

**Press Release: 27.06.17**

**XTRAX on behalf of Without Walls**

**WITHOUT WALLS WINS MAJOR ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND NATIONAL**

**PORTFOLIO ORGANISATION BID**

**CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE AND THE RISE OF OUTDOOR ARTS**

Without Walls, a network of the UK’s most established outdoor arts festivals and organisations, has won a successful bid to become one of the largest new additions to Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisations.

Without Walls was established in 2007 as a consortium of festivals and partners dedicated to promoting artistic excellence and supporting the development of new work. Using its collective network to bring together artists, promoters and commissioners, Without Walls has, since inception, commissioned over 100 high quality outdoor shows of all scales, genres, and disciplines. Since 2012 over £930,000 has been contributed towards the development of new work; and reached over 3 million people at Without Walls and Associate Touring Network festivals between 2014 – 2016.

This recognition from Arts Council England will allow Without Walls to undertake long-term planning over the next four years, championing new ideas and encouraging practitioners to push the art form to new levels. It will enable a significant growth in networking, supporting further collaboration and touring throughout the UK and beyond.

**Josephine Burns, Chair of Without Walls said:** *‘We are delighted to be awarded National Portfolio Organisation funding. It recognises the artistic achievements of the past 10 years and how outdoor arts has flourished, bringing delight and challenge to audiences across the UK. Now we can plan with artists, companies and partners - existing and new - to deepen our impact and make ambitious new work.*

*The decision to fund a consortium where the leadership is distributed across a wide range of partners allows us to go on a bold adventure together, to create work of the highest calibre with exceptional established artists and those new to presenting outdoor arts.’*

**Maggie Clarke, Director of XTRAX said:** *‘XTRAX was one of the founder members of the consortium and is thrilled to be managing Without Walls through this exciting new stage of its development. National Portfolio Organisation funding will enable Without Walls to take some ambitious steps forward – supporting artists to create new works that will thrill, provoke, challenge and entertain; implementing strategic projects that will lay the foundations for the development of new projects over the next decade; and promoting the works that we support internationally. Importantly, audience development work is embedded in our plans, and we will ensure that audiences across the country, including in areas of low engagement for the arts, have the opportunity to enjoy this work in their cities, towns, parks and public spaces. At a time when divisions in our society often make people feel unsafe on the street, outdoor arts have an important role to play in bringing different communities together, and we are proud to be part of this artistically ambitious and socially relevant project.’*

This year’s consortium partners include – 101 Outdoor Arts Creation Space, Newbury; Ageas Salisbury International Arts Festival; Brighton Festival; Greenwich + Docklands International Festival; Hat Fair, Winchester; Just So Festival, Cheshire; Norfolk & Norwich Festival; Out There International Festival of Circus & Street Arts, Great Yarmouth; and Stockton International Riverside Festival.

**Bradley Hemmings MBE, Artistic Director of Greenwich+Docklands International Festival and a founder member of Without Walls said**: *“Over the last 10 years Without Walls has made a significant contribution to outdoor arts by creating a sustainable new touring model, which has benefited artists, festivals and audiences, boosting the quality and diversity of new productions, whilst reaching people, who, in many cases aren’t regular arts attenders.*

*This new National Portfolio Organisation investment is a significant signal of the importance that Arts Council England places on outdoor arts. It will enable more artists to create new, high quality productions at various scales, and for these to be delivered for free, to audiences, who it is increasingly clear, are hungry for the joyous and convivial disruption of the everyday, provided by outdoor arts.”*

This summer Without Walls presents a ground-breaking programme of new and free outdoor touring shows from 14 of Britain’s most inventive companies featured in some of the UK’s major most outstanding outdoor arts festivals. Listings information is below.

**Kevin Edward Turner & Anthony Missen, co-founders of Company Chameleon said:** *‘Without Walls can be credited with creating wonderful experiences for people in all walks of life. For Company Chameleon, their support enables us to take our work out of the theatre and to new audiences nationwide. Our work explores real life issues such as mental health and masculinity, and through performing outdoors, we are able to start a conversation about these issues with thousands of people, we simply otherwise would not reach. Thank you Without Walls for supporting us and believing in our work. We salute you and all the work you do.’*

**Alison Clark, National Director, Combined Arts, Arts Council England said:**

*‘‘We are delighted to welcome Without Walls into the new national portfolio. Over the past decade their work has brought some of the most exciting and engaging artists and art to festivals and events across the UK and internationally, and supported those artists and festivals to grow and develop. Outdoor arts is a success story in this country and we look forward to working with Without Walls to build on that success’.*

This new level of support from Arts Council England, Without Walls will advance the sector to new levels of excellence and innovation for diverse audiences throughout the UK and beyond.

