

The Fenton Arts Trust

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Annual News
 2015/2016

Succurrere Artibus

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Number 15

Fenton News

Alumni Support Programmes

Since the Trustees decided to concentrate their entire grant giving on helping those who had completed their formal education and were taking their first professional steps, a number of educational institutions have responded by approaching the Trust for support with some innovative alumni programmes.

Chair of the Trust Stephen Morris commented:

"The world of arts education has changed enormously since Shu Yao began to show the work of recent graduates in her own home. Courses of every kind prepare their students to do wonderful things, but they increasingly take employment outside the mainstream arts that were her real interest. To ensure that the Trust maintains the impact originally intended, we now focus on projects that help artists as they begin to make their way as independent creators, past the stages of initial aspiration and training. At every meeting of the Trustees, the number and quality of applications and the responses from beneficiaries continue to encourage us."

Cardiff Metropolitan University

Cardiff Metropolitan University's School of Art and Design (CSAD) was the first to successfully find a way of gaining further trust support, with their innovative start-up studios programme. The CSAD Graduate Incubation Unit provides graduates of Fine Art, Ceramics and the Artist Designer Maker degree a 12-month residency, with studio space, mentoring, and access to the University's facilities. The first five recipients were Sophie Adams, fine artist and book artist, Alice Elliott, lighting designer (pictured right), Rhiannon Lewando, ceramic artist, Laura Welsman, fine artist and Katie Weyman, ceramicist.



Photo: Courtesy of CSAD

▲ Ceramic Plate by Katie Weyman

"Cardiff School of Art and Design was thrilled that The Fenton Arts Trust kindly chose to support five artists in its Graduate Incubation Unit (Inc. Space) for the academic year 2015-16. The impact that this generous support has had on their practice has been considerable thereby enabling them to focus and gain a head start in their careers as practising artists, designers and makers."

"During the course of the year the Inc. Space artists received support from internal mentors to help them develop their practice as well as external business mentors. They also attended a series of business talks and workshops specifically designed to enable them to gain greater insight into the demands of managing and administering their own businesses."



Photo: Courtesy of CSAD

▲ Alice Elliott with one of her lamps

"CSAD is extremely grateful to The Fenton Arts Trust; our graduates couldn't have succeeded in starting their businesses if it hadn't been for the support you have given... Thank you!"

Richard Morris, Associate Dean (Enterprise), CSAD

London Contemporary Dance School

Another training institution supported previously with educational bursaries was the London Contemporary Dance School, part of The Place. They approached the Trust for support with 'Exit Visa', a professional training workshop for emerging choreographers.

"Because we know promising dance makers struggle to find opportunities to develop their practice we developed Exit Visa, an intensive residency programme which offers practical training and space for emerging artists who have been identified for their exceptional talent. With thanks to The Fenton Arts Trust, one additional dancer was able to take part in 'Exit Visa'. From that opportunity we are thrilled to see that young choreographer progress with great momentum towards what we're sure will be a fruitful and exciting career."

Graziella Terracciano, Trusts Fundraiser

"The residency was such a great experience – and one that I was so happy to get as a recent graduate. I am determined to continue to develop my choreographic voice and I know I will use this experience to work towards developing a lifelong practice. Thank you so much for giving me the chance to take part in this inspiring project."

Antonio Branco, 'Exit Visa' beneficiary

Beneficiaries 2015-2016

Forest Fringe

The support we received from The Fenton Arts Trust was invaluable in helping ensure 2015 was the boldest, most exciting and most ambitious year in Forest Fringe's short history. We supported more young artists, from a greater variety of places and backgrounds, than we've ever been able to before. I know that for many of those artists their experience at Forest Fringe enabled them to build new audiences for their work, experiment with bold new forms and ideas, and helping forge an artistic community that will be support and inspire them for many years to come.

