

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

issue 19



Cafe LUA

Wednesday November 12 with

Stopgap Dance Company

Cafe LUA

Wednesday December 10 LUA AGM



Stopgap Dance Company

present:

Artificial Things.

Wednesday November 12 at 8 pm at Salisbury Arts Centre

Welcome

Autumn is upon us and plans are well underway for 'Our Tales: Unveiled' – our exciting new storytelling project! We've gone back to the drawing board to make the project bigger and better, so we've postponed until February! The views of our members and the wider community are invaluable to us, and will play a key role in our project planning. We want to make sure that our workshop leaders incorporate your ideas into their workshops.

To this end, we have devised a short survey, which we hope you will find enjoyable and an inspiration to attend!

Read on for information on how to take our survey and dates to mark down in your diary now, as this is one project definitely not to be missed!

Stopgap are coming to Salisbury Arts Centre on 12 November with their new show 'Artificial Things'. We are delighted to be co-hosting the event and very pleased to welcome Artistic Director, Lucy Bennett, who will be giving the pre-show talk during Café LUA at 2pm. Please do come along for what is sure to be an exciting and inspirational talk and don't forget to take advantage of our £5 ticket offer for LinkUpArts Members and attendees of Café LUA.

Why not get into the Christmas spirit, and join us at our AGM on 10 December for cake and to have your say on how LinkUpArts should be run!

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and looking forward to seeing you soon for one, if not all, of these upcoming events!

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OUR TALES: UNVEILED

Performance evening and Creative Workshops by Liz Porter and Penny Pepper

Presented by LinkUpArts

Information Day: Come and find out more at Salisbury Arts Centre's Craft Fair on Saturday 29 November 2014 – we can be found in the Gallery space from 10am-3pm

Performance: Friday 6 February 2015, 7.30PM

Daytime Workshops: Saturday 7 Feb 2015

Saturday 14 Feb 2015

Saturday 21 Feb 2015

Tickets: Performance: £7, £5 Concs/LUA Members, Workshops FREE

This exciting programme features a double-bill by disabled artists Liz Porter and Penny Pepper, showcasing extracts from their new one-woman shows 'Learning to See' and 'Lost in Spaces.' The evening will end with a Q&A. It will be followed up by a series of Creative Storytelling and Poetry & Performance workshops where the artists will work with participants, introducing different techniques for exploring personal stories and heritage. Don't forget to give us your views on what our workshops should include – take our survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/X73vM2p>.



Liz Porter's 'Learning to See' directed by Mark C. Hewitt, uses a mix of animated video sequences and live performance, to explore her journey living with visual impairment. The piece touches on issues of identity and acceptance/non-acceptance, peer pressure, equality, miscommunication and perceptions of disabled people and the whole idea of 'learning to see'.

Penny Pepper's 'Lost in Spaces' is part memoir and an exploration of identity and difference. Through memories and personal concerns, the piece links to the universal – from corresponding with Morrissey and fighting Maggie Thatcher in the 80s, to current battles with the government's harsh austerity measures - pushing her into an examination of the human condition at a time of considerable personal and public turmoil.



Tickets will be on sale from the 11 December. To book, or reserve a place at the workshops, visit www.salisburyartscentre.co.uk.
More info at www.linkuparts.org.uk

STOPGAP'S 'ARTIFICIAL THINGS'

LUA are pleased to be co-hosting a new dance performance by the renowned integrated Dance Company Stopgap. 'Artificial Things' comes to Salisbury Arts Centre on Wednesday 12 November. We are delighted to welcome Lucy Bennett, Artistic Director of Stopgap Dance Company, who will be giving a pre-show talk at Café LUA at 2pm, in advance of the evening performance of 'Artificial Things.' To book £5 tickets for the performance at 8pm please call the box office on 01722 321744 and quote 'LinkUpArts' or visit <http://www.salisburyartscentre.co.uk/whats-on/Event.aspx?EventID=1098> to find out more.



