



LAUNCH

Launch Showcase 2019

For emerging
theatre makers

20
STORIES
HIGH

UNITY
Theatre

#makeyourownfuture



A message from the 20 Stories High team

Welcome to the first ever LAUNCH Academy Showcase.

Since 2006, we've been committed to supporting working class and culturally diverse emerging artists in Liverpool and beyond.

LAUNCH now formalises this commitment making an even more meaningful investment in the development of new practitioners over a wide-ranging four-year programme.

It's part of a national movement in the industry and we are proud to be working with other arts organisations to find creative ways to support emerging artists under-represented in the arts.

We believe that cross-pollination and partnership working is key to a successful and thriving arts community.

That's why we're proud to be working with Unity Theatre and the wide range of industry experts that have shared their knowledge with the Academy.

And finally, a huge thank you to the dedicated LAUNCH Academy members - we know they will make an impact not only in Liverpool, but also nationally and internationally.

Julia Samuels and Keith Saha
CEOs / Co-Artistic Directors

Leanne Jones
Executive Director

LAUNCH



About LAUNCH

LAUNCH is a professional development programme for emerging theatre makers delivered in partnership with the Unity Theatre, Liverpool.

Our aim is to equip emerging artists, theatre makers and brand new companies with the right tools to enable them to launch a career in the arts.

“LAUNCH has been like university for emerging artists, all covered in 6 months. Now we feel equipped and empowered to kick-start sustainable careers in the arts.”

Kitchen Sink Live

LAUNCH



About LAUNCH 2018-19

Our pilot year for LAUNCH has been split into three strands:

LAUNCH Academy - Make your own future

9 emerging artists and companies completed our 6-month programme of professional development.

LAUNCH Trainees - Sharpen your skills

We employed LAUNCH Academy member Steph Peet as our Trainee Community Workshop Facilitator.

LAUNCH Projects - Do your own thing

We awarded a commission of £3,000 plus in-kind development and support to LAUNCH Academy member Paislie Reid to develop her project about the highs and lows of the gig-economy for hospitality industry workers.

"As an actor I struggled to find satisfying work in between jobs. Winning the LAUNCH Projects commission has allowed me to develop my own work and take control of my future."

Paislie Reid



Amina Atiq

Amina Atiq is a Yemeni-Scouse writer, performance artist, facilitator and activist.

Her work has been featured on BBC Radio 5 live, BBC Radio 6 Music, BBC Arabic, The Independent, British Muslim TV @thewarehouse, Writing on the Wall, The Skinny, Whispering Dialogue and Human Appeal.

Amina recently won the LJMU Citizenship award for her community engagement work and has also been awarded the title 'Best North West Volunteer' by Human Appeal.

Recent work includes the co-writing of a new play with Ice & Fire Theatre which premiered in the Liverpool

Arab Arts Festival 2018. In collaboration with LAAF, she is also developing poetry workshops for Yemenis across the UK with Professor Deryn Rees-Jones.

In 2019 Amina received a nomination for the Jerwood Compton Poetry Fellowship and she is looking towards publishing a poetry collection and touring her exciting upcoming work across the UK.

Amina is seeking mentors and collaborators in her field.

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Kitchen Sink Live 'Making YOUtheatre'

Kitchen Sink Live is a youth theatre movement that aims to open platforms, empower people to tell their own stories and challenge current perceptions.

They facilitate youth theatres and produce bold new work, including live and digital projects.

Established in 2018 and based in the heart of Liverpool, the company is led by Co-Artistic Directors Abby Melia and Bradley Thompson.

Kitchen Sink Live make theatre that is accessible, individual, powerful and truly youth-focused.

Current work and partners include: Epstein Youth Theatres (10-13 & 14-19), 20 Stories High Youth Theatre (13-18), GoPlay Studios, DaDa Fest and Merseyside Youth Association.