Andy Field, Co-Director

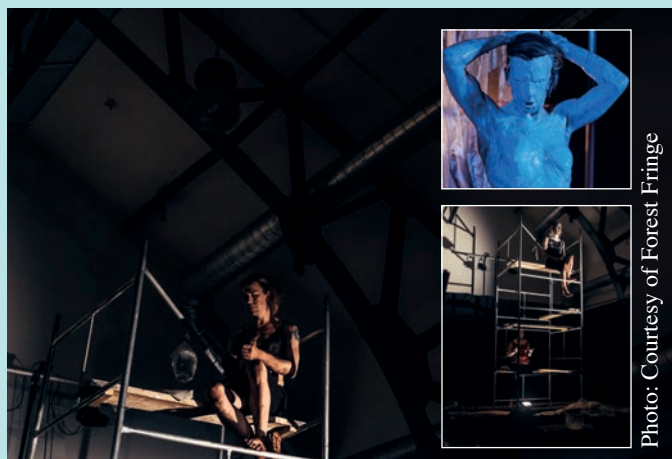


Photo: Courtesy of Forest Fringe

▲ Emma Frankland, *Reasons for Change*

"Being a part of the 2015 Forest Fringe line-up was a tremendous experience. It was very exciting to present the show as part of such a well curated line-up (something highlighted by the 5 star review in The Stage, which was a collective response to the entire programme). The experience has provided enormous support at a pivotal time in my career. Specifically, it meant that we were able to engage with the British Council Showcase, which has directly resulted in a relationship with a Brazilian theatre producer and us sharing work in Sao Paolo this autumn."

Emma Frankland (Forest Fringe artist 2015)

Greater Manchester Police Male Voice Choir



▲ Composer Chris Roe acknowledges applause

"The grant from The Fenton Arts Trust allowed me to complete this ambitious piece bringing together two choirs and orchestra. It was a career-changing moment to hear my music being played and sung by such a large and diverse group of musicians!" Chris Roe, composer

"The support from the Trust gave me an opportunity to push myself as a conductor, but also learn in detail about how to go about commissioning and supporting composers to create new choral repertoire."

Michael Betteridge, Conductor

National Centre for Circus Arts



Photo: Bertil Nilsson for NCCA

▲ Maisy Taylor, 'Lift Off' programme participant

"Support from The Fenton Arts Trust has been invaluable in developing 'Lift Off', our programme for graduating degree students – giving them the support and advice needed to open doors and truly thrive in the professional world. The Trust's belief in the programme has also allowed us to evidence its importance, not just for our graduates but for the wider performing arts sector." Ben Wallace, Development Manager

"It was a welcoming hand into the circus world and a place for me to grow - I've graduated with my own company, a first class degree and a strong supportive base to call home."

Kieran Warner, 'Lift Off' programme participant

Southbank Sinfonia

"I write to thank The Fenton Arts Trust for their kind and generous support during my time with Southbank Sinfonia. It has been a fantastic year and the experience has been invaluable to me as I embark upon a career as an orchestral musician.... I am looking forward to beginning a trial with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, and am on the extra list for the BBC Philharmonic and the Philharmonia Orchestra. Playing with Southbank Sinfonia has undoubtedly made me a better orchestral player, and I feel very excited, and well prepared for the next stage of my career."

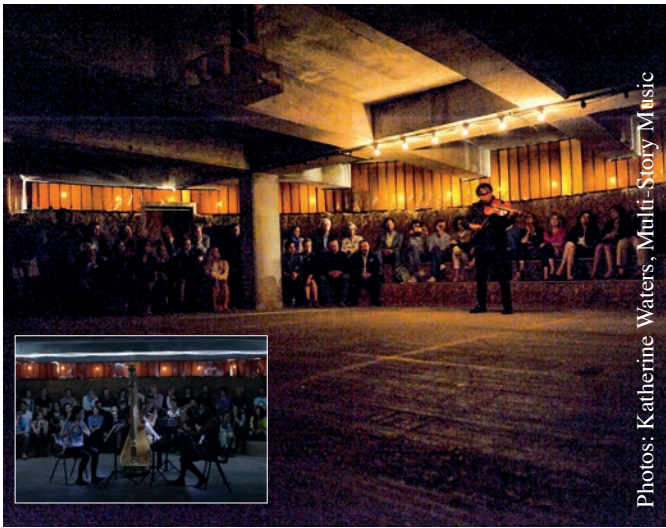
Jessica Tickle, viola

Spitalfields Festival

"We are extremely grateful to have had The Fenton Arts Trust's generous support towards 'Night at the Museum' 2015, which enabled Spitalfields Music to support the development of three exciting young composers and a group of talented young musicians at the beginning of their careers."