About Stopgap

Stopgap Dance Company creates exhilarating dance productions of international standard, employing disabled and non-disabled artists who find innovative ways to collaborate. Stopgap value a pioneering spirit and are committed to making discoveries about integrating disabled and non-disabled people through dance.

The piece

'Artificial Things' is the debut work of the Artistic Director Lucy Bennett. Under her direction, Stopgap Dance Company has broken away from its previous repertoire model and becomes an integrated dance company that devises original works for international touring. This exciting step-change will continue to make Stopgap a unique and fascinating company. Lucy Bennett visualises dance through a cinematic spectrum. She puts emphasis on allowing the audience to observe the nuances of each dancer and become absorbed in the remarkable dynamics that their interactions create. The starting point of her devising process is the personal experiences that her dancers bring to the studio. These stories give Lucy's work originality and a human quality, making it appealing to audiences who want to see intriguing personalities on stage.

'Artificial Things' features dancers David Toole from DV8's award winning film Cost of Living, with Laura Jones, Chris Pavia, David Willdrige and Amy Butler. The theatre design was inspired by a series of strange and intense paintings by a Serbian artist Goran Djurović, re-imagined by Anna Jones from Curious Space. Chahine Yavrovan's stunning but disquieting lighting enhances the interplay between light and shadow, with strong highlights sitting next to deep colours. 'Artificial Things' is accompanied by unnerving and simmering scores by Christopher Benstead, Jim Pinchen and Andy Higgs. Yoshifumi Inao, former Artistic Director of Batsheva Dance Company, is the guest choreographer for the opening scene.

To see a trailer: <http://youtu.be/wjFgvTsjRrI>

'Bold and disarming' - **Exeunt Magazine (for Artificial Things, 2014)**

ARTS AND HEALTH IN WILTSHIRE CONFERENCE

Wiltshire Council's Arts and Health Conference brought together artists and health professionals in the region for an inspiring day of discussion and sharing of practice. Tam Gilbert was there to find out more....

On 30 September I travelled to Devizes, to represent LUA, at the Arts and Health Conference with board members Trish Wheatley and Sue Austin.

Over the summer, LinkUpArts had received a Commission to undertake a piece of Research with Philippa Turner and Faith Stansfield from Wiltshire Council's 0-25 Special Educational Needs Service. Our film – an artistic response to Gini and Sue's conversations with the team and service users, was to be presented at the conference, as part of 'Conversing with the Commissioners.'

I found the day very interesting indeed. It saw the coming together of medical professionals and artists and Organisations many of whom work with patients in hospitals. Until now, I had been unaware of just how much Storytelling and other creative art forms are used in hospitals, and I found the stories of results and outcomes profoundly moving.

The day began with speeches from Councillor Keith Humphries and Maggie Rae, Director of Public Health, outlining themes which are important to Wiltshire Council – Prevention, Engagement, Independence and Safeguarding, and their wish to link arts to positive benefits and science.

Dr Simon Opher then told us about artlift.org and the introduction of the 'art on prescription' service. He gave facts and evidence that art can help well-being and that when "prescribed", art can help reduce the number of consultations with the GP. Dr Opher has had an artist in residence for 15 years, and the sessions provide patients with 'alternative medication' – rather than continually being prescribed medicines when a creative, informal solution was the remedy. Patients would have the opportunity to share a poem, or something they had found of interest with the artist; time which previously they may have spent chatting with the GP.

Patients need to be referred for Artlift sessions, which usually take place within a GP's surgery, or at a community location and last for 8 weeks.

Interestingly, Dr Opher told us that, generally, before starting on the programme, people would see the GP once a month. After prescribed art, this was reduced by over half, 6-12 months later!

We were then treated to a fascinating presentation by Elevate, who work creatively with elderly/dementia patients on the hospital ward. The team make up a dancer, storyteller and musician.

