West

Harry is autistic, but it's 1929 and autism isn't understood. He's clever and creative but faces challenges. Every day on his way to work, Harry talks with old Bert on the allotment and soon they're searching for Saxon treasure. But the Great Depression and war are looming. Harry's world will be turned upside down. Through Harry's cleverness and Bert's kindness treasure worth far more than gold will be discovered when their home-made metal detector turns into radar, Britain's crucial air defence system. But they have to build it first…
The playwright is himself autistic, undiagnosed until adulthood.

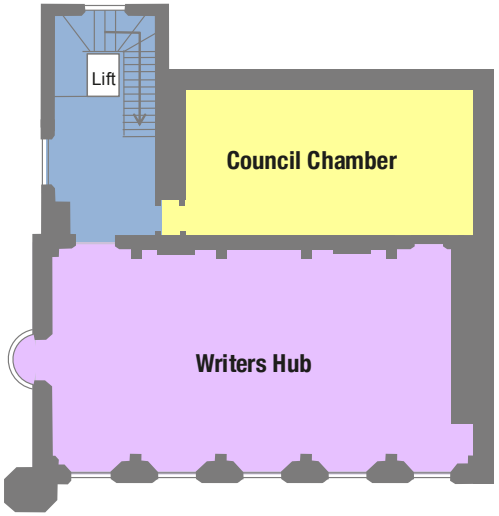
Historical – Stage – Audio Drama Venue: William Barnes Room, Sleeping Bear Hotel | Time: 1.30pm

Corn Exchange guide

GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



The depths of YOU by Toby Batt

The script is a conversation between a young man and the night sky. Throughout his life he notices that his friends, and other young people begin to go missing. And each time one goes missing, a new star lights up the night sky. Our main character, Andrew, seems to be the only one who has noticed.

Stage – Science Fiction – Drama Venue: William Barnes Room, Sleeping Bear Hotel | Time: 11.45am

The Domestic Women Monologues by Eva Best

Five women. Five stories. One unbroken thread. A powerful monologue series exploring how sexual harassment has been normalised across generations. Through five interconnected stories, hidden patterns emerge, revealing how silence, survival, and trauma ripple through time, and how one woman's story is never just her own.

Stage - Drama - Contemporary Venue: Council Chamber, Corn Exchange | Time: 2pm

The Ghost of Martha Brown by James Pope

An extract from a full-length play which imagines a supernatural meeting between the famous author Thomas Hardy, and Martha Brown, the woman Hardy saw hanged in Dorchester in 1856, when he was sixteen. Ghostly visitations by Martha challenge Hardy to re-examine his feelings and understanding towards Martha, Tess of the d'Urbervilles, and his two wives. With a subtly gothic underpinning (Hardy was known for his belief in the supernatural), the play dramatises the injustice of Martha's conviction and execution, and will resonate with our contemporary failure to adequately deal with domestic violence and the way 'the woman pays'.

Drama – Historical – Supernatural Venue: Casterbridge Room, King's Arms | Time: 2.30pm

The Last Days of Tyneham by Simon Jarvis

An extract from a 9-episode radio drama. A grieving daughter is going through recordings of her father's on CD. He himself was researching cassette tapes his own father recorded about strange historical occurrences in the village of Tyneham on the coast of Dorset. Occurrences that nobody seemed to want to mention. Fear disappearing through layers of redundant technology.

Horror – Audio Drama – Historical Venue: Council Chamber, Corn Exchange | Time: 2.30pm

The Matilda Effect by Lily Barrett & Zara Beverley

'The Matilda Effect' is a fast-paced historical fiction, highlighting the struggles of woman throughout history whose achievements have been overshadowed by their male counterparts. It is inspired by the real lives of academics such as Rosalind Franklin and Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin. Set in 1940s Cambridge, the play follows Mary Bates, a PHD student studying natural sciences, through her journey to discovering the double helix structure of DNA, but after her work is stolen by her Professor she is left watching from the sidelines as he accepts his Nobel Peace Prize.

Drama – Historical – Multi-Roling Venue: Community Space, Dorset Museum | Time: 11.15am

The Snow Child by Jane McKell

This play is an original adaptation of a traditional East European tale. Working with Ukrainian families, inspired to look at their fairy tales, I read The Snow Child, it led to my adapting the story into a family play for the stage. The themes of love, loss, grief, and hope are clear for all to see; and, as in all good fairy tales, there are simple, subtle moral lessons throughout. With several layers, the play- is for 5+ as much as their great-grandparents to enjoy; something in there for all. A Romantic at heart, this playwright loved writing it.

Family Show – Stage – Drama Venue: Victorian Hall, Dorset Museum | Time: 1.45pm

The Turnip Cruncher by Nick Jubber

A pub in Dorset. Landlady Jean has lost her most prized possession - a turnip cruncher. And she has a hunch she knows where it's got to. So she hunts down her old flame Ross to confront him. Cue recriminations, reminiscences and revelations as an old and rotten relationship is worked over for the sake of an antique farming tool. But what has Ross's daughter Jess got to do with it all? And is it connected to her video series, 'Strange but Valuable'? The Turnip Cruncher is a comedy relationship drama that could only be set in Dorset.

