

2020 ACHATES PHILANTHROPY PRIZE:

24 NOMINATIONS FEATURE IN THE ACHATES PRIZE REGIONAL SHOWCASE

ART, AUDIENCES, MONEY CONFERENCE LINE-UP TO INCLUDE GUEST SPEAKERS:

JAVAAD ALIPOOR, DR ALISON BODY, HENNY FINCH, LYN GARDNER, TAREK ISKANDER, ANISA MORRIDADI, DAVE MOUTREY, PAUL RAMSBOTTOM, MOIRA SINCLAIR & ABDUL SHAYEK

Monday 5 October 2020: The Achates Philanthropy Prize, the national campaign to promote support of the arts, is delighted to announce the Regional Showcase for the reimagined 2020 Prize. The 24 nominations selected are: 20 Stories High, Accidental Theatre, Belgrade Theatre, Bloomin' Arts, Craftspace, DanceEast, Dawns i Bawb, Dundee Rep & Scottish Dance Theatre, Kiln Theatre, Kneehigh Theatre, Northern Ballet, Presteigne Festival, Replay Theatre Company, Rifco, Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery, Scottish Ballet, Spread the Word, Stage Beyond, The Anstice, The Burton at Bideford, The Reader, Theatr Clwyd, Theatre Centre & Theatre503 and Toonspeak.

The Regional Showcase has been selected from a long list of 121 nominations, researched and developed by Achates Philanthropy Prize Ambassadors, each one resident in their region: Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and each of the five ACE regions in England (London, South East, South West, North and Midlands). Together they offer a unique snapshot of the myriad inspiring ways in which cultural organisations have worked with their communities and how their communities have responded to this work during an extraordinary year.

The activity profiled includes: outstanding digital offers, from a storytelling app to a wellbeing resource for NHS workers to entire festivals delivered online; a stage play reimagined for radio and a children's show performed in the back of a converted transit van; a team delivering hundreds of food parcels within their local community, another distributing creativity-stimulating 'rainbow boxes', and another one sharing sunflower and geranium seeds.

A 19-strong panel of judges will now review the Regional Showcase and curate a National Showcase featuring eight cultural organisations – one from each region – to be announced at a special online ceremony presented in partnership with HOME on Thursday 12 November.

This ceremony will be preceded by the first ever conference hosted and curated by the Achates Prize. *Art, Audiences, Money* will explore what kind of world we want to live in and the role that culture can play in that world, with provocations on potential routes forward for the cultural sector at this critical time. Running from 10am to 5:15pm, the online conference will comprise of four hour-long sessions with highlights including:

Philanthropy as a 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** (Achates Philanthropy Foundation Chair).

Pay to Play, a discussion around value on engagement with 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).

Rewriting the Rulebook, a discussion about disrupting old models, chaired by **Moira Sinclair** (Chief Executive of Paul Hamlyn Foundation) with panellists: **Anisa Morridadi** (Founder & CEO of Beatfreeks), **Abdul Shayek** (Artistic Director & Joint CEO of Tara Arts) and **Fionnuala Kennedy** (director).

Places are free. To find out more and to register, click on this [link](#).

Achates Philanthropy Foundation Chair, Caroline McCormick, said: *“The 2020 Achates Philanthropy Prize shines a light into the role of the cultural sector at the darkest time for a generation. All of the nominations demonstrate how cultural organisations across the country have responded to the challenges of COVID-19, despite themselves being under threat. Our one-day conference - Art, Audiences, Money - will create a moment for us all to take breath and to consider the road forward from here, where our destination should be and what role culture can play in that journey. We can’t raise the voices of all the remarkable talent across the country and the work that is being done but are very proud that we can give a brief glimpse into what culture can do.”*

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 Achates Philanthropy Prize partners:

Achates Philanthropy Ltd supports cultural sector organisations in achieving resilience with integrity. Our audience informed approach has meant we have developed into 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.
supported by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation and Young Arts Fundraisers,
and in partnership with BOP Consulting, Spektrix and HOME, Manchester**

