



2020 ACHATES PHILANTHROPY PRIZE:

**NATIONAL SHOWCASE FEATURES: 20 STORIES HIGH, CRAFTSPACE,
RIFCO THEATRE COMPANY, ROYAL ALBERT MEMORIAL MUSEUM & ART GALLERY,
SCOTTISH BALLET, STAGE BEYOND, THEATR CLWYD,
AND THEATRE CENTRE/THEATRE503**

**BURSARIES AWARDED TO: ECHO ECHO DANCE THEATRE COMPANY, FEAST,
FERMYNWOODS CONTEMPORARY ART, HOSPITALFIELD TRUST, ISLINGTON MILL,
MOSTYN, MUSEUM OF THE HOME, AND PEOPLE UNITED**

Friday 13 November 2020: The Achatés Philanthropy Prize, the national campaign to promote support of the arts, is delighted to announce that eight cultural organisations have been selected for its National Showcase. They are: 20 Stories High, Craftspace, Rifco Theatre Company, Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery (RAMM), Scottish Ballet, Stage Beyond, Theatr Clwyd, and Theatre Centre/Theatre503. Curated by this year's Judges, the National Showcase was announced last night at a special Achatés Prize ceremony hosted by poet, producer and librettist, Karthika Naïr and presented online in partnership with HOME, Manchester.

Achatés Philanthropy Foundation Chair, Caroline McCormick, said: *“The National Showcase marks how at a dark time, arts organisations across the UK have risen to the challenge and responded to the priorities of their communities. The question of who owns and controls art has changed during the pandemic thanks to this groundswell of organisations who are actively seeking to engage more deeply with their audiences and communities. The breadth of work showcased underlines the many ways in which arts organisations bring impact, whether on mental or physical health, in community building, educational, innovation, artistic development or economic value. We hope it will inspire and inform the work delivered under the next wave of the pandemic, and drive a greater appreciation for the ecosystem which not only supports resilience but gives the arts its range and richness.”*

Five years since it first launched, the Achatés Philanthropy Prize has been reimagined to reflect some of the seismic shifts that have defined 2020, beginning with the removal of the competitive element of the Prize. Whilst maintaining the view that philanthropy is a barometer of relationships with audiences, the Prize pivoted to explore how cultural organisations across the country have responded to the needs of their communities during the pandemic, despite themselves being under threat, and how their communities have responded to this work.

Eight Regional Prize Ambassadors were appointed to research and develop fifteen case studies from Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and each of the five ACE regions in England (London, Midlands, North, South East and South West) to produce a longlist of 120 nominations, from which a Regional Showcase of 24 cultural organisations - three per region - was selected.

A 19-strong panel of Judges* then hand-picked eight from this list to curate a National Showcase celebrating the many ways in which art generates value – looking beyond economic value alone to encompass intrinsic value, with proven benefits to mental health, physical health and social wellbeing, community building, educational value and innovation.

The National Showcase for the 2020 Achatas Philanthropy Prize is:

Theatre Centre/Theatre503 (London)

ImagiNation Festival, a collaboration between Theatre Centre and Theatre503, commissioned 19 of the UK's most exhilarating writers to create a digital patchwork of the nation through short plays exploring urgent contemporary themes. A nationwide open call then invited the public to record all or part of one of the plays, supported by 'How to...' videos on acting, filming and directing. More than 500 people took part, submitting more than 18 hours of footage, which was then cut together and showcased in the three-day Festival which featured all 19 plays alongside live Q&As with the playwrights.

Craftspace (Midlands)

Based in Birmingham, Craftspace is a charity creating opportunities to see, make and be curious about exceptional contemporary craft. Nominated for the breadth of work carried out since March alongside its decision to honour pre-existing commissions and financial commitments to artists and freelancers. One notable example is artist, Alinah Azadeh, whose residency was reimagined as an online resource of five creative workshops centred around making things to get through difficult times, with each workshop themed to a specific value or experience such as courage, care, connection, loss and emotional repair.

20 Stories High (North)

When restrictions on outdoor performances eased, 20 Stories High took to the streets of Liverpool - principally Toxteth and L8 - with a unique piece of interactive doorstep theatre. Knocking On is an entertaining and poignant reflection on lockdown through the eyes of a young Liverpoolian woman. Part scripted performance, part improvised interaction, it relies heavily on audience participation, to which one attendee noted: *"it helps that this is Liverpool, where strangers are used to swapping life stories at the bus stop"*. The performance enjoyed a six-week run and has inspired the creation of a number of bespoke soon-to-be-launched programmes to highlight mental health issues in the local community.