Stage – Comedy – Dorset Venue: Tom Browns | Time: 2.15pm

Unbidden Dreams by Bryn Strudwick

Screenplay about a teenage holiday romance between Grace and Peter. The voice-over narration throughout is by the elderly Grace and Peter. There is a short, live conversation between the young Grace and Peter and one speech by young Grace. Short hint of sex involving undoing a few buttons but no further. No age limit recommended.

Screen – Romance - Drama Venue: Green Room, Corn Exchange | Time: 3pm

Under the Wishing Tree by Linda Allan

Inspired by memories of Upton Country Park, Under the Wishing Tree is a tender slice of life drama set beneath a community wishing tree. Through intimate monologues and gentle ensemble transitions, visitors reveal humour, hope, frustration and grief — from children and lovers to dog walkers, teenagers, and the Park Warden who just keeps showing up. For this festival performance, selected extracts will be presented, offering a glimpse into the lives and wishes that shape this community. A warm, reflective exploration of connection, resilience, and the places that hold our stories. Contains occasional strong language.

Stage – Drama – Mosaic Venue: Casterbridge Room, King's Arms | Time: 12.15pm

WEB by Leela Bunce

The beginnings of a new script for a solo comedy drama entitled WEB, exploring the threads that bind us across time and space. My plan is it will become an immersive piece where the audience becomes "entwined" in the tale - both metaphorically and literally (in a safe way!)

Stage – Drama – Comedy Venue: Green Room, Corn Exchange | Time: 12pm

Westminster Whippy by Laura Sargent-Edney

During the hottest summer for years, a middle-aged man from a Dorset seaside town uses an ice cream van as a Trojan horse to infiltrate parliament and avenge his brother's gambling related suicide. Fast-paced, surprising and darkly funny, Westminster Whippy is a tale of misguided vengeance with a big heart.

Stage – Drama- Contemporary Venue: Green Room, Corn Exchange | Time: 12.30pm

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Events

SATURDAY

Alison Steadman (45mins)

Having appeared in hit television, film and stage plays including Here We Go, Gavin and Stacey, Abigail's Party and the iconic Dorset inspired Nuts in May, Alison Steadman knows a thing or two about scripts. Alison will be talking about what draws her to particular acting roles, how she works with script, and her commitment to creating characters that have complexity and emotional nuance. In a career spanning over years, Alison's work on stage, screen and audio, continues to inspire and connect with audiences around the world.

Venue: Auditorium, Corn Exchange | Time: 5pm

An Introduction to Wiltshire Creative – Gareth Machin (30mins)

An introduction to the work of Wiltshire Creative. Based in Salisbury, Wiltshire Creative are a multi-art form organisation working across three venues, with a thriving year-round participatory offer as well as an International Arts Festival that explodes into the streets and spaces of the wider city. New work fuels the artistic vision but comes in many different guises. Artistic Director, Gareth Machin, will talk about the organisation's work and the opportunities and challenges for producing and presenting.

Venue: Old Smoking Room, King's Arms | Time: 12pm

BBC Writers: Who We Are and What We Do – Simon Nelson (30mins)

Simon Nelson from BBC Writers talks about the work of the BBC and how it discovers, develops and champions new and experienced writing talent across the whole of the UK.

Venue: Auditorium, Corn Exchange | Time: 10.45am

Building Your Dramatic Toolkit – Jemma Kennedy (30mins)

What are the essential elements of a good dramatic narrative and how can you turn your subject matter into a solid story? Jemma will open her story-building toolkit and share the key techniques and questions she uses to develop ideas into workable narrative forms across different media. Jemma is a playwright and screenwriter, currently under commission to BBC Films, Studio Canal and BlackLight Television. Her ITV thriller 'Secret Service' came out this year and her book The Playwright's Journey: From First Spark to First Night is published by Nick Hern Books: **jemmakennedy.com**

Venue: Tom Browns | Time: 3.30pm

Come and Have A Conversation with Sam Parker and Ben Lyons-Ross (12.45pm – 2.30pm – book a slot on the day)

Book a 1:1 on the day to ask questions about your own work and writer development across the South West and beyond. Sam Parker is Artist Development Producer at Exeter Northcott Theatres, and Ben Lyons-Ross is Head of Talent and Participation at Landmark Theatres. As well as being brilliantly knowledgeable and passionate about the creation of new work, Sam and Ben are also writers themselves. Both are uniquely placed in understanding the relationship between organisations and freelancers. Sign up on the day – first-come, first-served, places will be limited (timed slots). Further information about Exeter Northcott and Landmark Theatres will be available throughout the Festival in the Writers Hub.