[www.withoutwalls.uk.com](http://www.withoutwalls.uk.com) | facebook.com/WithoutWallsUK | twitter@WWconsortium

#WithoutWalls | #WWATN| #outdoorarts

Arts Council England [www.artscouncil.org.uk/NPO](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/NPO) | #ACEfunding | #culturematters

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**Notes to editors:**

**Without Walls (WW)** is a consortium of festivals dedicated to raising the profile of the UK outdoor arts sector on the international stage. The Consortium uses its collective extended networks to work with artists, promoters and commissioners, from across the UK and internationally, to ensure that high quality, well researched outdoor shows – on both the large and small scale and suitable for national and international touring – are generated. Without Walls nurtures talent and skills by producing new work through commissions and co-productions that support the growth of the outdoor performance sector.

WW 2017 consortia partners are: 101 Outdoor Arts Creation Space, Newbury; Ageas Salisbury International Arts Festival; Brighton Festival; Greenwich+Docklands International Festival; Hat Fair, Winchester; Just So Festival, Cheshire; Norfolk & Norwich Festival; Out There International Festival of Circus & Street Arts, Great Yarmouth and Stockton International Riverside Festival.

An impact study of achievements spanning 2012 – 2016 has recently been published [www.withoutalls.uk.com/without-walls-impact-study](http://www.withoutalls.uk.com/without-walls-impact-study)

**XTRAX**

Based in Manchester and with a global reach, XTRAX manages the Without Walls consortium. In addition, XTRAX delivers showcase and sector networking events; offer festival and event management and support outdoor artist’s professional development training. With 15 years of knowledge and experience, XTRAX supports and promotes innovative outdoor performance work from UK and international artists. Additionally, XTRAX have produced *As The World Tipped* by Wired Aerial Theatre, who are about to appear as aerialists in Bregenz Opera Festival, *Carmen,* the subject of a separate media release to be issued soon. [www.xtrax.org.uk](http://www.xtrax.org.uk)

**The Associate Touring Network (ATN)** supports the onward touring of work commissioned and presented by Without Walls to a further 10 festivals. It is a group of festivals working together to extend the reach and benefits of the Without Walls programme to areas where there is low engagement with the arts.

2017 ATN partners include – Appetite, Stoke-on-Trent; Bell Square, Hounslow, London; Derby Feste; Freedom Festival, Hull; Lancashire Encounter, Preston; Leicester City Council; Right Up Our Street, Doncaster; SO Festival, East Lincolnshire; Vivacity, Peterborough; and Yorkshire Festival.

For more information about the entire Without Walls 2017 programme please visit [www.withoutwalls.uk.com/ww17/](http://www.withoutwalls.uk.com/ww17/)

**FORTHCOMING LISTINGS INFORMATION: 2017**

**Baba Yaga’s House by Dizzy O Dare**

Just So Festival, Cheshire – 19 & 20 Aug

Out There Festival, Great Yarmouth – 16 & 17 Sep

**Bingo Lingo by Wild N Beets**

Stockton International Riverside Festival – 5 & 6 Aug

Out There Festival, Great Yarmouth – 16 & 17 Sep

**Corazón A Corazón by Deaf Men Dancing**
Hat Fair, Winchester – 30 Jun & 1 Jul
Stockton International Riverside Festival – 5 & 6 Aug
Out There Festival, Great Yarmouth  – 16 & 17 Sep

**How I hacked my way into space by Unlimited Theatre**

Hat Fair, Winchester, – 30 Jun & 1 Jul

Just So Festival, Cheshire – 19 & 20 Aug

Out There Festival, Great Yarmouth – 16 & 17 Sep

**Additional dates**

Festival Les Tombées de la Nuit, Rennes, France - June – July

Thinktank, Birmingham – July – August

GOGBOT Festival, Enschede, Netherlands – 7 – 10 September

**Orbis by HumanHood**
Hat Fair,Wincheseter – 30 Jun & 1 Jul
Out There Festiva, Great Yarmouth – 16 & 17 Sep

**Table Manners by Avant Garde Dance**
Hat Fair, Winchester – 30 Jun & 1 Jul
Stockton International Riverside Festival – 5 & 6 Aug
Out There Festival, Great Yarmouth – 16 & 17 Sep

**To Me, To You… by Wired Aerial Theatre**
Winchester Hat Fair – 1 July

**The Actual Reality Arcade by Matthew Harrison**

Hat Fair, Winchester – 30 Jun & 1 Jul

Stockton International Riverside Festival – 5 & 6 Aug

Just So Festival, Cheshire – 19 & 20 Aug

Out There Festival, Great Yarmouth – 16 & 17 Sep

**VR Playground by Thrill Laboratory**

Stockton International Riverside Festival – 5 & 6 Aug

**The Jukeboxes by Bootworks Theatre**

Hat Fair, Winchester – 30 Jun & 1 Jul

Just So Festival, Cheshire – 19 & 20 Aug

**Theatre For One by Horse + Bamboo**

Just So Festival, Cheshire – 19 & 20 August

Out There Festival, Great Yarmouth – 16 & 17 September

**Willy & Wally by Cocoloco**

Out There Festival, Great Yarmouth – 16 & 17 Sep

**Witness This by Company Chameleon**

Stockton International Riverside Festival – 5 & 6 Aug