



Without Walls grows its collaborative network for the Outdoor Arts, helping to counter the challenges posed by Covid-19

Without Walls, a unique network of over 30 festivals that brings fantastic outdoor arts to people across the UK, opens 2021 by welcoming three new partners: Timber Festival, Certain Blacks and The Culture House. With collaboration at the heart of Without Walls' work, this national network aims to raise the artistic bar of the Outdoor Arts - an industry that is paramount as we anticipate moving beyond Covid-19.

Collaboration during Covid-19 is more vital than ever for the survival of the arts; the Without Walls Artistic Directorate includes the UK's most highly regarded outdoor arts and performance specialists who, in 2021, will invest over £650k to support artists to develop and tour ambitious new outdoor projects. This process, spearheaded by the Artistic Directorate, ensures an influx of new shows for the Outdoor Arts sector.

Certain Blacks are joining the Artistic Directorate this year - an arts development organisation that was formed to support the growth of diverse artists. They present performance, live art, music and theatre from the creative voices of our diverse society, aiming to challenge the norms of performance and what is seen as diverse. Certain Blacks showcases art from the 'margins into the mainstream' and work this year will explore ideas around our post-pandemic nation and the idea of being 'British' following Brexit and Black Lives Matters.

Also new to the Artistic Directorate is Timber Festival – it is an immersive and revitalising festival that takes place in the heart of the National Forest celebrating our relationship with trees and forests through music, art and ideas. For one weekend in July, new thinkers, activists, makers, artists, musicians and writers will gather to play, provoke and inspire our complex and rewarding relationship with the natural world. Timber offers the chance to recharge and reconnect. Run by Wild Rumpus, a rural social enterprise working at the intersection of arts and nature, Timber explores their founding principles to take audiences outdoors to reimagine their relationship with the world around them, using the arts to help imagine a more sustainable future. Timber is a joint venture between the National Forest Company and Wild Rumpus.

Without Walls also work with partners who are dedicated to creating an appetite for outdoor arts in communities without regular arts activity and low levels of cultural engagement, such as The Culture House who are joining the Touring Network Partnership branch of the organisation in 2021. Based in Grimsby, The Culture House aim to positively impact on everyday life by presenting work in a wide range of indoor and outdoor local spaces. Other new partners who have recently joined the Without Walls network include The Arches Festivals in Worcester and Historic England. This increasing geographical reach reflects Without Walls' growing impact.

Outdoor work has never been more important as the entire arts industry seeks to rebuild confidence in audiences wanting to attend events. Without Walls leads excellence in outdoor arts – commissioning work from the intimate to the epic, which tours to reach large, diverse and new audiences across the country and internationally. The consortium makes high-quality arts experiences accessible to all regardless of personal, social or economic circumstances.

Josephine Burns, Chair of Without Walls, comments, *Without Walls is an undeniable success story for the UK Outdoor Arts sector; our collective decision-making model has led to pioneering outdoor work being presented across the country for free. We are delighted to welcome our new partners to Without Walls - these appointments continue to broaden our collective voice and expertise to ensure our work can be even more transformative on a local, regional and national level.*

The Without Walls 2021 programme, to be announced in March, will be their biggest to date showing the innovation and resilience of those working in the Outdoor Arts sector. Many consider Outdoor Arts to be one of the safest ways to experience arts, and a way to restart cultural recovery. Without Walls have engaged a dedicated Covid-safety production manager who worked with artists at GDIF in 2020 (the first and one of the only festivals to go ahead) – and is continuing to work with artists to ensure shows are safe for presentation. 2021 is a year to break boundaries and ensure hungry audiences have access to the arts, in the safest way possible – outdoors!

Notes to Editors

Website	https://www.withoutwalls.uk.com/
Twitter	@WWConsortium
Instagram	@withoutwallsconsortium
Facebook	/WithoutWallsUK

Without Walls

Without Walls is a consortium of over 30 festivals and arts organisations that brings fantastic outdoor arts to people in towns and cities across the UK. Since its formation in 2007, Without Walls has developed and toured over 200 new shows by UK companies and supported the Research and Development of 67 projects. Without Walls commissions have toured widely both in the UK and internationally across 22 countries.

The Without Walls Artistic Directorate and Blueprint 2020 stakeholders are:

[101 Outdoor Arts Creation Space, Newbury](#)

[Just So Festival, Cheshire](#)

[Brighton Festival](#)

[Norfolk & Norwich Festival](#)

[Certain Blacks](#)

[Salisbury International Arts Festival](#)

[Hat Fair - Winchester](#)

[Stockton International Riverside Festival](#)

[FESTIVAL.ORG, producer of GDIF](#)

[Timber Festival](#)

Without Walls is managed by [XTRAX](#), one of the founder members of Without Walls that specialises in the international promotion and showcasing of outdoor arts work. XTRAX has extensive experience of working in the Outdoor Arts sector on complex partnership projects and works year-round to promote Without Walls and represent the consortium at industry events globally.

Arts Council England

Without Walls is supported by Arts Council England as a National Portfolio Organisation. Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. By 2030, we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. Between 2018 and 2022, we will invest £1.45 billion of public money from government and an estimated £860 million from the National Lottery to help deliver this vision.



All enquiries and further information:

Rachael Beaty, Chloé Nelkin Consulting

E: rachael@chloenelkinconsulting.com, T: 07891 784900

W: www.chloenelkinconsulting.com