Venue: Old Smoking Room, King's Arms | Time: 12.45pm – 2.30pm (book a slot on the day)

Directing New Writing - Anna Ledwich (45mins)

How can the rehearsal process impact on the dramaturgical development of a play? How does rehearsing new writing differ from revivals? What questions do actors ask of a play? What does a rehearsal look like? This practical workshop will explore the director/actors process, and how it can impact and continue the development of a new play. Using scenes from recent new writing, director Anna Ledwich and two actors will put these scenes through their paces. Suitable for actors, playwrights and directors at all levels.

Venue: Auditorium, Corn Exchange | Time: 1.45pm

From the Eye of the Beholder: A Professional Look into Writing Blind Characters – Ellie Wallwork (30mins)

So you want to write a visually impaired character, but don't know where to start? Meet blind queer actor Ellie Wallwork, best known for her iconic roles in Doctor Who and Call the Midwife. She will walk you through the dos and don'ts, the highs and lows and most of all, how to try and get it right. You'll learn what it means to be a Disabled creative and how that can shape your own practice. Who knows? You might create new characters with new stories to tell.

Venue: Council Chamber, Corn Exchange | Time: 12.45pm

From Script to Stage: Dorsetborn & Self-Producing (30mins)

So you're part of The Script's the Thing, what next? After sharing 'Fort' and 'Lessons from Teacher' at the festival in 2023, both plays have been further developed and produced nationally by Dorsetborn. Join director Rohan Gotobed and writers Tabitha Hayward and Erin De Frias for an educative and frank discussion around their creative journeys, development processes, and advice on how to turn your new script into a fully-fledged production.

Venue: Council Chamber, Corn Exchange | Time: 3.45pm

Hampstead Theatre & New Work – Alice Hamilton (30mins)

Alice was previously co-Artistic Director of touring theatre company, Up in Arms, and currently serves as Associate Director and Head of Artistic Development at Hampstead Theatre. Drawing on her experience of working with writers at different stages of their career in a range of spaces, Alice will discuss the relationship of director and writer in the new-writing theatre. She'll explore the various forms those collaborations can take and will consider how that dynamic can evolve and inform the creative journey from page to stage.

Venue: Auditorium, Corn Exchange | Time: 3pm

Live Music – The Flaming Cactus Band

Celebrate the end of the first day of the Festival in the café at Dorchester Arts with live music from The Flaming Cactus Band continuing after at Tom Browns.

Venue: Café at Dorchester Arts followed by Tom Browns | Time: from 6pm

Make A Scene! – presented by Acting Out (75 mins) – perfect for years 6 to 11!

Join us for 75 minutes of laughter, creativity and fast-paced drama games as we discover how words on a page come to life. Armed with just one line of text and a mystery prop, you'll work together to invent hilarious, exciting or completely unexpected scenes. Experiment with different characters, explore surprising ways to deliver a line, and see how the same script can become something completely different. The session finishes with a relaxed sharing, where family and friends can enjoy the brilliant scenes you've created. Perfect for children who love performing, making things up and having lots of fun.

Venue: William Barnes Room, Sleeping Bear Hotel | Time: 10.30am

Making Work For Bigger Stages – Martin Berry (30mins)

Creative Director and co-Chief Executive of Exeter Northcott Theatres Martin Berry, shares his experiences of directing productions for the 464-main stage at Exeter, including new plays, hit musicals and classics. Through directing community casts and professional ensembles, Martin's work has given him insight into what writing for larger performance spaces needs, from initial concept through to character, staging, production values and story. Come for a conversation about how a director approaches scale, new work and get insight into the forthcoming Northcott drama Portland Spies.

Venue: Auditorium, Corn Exchange | Time: 12.30pm

Play Publishing: How It Works – Maddie Hindes (30mins)

Nick Hern Books is the UK's leading specialist theatre publisher, home to many of today's most exciting and renowned contemporary playwrights. Maddie Hindes, Commissioning Editor for the company, offers a step-by-step walkthrough of the process of publishing plays: how publishers discover new writers; explaining contracts and royalties; putting the plays on the page; and how the finished play texts are shared with the world.

Venue: Auditorium, Corn Exchange | Time: 1pm

The Joys & Pains of Running a West End Theatre – Eleanor Lang (30mins)

The West End is London's theatreland attracting over 17 million visits a year. How do you run a West End theatre? Eleanor Lang is the Chief Executive of Shaftesbury Theatre – which will be renamed in February 2027 - as the Judi Dench Theatre. What does a Chief Executive do? Is there such a thing as a typical day? And what kind of shows attract big audience numbers and keep them returning? Come and hear some behind-the-scenes stories and have the opportunity to ask questions.

Venue: Old Smoking Room, King's Arms | Time: 10.15am

The Outsiders Project (45mins)

The Outsiders Project is a creative arts project that amplifies the voices of those often marginalised and unheard. As part of BEAF's access programmes, the project supports artists in developing their practice and producing exceptional work in a safe and welcoming space.