Philip Chandler, Development Manager

Multi-Story Music



Photos: Katherine Waters, Multi-Story Music

▲ Two chamber concerts in Peckham Car Park

"Having support from The Fenton Arts Trust was a brilliant way for us to launch our chamber music series - we would never have been able to do something like this otherwise as it was a new way of working for us and a really exciting chance to create small, intimate performances in the 'strawditorium'!"

Kate Whitley, Artistic Director

Gate Theatre, Notting Hill



Photos: Helen Murray

▲ Elayce Ismail in rehearsal (above)

Clytemnestra, directed by Jennifer Tang (inset)

"The Gate prides itself on its ability to discover and nurture emerging talent. The Fenton Arts Trust supported two emerging directors, Elayce Ismail and Jennifer Tang working on The Iphigenia Quartet. Elayce directed The Chorus by Chris Thorpe, a piece that was bold in form and written as a choral monologue. Jen Tang directed Clytemnestra by Lulu Raczka, which again was radical in form, and saw four characters in different eras discussing this bold mythical tale"

Fiona English, Development Manager

AKCT



Photo: Gabriel Szalowski, AKX

▲ AKX Graduate Dancers

"AKX ('AK' stands for 'Akram Khan', X stands for 'experiment') is a programme that aims to bridge vocational training and professional performance for fresh graduates of dance training in the UK. Encapsulating the collaborative practice of Khan, it focuses on developing participants' own artistic voice, often necessary after 3 years of rigorous technical training. We are grateful to have received a grant from The Fenton Arts Trust to support the programme and its participants in 2015. Clare Cody-Richardson, Project Manager

"Right from the moment I read about AKX, I knew it would be a rich and inspiring programme in which I definitely wanted to participate. It was amazing to learn from a company in which you are approached as a dancer, an artist; not as a student but as a professional. They had certain expectations and an approach that differs from education, and because it is different, it has value".

Zahira Suliman, participant AKX 2015

East Neuk Festival



Photos: Courtesy of ENF

▲ ENF Musical Retreat participants and tutors

"We set out to create an opportunity for young musicians to work intensively and connect with outstanding older musicians. In both respects I believe we have achieved our goals. We thank the Trustees for their support and faith in this project".

Svend Brown, Director

Applications

Applications for grants may come from groups or individuals directly, or via organisations. Applications may also come from any academic or vocational arts institution who wish to support their alumni on completion of their degrees and as they begin their professional practice. For full application criteria and an application form please visit our website at www.fentonartstrust.org.uk.

Financial Support 2015 - 2016

The Fenton Arts Trust awarded twenty nine individuals and organisations a total of £105,000 in support of the arts in the UK during the financial year 2015-2016.