2020 ACHATES PHILANTHROPY PRIZE NOMINATIONS:

<p><u>LONDON:</u> Cardboard Citizens Fairbeats! Irish Cultural Centre Jacksons Lane Arts Centre Kiln Theatre Kings Place Little Angel Theatre Museum of the Home OSO Arts Centre Protein Dance Southbank Centre Spread the Word The Arts Society The Photographers' Gallery Theatre Centre & Theatre 503</p>	<p><u>MIDLANDS:</u> ACE Dance and Music Belgrade Theatre Birmingham Repertory Theatre Craftspace DASH Déda English Symphony Orchestra Fermynwoods Contemporary Arts Nottingham Playhouse Pentabus Phoenix Leicester The Anstice The Royal Shakespeare Company The Mighty Creatives Vamos Theatre</p>	<p><u>NORTH:</u> 20 Stories High Bradford Museums and Galleries Brighter Sound Butterflies Memory Loss Support Group Curious Minds EF Callister Youth Club Hft Luv2meetU Islington Mill Northern Ballet Poetry Health Service The Bluecoat The Bursary Foundation The Florrie The Reader Young Identity, Contact Manchester</p>
<p><u>NORTHERN IRELAND:</u> Accidental Theatre ArtsEkta Big Telly Theatre Company EastSide Partnership Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company Golden Thread Gallery Maiden Voyage Dance Northern Ireland Mental Health Arts Festival Oh Yeah Music Centre Replay Theatre Company Stage Beyond Tinderbox Theatre Company Ulster Orchestra Void Gallery</p>	<p><u>SCOTLAND:</u> Dundee Rep & Scottish Dance Theatre Citizens Theatre Drake Music Scotland Eden Court Glasgow Life National Theatre of Scotland Platform Puppet Animation Scotland Royal Lyceum Theatre Royal Scottish National Orchestra Scottish Ballet Scottish Book Trust Shetland Arts Starcatchers The Hospitalfield Trust Toonspeak</p>	<p><u>SOUTH EAST:</u> Ark T Centre Bloomin' Arts Cambridge Junction Creation Theatre Company DanceEast Farnham Maltings Glyndebourne Hastings Contemporary Metal Norfolk & Norwich Festival People United Rifco Soundabout The Museum of English Rural Life The Watermill Theatre</p>
<p><u>SOUTH WEST:</u> Arnolfini Artsreach Aspex Gallery Exeter Northcott Theatre FEAST Independent Arts Kneehigh Theatre Plymouth Music Zone Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery Shallal Studios</p>	<p><u>WALES:</u> Arts Connection Celf O Gwmpas Cymru Creations Dawns i Bawb Disability Arts Cymru MOSTYN Oriel Myrddin Gallery Presteigne Festival Span Arts Sparc - Valleys Kids Taking Flight Theatre</p>	<p>NB: Regional Showcase in bold</p>

Strike A Light The Burton at Bideford The Egg Theatre The Orchard Theatre Wiltshire Music Centre	TAPE Community Music and Film Theatr Clwyd Theatr Felinfach Voluntary Arts Wales	
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2020 REGIONAL SHOWCASE:

LONDON: Kiln Theatre, Spread the Word, Theatre Centre & Theatre503

Kiln Theatre

Minding the Gap, a bespoke theatre and creativity programme for young refugees and asylum seekers aged 14 to 19, moved online during the lockdown with the creation of a brand-new series of six 45-minute activity sessions made available on-demand. Activities included physical warm-ups, stand-alone creative tasks, and a long-form story-telling task – all focused around developing language skills and confidence. A dedicated private Instagram account was set up to allow participants to share their new creations, with at least a dozen regularly engaging in the group, one of whom commented: *“I really love this online idea. Thank you for helping us”*.

Spread the Word

create-write-connect was launched in direct response to the coronavirus crisis, with the aim to continue Spread the Word’s work in offering accessible development opportunities for writers. The programme included Zoom workshops and 6-week writing courses, delivered via email, the vast majority of which were free. In total, more than 2670 people engaged in create-write-connect, more than half of whom had never attended a Spread the Word workshop before, and many said that they now feel more confident and motivated as writers.

Theatre Centre & Theatre503

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.

MIDLANDS: Belgrade Theatre, Craftspace, The Anstice

Belgrade Theatre

Belgrade Theatre launched a raft of public participation initiatives during lockdown, including Monday morning #CityWarmUps, an invigorating start to the week led by local artists and creative practitioners. Another popular offer, initiated in response to public demand, was Lockdown Storytime, with a new story broadcast on Facebook and YouTube every Tuesday afternoon. For older children and teenagers, The Coronavirus Time Capsule, delivered in partnership with Grapevine, aimed to help articulate the impact of isolation and anxiety on young people by providing a space for them to explore and share their experiences of the lockdown online through the creation of a series of short films.

Craftspace

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.

The Anstice

The Anstice Covid19 response sought to address the impact of social isolation in targeted and practical ways. As well as putting in place a regular welfare call system for some of the most vulnerable people in its community, Anstice staff and volunteers went to the aid of a local pharmacy who needed support with crowd control and deliveries. They made 400 deliveries over three months to people who were shielding or self-isolating and needed assistance receiving their medication. The Anstice's hands-on response to the crisis has helped them develop new relationships with people across Telford as well as strengthening relationships with local groups and businesses.