Stage Beyond (Northern Ireland)

Lockdown prompted Stage Beyond to swiftly reimaged their weekly workshop programme and upcoming production of Hamlet. Workshops for their 40 members - adults with learning difficulties, particularly at risk of social isolation due to the strictures of lockdown - moved online, and together they adapted the stage play into a radio production, Stage Beyond "Hamlet" for RTE Radio One. The Irish Independent called it *"top-class work with an intellectual theatrical energy that is clever, original and totally infectious"*, and future collaborations in a similar vein are being explored.

Scottish Ballet (Scotland)

Continuing Scottish Ballet's work with NHS Scotland, Health at Hand is a series of bespoke movement and breath videos to support physical and mental health for people working in the NHS and Social Care services. Launched at the start of May, the programme includes short 10-minute videos such as a triptych entitled Energise, Rejuvenate and Relax, alongside longer 20-minute Restore sessions which offer support after periods of physical and emotional trauma. Health at Hand has been viewed over 12,000 times over the last four months; it was ported through the NHS Wellbeing Champions across Scotland and its related

Wellbeing Hub platform as well as on the Scottish Government's Clear your Head website. The project has also helped Scottish Ballet reach new audiences – many of the participants had never before engaged with the company's work.

Rifco Theatre Company (South East)

The Desi Lockdown series was born from an open call commissioning strand for British South Asian artists to create a two-minute film about their experiences of lockdown. Five finalists were selected from 40 applications, and scripting, filming, editing and launching of the Desi Lockdown was turned around in just six weeks. Each film in the series explores a different aspect of the pandemic experience - from the particularities of lockdown in an intergenerational household, to the challenges of replicating your mum's favourite home-cooked dish - through drama, comedy and spoken word creations. The digital offer attracted more than 5,000 followers on Facebook, and the films have been viewed by almost 6,000 people.

Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery (RAMM) (South West)

"Did you see any of those amazing 'windowsill museums' that sprang up all over Exeter during Covid?". If so, that was RAMM at Home, a twelve-week artistic challenge series that invited the public to create their very own miniature museum, based on RAMM's stunning collection. A brand new challenge was set every Friday such as how to draw a picture of Gerald, RAMM's resident giraffe; how to make a Roman Centurion from a paintbrush; and how to paint a woodpecker on a rock. More than 1,000 people watched the YouTube films, with a further 1,700 people engaging via the Museum website. 500 physical packs were distributed to those unable to access creative resources online in partnership with Exeter City Community Trust and Exeter Community Wellbeing Hub.

Theatr Clwyd (Wales)

Together was an ambitious creative programme, created in response to the pandemic, to encourage and facilitate creativity amongst Theatr Clwyd audiences and in their communities. The theatre continued to deliver their workshops online reaching up to 1,000 people every week, aged 5 to 84, in a multidisciplinary programme that emphasised socialising, sharing of feelings, creativity and having fun! New initiatives also flourished in lockdown, including a new partnership with Flintshire Social Services that saw Theatr Clwyd delivering creative packages to young people in households that were receiving food packages during lockdown. These 'rainbow boxes' were filled with creative delights from seeds and colouring pencils to games and sweet treats. The theatre asked the community to help support this initiative and together ensured that more than 200 rainbow boxes reached families across Flintshire.

Eight Bursaries were also announced at the Achatas Philanthropy Prize ceremony, one in each UK region, to organisations who are already doing great work and whom the Prize plans to support in going even further. The 2020 recipients are: Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company, FEAST, Fermynwoods Contemporary Art, Hospitalfield Trust, Islington Mill, MOSTYN, Museum of the Home and People United. First launched in 2019, the Bursaries are an initiative led by the Prize Ambassadors, a group of arts professionals. Over the next six months the eight Bursaries will each receive one day of bespoke support to enable the development of their strategy and fundraising.

Ahead of the ceremony, more than 250 people joined **Art, Audiences, Money** - the first ever conference hosted and curated by the Achatas Philanthropy Foundation. Uniting thought leaders, artists and innovators from across the cultural sector, the conference offered a moment of reflection at a time of

unprecedented change, to consider what kind of world we want to live in and what place we want art and culture to play in it. Highlights included:

Power Dynamics in the Arts, chaired by **Libby Penn** (Achates Philanthropy Foundation Trustee), with panellists: **Suzanne Alleyne** (Creative Strategist and Achates Philanthropy Prize Ambassador) and **Hazel Wotherspoon** (Chief Executive of Toonspeak Young People's Theatre).

Rewriting the Rulebook, an exploration of how traditional models and approaches are being disrupted, chaired by **Moira Sinclair** (Chief Executive of Paul Hamlyn Foundation) with panellists: **Anisa Morridadi** (Founder & CEO of Beatfreaks), **Abdul Shayek** (Artistic Director & Joint CEO of Tara Arts) and **Fionnuala Kennedy** (director).

Philanthropy as Life Skill, chaired by **Lyn Gardner** (theatre critic, children's novelist and journalist), with panellists: **Dr Alison Body** (Lecturer in Philanthropic Studies at the University of Kent), **Liz O'Sullivan** (Arts Manager at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust) and **Caroline McCormick** (Chair, Achates Philanthropy Foundation).