The project is delivered through free weekly writing workshops, mentoring, masterclasses and public sharing opportunities, building participants' confidence, skills and self-expression.

You can also see our film showing in the Writers Hub throughout the weekend. Come and experience our work and discover more about the artists and The Outsiders Project.

Venue: Council Chamber, Corn Exchange | Time: 1.45pm

The Story I'll Fight For – Kerry Irvine, Creative Producer (30mins)

Developing new writing isn't about fixing scripts or searching for perfection. It's about recognising what is already alive within a piece of work, asking the right questions, and creating the conditions for writers and plays to grow with confidence and purpose. Producer Kerry Irvine has over 30 years' experience of new work. She offers insight and practical guidance on how to develop something that audiences will choose to spend their hard-earned time and money experiencing together- rather than stay at home and watch Netflix!

Venue: Old Smoking Room, King's Arms | Time: 11.15am

Thoughts on Podcasting & Storytelling - Chris Grimes (30mins)

As an actor and writer, Chris Grimes has worked extensively in theatre and radio over the past thirty years. As founder of The Good Listening To show, Chris has an enviable knack of making guests feel comfortable to tell their stories Think 'Desert Island Discs' but in a 'Clearing' and with stories rather than music! Now in its sixth year, Chris reveals his preparation for interviewing guests and how the show comes together. Chris is also Artistic Director of the acclaimed improvisation group Instant Wit

www.thegoodlisteningtoshow.com

Venue: Old Smoking Room, King's Arms | Time: 2.45pm

What's A Writers Room and What Does a Show Runner Do? – Oriane Messina, Fay Rusling, and Ashley Pharoah (45 mins)

Experienced writers delve into their own experiences of writers rooms and show running on some of the most notable television dramas and comedies of recent years. Fay Rusling & Oriane Messina are a prolific and successful comedy and drama writing partnership, part of the teams behind multi-award-winning comedies Green Wing, Smack the Pony and Campus for Victoria Pile and Channel 4. They have written for Martin Freeman and Chris Addison's critically acclaimed Breeders and recently Piglets on ITV, and Green Wing Resuscitated that has now been revived in podcast form. Ashley Pharoah is a playwright, screenwriter and producer, currently working in a writers room for Sky. Ashley is known for Life on Mars, Ashes to Ashes and Wild at Heart. This is a behind the scenes look at how television shows are written and a must for all those with an interest in crafting television comedy and drama.

Venue: Auditorium, Corn Exchange | Time: 11.30am

SUNDAY

Bringing New Work to the Stage – Ed Madden, National Theatre (30mins)

Every new production the National Theatre makes starts its life in the New Work Department, based at the National Theatre Studio. We work with writers of various levels of experience in a range of ways: from discovering new voices through our Open Submissions process, to inviting writers on attachment, and developing commissioned work towards our stages. Ed, Associate Dramaturg at the NT, will explain how the theatre engages with writers and talk about the day-to-day of life at the Studio, before inviting questions from the audience.

Venue: Auditorium, Corn Exchange | Time: 2.45pm

Dorchester Community Plays Association (DCPA) – Making Plays (30mins)

DCPA is a registered charity and community theatre organisation dedicated to bringing people together through large-scale productions. We hold the record for the most community plays in one town and are currently heading into our 8th production. With stories inspired by Dorchester's rich history, and local life and a cast of around 100, these professionally lead productions are a unique theatrical experience. We believe theatre is at its most powerful when it is created collectively, with neighbours, families and newcomers. Together, we celebrate our shared heritage, strengthen community connections, and create memorable experiences. Our productions inspire creativity, encourage participation, and leave a lasting legacy, ensuring local stories are preserved for future generations. Come to our session and find us in the Writers Hub throughout the Festival to discover more!

Venue: Auditorium, Corn Exchange | Time: 12.45pm

Flying High: The Story Behind the Spitfire Girls play - Katherine Senior (30mins)

Venue: Auditorium, Corn Exchange | Time: 12pm

Playwright and actress Katherine Senior brought a fifteen-minute excerpt of her new play to The Script's The Thing in 2023. Following development on the National Theatre Generate programme, the full production premiered within eighteen months and toured extensively to mid-scale venues across the UK in 2025 and 2026. For 2027, Spitfire Girls will visit Chichester Festival Theatre, Lighthouse Poole and play a five-week run at London's Park Theatre before heading to Off-Broadway. In this session, Katherine will share details of the production's brilliant success, how she wrote and performs in this beautiful play crafted from the extraordinary true stories of the women who dared to fly during WWII.

From Stage to Screen – Nigel Hastings (30mins)

How to adapt a stage play for the screen? What are the essential differences between screenwriting and writing for the stage? And how to do this on a very low budget? Nigel Hastings is an actor, producer and script editor. He appeared in And Then Come The Nightjars, the story of an unlikely friendship between a West Country farmer and the vet who is assigned to cull his precious herd, which was first seen at Theatre 503 and went on to cinema distribution and contention for a BAFTA. Nigel has worked in script development with a range of companies including BBC, Creative England and C4. Acting credits include Peaky Blinders, Hustle and Doctor Who, and seasons at the RSC and Shakespeare's Globe.