Projects and commissions in development include: Bait (20 Stories High), a verbatim gig-theatre show based on gang culture; Real-Eyes (20SH and Phillip Osment), a truthful monologue about domestic violence; Music in the Blood (DaDa Fest), a devised one-person show highlighting the struggles of growing up with learning difficulties.

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**KITCHEN
SINK
LIVE**



Paislie Reid

Paislie is a professional actor who began her career in CITV show *The New Worst Witch*.

Since this early television debut she has enjoyed a lucrative acting career performing with the Royal Shakespeare Company, Frantic Assembly, Open Clasp, Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse and Contact.

Paislie is a skilled and experienced youth workshop leader and facilitator and holds a Level 2 NVQ in youth work.

She is passionate about widening diversity and access to the arts and has completed a 3-month RTYDS placement with 20 Stories High and also has experience in using BSL in live performance.

Paislie is this year's LAUNCH Projects commission winner and is now in the development stages of *Thank You For Your Hospitality*, a new play with original music about the highs and lows of working in the hospitality industry.

Paislie is seeking to expand her network of producers and venues interested in supporting her new show.

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Anita Welsh

Anita is a mother who creates: not only life but art to share with her child, as well as other children and families.

She uses writing and poetry to spark imaginations and encourage playful synergy between little ones and their parents.

This aim to offer high quality work and activities grows from a personal experience of a lack of exciting, inclusive artistic opportunities that bring families together.

Anita is currently creating a book for children that she hopes will be a refreshing collection of new nursery rhymes that are diverse, accessible and current.

Recent projects include: Toast & Jam, a 16-week project of creative play sessions delivered for 20 Stories High; Community Engagement Associate for Big Up!, a 20 Stories High and Theatre-Rites co-production and work with Liverpool Cultural Education Partnership.

Anita is seeking mentors in writing and publishing to support the development of her book.

AnitaWelsh.info@gmail.com





Chris Maylor

Chris is a multi-disciplinary artist with two main passions: beatboxing and design.

Under the stage name Renegade, Chris is an experienced beatbox and loop performer and a UK Beatbox Championships Solo and Tag-team Semi Finalist. He's also an experienced beatbox workshop facilitator.

Chris is passionate about group performance and wants to demonstrate beatboxing's full potential as a musical art-form through performances in theatre productions and musical ensembles.

Chris' latest project, a 6-month beatbox course, demonstrates these passions whilst also sharing them with the young people in his community.

With a degree in Illustration Animation and experience in printing, book making, stop motion, puppet making and set design, Chris aspires to merge his many art-forms as he forges a career in the arts

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Joe Taylor

Joe Taylor or “Just Joe” as he’s best known, is an up and coming spoken word artist, who emerged on the Liverpool poetry scene in 2018.

Since his introduction he has performed at Liverpool’s first poetry slam winning his heat and placing runner-up in the slam final.

He has performed at numerous prominent Liverpool venues from Liverpool’s Everyman Theatre to the Cavern Club and recently performed at an event that hosted esteemed British rapper Lowkey.

Enjoying a fast upward start since his journey began, he is set to continue this by writing and publishing a collection of his poetry: *The Manifestations of a Capitalist Society*.

The book is aimed at highlighting the different symptoms of our societal structure and how they impact each of us.

Joe hopes his book will help people ask important questions and find clarity through poetry, just as he has.

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Meg McFarlane

Meg is a theatre director based in Liverpool. She is a UCLAN Graduate in Creating Performance and a former student of History.

She is passionate about making historical stories relevant to a modern audience by bringing the past to life through performance.

Meg is Artistic Director of Jack of All Trades Theatre, a company that creates new work that unearths long-forgotten stories and believes that humanity cannot progress without learning from the past.

Through their work they endeavour to spark exciting conversations about history and heritage.

With JOAT, Meg is developing a new solo show that will contribute to the centenary commemorations of World War 1.

Inspired by real life people, the show will highlight the forgotten stories of prisoners of war incarcerated on the Isle of Man.

Through the show and its associated outreach workshops she hopes to get Manx communities talking about their shared heritage.