Beneficiary	Award	Amount
AKCT (Akram Khan Company)	Support of AKX, a two-week talent development course for 15 graduate dancers	£3,000
Birmingham Royal Ballet (BRB)	Funds to support work placements for emerging professionals	£5,000
Cardiff Metropolitan University	Graduate Incubation Unit start-up studio bursaries for CSAD alumni	£5,000
Cowbridge Music Festival	Funds for 2015 Festival commission from composer Gareth Moorcroft for Cellophony	£3,000
East Neuk Festival	ENF Musical Retreat bursary: Benjamin Baker	£1,500
Eclipse Theatre Company	Support for 'Revolution Mix' gathering June 2015	£5,000
Forest Fringe	Support for 2015 Edinburgh Fringe project for 15 young theatre companies and artists	£5,000
Gate Theatre, Notting Hill	Bursary for emerging theatre directors Elayce Ismail & Jennifer Tang	£3,000
Gelachter Wind Trio	Recording project support	£2,420
Glasgow Sculpture Studios	MFA Graduate Fellowship 2015: Katie Schwab	£4,000
Greater Manchester Police Male Voice Choir	Commission for new amateur SATB choral work from composer Chris Roe	£2,000
London Contemporary Dance School	Support for 'Exit Visa' bursary	£2,500
Multi-Story Music	Support for new chamber music concert series to showcase Multi-Story musicians	£1,500
National Centre for Circus Arts	Support with 'Lift Off' graduate support programme	£5,000
National Youth Jazz Collective	Support for Ambassadors' Scheme 2015-2016 plus alumni tutor training scheme	£6,000
New Dots	Commission to create three new works for 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' centenary project	£5,000
Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment	Support for OAE Experience Scheme	£3,000
Orpheus Sinfonia	Funds for auditioning project to support young musicians	£2,000
Oxford Lieder	Support for the 2015 Festival Mastercourse	£3,000
Papatango Theatre Company	Support for expanded Resident Playwright Scheme 2015: Sam Potter	£2,500
Poetry Trust	Fenton Aldeburgh First Collection Prize 2015: Andrew McMillan	£6,000
Serse Trust	Support for 'Opera seria' training scheme	£2,000
Sing for Pleasure	12-month scholarships for two emerging choral conductors	£2,515
Southbank Sinfonia	Bursary contribution for young professional musician: Jessica Tickle	£3,500
Spitalfields Music	Support for 'Night at the Museum' RAM post-graduate performance project at Geffrye Museum	£3,750
Stone Sculpture Studios	Equipment for new sculpture studio for stonecarvers	£3,915
Theatre Hullabaloo	Support towards children's theatre bursary for two emerging practitioners	£5,000
Theatre503	Support for '503Five' Resident Writers Scheme	£4,500
Watts Gallery Trust	Funds for Artist in Residency scheme at Watts Gallery-Artists' Village	£4,400
Total		£105,000

The Poetry Trust



▲ 2015 winner **Andrew McMillan** with 2014 winner **Helen Mort**

Just after the 2014-2015 newsletter was published we heard the disappointing news that The Poetry Trust would cease trading on 31 December 2015. This has also meant the cancellation of the 2016 Fenton First Collection Prize.

In 2016, The Poetry Trust received a Grants for the Arts transition fund from Arts Council England to review its activities. The principal aim of this review was to make TPT a more focused and sustainable organisation, and to work even more effectively with poetry partners in the sector. A big thank you to Fenton, and our other funders and friends, for their patience and understanding during this process.

Robert Seatter, Trustee/Chair of Judges

Support during the current financial year (2016-2017) includes the following beneficiaries around the UK:

Beside the Seaside Productions	New English Ballet Theatre
Cowbridge Music Festival	Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment
East Neuk Festival	Papatango Theatre Company
English National Opera	Phoenix Dance Theatre
Glasgow Sculpture Studios	Poetry London
Greenwich Dance Agency	Psappha Contemporary Music Ensemble
Hampstead Theatre	Roman River Music
Helios Collective	Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama
HighTime	Seonaid Goody
Iris Theatre	Shakespeare Globe Trust
Keshia Watson	Sound Festival
Ledbury Poetry Festival	Standpoint
Leeds Lieder	UP Projects
London Sinfonietta	Wiltshire Music Centre
New Diorama Theatre	

Supporting TFAT

We aim to help individuals and artistic institutions by awarding grants and funds in keeping with founder Shu-Yao Fenton's wishes. We would welcome any donations in pursuit of this, which can attract further Gift Aid. Please make cheques payable to *The Fenton Arts Trust*, or by bank transfer: *Lloyds Bank, Sort Code 30-00-08, Account no. 00979513*.

If you would like to support the Trust with a legacy amount, please add the following details along with your gift figure to your will:

*The Fenton Arts Trust (Registered Charity no. 294629)
PO Box 268825, London SE23 9DG*

If you do decide to do this, we would be delighted to hear from you.

The Fenton Arts Trust, P.O. Box 68825, London SE23 9DG | www.fentonartstrust.org.uk

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