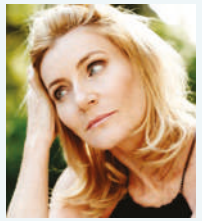
Venue: Auditorium, Corn Exchange | Time: 11.30am

From The Cherry to the Cup 2 – Brew with Brad (45mins)

From the Cherry to the Cup is back! Festival favourite Brew with Brad returns with another expedition into the world of coffee. Part scripted, part made up on the spot, Brad's experience and skill with coffee draws you into all the things you need to hear about what's in your cup. Limited to 25 participants on the day. Supported by Seventh Seal.

Venue: Tom Browns | Time: 11.30am

How Actors Work With Scripts - Q&A with Michelle Collins (30mins)



Michelle Collins has worked extensively in theatre and television over the last thirty years. She is best-known for her television roles in EastEnders, 2000 Acres of Sky and the BAFTA winning The Illustrated Mum. In this Q+A facilitated by Producer Josh Beaumont, Michelle will offer her thoughts and insight on what makes a great script and how actors create dramatic and comic moments (30mins)

Venue: Auditorium, Corn Exchange | Time: 2.15pm

Live music from East of Santos

If you're having a slower start to your Festival on Sunday morning, come and enjoy a chilled vibe with live music from East of Santos in the café at Dorchester Arts. Bring this programme, enjoy a coffee and decide what you're going to see next!

Venue: Café at Dorchester Arts | Time: from 11.30am

So You're Thinking of Making Your Play into a Musical? – Helen Watts (30mins)

Actor, director, playwright, and adaptation specialist, Helen Watts, whose work is published and licensed by Concord Theatricals (UK) and Gallissas Theaterverlag und Mediaagentur (Germany), explores the essential considerations of turning a story into a musical. From finding the right collaborators to understanding the market and where to pitch your show, this session looks at the journey from story to musical. Helen's stage adaptations include Persuasion, Far From The Madding Crowd, Northanger Abbey, Under The Greenwood Tree and A Christmas Carol. Musical book writing credits include Lysistrata and Love is Not A Science (RCSSD), The Legend Of Sleepy Hollow (NYMT), Mrs Beeton Says... (BOVTS) and Five Children and It (Aria Entertainment).

Venue: Council Chamber, Corn Exchange | Time: 1.15pm

Sunday Morning Comedy Sketch Writing Workshop (45 mins)

Back by popular demand! Gavin Egan and Richard Law return to the festival with their comedy sketch writing workshop. The session is designed to help writers of all styles spark some new ideas. If you're not a writer, then you'll still have fun with our audience friendly style. We will perform and analyse sketches along with the much-loved map of ideas. Gavin and Richard write & perform comedy sketches at venues across the south. Richard has also written comedy sketches for the BBC.

Venue: Council Chamber, Corn Exchange | Time: 11.30am

Scripts A' Wrap! – Tom Browns with live music from Owen Lister (until closing)

Phew! What a weekend! Come and join us at Tom Browns for chill out, relaxation, and great conversation after the end of The Script's The Thing 3!

Venue: Tom Browns | Time: 4.30ish

Teatro Vivo's Repair Shop - with Artistic Directors and expert devisers Kas Darley and Mark Stevenson (120mins)

Stuck on a scene? Need to pinpoint your characters' choices? Writers can sign up for a 20min slot to have devisers work on a particular bit of script they are stuck on - a scene that's not working, or some characters that need to iron out their back story. Brief Teatro Vivo, let them improvise while you take notes! Teatro Vivo is an award-winning theatre company making playful and exciting immersive shows. They have absolutely no idea what writers block means, and they'll give you a creative Sunday boost! Writers served on a first-come, first-served basis. Sign-up sheet will be in the Writers Hub from first day of Festival or turn up on the day. They'll get to as many repairs as they can! Note: observers are welcome throughout the session – drop-in for as much time as you like. Please note your scene will be worked on in front of others so be prepared for feedback.

Venue: Victorian Hall, Dorset Museum | Time: 10.30am – 12.30pm

What Can You Do After a Scratch Night? – OffPiste Theatre (30mins)

OffPiste Theatre are an award-winning film and theatre company. Touring work across the South West, they've been commissioned by Theatre Royal Plymouth and the Almeida Theatre. OffPiste developed an extract of 'RANK' by Dan Gaisford, a one-man show about a taxi driver, first shown at The Script's The Thing in 2023. After successful R+D, the play premiered at the beginning of 2026 and toured around the region. Join OffPiste's Director, Archie Rowell, to chat about how he makes theatre and film join forces, how to get brilliant work developed further, and hear about all the mistakes (and successes!) he's encountered along the way.

