



Creating Environmentally Sustainable Outdoor Work

Virtual Symposium

Full programme and information for delegates

Monday 21st September 2020

Session 1: 09.45-11.45 (BST)

Session 2: 13.00-14.45 (BST)

Session 3: 16.00-17.50 (BST)

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Introduction

We are delighted to invite delegates to attend this free virtual symposium organised by the national outdoor arts consortium [Without Walls](#) and festival specialists [Wild Rumpus](#). This event forms part of the Without Walls' Creative Lab programme, a series of creative laboratories designed to allow for in depth examination of identified sector topics. The outcomes and learning from each laboratory will be documented and shared with all Without Walls partners and the wider sector.

For this Creative Lab, Without Walls is working with consortium member Wild Rumpus to deliver an event which will focus on the special challenges and opportunities around reducing carbon impacts in outdoor contexts, supporting outdoor practitioners to explore creative approaches to embedding Environmental Sustainability into their practice.

The format of the Creative Lab is a 1-day virtual symposium, open to all, followed by a 3-day artist residential taking place on site at Wild Rumpus' woodland space The Forge, Cheshire, giving participants access to the unique range of facilities including creation, fabrication and living facilities. Further information about the residential and participating artists is included at the end of this programme guide.



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Who is it for?

Aimed at outdoor artists, makers, producers and festivals that wish to explore a multi-faceted view of sustainability in relation to producing or touring work, the symposium will engender a sense of collective purpose in regards to building and maintaining a greener and more sustainable sector. The programme brings together speakers both in and out of the sector to share radical and reflective advice, case studies and approaches to embedding sustainability into outdoor work.

Topics at the forefront of conversation include:

- How we can work more collaboratively within the Outdoor Arts sector for a collective sense of the importance of sustainability?
- Who are the gatekeepers for change?
- Examination of case studies and best practice in building and touring physically sustainable productions
- How can we affect audience behaviours and embed sustainable messages into creative content?

The event aims to give a platform to radical perspectives and to engender a sense of collective purpose – offering up both practical perspectives and transparent, collaborative reflections.

About Without Walls

Without Walls is the UK's largest network of outdoor arts festivals and with support from Arts Council England commissions new work, supports outdoor artists to develop their ambition and develops a range of projects to address identified strategic priorities for the sector.

About Wild Rumpus

Wild Rumpus CIC is a social enterprise producing large scale outdoor arts events, most often in wild natural landscapes. We produce large-scale events and festivals including Just So Festival and Timber. We work alongside a huge and fantastic range of performers, makers, producers and programmers to create events.

Format

The day will feature three separate speaker panels each taking a variant perspective on the subject. 3-4 expert topical speakers will feature in each session, each delivering a presentation based on their individual expertise and knowledge base. After a short break the audience will be invited to an associated 'follow-on discussion' steered by a chair, where they will be invited to ask on-topic questions to elaborate and discuss the subjects raised.

Programme

The programme features a range of speakers whose work blends artistic excellence with a commitment to sustainability and environmentalism including Alison Tickell (Founder and CEO, Julie's Bicycle) who will talk about where the responsibility really lies in making a change and promoting a blame-free culture, Chris Johnson (Co-founder Shambala Festival, Activist, Consultant) who shares a journey of finding alignment between purpose, action and voice, learning what really works for reducing environmental impacts and inspiring audiences, and his version of positive thinking. Pip Rush Jansen (Co-Founder & Creative Director at Arcadia) who will talk about building and touring his spectacular constructions from a sustainable perspective and Wendy Hesketh-Ogilvie (Artistic Director, Wired Aerial Theatre) will share honest reflections about the complexity of the subject and how she relates to it as an artist.

Introduction: 9.45am - 10am

Mark Denbigh (Head of Programme and Production, Norfolk & Norwich Festival and Without Walls Board Member)

Speaker session one: 10.00am – 10.45am

Chaired by Rowan Cannon (co-Director, Wild Rumpus)

Imagining New Collective Futures

This session makes the case for championing sustainability as a collective endeavour, and the importance of nurturing a caring, collaborative community within the sector.

- Alison Tickell (Founder and CEO Julie's Bicycle)

Alison's opening presentation will set an agenda to promote collaborative, cross-sector initiatives within a sustainability context, and highlighting the positive changes within the sector that have flourished in spite of it being a very turbulent year in other respects.

- Chris Johnson (Co-founder Shambala Festival, Activist, Consultant)

As co-founder of Shambala festival and a relentless climate activist and change-maker in the festival, events and music industry, Chris will share reflections on his journey and key learnings on what really works for reducing environmental impacts and inspiring audiences, promoting his version of positive thinking.

- Yasmine Ostendorf (Founder of Green Art Lab Alliance, Head of Nature Research at Jan Van Eyck Academie)

Yasmine will speak about the Green Art Lab Alliance (gala), an international alliance of 45 arts organisations across Asia, Latin America and Europe collaborating on pioneering work to make this world more socially and environmentally just.

