

Disability Arts, Outsider Art, art, artists and art lovers, organisations and venues.

issue 36



new

write on

Find your unique voice

Tuesdays, 10.30-12.30, Salisbury Arts Centre

Welcome

As Summer fades and Autumn arrives, we move from 'Travels' into our next project 'Write On!' This is a pilot project led by Angela Street which will run on Tuesday mornings from September to November. Read on for more details!

If you missed the 'Travels' programme, but would like a whistle-stop tour, you might be interested to read Linda Griffith's review.

We hope you will be able to join us for Write On, or indeed come along to Café LUA, our monthly get-together at Salisbury Arts Centre.

www.linkuparts.org.uk

facebook.com/LinkUpArts

[@LUArtists](https://twitter.com/LUArtists)

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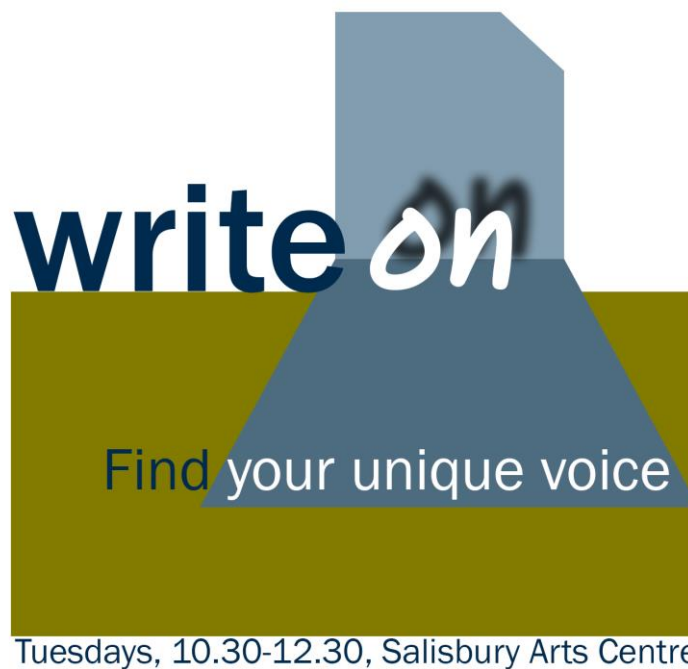
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WRITE ON

Join us for our new Tuesday Morning pilot workshop series 'Write On' led by Angie Street.

Explore your personal development and have fun through writing.

Workshops will start on Tuesday 19th September 10.30 – 12.30, and will cost £5 / £3. Contact Angie directly to book by emailing angelastreet@tiscali.co.uk.



Play with the power of words

Create and explore your own untold stories.

Discover the fun benefits of creative writing

Starting 19th September 2017 

write on

is writing that allows you to explore issues and personal development through the medium of words.

Create dialogue, characters, sounds and scripts that give voice to your untold stories.

Play with language and structure, have fun with comedy and get dramatic with your imagination...

Write for yourself, or create pieces with publishing or production in mind.

19th September - 28 November
half term break - 24 October.

Each 2 hour session will be £5/£3 and will be led by Angela Street, an experienced workshop leader. The sessions are supported by Salisbury Arts Centre and LinkUpArts.

Please contact Angela; angelastreet@tiscali.co.uk to book your place or discuss fees.

“Angela is extremely good at facilitating workshops that seem simple but get deep, meaningful and profound results” Linda - new writer


Sessions take place at Salisbury Arts Centre,
Bedwin Street, Salisbury SP1 3UT.
Tuesday mornings 10.30 - 12.30



TRAVELLING WITH LINDA

Linda Griffiths talks us through the 'Travels' programme and her experiences over the weeks...

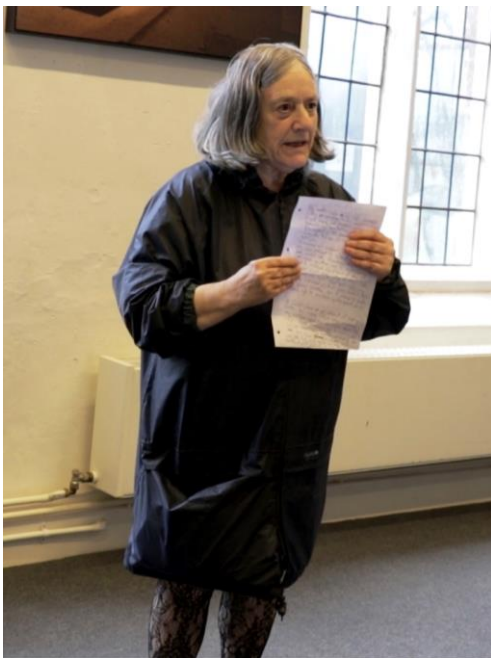
I want to write something witty & humorous to share my learning from 6 very different, yet link-ed & magical weeks.