Venue: Community Space, Dorset Museum | Time: 12.45pm

What Does Dorset Have to Offer Writers? (30 mins) – Chris Chibnall

Screenwriter, playwright, producer and novelist, Chris Chibnall famously brought Dorset to television screens with three series of Broadchurch. Dorset is also the background for his two latest novels – Death at the White Hart and The Parkwood Murders. How does where you live influence what you write? Chris offers some personal reflections on how and what he writes, how his support of Bridport's Page to Screen Festival is helping to encourage new filmmaking, and the thrill of adapting books for the screen.

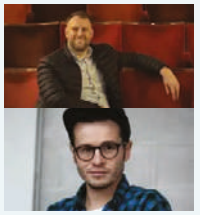
Venue: Auditorium, Corn Exchange | Time: 3.15pm

What Happens After You Type "The End"? Developing work further (30mins)

Finishing your play is only the beginning. Director, producer and practitioner Josh Whatsize, shares how playwrights can take their work from page to stage without waiting for a commission. Drawing on ten years of experience in regional theatre, Josh explores the development and production process, from rehearsed readings and scratch performances to self-producing and building creative partnerships. The session also looks at thinking like a producer, approaching funding opportunities such as Arts Council England, and identifying the best next steps for your work. Ideal for playwrights who are new to producing their own work or navigating the development process.

Venue: Auditorium, Corn Exchange | Time: 10.45am

Why Nobody Wants to Produce Your Work with Josh Beaumont & Matt Emeny from The Production Garden (30mins)



As producers of one of the most innovative and dynamic production companies in the UK, Josh and Matt answer your questions about how best to position your work, the state of touring across the region and nationally, and why nobody wants to produce your work (in the nicest possible way!)

Venue: Council Chamber, Corn Exchange | Time: 12.30pm

Writing Across Television and Theatre – Thomas Hescott and Jon Brittain (30mins)

How does theatre writing differ to writing for television? Come and join writer/director Tom Hescott (Call The Midwife, The Act and Outings) and writer/director Jon Brittain (Baby Reindeer, Kathy and Stella Solve a Murder and the Olivier Award Winning play Rotterdam) for a Q&A about all things writing for theatre and TV (30mins)

Venue: Auditorium, Corn Exchange | Time: 1.30pm

Venues at a Glance

SATURDAY

Auditorium – Corn Exchange

10.15am A Wise Old Owl by Christine Diment
10.45am BBC Writers – Simon Nelson (30mins)
11.30am What's A Writers' Room? (45mins)
12.30pm Making Work for Bigger Stages – Exeter Northcott (30mins)
1pm Play Publishing – Maddie Hines, Nick Hern Books (30mins)
1.45pm Directing New Writing – Anna Ledwich (45mins)
3pm Hampstead Theatre – Alice Hamilton (30mins)
4.15pm This is Not A Christmas Dinner by Rachel Fullegar & Monika Brodowska
5pm Alison Steadman (45mins)
6pm–8pm Social with live music from The Flaming Cactus Band

Council Chamber, Corn Exchange

11.15am Never Forgotten by Ella Shipley
11.45am Battered by Tim Poultney
12.15pm Paid for Dinner by Dave Young
12.45pm From The Eye of the Beholder – Ellie Wallwork (30mins)
1.45pm The Outsiders Project (45mins)
3.15pm My Mum and Dad by Tony Bell
3.45pm From Script to Stage: Dorsetborn (30mins)
4.30pm WIDDERSHINS by Carl Grose performed by Dave Minn

Green Room, Corn Exchange

10.30am Metamorphosis (The Ancient One) by Guy Purnell
11am My Life as a Seagull by Emma Williams
11.30am Inevitable by Lee Crompton
12noon Restore to Factory Setting by Dan Gaisford
12.30pm Out on a Limb by Gavin Egan
1pm Attempt 99 by Brook Hopper
1.30pm You Never Saw Me by Tor Cannell
2pm Flight by Micha Colombo
2.30pm Don't Be Sad, Have a Shag by Ella Ritsema
3.30pm Miriam's Ark by D K Nwosu
4pm The Fortieth Women by Victoria L. Humphreys
4.45pm Late Bloomer by Nat Wood Fox and Debs J Roberts

Victorian Hall, Dorset Museum & Art Gallery

10.45am This Line Means Divide by Charlotte Baars
11.30am No more kings by Giorgia Ciampi Tsolaki
12noon This Play Has an Iguana for a Protagonist by Liz Dooley
12.30pm Ballad of Hedra Blight by Flynn Fitzgerald
1.15pm The Rufus Stone by Imogen Usherwood
2pm Writers' Lab Tobacco Factory Theatre – Script 1
2.30pm Writers' Lab Tobacco Factory Theatre – Script 2
3pm Under the Sun by Michele O'Brien
3.30pm The Love Test by Robbie McGann and Sophie McCudden
4pm Boss by Taylor Ayling
4.30pm Ceci n'est pas une pipe M. Magritte by Non Vaughan-O'Hagan

