

# CREATIVE CONNECTIONS

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



**Stewart Baxter** is an experimental composer, musician and visual artist from Hull where he has built a studio with his band LIFE, and a creative space for his company Hinterland Creative and local artists. Stewart works as an

art director within the music industry and runs the Hull Music Net music development project.



**Anna Bean** is a Hull-based visual artist who works on both commissioned and personal projects. She uses a range of materials and processes including photography, filmmaking, collage and animation techniques and

creates and facilitates art workshops with a wide range of community groups.



**Victoria Bisset** is the Director at Crescent Arts, a visual arts organisation established in 1979 by visual artists living and working in and around Scarborough. She is also completing a PhD at the

University of Hull, looking at the practices of cultural mega events, such as city of culture events, and how they develop and deliver community engagement projects.



**Elizabeth Boag** has been an actress for over twenty years, working in theatre, film, television and radio. She is one of the directors of Scarborough Film Festival; a tutor in Acting at Coventry University,

Scarborough; a qualified Executive Coach; and she has also worked as a corporate actor and facilitator specialising in communication skills since 2006.

Photo: Gary Sidebotham



**Hayley Clark** is the Arts in Libraries Officer for East Riding Libraries. Hayley plays a key role in planning, programming, delivering, and evaluating arts and culture events in the heart of East Riding communities – libraries



**Danielle Daglan** is the Head of Culture and Archives at North Yorkshire Council and has recently led on a new cultural strategy for the new combined North Yorkshire authority. She has over twenty years' experience

in the cultural sector working across arts, heritage and museums within charitable trusts, national development agencies and with/for local authorities.



**Rach Drew** is Co-Artistic Director and Founder of ARCADE and a Trustee of international contemporary performance festival, Transform. Growing up in Bridlington, Rach has worked across culture, from youth &

community arts to large scale outdoor festivals and events. Rach is highly experienced in company setup and development and has fundraised in excess of 2 million pounds for arts projects throughout the course of her career. Photo: Matthew Cooper



Before co-founding ARCADE, **Sophie Drury-Bradey** was Senior Producer for 10 years at Battersea Arts Centre. Part of senior management, she led talent development, managing budgets of £1.2 million & producing

ambitious productions including *Brand New Ancients* by Kate Tempest (Guardian's 50 Best Shows of the 21 century).



**Misha Duncan-Barry**, a playwright and actor based in Leeds, is currently a Resident Artist at York Theatre Royal. Her practice focuses on elevating female-centric narratives, particularly highlighting Black

female voices. Combining ensemble and devised work with European theatre practices, Misha creates innovative, dynamic stories and theatrical experiences.



**Alice Kynman** is the Young Talent Director at SJT, where she nurtures emerging artists. She also collaborates with ARCADE working with the Pupil Referral Unit to engage and support students. A musician, director,

and facilitator, Alice is passionate about using creative arts to inspire and empower young people. Photo: Tony Bartholomew



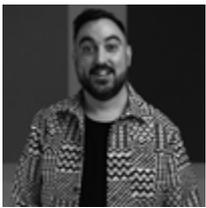
**Amy Fisher** is a Theatre Producer and currently the Producer and Programmer at Stephen Joseph Theatre. Amy has been working as a producer for 10 years in a range of capacities as a freelancer and with venues on a variety of

projects including touring, co-productions, participation projects and site specific work.



**Lydia Marchant** is a writer for stage, screen and audio. Her debut play *MUMSY* premiered at Hull Truck Theatre in March 2023 and is published by Nick Hern. She was part of the BBC Writers Academy, has worked on *Casualty*

and *Holby City* and is a regular writer for *EastEnders*. Photo: Matthew Cooper



**Matt Harper-Hardcastle** is an award-winning, disabled theatre director, writer and facilitator. Having worked for regional theatres, universities, and national equality and diversity campaigns, Matt founded Next

Door But One in 2013 to create a home for all those who shared his passion for theatre, community and co-production. Photo: James Drury.



**Stella Munthali** is a Racial Activist, Anti-Racism Trainer/Consultant, Racial Equality Advocate. BA Hons Social Work (10 years) Cultural Creative Collaborator and Host of monthly safe spaces for those who are

racially marginalised. Photo: Luke Hallet



**Jack Heaton** is Head of Marketing at the Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough. He's worked in arts marketing for over a decade and is passionate about making theatre and culture accessible to all. He's previously

worked at Paines Plough, the National Theatre, New Diorama Theatre and Arts Council England. Photo: Rebecca Need-Menear



**Vanessa Nolan** is a Chartered Accountant with over 30 years experience largely working in companies but across a variety of industries, including not-for-profit, charities and creative arts. Photo: Tom Arran



**Kristina Jones**, Studio Manager at Beckview Studios in Scarborough, oversees daily operations and collaborations with diverse clients. With a background in Theatre and a Master's in Management, she

drives success in arts and music. Committed to supporting regional arts and economic growth through her work at the studio. Photo: Daniel Abell

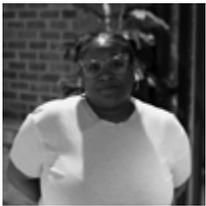


**Rebecca Norris** is a potter and teacher who gained confidence to put her dreams into reality when she was a contestant on *The Great Pottery Throwdown*. She now runs workshops, courses and pottery experiences in the Scarborough area.