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Raven Radha

Raven Radha is a conscious International artist.

Born in India, she has traveled the world.

Being nurtured by multicultural environments she has gained a unique perspective of our planet and its people.

Through her music, playwriting and filmmaking she aims to inform, empower and inspire.

Raven is particularly passionate about mental health and she believes that a healthy mind is where change, mastery and joy begins.

Having explored multiple creative mediums, Raven is currently focusing on music.

Recognising the impact it has had on her own life, she is now creating her first EP of thought-provoking and uplifting content, produced by Malik Al Nasir (Malik and the OGs).

Other past collaborations /commissions include: The British Council, Everyman & Playhouse, Jennifer John, Random Acts (Channel 4) North, RTYDS, KOF Music and HOME Manchester.

She is on the look out for mentors, and collaborators to help her reach audiences and impact lives positively.

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Steph Peet

Steph is a Graduate in Community Drama from LIPA, Liverpool, and is the co-founder of Unorthodox Theatre, a company that produces verbatim and testimonial performance.

With a belief that the arts can positively enhance lives, she is passionate about delivering drama, art and music workshops with a political and social drive to deprived and hard to reach communities.

With Unorthodox, she is currently developing a theatre in education performance that explores knife crime and the issue of identity for young people aged 12-16.

The performance will be accompanied by outreach workshops that explore the themes within the text.

Steph is this year's LAUNCH Trainee and has been developing her skills in creative facilitation supporting 20 Stories High Youth Theatre as well as outreach sessions in schools across Merseyside.

Steph is looking to collaborate with theatre professionals keen to offer guidance and support in delivering community arts outreach work.

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About 20 Stories High

“Everybody has a story to tell... and their own way of telling it...”

Founded in 2006, 20 Stories High collaborates with culturally diverse, working-class young people, and with a range of emerging and established world-class artists to make exceptional,

relevant and ground-breaking theatre in Liverpool and beyond.

20 Stories High is a National Portfolio organisation, funded and supported by Arts Council England, Liverpool City Council and is a registered charity.

About Unity Theatre

Unity Theatre champions equality for diverse audiences and develops theatre-makers at every stage of their careers.

They introduce audiences to exciting new artists, making work which sets trends, breaks boundaries, and champions the community.

Unity Theatre is a National Portfolio organisation, funded and supported by Arts Council England and Liverpool City Council.

LAUNCH 2018-19 Contributors and Session Leaders

Lee Corner - Consultant & Director of LAC Ltd

Sue Emmas - Associate Artistic Director Young Vic, AD RTYDS

Rob Lehman - Head of Participation, Young Vic

Rory Dickinson - Leadership Development Manager, Contact

Nike Jonah - International Consultant

Isobel Hawson - Consultant & Director of On Tour Ltd

Cameron Roach - Head of Drama, Sky UK

Elinor Randle - Artistic Director, Tmesis Theatre

Miriam Nabarro - Theatre Designer

Trish Sangster - HR Consultant

Rachel Scott - Project Director, TIPP

Ciaran Hodges - Project Manager - Writing on the Wall

Fiona McGarva - Managing Director, Sundae PR

Tom McGarva - Senior Account

Manager, Sundae PR

Abid Hussain - Arts Council England Director of Diversity

Ben Towell - Director, Talk the Talk

Keith Saha - Co-Artistic Director, 20 Stories High

Julia Samuels - Co-Artistic Director- 20 Stories High

Nathaniel Hall - Communications Associate, 20 Stories High

Tina Taylor - Finance & Admin Manager, 20 Stories High

Leanne Jones - Executive Director, 20 Stories High

Anthony Proctor - Marketing & Customer Experience Manager, Unity

Thank you to...

Phillip Osment, Keith Arrowsmith, the Bluecoat, Everyman & Playhouse, Kadisha Kayani and the Unity Theatre and 20 Stories High staff teams.

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📍 20StoriesHigh

📍 unitytheatre

20storieshigh.org.uk

unitytheatreliverpool.co.uk