Community Space, Dorset Museum & Art Gallery

11.15am Congratulations Eric Bennet by Matt Lockett
11.45am Ooser by Ross Cleaver
12.15pm Doors Closing by Megan Clarke
12.45pm Of Kith and Kin by Paul Ogden and Steve C Walters
3pm In Case of Emergency by Kathryn Robinson

William Barnes Room, Sleeping Bear Hotel

10.30am Make A Scene! – Acting Out Children's Workshop (75mins)
12.30pm Four Small Steps by Gerard Harris
1pm Afterlife by Katy E. Wall
1.30pm The View from the Burj Khalifa by Betsy Wragg
2pm SETTERAGIC ON by Tom Marsh
2.30pm You'll Never Know by Mark Bastin
3.45pm Spots Before Their Eyes by Sally Whyte
4.30pm Spectacles, Testicles, Wallet and Watch by Oliver Hickey

Casterbridge Room, King's Arms

10.15am Dorothy by Ciaran Parsons
11am Kuru by Grainne Byrne
12.45pm Mister Mittens by Stephen Graves
1.15pm A Shaggy Dog Story by I J Stewart
1.45pm Free Diver by Lucy Alder
3.15pm The Visit by Miriam Coley
4.15pm Mad Not Bad by Edie Walwyn

Old Smoking Room, King's Arms

10.15am The Joys & Pains of Running a West End Theatre - Eleanor Lang (30mins)
11.15am The Story I'll Fight For - Kerry Irvine (30mins)
12pm An Introduction to Wiltshire Creative – Gareth Machin (30mins)
12.45pm Come & Have Conversation - Sam Parker & Ben Lyons-Ross (105mins) mins /book a 15min slot)
2.45pm Thoughts on Podcasting & Storytelling - Chris Grimes (30mins)

Tom Browns

12.15pm Almost A Spice Girl by Maria Speight
12.45pm Charlie Boys by Martin Rogers
1.15pm Girl on the Ledge by Max Kyte
1.45pm The Crop Circle Café by Polly Tisdall
2.15pm THUNDER STONE by Jon Nash
2.45pm Top of the Mountain by Mark Brown
3.30pm Building Your Dramatic Toolkit – Jemma Kennedy (30mins)
4.30pm MANBand The Story by Tim Baker with songs by Pete & Jo Hanlon
9pm Swamp Stomp String Band supported by Ribble

SUNDAY

Auditorium, Corn Exchange

10.15am Betty and the Yeti by Angel Exit Theatre
10.45am What Happens After You Type "The End" - Josh Whatsize (30mins)
11.30am From Stage to Screen – Nigel Hastings (30mins)
12noon Flying High: The Story Behind the Spitfire Girls play - Katherine Senior (30mins)
12.45pm Dorchester Community Plays Association (30mins)
1.30pm Writing Across Television and Theatre – Thomas Hescott & Jon Brittain (30mins)
2.15pm How Actors Work With Scripts - Michelle Collins (30mins)
2.45pm Bringing New Work to the Stage – Ed Madden, NT (30mins)
3.15pm What Does Dorset Have to Offer Writers? – Chris Chibnall (30mins)
3.45pm Closing Ceremony
4pm Festival closes

Council Chamber, Corn Exchange

10.30am Oh, Super! by Alice Flynn
11.30am Sunday Morning Comedy Sketch Writing Workshop - Gavin Egan & Rich Law (45mins)
12.30pm Why Nobody Wants to Produce Your Work - Josh Beaumont and Matt Emeny (30mins)
1.15pm So You're Thinking of Making Your Play into a Musical? Helen Watts (30mins)
2pm The Domestic Women Monologues by Eva Best
2.30pm The Last Days of Tyneham by Simon Jarvis
3pm Always With Us by Shona Graham

Green Room, Corn Exchange

10.15am Big Send Off by Eleanor Brotherton
11.30am The Fairy Queen by Molly Dunne
12noon WEB by Leela Bunce
12.30pm Westminster Whippy by Laura Sargent-Edney
1pm Roach Girl by Eleanor Hope-Jones
1.30pm A Small Act of Rebellion by Ruth Beswarick
2.30pm Tehran / Bristol by Roxana Vilk
3pm Unbidden Dreams by Bryn Strudwick

Victorian Hall, Dorset Museum & Art Gallery

10.30am–12.30pm Teatro Vivo's Repair Shop - book a slot / sign-up sheet in Writers' Hub (120mins)
1.15pm Half Baked by 3-She
1.45pm The Snow Child by Jane McKell
2.15pm How to survive a drama class by Lily-May Solly
2.45pm Bob's Your Uncle by Sinead Gannon

Community Space, Dorset Museum & Art Gallery

10.45am Keep Going by Richard Benson-King
11.15am The Matilda Effect by Lily Barrett & Zara Beverley
12.45pm What Can You Do After a Scratch Night? – OffPiste Theatre (30mins)
1.30pm Aspirations of Women by Wendy Maggs