Pay to Play, an exploration of stakeholders and power in the arts, chaired by **Dave Moutrey** (Director & Chief Executive at HOME and Director of Culture for Manchester City Council) with panellists: **Henny Finch** (Executive Director of Donmar Warehouse), **Tarek Iskander** (Artistic Director & CEO of Battersea Arts Centre) and **Javaad Alipoor** (artist & writer).

Keynote: The Future of Philanthropy, chaired by **Paul Ramsbottom** (Chief Executive of The Wolfson Foundation), with panellists including: **Sufina Ahmad** (Director of The John Ellerman Foundation) and **David Hall** (Chief Executive of The Foyle Foundation).

For more information, please visit: www.achatesprize.co.uk or follow us @achatesprize

NOTES TO EDITORS'

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The Achates Philanthropy Prize is a project of the Achates Philanthropy Foundation, which was created in 2016 to support innovation in the cultural sector and to support the development of models enabling organisational resilience. Achates Philanthropy Foundation is a UK registered charity, number 1173008.

2020 Host:

Poet, producer and librettist, **Karthika Nair** is the author of several books including *Until the Lions: Echoes from the Mahabharata*, and principal scriptwriter of shows including choreographer Akram Khan's *DESH*. Nair's closest association as a dance enabler has been with Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui; together, they founded his Antwerp-based company, Eastman.

Karthika was joined by poet, **Marilyn Hacker**, for the 2020 Prize ceremony and together the pair read an extract from the series of renga poems they have been writing to one another during pandemic. Marilyn Hacker's fifteen books of poems include *Blazons* (Carcanet 2019), *A Stranger's Mirror* (Norton, 2015), and *Diaspo/Renga*, written with Deema K. Shehabi (Holland Park Press, 2014). One of her recent translations of French and Francophone poets is Samira Negrouche's *The Olive Trees' Jazz* (Pleiades Press, 2020). Marilyn lives in Paris.

2020 Judges:

Javaad Alipoor - Artist, writer and Artistic Director of The Javaad Alipoor Company

Deanne Bell - NHS Doctor specialising in Elderly medicine at Brighton & Sussex University Hospitals Trust
Dr Alison Body - Lecturer with the Centre for Philanthropy and the Director of Studies for their MA in Philanthropic Studies at the University of Kent
Tom Byrne - Senior Sustainability Manager at ASOS; ASOS won the 2019 Corporate Award together with Candoco Dance Company
Alex Cheales - Solicitor and Achates Philanthropy Foundation Trustee
Nigel Farnall - Winner of the inaugural Achates Philanthropy Prize in 2016; Nigel inspired the creation of the Corporate Award the following year
Henny Finch - Executive Director of Donmar Warehouse
Lyn Gardner - Theatre critic, children's novelist and journalist
Caroline McCormick - Director of Achates Philanthropy
Kane Moore - Director of Development of Achates Philanthropy
Dave Moutrey - Director & Chief Executive at HOME and Director of Culture for Manchester City Council
Michael Nabarro - CEO of Spektrix
Liv Nilssen - Sector Strategy Lead at Spektrix
Paul Owens - Co-Founder and Director of BOP Consulting
Libby Penn - Digital specialist working across the cultural sector
Sarah Purisa Maguire - Freelance producer specialising in contemporary dance
Paul Ramsbottom - Chief Executive of the Wolfson Foundation and its sister charity, the Wolfson Family Charitable Trust
Bill Swainson - Publisher and literary consultant
Nick Thomlinson – Winner of the 2019 Individual Philanthropy Award together with World Heart Beat Music Academy

2020 Achates Philanthropy Prize partners:

Achates Philanthropy Ltd supports cultural sector organisations in achieving resilience with integrity. Our audience informed approach has meant we are one of the UK's leading cultural sector strategy and fundraising consultancy companies. We operate a unique ethical model, which enables us to work with cultural organisations of all sizes. Achates brings together a team of highly experienced fundraisers and arts managers to offer a tailored approach to connecting with audiences – helping organisations to achieve a long-term, resilient position and to maximise the impact of their work. Our ethos is based on quality of service and that's how we came by our name. In Virgil's Aeneid, Achates was the close friend and loyal advisor of Trojan leader, Aeneas. We thought this described the exact relationship we offer our clients.

HOME is Manchester's centre for international contemporary culture. HOME works with international and UK artists to produce extraordinary experiences, creating an exciting mix of thought-provoking drama, dance, film, contemporary visual art and events with a strong focus on international work, new commissions and artist development. HOME is a registered charity and an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation.

**The 2020 Achates Philanthropy Prize is sponsored by Achates Philanthropy Ltd.
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