The day to day experience in hospitals can be very boring, dull and uninteresting with not much for patients to look at, apart from their own feet. We were asked to imagine we were at our hospital bed, and were led in a breathing exercise where, by the end everyone felt taller and more relaxed.

Then, the Musician demonstrated how he works and showed how talking about natural things helps to prompt a story. He aims to bring the Outdoors inside through the use of song. He gave an exercise where the audience participated, having been given a well-known rhyme and were asked to join in on the chorus: "cuckoo in April, cuckoo in May, cuckoo in June and July fly away."

This gives a Season related time frame concept in which to relate to the outdoors. Group singing, with music gave a moving interlude to the morning!

We were told about how the Storyteller works on a one-to-one basis, acting as a 'friend' to patients. She too, aims to give the patient a sense of the outdoors.

Our tables were arrayed with pens, paper and conkers. An example of a recent exercise was to take conkers into the ward, and ask individuals questions to trigger a story. Sample questions could be, "did you play with conkers when you were young?"..... "Do you like autumn?" etc.

The aim is to transport the patient from the hospital through an intimate conversation and objects can trigger stories. By the end of the conversation, patients have often told the 'friend' something they would not have revealed to others, and there is often a hug at the end of the session.

We were invited to take our conkers home, and shortly after the conference I was able to put the technique into practice. On visiting my grandfather, who has increasing dementia, I presented him with a conker. He seemed interested, and while he didn't want to talk that minute, asked me to leave it with him, so he could play with it later!

The day continued with similar talks from other artists and organisations who work in the Health sector.

Healthwatch are health and social care workers who are a direct link to the department of health. They believe it takes a lot of time to change perceptions so they are about empowering people and giving a medium for people to give their messages; challenging feelings into positive feelings - engaged conversation increases people's quality of life.

There were also presentations by Theresa Hegarty, who runs 'See it My Way' events - opportunities where individuals meet to tell their story for eight minutes - an opportunity to socialize and have lunch - a fun day for participants, and Two Destination Language, who had also received a Commission, read stories from their presentation, which was touching and emotional.

The work Artsparks, who work with children in hospitals, do is interesting too. Children may fear hospital. Fear is a human emotion - they accept this and embrace it. Whether the feeling of fear is real, or perceived, it doesn't matter. The artists are sensitive to children's fears and take them all seriously. The children's concentration span may not be as great as normal, if they are scared.

When a child is admitted to hospital, their favourite toy is given an ID bracelet to make them feel more comfortable and is included on all records. Their toy is the child's friend and comfort.

Artsparks also provide opportunities for families to play creatively together, and for a time, just focus on having fun, rather than the illness.

We were told how parents are included too, and how sometimes people come in and they have not sat down and painted for years!

I also went to break-out sessions with Salisbury Playhouse NYT and Music matters, who each talked about how important the creative process is for young people. The journey taken to create the story is as important – if not more so – than the product itself.

There are so many creative projects out there, and the day was very useful.

LinkUpArts are currently working on a page about our Commission – do check our website soon, and we will bring you details shortly. In the meantime, Gini and Sue's film can be found on our YouTube page – check out https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=linkuparts to see it, along with our other films.

By Tam Gilbert

Artwork in this issue:

Front cover: by Gini – Photo Stopgap

Page 3: Liz Porter - Learning to See – photograph by Abigail Norris

Penny Pepper - 'Lost in Spaces' – photograph by Fiona Essex

Page 4: Stopgap: Artificial Things

Page 8: Woman of Flowers: Forest Forge and Lighthouse Poole

REVIEWS

WOMAN OF FLOWERS



**Written by Kaite O'Reilly,
Production by Forest Forge Theatre Company in association with Lighthouse, Poole's Centre for the Arts,
Thursday 23 October 2014**

**More info at:
www.forestforge.co.uk**

'Woman of Flowers' written by Kaite O'Reilly, is based on a Welsh myth and using a cross-art form approach, this beautiful piece of storytelling features live music, dance, video, integrated sign language and surtitles to weave a tale of identity, desire, duty and betrayal and empowerment.