William Barnes Room, Sleeping Bear Hotel

11am Final Round by Stacie Bates
11.45am The depths of YOU by Toby Batt
12.15pm Family Ties by Sally Lewis
1.30pm The Allotment by Steve West
2pm Let's All Meet Up by Paul Nield

Casterbridge Room, King's Arms

10.30am Birds for Bonnets by Maya Pieris
11.15am Temperance by Izzie Harding-Perrott
11.45am Mrs Warren's Cremation by Katharine Jee
12.15pm Under the Wishing Tree by Linda Allan
1.15pm And The Word Was God by Matthew McConkey
2.30pm The Ghost of Martha Brown by James Pope

Tom Browns

11.30am From the Cherry to the Cup 2: Brew With Brad (45mins)
1pm Apocalypse…Now? by Hannah Lobley
1.45pm Blackpool Glee by Deen-Ol Reinard
2.15pm The Turnip Cruncher by Nick Jubber
4.15pm Scripts A'Wrap! with live music from Owen Lister (until late)

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Writers Hub

This year you can find the Writers Hub in the upstairs of the Corn Exchange. Many of the individuals, venues and organisations involved in today's events will have further information available there. You can ask further questions about their work and get contact details for follow-up conversations.

Special thanks to:
Activate Performing Arts
Cerne Abbas Brewery
Coastland College
Chris & Ros Huxley
Jo Simons & DYT (Dorchester Youth Theatre)
Katy Jones
Lighthouse Poole
Nick Hern Books
Royal Court, London
Shaftesbury New Writing Scratch Festival
WGGB (Writers' Guild of Great Britain)

Thank you to all the writers for bringing their work; the actors, readers and performers involved in presenting work; all the hosts and volunteer stewards; and all the staff at each of the venues. .

For The Script's The Thing:
Festival Director – Ed Viney
Festival Producer – Mark Tattersall
Volunteer Steward Coordinator – Helen Hutchinson
Development & Press – Jacky Thorne
Marketing – Dan Thomas
The Script's The Thing image design – Zoe Barnish

Please include us in any social media @ScriptsTheThing and follow our Facebook page

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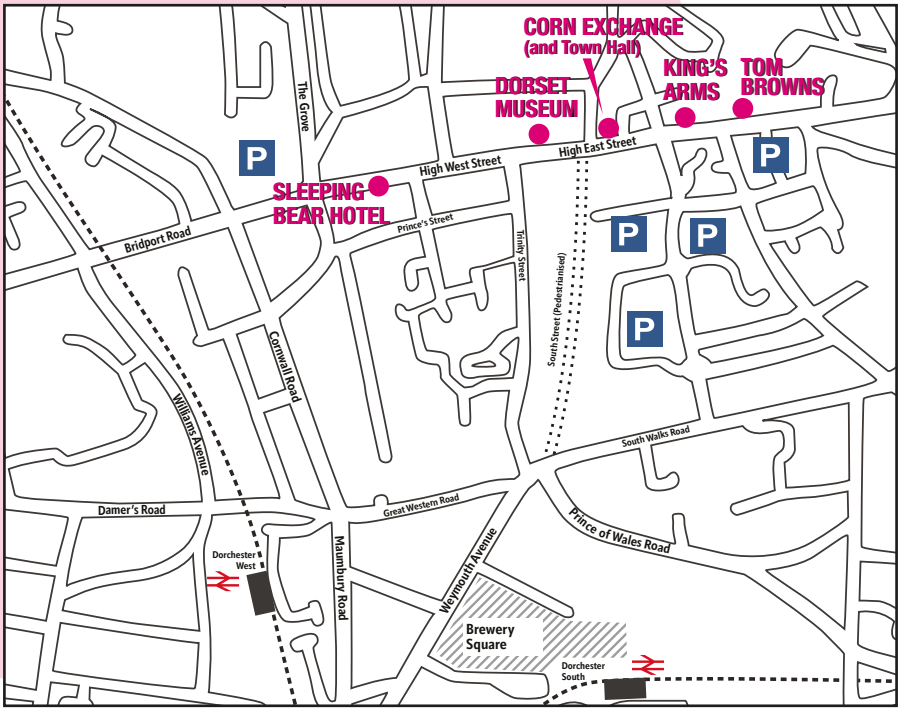
With thanks to: Grassby & Sons, Nantes Solicitors, Move Clinic, Crickmay Stark Architects



Plan your visit:

The Festival is taking place across five venues, all on High West Street or High East Street and 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

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 for more information. Dorset Museum and The Sleeping Bear Hotel are fully accessible. Accessible entry to the Sleeping Bear is through the rear. There are no accessible toilet facilities at this venue. For accessibility at the King's Arms please refer to their website; note the performance space is on the first-floor and is not accessible by wheelchair. Tom Browns has one step to the main entrance and two for entry to the performance space; there are ramps available for both. Toilets are on the ground floor but there is no accessible toilet. For further information please email townbrowns@oaktaverns.co.uk and we'll be happy to help.

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