Follow on discussion: 11am – 11.45am

Chaired by Sarah Bird (co-Director, Wild Rumpus)

Collective Imagination and Sustainable Legacy: Audience Q&A with panellists

Thoughtful and collaborative reflection on how we can unify for common sustainable goals and what the parameters or constraints of this may be.

Speaker session two: 1pm – 1.45pm

Chaired by Mark Denbigh (Head of Programme and Production, Norfolk & Norwich Festival and Without Walls Board Member)

The Physical Practicalities of Committing to Sustainable Productions

This session offers up tangible case histories, showcasing inspiring examples of how to make more sustainable choices from a logistical and material perspective.

- Pip Rush Jansen (Co-Founder & Creative Director at Arcadia)

As the creative driving force behind ground-breaking UK events company Arcadia Spectacular, Pip will share his reflections on sustainable productions, from building with scrap responsibly to wrestling with the environmental challenges and justification of worldwide touring, sourcing and building.

- Pete Gunson (Artistic Director, Pif-Paf Theatre Ltd)

Pif-Paf Theatre aims to create joyful audience communities and social change through celebration and Pete will be presenting his new show in development, TOAST, as a case study to explore his approach to design and delivery from a sustainable perspective - broadcasting live from the Pif Paf studio.

Follow on discussion: 2pm – 2.45pm

Chaired by Pete Gunson (Artistic Director, Pif-Paf Theatre Ltd)

F*ck-ups and F*ck-its!!: Audience Q&A with panellists and Claire O'Neill (Sustainability Manager for Arcadia and Co Founder and Director of A Greener Festival)

We all like to talk about what we've done well, but none of us have the perfect solution! This session aims to provide an honest, good-natured and non-judgemental space to share where we have gotten it wrong, why it went wrong and how if we were all just a bit more honest about our short-fallings, collectively we would probably all make a big difference.

Speaker Session three: 4.00pm – 4.45pm

Simon Chatterton (Strategic Lead, 101 Outdoor Arts and Independent Producer)

Meaningfully Integrating Sustainability into Creative Outputs

This session brings together a range of artists and producers to share experiences of using storytelling and sustainable narratives in their work, and explore how they have balanced thematic and practical considerations in the bid to produce sustainable new work.

- Wendy Hesketh-Ogilvie (Artistic Director, Wired Aerial Theatre)

Wendy will speak about the process of developing the large-scale aerial theatre show *As The World Tipped* which takes the climate crisis as its central theme, including the need to bring in expertise on the subject and the tension between storytelling vs production when trying to create a show in a sustainable way.

- Alison Holder (Producer, Talawa Theatre Company)

In 2019 Talawa created and toured their first outdoor production, *The Tide* which explores narratives and experiences of migration within the context of the UK. Alison's presentation will look at how Talawa approached breaking down such a complex subject, and consider how this might contribute to a broader and more intersectional approach to defining environmental themes and narratives, recognising the wider social justice issues that are inherently part of the conversation on sustainability.

- Andrew Kim (Artistic Director, Thingumajig Theatre)

Using the show *Ghost Caribou* as a case study Andrew will be exploring his thoughts around touring, material choice and story-telling from a sustainable perspective.

- Barney White (Co-founder, Creative Director, Performer, Acrojou)

Barney will be introducing ideas about how artists can approach environmental concerns in both creating and touring outdoor work, and the power of collective story-telling.

Follow on discussion: 5.00pm – 5.45pm

Simon Chatterton (Strategic Lead, 101 Outdoor Arts and Independent Producer)

Taking Audiences on our Sustainable Journey: Audience Q&A with panellists

A discussion to reflect on how the power of storytelling can inspire a collective response and bring the audience with us on our sustainable journeys, but without patronising or preaching.

Closing Remarks: 5.45-5.50pm

Rowan Cannon, co-Director, Wild Rumpus

Event End: 5.50pm



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Presenting speakers:

- **Alison Tickell (Founder and CEO Julie's Bicycle)**

Alison established Julie's Bicycle in 2007 as a non-profit company helping the music industry reduce its environmental impacts and develop new thinking in tune with global environmental challenges. Julie's Bicycle has since extended its remit to the full performing and visual arts communities, heritage and wider creative and cultural policy communities. Julie's Bicycle is acknowledged as a leading organisation bridging sustainability with the arts and culture.

- **Chris Johnson (Co-founder Shambala Festival, Activist, Consultant)**

Chris is co-founder of Shambala festival and a relentless climate activist and change-maker in the festival, events and music industry, with over a decade at the vanguard of sector innovation, collaboration and action.

- **Yasmine Ostendorf (Founder Green Art Lab Alliance, Head of Nature Research Jan Van Eyck Academie)**

Researcher/curator Yasmine Ostendorf founded and runs the [Green Art Lab Alliance](#), a network of 45 cultural organisations in Europe, Latin America and Asia that is in pursuit of social and environmental justice. The alliance is the fruit of over a decade of research she did across Asia, Latin America and Europe on artists proposing alternative ways of living and working – ways that ultimately shape more sustainable, interconnected and resilient communities. She is currently the Head of the Nature research department at the Jan Van Eyck Academie in Maastricht.