NORTH: 20 Stories High, Northern Ballet, The Reader

20 Stories High

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.

Northern Ballet

Pay As You Feel Digital Season launched soon after Northern Ballet's spring tour of 124 performances across 34 towns and cities, was cancelled due to the pandemic, leading to immediate box office losses of £1 million. In a move to bring world-class ballet to everyone's doorstep, Northern Ballet curated a season of world-class dance on screen including acclaimed ballets from its repertoire, a new digital dance film, behind-the-scenes content and exclusive Q&As. The season garnered almost one million views across all platforms, reaching existing and new audiences across the UK and from more than 60 countries internationally, with one viewer commenting: *"I look forward to watching the digital sessions at home in lockdown with my mum with Alzheimer's...thank you for bringing a small positive to our home."*

The Reader

Before the pandemic, The Reader was delivering more than 500 shared reading sessions every week in hospitals, prisons, libraries, care homes and community spaces across the UK. The Reader at Home was the banner under which a reimaged programme launched during lockdown comprising of a regular programme of video readings, online events and reading resources. 'Life Lines', a weekly DIY shared reading activity pack, was particularly popular and has been adopted by a range of partner organisations including charities, health providers and prisons to run reading-related activities for those without internet access. To date, The Reader at Home has reached around 7000 people - roughly half of the charity's existing audience in 2019/20.

NORTHERN IRELAND - Accidental Theatre, Replay Theatre Company, Stage Beyond

Accidental Theatre

Accidental Theatre converted their theatre into a community TV station – Accidental TV – Live Streaming "Plays Aloud" – and used their platform to enable artists to reach out to those most vulnerable to social isolation during lockdown. This included supporting theatre company, Commedia of Errors, to reach more than 300 people in nursing homes, care homes and private homes across Northern Ireland, with one resident living in assisted accommodation describing it as, *"better than the BBC!"*. Accidental TV also supported Imagine! Belfast, a vibrant

festival of politics and ideas, in its successful relocation online. Over three days the Festival attracted more than 12,000 viewers and over one million social media impressions.

Replay Theatre Company

COCO is a physically distant sensory theatre production that was created during the pandemic and toured to the homes of children and young people with PMLD (Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities) and/or complex needs across Northern Ireland. Performed outdoors from the back of a converted transit van, this heart-warming tale of a koala living in a eucalyptus forest was accompanied by a box of sensory resources, including scented oils, sand, tree bark, a brightly coloured feather fan and a cuddly toy Coco, to enhance and extend the audience experience.

Stage Beyond

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 to feeling isolated by 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.

SCOTLAND: Dundee Rep & Scottish Dance Theatre, Scottish Ballet, Toonspeak

Dundee Rep & Scottish Dance Theatre

Where are you, Dundee? is a collective artwork created for and by the people of Dundee over ten weeks from late April onwards. Dundee Rep & Scottish Dance Theatre set 23 video tasks for members of the public to carry out at home, such as, learn a dance routine with a big reveal!, or tell us your very best joke. A dedicated website was created to host the submissions - 292 participant videos in total - with reposts on social media channels reaching over 90,000 people, including followers in Dundee, across Scotland and the USA.

Scottish Ballet

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.

Toonspeak

Creative Calm and Access to Digital Creativity continue Toonspeak’s mission to transform young people’s lives from all across Glasgow through creativity. Creative Calm pairs young people up with freelance drama, music and art therapists, all qualified counsellors, to promote improved mental health and resilience through creativity. 18 young people joined the programme, as well as groups from Glasgow North East Carers. Access to Digital Creativity was designed to help young people get online, removing the financial and technological barriers that prevent them from participating in digital activities, alongside offering encouragement, guidance and the right tools to independently pursue their own creative endeavours. To date, 51 families have taken part in the programme, including some referrals from Glasgow North East Carers and Kinning Park Community Complex.

SOUTH EAST: DanceEast, Rifco, Bloomin’ Arts

DanceEast

The pandemic saw DanceEast move the breadth of its work online to help maintain its relationships with audiences and participants. [Digital DanceHouse](#) offers a mixed programme of YouTube and live Zoom classes, with interactive learning, instant feedback and support. [Let's Move!](#), a national dance summer school presented with The Place moved online and was enjoyed by more than 100 young people, aged 8 to 17. A new project, Dance from Home, is in development to support older people and those most impacted by social distancing regulations. All of this work builds on DanceEast's long-standing track record working with digital delivery and exploring how digital tools will transform future dance practice soon to be further investigated in the large-scale BT-led project, 5G Edge-XR.

