

Without Walls Blueprint 2020 Programme
Press information for immediate release – Thu 2 July



Images (L – R): *Peaceophobia* - Fuel; *RIOT* - Southpaw Dance Company; *Black Victorians* - Jeannefer Jean-Charles; *Out of the Deep* - Blue Autin Dance Theatre; *VR Fairground* - Brendan Walker - Studio Go Go

Ten artists and companies supported by £76K investment to develop ambitious new Outdoor Arts shows for audiences at leading UK festivals in 2021.

- **Without Walls, the UK's largest network of Outdoor Arts festivals and organisations announces its Blueprint 2020 Programme to support the research and development of new work.**
- **Blueprint 2020 highlights the importance of supporting artists now to create work to aid the post-crisis recovery of the cultural sector.**
- **The programme celebrates all kinds of artistic expression and responds to current social issues in compelling and entertaining ways.**

In a world where the politics of public space are at the forefront of our consciousness, Without Walls believes that Outdoor Arts has an important role to play in supporting a cultural sector in crisis and bringing communities back together following the trauma of recent events.

Without Walls Blueprint 2020 spotlights a diverse range of artists with 40% of this year's programme BAME-led and granting equal space to D/deaf and disabled artists to take risks and experiment with their craft. The programme seeks to expand the possibilities of what Outdoor Arts can be and sees many established companies looking to develop new approaches to their work come together alongside emerging artists who have no previous experience of Outdoor Arts, making the move into the public realm for the first time.

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Selected on the cusp of the COVID-19 crisis from amongst 113 other applicants, these ten visionaries will inevitably see the development of their work shaped by an exceptionally politically charged moment in our history. Many of the shows have been purposefully chosen for their ambition to raise the visibility of socially relevant issues that have come under intensified scrutiny in recent times and convey them in relatable and enjoyable acts of artistic intervention.

Outdoor Arts is widely recognised for its ability to create value in place-making and for promoting community spirit. This year's Blueprint R&D programme demonstrates just how well-positioned Outdoor Arts are to bring awareness to some of the most pressing issues of our times.

Highlights from the programme include *Black Victorians*, by Jeanefer Jean-Charles & Associates that will readdress the past and reveal the hidden Black History of our nation through a defiant demonstration of Victoriana and contemporary African culture in iconic British locations. Jean-Charles, known for her work as Mass Movement Coordinator all four of the London 2012 Olympic Opening Ceremonies and Roald Dahl's *City of the Unexpected* in Cardiff is highly regarded for her specialism large-scale outdoor performances. The artists will also be working with Historical Royal Palaces to take up a residency in their R&D Studio for initial stages of the research and development of this project.

Peaceophobia by Fuel challenges the political, social, and cultural narratives around young Muslim men in Britain today with a dynamic a car rally theatre show. Female-led and created by Common Wealth, Speakers Corner and Bradford Modified Car Club, this show aims to tackle stereotypes and bridge cultural divides. The R&D phase of the project will see the company develop their ideas alongside traditionally under-represented communities in Bradford who will be given a platform to shape the performance and celebrated in the script of the work.

Exploring societies breaking points and the act of revolution is *RIOT*, an explosive mass movement spectacle from the award-winning Southpaw Dance Company. This piece will be led by Choreographer and Movement Director Robby Graham, who is known for his work on Marianne Elliott's acclaimed production of *Angels in America* at the National Theatre.

Raising awareness of climate change and the biodiversity crisis is *Out of the Deep Blue* by Birmingham based Autin Dance Theatre who will produce an eco-conscious duet between a young girl and a giant sea puppet created out of recycled materials. Part of the R&D phase of this project will be to support the artists to develop accompanying educational materials for audiences to learn about puppetry with sustainable materials.

Exploring the boundaries of digital tech is *VR Fairground* by Studio Go Go led by renowned Thrill Engineer Brendan Walker. Using the latest VR technology Studio GoGo aim to bring relevance to the jaded British fairground once again as place of social, cultural, and technological experimentation by giving the classic Twister ride a 21st Century update.

Since its inception in 2018, Blueprint has supported the creation of 33 shows, with many going on to become fully realised productions that have toured across the UK and internationally. Without Walls draws on the strength of its network of 34 UK Outdoor Arts festivals and organisations that collectively champion collaboration and talent development as instrument for resilience.

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Josephine Burns, Chair of Without Walls tells us *“Without Walls passionately believe that nurturing talent to stimulate new work is more important than ever and a vital tool to support the recovery of the cultural sector and our towns and cities across the land. With support from Arts Council England, we can use this investment to make sure that there is a future for Outdoor Arts, a form that uniquely reaches people in the places they call home and brings joy and comfort in an experienced shared”*

Blueprint Artists will work alongside some of the UK's highest regarded outdoor production and performance specialists, as well a recently appointed Production Manager whose role will be to assess specific challenges for outdoor presentation in a COVID-19 context. This package of support ensures that the artists are encouraged to push the boundaries of their art form to ensure accessibility, inclusivity and safety is at the heart of their projects.