- **Pip Rush Jansen (Co-Founder & Creative Director at Arcadia)**

Pip Rush is Creative Director of Arcadia Spectacular, the ground-breaking UK events company behind iconic installations like the 50 tonne fire breathing 'spider' and large and immersive shows like Metamorphosis. Driven by Pip's creative vision, Arcadia have won multiple awards and toured shows on four continents, as their signature fusion of conscious ideas, sculpture, engineering, dance music, circus and cutting edge technology continues to evolve.

- **Pete Gunson (Artistic Director Pif-Paf Theatre Ltd)**

Pete founded Pif-Paf around 2003. The company works across visual and physical theatre, circus, sculpture, engineering and live and specially commissioned music. Pif-Paf was created out of the activist scene at that time and makes shows to create joyful audience communities and social change through celebration. Their work is small scale and each show tours the UK for many years.



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- Wendy Hesketh-Ogilvie (Artistic Director, Wired Aerial)**

As Artistic Director of Wired Aerial Theatre, Wendy's focus is constantly shifting between performing, directing, designing and delivering physical tuition, writing and researching. Wired Aerial Theatre is an acclaimed aerial theatre company and the creators of the internationally touring large-scale show [As The World Tipped](#) which takes the climate crisis as its central theme.
- Alison Holder (Producer, Talawa)**

Alison Holder is an independent producer currently working as interim producer for the UK's foremost black-led Theatre Company, Talawa. In 2019 Talawa created and toured their first outdoor production, [The Tide](#) which explores narratives and experiences of migration within the context of the UK.
- Andrew Kim (Artistic Director, Thingumajig Theatre)**

Andrew Kim is a puppet maker and performer and the Co-Artistic Director of [Thingumajig Theatre](#). He is also the founder and former director of Handmade Parade (Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire) and is currently setting up Extinction Rebellion Puppet Library, a collection of giant puppets which are available to support climate justice actions.
- Barney White (Co-founder, Creative Director, Performer, Acrojou)**

Barney is Co-founder, Creative Director and Performer at Acrojou. Alongside Artistic Director Jackson Barnard, Barney has spent the last 14 years creating and touring acrobatic theatre across the UK and Internationally.

Registration

Use the following link to access the event:

<https://hopin.to/events/virtual-symposium>

First things first, when you click the link above, you'll need to set-up a Hopin account if you don't have one already. Once you've done that you will be registered for the event. Just use the link above again to access the live event. You can register at any time before the event goes live and during.

Virtual doors open at 9.15am. The Hopin event site will be accessible from this time, the broadcast will go live with the first speaker at 9.45am.

All programme elements will take place in the Stage area. When you arrive at the event homepage you should see an icon that says Stage, head there to see the speakers.

First time using Hopin? Don't worry, there will be more info on the event homepage and chat boxes available for any queries you have.

Come and go as you please. Once you've registered for the event and it has begun, you can drop back in at any point through any of the sessions. Plus, there are breaks throughout the day to give you a chance to make a cup of tea.

Accessibility

When you're watching the live broadcast, we will have a British Sign Language interpreter present on-screen any time someone is speaking. Additionally, MyClearText will be providing a live speech-to-text service on the day. This service will be active when the event goes live on Monday. To access this service, please follow this link: [Live Speech-to-Text service](#)

Artist Residential, 22-24 September

Picking up on themes from the symposium and looking in more detail at how artists can reduce their carbon impacts and encourage behavioural change through their creative outputs, this intensive residential event will be held over three days immediately following the symposium. The residential will comprise of artist surgeries and facilitated discussion alongside practical making time using the appropriate workshop/creation facilities for artists to be able to test and develop specific concepts and projects.

The residential will host 12 artist companies on a fully residential basis. Artists were selected through an open call process with a broad remit to attract a diverse range of experience and practice, and you can read a brief description of who is participating below.

Further documentation of the outcomes and learnings of the residency will be shared after the event so please follow Without Walls and Wild Rumpus to learn more.

Participating artists

Gareth Price-Baghurst, Artist	Testing using recycled and upcycled materials to scale up structures for large-scale touring
Jason Singh & Quays Culture	Exploring a new illuminated outdoor processional work with ecological themes
Autin Dance Theatre	Dance and puppetry exploring climate themes through storytelling
Diana Ford, Artist and maker	Puppetry and set-building, exploring community co-creation
Safety Catch Theatre	Scaling up touring productions whilst maintaining sustainability commitments
A Bird in the Hand Theatre	Monitoring carbon impacts and storytelling through puppetry
Anna Horton, Artist	Interactive artworks to encourage people to playfully engage with their environment
Emma Faye, Body Artist	Visual artist & body painter exploring digital interventions in the outdoors through augmented reality



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Elena Blanco, Artist

Multi-disciplinary design exploring ecological lighting

Red Herring Productions

Modelling new ways to achieve cultural exchange whilst reducing carbon impacts and focusing on hyper-local connections

Eric MacLennan, Artist

Visual artist exploring a new collective project

David Bennie, Midehya

Street dancer, breakdancing, acrobatics



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