Sophie Partridge had us laughing & thinking about being a  Strawberry. It was amazing the differences which each of us came up with, I found my naughty school girl & she enjoyed Sophie's use of language & her friendly inclusive manor, she was amazing!

Penny Pepper brought out the even naughtier school girl & we had a good giggle at the same time as learning how powerful words can be & liberating too, I'm afraid my silliness & humour wasn't everyone's cup of tea, so good job I was more staid for Allan Sutherland's story construction & deconstruction, fascinating how good stories can grab & hold your interest.

Angie's was the week I wrote a very long poem & we talked about play writing, it was so good we (Gini & I) wanted more! Angie gently took the anxiety out of writing, instead of trying to be a 'writer' it felt okay to just write.

Then we had a poet Becci Louise a real life poet, poetry had been a scary subject & I'd only ever made limerick grade (if that) in school so daunting, but she was kind, caring & so patient, I ended up penning a very deep & personal pain poem, which helped me through stuff I was going through at home so thank you very much for that, it was really helpful & good, laid to rest my poetry phobia too.



The sixth week with Michele O'Brien and Jamie Beddard, we talked through some very personal things & used movement to map where we felt we were, I enjoyed the session very much but was glad I left early it was quite tiring, though also fun in a profoundly meaningful way as we used a 'would I lie to you' type questioning to find out who was telling the truth, one truth 3 versions.

Then Tam Gilbert took us through some movement & expression techniques, some I found quite empowering though I'm still not body confident enough to express much, it was good to see the way confidence can enhance performances & belief in

oneself is absolutely necessary to be convincing.

I loved it all & think LinkUpArts is brilliant for putting on the 7 workshops, well worth attending! Thankyou!!!

By Linda Griffiths

‘WELL, YOU DON’T LOOK DISABLED..’

Our thanks to Disability Arts Online for allowing us to reproduce an edited version of Dorset-born Paul Wilshaw’s feature article ‘Well, you don’t look disabled: the thorny issue of visible impairments taking centre stage.’ Paul is currently living in Bradford and is an actor with Mind the Gap Theatre Company.

I started acting at the age of 10 in Dorset, and moved up to Bradford 3 years ago to pursue acting with Mind the Gap theatre company. I identify as a learning disabled actor. I have always been interested in theatre, television and the soaps from a young age and it seems disabled people are getting more roles, both on television and in theatre. The BBC, Channel 4 and ITV have or are searching for more disabled actors and people to put on their shows, which is great.



But there are ongoing issues with representation of disabled people on stage and screen. I have a hidden impairment and have been told, when I tell people I am disabled, “Well you don’t look disabled.” It is often spoken as if this is an achievement in and of itself.

So my question is: what happens to actors who don’t look ‘disabled enough’ to get disabled roles, but apparently look ‘too disabled’ to get non-disabled roles?

I do believe that the industry is changing towards learning disabled people being represented on TV. However, the change feels very slow and it feels that only specific learning disabilities, such as Down’s Syndrome or autism, are being represented, which is problematic.

I am pleased to note that the BBC are currently doing a call out for disabled actors for a 3-day workshop, which will hopefully show a wide range of talent. But I do wonder how many of these actors will be learning disabled, and if there will be a bias towards particular impairments within that.

It sometimes seems that getting the opportunity can be a matter of the way someone looks, that they fit a particular view of what it means to be a learning disabled person. Of course, I am pleased that we are getting to see talented actors on television, such as Liam Bairstow in Coronation Street, and Sarah Gordy in Call the Midwife and Upstairs Downstairs, whose work I very much admire.

There does, though, need to be more variety shown on television. Being learning disabled encompasses a broad spectrum of people, and the focus on impairment itself is frustrating. There are so many talented actors out there who are not getting their shot because they don’t fit into pre-conceived ideas about what a disabled person ‘should’ look like.

Non-disabled actors have been given disabled roles and get Oscars for films and TV awards for playing a disabled person. Will the industry change soon, so disabled actors will just be seen as actors and go up against non-disabled actors for roles? Unfortunately, I don't think learning disabled actors will be going up against non-disabled actors for roles and auditions anytime soon. It is a shame as I do think it would give the industry the shake up it needs.

I spoke to Robert Ewens, who is going to be in the Christmas episode of Father Brown, and he made some really good points about auditions:

"I'm in a bit of a catch 22 when it comes to auditions because I have an invisible impairment. My Cerebral Palsy isn't visible. I try to go for disabled roles, get told I'm not disabled enough, but can't get auditions for non-disabled roles."

We need to be more open-minded when it comes to disability, it doesn't always fit into a specific mould in terms of how people experience it, particularly in terms of what is visible. It's not that black and white.

There are 32.7m people of working age in England of which 6.9m are registered disabled, and of which 1.4 million are registered learning disabled. This is 1 in 5 people. So real life is not shown. Why?

'Why' is the big word in the last sentence and there is not one simple answer to that.

Sarah Gordy said it perfectly in the Huffington Post: "It's important for people with a learning disability to be seen on TV, simply because we exist, we are everywhere. We are not mythical beings and we can play characters that people can relate to and are interested in."