Rifco

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 challenges of lockdown in an intergenerational household, to the attempts to make your own version of your mum's favourite dish! – through drama, comedy and spoken word creations. The digital offer attracted more than 5000 followers on Facebook, and the films have been viewed by almost 6000 people.

Bloomin' Arts

Whilst the pandemic brought a huge wealth of arts resources and opportunities online, most of these were not fully accessible for people with learning disabilities, and so Bloomin' Arts launched [Creative Islands](#), a safe online space where people with learning disabilities could meet, be creative and stay connected. Weekly dance, voice, drama and art workshops took a creative look at isolation. The programme had an overwhelming response, and the charity doubled its reach supporting over 200 participants per session across multiple groups. Bloomin' Arts also led the way in sharing their learning with other arts and disability focused organisations in Surrey encouraging more of them to open their virtual doors and reach a community which has been, and will continue to be, particularly impacted by the pandemic.

SOUTH WEST: Kneehigh Theatre, Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery, The Burton at Bideford

Kneehigh Theatre

Coastal Communities Reimagined: [Windows to the World](#), [The Neon Shadow](#), [Walk with Me](#) and [Storecupboard Essentials](#) are four strands of Kneehigh's reimagined programme devised in response to the pandemic. The Neon Shadow is a new short film – a love story with a bitter twist - created in isolation and free to watch online. Alongside the film, The Creation Club (LGBTQIA+ people from Cornwall) has been exploring the themes of love and isolation through digital movement and writing workshops with the film's creative team. Walk With Me is Kneehigh's free story app, featuring delightful, funny and often moving stories collected across Cornwall and reimagined by Kneehigh writers. The app triggers stories using GPS tracking as you wander around villages, towns and clifftops. There is also an Armchair Mode for people shielding at home, offering an immersion into the area's landscape and voices without leaving the house. The app has been downloaded more than 550 times since the most recent stories were released.

Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery (RAMM)

"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 12-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 1000 people watched the YouTube films, with a further 1700 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.

The Burton at Bideford

Seeds of Hope is an online exhibition created to help spread hope, joy and optimism during difficult times. Launched on the Burton's social media pages, the community centre asked the public to share paintings, drawings, photographs, films or words that inspire them with optimism, and in return, the Burton sent each participant some "seeds of hope" (specifically sunflowers and geraniums). Within a few days they had already received more than 40 submissions, and popular interest led to the launch of a spin-off, Flags of Hope, which asked the public to design a flag on the theme of hope. Two winners were selected from 230 entries and their flags are now on display outside the Burton; the other 228 designs have been incorporated into the accompanying brightly coloured bunting.

WALES: Dawns i Bawb, Presteigne Festival, Theatr Clwyd

Dawns i Bawb

The Kindness and Friendship Project originated from a need to find a way to allow care home residents who were shielding in their rooms during lockdown to be able to join their regular dance sessions with others in communal spaces. Dawns i Bawb used a small grant to buy a number of electronic tablets that could be loaned out to care homes to allow participants to join the dance sessions from the safety of their own rooms and partnered with a local intergenerational project to matchmake virtual dance buddies, in the absence of friend or family member participation, in live or pre-recorded sessions led by Dawns i Bawb dance artists. The success of the project led to its expansion into hospitals and to date, The Kindness and Friendship Project, has been delivered in 24 care homes and three hospitals. By adapting its projects to meet the challenges of the pandemic, Dawns i Bawb were able to keep eight freelance artists in work during lockdown

Presteigne Festival

When it became clear that the 2020 Presteigne Festival could not go ahead due to the pandemic, the organisation and its Board wanted to ensure that its artists – including more than 60 freelance performers, composers and artists - would not lose out on vital work and funds – and so the Festival moved online. Presteigne Digital 2020 – a four-day online Festival opened in late August celebrating a wide range of music, musicians and literature alongside seven world premiere performances of Festival commissions. Presteigne Digital 2020 will be available to watch on-demand and free of charge (with an optional donation) until the end of the year, which will in turn bring a far larger and wider audience than could have ever attended in-person. This project is being held up as a model approach to digital broadcasting by several industry organisations including the Royal Philharmonic Society, PRS, PRS Foundation and Arts Council of Wales.

Theatr Clwyd

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 1000 people every week, aged 5 to 84, in a multidisciplinary programme that emphasised socialising, sharing of feelings, creativity and 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.