**Chiedu Oraka** is a leading figure in the Northern Rap and Grime scene. Chiedu Oraka, aka ‘The Black Yorkshireman’ defies genres with his blend of raw honesty and social poetry. Raised on North Hull Estate, his bars fill the

dancefloor as capably as they serve to portray the Black, working-class experience from the frontlines of a largely white, economically deprived region of the north. Delivered in his city’s distinct accent, Oraka is a fierce representative of a new sound and an amplifier of stories yet to be told. Photo: Luke Hallet



**Toni-Dee Paul** is an independent artist and theatre maker working across form, a writer (*In Other Words*, *Field Notes*), workshop leader, facilitator, collaborator and ‘thinker-in-the room’. Her current body of work, made with

‘infectious warmth’ (*Exeunt*) is a series of performances & installations made for cemeteries, refugee centres, kitchens, churches and theatres. Outside of her artistic practice, Toni facilitates new approaches to care and wellbeing for other artists, is Associate Director at Selina Thompson Ltd & Associate Artist of award winning company One Tenth Human making intricate, intimate, and wildly entertaining live imaginative events for children and families. Toni also facilitates part-mutual-care-part-art making-part-activism project Balmy Army and is a Trustee of Leeds based International performance festival Transform.



**Sarah Penney** is the senior producer of Middle Child. Sarah has worked on large-scale outdoor projects, new writing theatre productions, Fringe shows, exhibitions, artist development and community

engagement programmes and more, managing budgets, partners, funding and creative teams. Her producing ethos has transparency, integrity, wellbeing and kindness at its core. Photo: Matthew Booth



**Paul Robinson** is the Artistic Director and joint CEO of Stephen Joseph Theatre. Paul was Joint Artistic Director of Theatre503 from 2007 to 2012, during which time the theatre was turned into a multi-award-

winning new writing powerhouse. Paul has been twice nominated for Best Artistic Director at the Off West End Awards. His first feature length film *And Then Come the Nightjars* (Finite Films and TV) was released in autumn 2023. Photo: Tony Bartholomew



**Christine Rostron** is Education Producer for ARCADE. Current projects include ‘New Shores’ a locally-rooted creative partnership between ARCADE, KIT Theatre, Scarborough Museums & Galleries and four

Scarborough schools. Christine has specialised in the museum and gallery sector for over 20 years, with expertise in developing partnerships for arts-based learning.



**Jayne Shipley** is Community Engagement Officer for Space to Be, Scarborough Art Gallery. She works democratically with participants to create connections within our communities, the gallery

collection, exhibitions and our unique environment. Photo: Matthew Cooper



**Lee Taylor** is the Development Manager for North Yorkshire Libraries. He has a wide remit that includes devising and developing creative projects with artists in libraries across North Yorkshire and managing cultural

activities with partners across different sectors. Photo: Dorcas Taylor



Writer, artist and activist **Jess Thom** co-founded Touretteshero in 2010 as a creative response to her experience of living with Tourette's Syndrome. Jess campaigns for disability rights and social justice and is on a

mission to change the world 'one tic at a time.' A multi-award-winning BAFTA nominated performer, Jess has toured the world with sell out stage shows, stand-up comedy, keynotes speeches and public appearances. Touretteshero is a proudly disabled-led organisation with an established reputation for creativity and making change across sectors. Jess frequently contributes to academic papers, interviews, and podcasts, to remove barriers and push for greater equality.



**Jason Wilsher-Mill's** work celebrates disability, his northern working-class heritage & popular culture, through cutting edge technologies and brightly coloured, large scale humorous, but challenging art. "When asked

what my work is about, I simply say – Think 'I, Daniel Blake' meets 'The Beano'". Jason uses both digital media and traditional media to create the work, which is brightly coloured and psychedelic, employing a palette inspired by the childhood comic books he read in the 1970s. Jason has exhibited around the world, including the 2024 Venice Biennale and at Wellcome Collection. Photo: Benjamin Gilbert



**Ysabelle Wombwell** is a composer, music producer and recording artist. She has been involved with grass roots music in Yorkshire for the past 15 years, producing, performing solo and as part of various ensembles. As

well as her own releases, many of her productions have had international and national airplay including on BBC6 Music, BBC Radio 1 and 2. Photo: Jordan Dean