The artists will also be given the time and space to scale-up their ideas whilst taking up residencies in purpose-built creation spaces across the UK such as the Drill House in Great Yarmouth and 101 Outdoor Arts Creation Centre in Newbury - the UK's largest purpose-built space for the development of Outdoor Art.

Catherine Mitchell, Director North from Arts Council England says: *“I’m delighted that we’re supporting the Without Walls Blueprint 2020 programme for Outdoors Arts. It is great to see such a broad range of artists developing ideas, particularly those reimagining their practice in outdoor public spaces for the first time. This continued investment in R&D is a good example of how our NPO funding benefits the whole sector, by allowing organisations in the portfolio the time and resources to advance their thinking and ideas. I’m excited to see how this fantastic selection of artists will explore these pressing issues and convey them to audiences in creative and inspiring ways!”*

The programme:

1. *The Lost Opera* - Ashley Peevor & Nikki Watson

A surreal and interactive parade led by three musical performers dressed in attire inspired by the infamous Bauhaus Costumes of the 1920s. Audiences are invited to join the unusual spectacle as a member of the chorus and use their phone to play along in a symphony as you have never heard before.

ashleypeevor.com

2. *Out of the Deep Blue* - Autin Dance Theatre

A larger than life dance duet between a giant sustainable sea puppet named Eko and female contemporary dancer. Together through dance-theatre, they invite the whole family to learn from their inspiring story of climate change and the biodiversity crisis set to a mesmerising musical score.

autindt.com

3. *Crow* - Avanti Display

New music compositions are at the heart of this comic and beautiful new show by one of the UK's longest established outdoor performance companies, Avanti Display. This new work aims to entertain audiences and transport them to a new world inspired by the mythology of the Crow.

avantidisplay.co.uk

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4. *Peaceophobia* – Fuel

Created by Common Wealth, Speakers Corner and Bradford Modified Car Club, *Peaceophobia* will be an exciting immersive performance staged in car parks that will explore Islamophobia and the political, social and cultural narratives around young Muslim men in Britain today.

fueltheatre.com

5. *Black Victorians* - Jeanefer Jean-Charles & Associates

Victorian costumes, arresting vocals, contemporary African movement come together in a celebratory parade, inspired by the discovery of hundreds of portraits of black people in England during the Victorian era. *Black Victorians* aims to play a vital role in readdressing the history books and altering our perceptions of who we are, where we came from and where we are going - not just for Black Britons, but for all of us.

jeanefer.com

6. *Fussy Foodies Frolicking* - Just More Productions

Meet Chilli Marco, the fiery Roman Gladiator and Messy Tina, the ancient herbalist from the West Indies, who battle it out for the title of best time-travelling chef in a vibrant interactive 'cook-off' that aims to educate and entertain audiences of all ages. Blending slapstick comedy, pyro, circus, and magic, set around a travelling VW Beetle kitchen.

justmoreproductions.com

7. *Robot Selfie* – Kaleider

A robotic vertical drawing machine mounted on the outsides of buildings captures images of the public and then draws their faces, creating a big mural of all the many faces together.

kaleider.com

8. *SUPERMOMENTS* - Ling Tan

An interactive outdoor procession that uses wearable technology and geolocated audio storytelling to create an immersive aural and visual journey that invites audiences to explore their collective actions towards their environment and each other.

lingql.com

9. *RIOT* - Southpaw Dance Company

Combining spectacle, dance, and theatre, with immersive digital technologies, to form an astounding audience experience, *RIOT* captures the truly visceral nature of conflict and the complex socio-economic reasons that these events occur.

southpawdancecompany.co.uk

10. *VR Fairground* - Studio Go Go

Classic rides have dwindling heritage appeal. But with VR technology, Studio Go Go sees them as an opportunity for artistic experimentation to turn the jaded fairground into a truly thrilling 21st Century experience.

studiogogo.ltd

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For full details of the Without Walls Blueprint 2020 Programme visit www.withoutwalls.uk.com

ENDS

Notes to Editors

The announcement of the Without Walls Blueprint 2020 programme is just one example of a multitude of activity the Consortium is working on to support the Outdoor Arts sector. For enquiries about any more of our work, our partners and full details of the Blueprint 2020 programme get in touch or visit: www.withoutwalls.uk.com

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About Without Walls

Without Walls is a consortium of 34 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.

Without Walls Artistic Directorate and Blueprint 2020 stakeholders:

- [101 Outdoor Arts Creation Space, Newbury](#)
- [Brighton Festival](#)
- [Freedom Festival, Hull](#)
- [FESTIVAL.ORG, producer of GDIF](#)
- [Just So Festival, Cheshire](#)
- [Norfolk & Norwich Festival](#)
- [Out There, International Festival of Circus & Street Arts - Great Yarmouth](#)
- [Salisbury International Arts Festival](#)
- [Stockton International Riverside Festival](#)
- [Hat Fair - Winchester](#)

In addition to the Artistic Directorate commissioning festivals Without Walls also runs Touring and Creative Development Networks that presents shows created by Without Walls and works to develop new audiences at festivals across the country. **For full details all Without Walls Consortium partners visit:** withoutwalls.uk.com

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.