I totally agree with what Sarah says. We are here and we can play characters that an audience wants to see.

If you are a learning disabled or disabled actor: go for every role there possibly is out there, non-disabled or disabled, TV or theatre. If you want to do this, but your agent is not putting you forward for it then talk to them. If you can get your foot or chair in the door just one inch then, that is one inch more than where you were yesterday.

By Paul Wilshaw

JOBS & OPPORTUNITIES

Check out these jobs & opportunities in Disability Arts...

WRITE TO PLAY WITH GRAEAE

Graeae, the Bush Theatre, Soho Theatre, Ovalhouse, Talawa and Tamasha are offering a unique development opportunity for BAME D/deaf and disabled playwrights nationwide!

Write to Play is a paid year-long new writing course for D/deaf and disabled writers run by award-winning theatre company Graeae.

With the programme now in its fifth year, Graeae is partnering with five acclaimed theatre companies, to offer BAME D/deaf and disabled playwrights nationwide the opportunity to develop their writing skills.

Throughout the programme, you'll be mentored and supported to participate in workshops led by theatre professionals to hone and develop your writing. You'll write two short pieces, as well as a full length play. If you're passionate about theatre, keen to write for the stage and gain experience, we want to hear from you! All access requirements will be met.

"Write to Play is the most inspiring and encouraging opportunity I have had as a writer. I have had access to workshops, mentors and the Graeae team, all of who have helped me to explore my writing in ways not possible before. Apply, it will change your life forever." Khush Chahal, Year 4 Write to Play writer

Applications open: Mon 4 September
Applications close: Mon 2 October, 12pm

We welcome applications in English and British Sign Language.

For full details, visit <http://graeae.org/our-work/write-play-calling-bame-ddeaf-disabled-writers/>

PULSE FESTIVAL

Submissions are open for next year's Testing Ground commission, where successful projects will be showcased at PULSE Festival 2018.

The New Wolsey Theatre is committed to increasing the representation of D/deaf and disabled people in their audiences, workforce, and stages.

They support and showcase new work and new ideas from contemporary theatre makers through the PULSE artist development programme. Last year, they introduced Testing Ground, a seed commission programme for original work from D/deaf and disabled artists. They are keen to develop these artists and their work, and ensure the aesthetics of access are embedded in the creative process.

This year, Testing Ground will present three works at various stages of their development at PULSE Festival 2017, with scratches of Nicola Werenowska's *Invisible*, Kiruna Stamell and Rhona McKenzie's *Disability Sex Archive*, and the premiere of Rachel Bagshaw and Chris Thorpe's *The Shape of Pain*.

Nicola Werenowska, writer of *Invisible*, a Testing Ground 2017 commission has said: 'Not only has Testing Ground given me invaluable time, space and resources to begin a new piece of work which I'm really excited about, but the process has been transformative in terms of exploring my personal relationship to my disability in my artistic practice and developing a neurodiverse led practice.'

Applications are now open for three new Testing Ground commissions, leading to a presentation of work in PULSE Festival 2018. These commissions will vary according to the needs of projects, and could include financial, dramaturgical, marketing and other in-kind support.

How do you apply? It's easy. All you need to do is submit a page of A4 or equivalent video clip explaining the idea, and what you've achieved up to now.

For further details or to send your submissions, please contact Jamie Beddard, Agent for Change at the New Wolsey Theatre:
JBeddard@wolseytheatre.co.uk

For more information, visit <https://www.wolseytheatre.co.uk/testing-ground-submissions-now-open-2018/>

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Cafe LUA (2-4pm at Salisbury Arts Centre)

Wednesday 13th September

Wednesday 11th October

Wednesday 8th November

Wednesday 13th December (AGM)

Café LUA is a social get-together for disabled artists, an informal, open space for inspiration and discussion. However you are involved with or interested in the arts, do come along and meet us, find out about us, and about Disability Arts. We'd love to meet you and hear more about your arts practice or interests. We usually meet in the café area, but specific projects can mean we are in one of the work spaces, do ask at the Box Office if you are in any doubt. Come and join us and find out about more about current and future projects.

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Page 6	Photograph of Paul Wilshaw by Les Parkinson, sourced from Disability Arts Online

At the heart of LinkUpArts:



For more information about the career artists
In LUAN: linkupartistsnetwork@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER FORMATS

You can receive this Newsletter in print form,
it is available in bigger type and an audio cassette. You can also download it
from salisburyartscentre.co.uk -> Resident Companies -> LinkUpArts



Gini
Creative direction

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LinkUpArts and Salisbury Arts Centre work together for the benefit of both organisations. LUA advises and consults with Salisbury Arts Centre on its Disability Arts programming and helps to promote the events. Salisbury Arts Centre gives LUA its home and provides marketing and administrative support. LUA is a strategic creative partner in Salisbury Arts Centre's Creative Family.

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