The story begins with Rose (played by Sophie Stone the first deaf actor to attend RADA) trapped in a controlled world of domestic monotony and imprisonment. Rose's understanding of her origins is limited to the explanation given to her by an overbearing Gwynne (Andrew Wheaton), uncle to her husband Lewis, (Tom Brownlee). A chance meeting in the forest with a writer (Pete Ashmore) leads her on a journey to self-discovery - but at what price?

Control and communication issues are key themes that run throughout the play, as Rose is deliberately cut off from the outside world and prevented from signing. As Gwynne and Lewis struggle to keep her living in a state of fear and ignorance, she uses a combination of signing and dance to express herself which draws the audience into her own private world with captivating effect.

'Woman of Flowers' is a fascinating play, touches on sensitive issues which are still prevalent in today's society. It all comes together brilliantly, with fantastic performances from each of the cast leading to a memorable experience.

By Hayley Davies

ARTIFICIAL THINGS

**In advance of Stopgap's performance at Salisbury Arts Centre on Wednesday 12 November, we thought we'd give you a little taster! Our thanks to the team at Disability Arts Online for allowing us to reproduce their review, from the beginning of the show's tour, last February. Websites: www.disabilityartsonline.org.uk
www.stopgap.uk.com**

Artificial Things by Stopgap Dance Company is the debut stage production for artistic director Lucy Bennett, who was appointed in 2012. It marks the transition for Stopgap as a repertory to a choreographer-led company and is an important moment in their 19 year quest to seamlessly integrate dancers with and without impairments.

Performed by dancers Amy Butler, Laura Jones, Chris Pavia, Dave Toole and David Willdrige Artificial Things is a work divided into three scenes. It is excellent dance theatre with the texture, intensity, wit and downright weirdness of a Tom Waits record.

Lucy Bennett is a dance artist who thinks in pictures and Artificial Things is the most accomplished work I've seen from Stopgap, especially as a visual spectacle. The set design, including the first ever use of a backdrop by the company, lighting, props and Anna Jones' costume design presented in a palette of dirty oranges and muted grey green blues combined to create a faded retro feel of lost dreams and faded glamour. Flashes of contemporary red appeared too, which hinted at the simmering tensions that began to develop between characters during opening scene passages of restrained and elegant movement by guest choreographer, Yoshifumi Inao.

Bennett describes the genesis for Artificial Things as an imagined picture of dancer Laura Jones, sitting on top of her collapsed wheelchair within an urban setting with snow falling around her as if in a snow globe. This tableau is revealed at the start of the third scene, which unfolds to present a gentle and engrossing duet by wheelchair-less and seemingly weightless dancers, Laura Jones and Dave Toole. Framed by Charhine Yavrovan's beautiful lighting the audience's attention is drawn to the smallest of movements, gestures and Dave Toole's characterful facial expressions.

In her waking vision of a snow globe and perhaps inspired by the recent British weather, Lucy Bennett decided that the whole scene needed a good shake up and there is most certainly a whole lot of shaking going on; a force 10 gale is unleashed in scene two when tensions finally break through, the music intensifies and all manner of wheeled devices are released on stage.

The choreography and characterisation is based upon Stopgap's diverse cast of highly individual dancers, each bringing great strengths and vulnerabilities. Through intense collaboration and experimentation, movement has been created that is exhilarating, funny and truly innovative.

Dave Toole and Chris Pavia are framed within a wheeled glass vitrine to fantastic and tragic-humorous effect, and through clever use of a mirror, Amy Butler swaps heads with Chris Pavia for a few seconds. There are hugely enjoyable uses of props and creative tricks like this peppered throughout and it would be unkind to reveal any more as there is delight in the reveal to the audience. Go see it for yourself!

By Karl Newman

SALISBURY: OUR ARTS CENTRE

At our Café LUA on 8 October 2014, Salisbury Arts Centre's Artistic Director, Gemma Okell came and chatted to us about Arts Centre and what it has to offer - here are some of the highlights.....

Did you know?

- ❖ 1,666 events in 2013/14; that is an average of over 4 events every single day of the year
- ❖ 67,000 attenders at these events in 2013/14 – an increase of 5,000 from the previous year
- ❖ 282 performances and screenings 10 exhibitions
- ❖ 975 artistic workshop sessions and 230 other participatory events
- ❖ Over 10,000 young people's attendances
- ❖ Over 100 local organisations used Salisbury Arts Centre's services and spaces.

Full details of all Salisbury Arts Centre's events can be found in the brochure or on the website, but you might like to:

Look out for....

- ❖ 'The Wind Rises' – Japanese, with Subtitles – Thursday 6 November
- ❖ Stopgap's 'Artificial Things' – Wednesday 12 November
- ❖ Cinder-Ella – Krazzy Kat Theatre – Sunday 21 December

Free and inexpensive events:

- ❖ Live Lunches
- ❖ Big Band Brunches

- ❖ Exhibition Previews
- ❖ CraftClub
- ❖ Community Films
- ❖ Magic Lantern
- ❖ Contemporary Craft Fair – Come and meet LUA at the same time!

Access information and Disability Arts Offers:

- ❖ A warm welcome and the hope of making everyone feel part of the Arts Centre
- ❖ Affordable tickets, including free tickets for essential companions
- ❖ Reserving space / seats (if requested) Large print / on disc brochures on request
- ❖ Blue badge holder parking spaces
- ❖ Training for workshop leaders to accommodate people with disabilities into ongoing programme, and specific opportunities (such as Zone Club) when not possible
- ❖ Successful funding application that will enable us to improve lift and side doors amongst others
- ❖ Partnership with LUA including discounted tickets for specific events
- ❖ Events including artists with disabilities as part of programme, hosting Café LUA, invitation to be part of exhibitions, including Homegrown, which in 2015 will be on the theme of 'Worth Fighting For?'

How you can support Salisbury Arts Centre:

- ❖ Come to events and encourage your friends and family to do so!
- ❖ Be an advocate for the arts centre – distributing brochures, talking to local councillors and Mps about the importance of funding the arts
- ❖ Financially support our charitable status – becoming a member, business member or using the donations box
- ❖ Talk to us, providing feedback – both positive and negative

If you'd like to get involved in any of the above, why not check out the website www.salisburyarts.co.uk, email Gemma on gemma@salisburyarts.co.uk or visit the arts centre and ask at the box office for more information?

REMINDERS FOR YOUR DIARY:

Café LUA

November12th 2014
December10th 2014
January14th 2014

Café LUA takes place every second Wednesday of the month (except August) at Salisbury Arts Centre from 2 – 4pm. 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. Café LUA is a social get together for artists with disabilities – 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. Each month, as well as open discussion and networking, we focus on a particular topic or issue.

Wednesday 12th November

In a change to our previously advertised session, we are delighted to welcome Lucy Bennett, Artistic Director of Stopgap Dance Company, who will be giving a pre-show talk in advance of the evening performance of 'Artificial Things.' Please do come along to the White Room at Salisbury Arts Centre at 2pm. The performance will take place at 8pm with a curtain raiser by Jigsaw Youth Dance Company. Salisbury Arts Centre are offering Café LUA attendees and members £5 tickets for the performances. Just quote LinkUpArts when you phone to book! To read a review of 'Artificial Things' from its tour last February, check out <http://www.disabilityartsonline.org.uk/stopgap-dance-artificial-things> on Disability Arts Online. For more information, visit ww.salisburyartscentre.co.uk/whats-on/Event.aspx?EventID=1098.

Wednesday 10th December

Come to our AGM! Enjoy a slice of cake and have your say!

Wednesday 14th January

Come and find out more about our new storytelling project 'Our Tales: Unveiled' and book your place if you haven't already!

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



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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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