

## **Arts Programming at Dartington**

Dartington is a large, diverse organisation of which the arts form a core part of charitable activity. Our arts activity is funded by the commercial and trading arms of the Dartington Hall Trust, a charity dedicated to arts & culture, learning & education, land & sustainability and social justice; and we feed our ticket sales from our arts programme back into that programme. We also run specific projects that are funded by trusts & foundations, public funding or private donations; these funders are always acknowledged for their contributions.

### **Dartington Arts – an overview**

Dartington Arts is a department of The Dartington Hall Trust and responsible for the Programming Policy for all arts activity delivered by and for the Trust. These include:

#### **The Dartington International Summer School & Festival**

Founded in 1948 at Bryanston School in Dorset, and arriving at Dartington in 1953, the Dartington International Summer School & Festival is our flagship music programme. Taking place over four weeks in high summer, participants and bursary students take part in week-long music courses led by international musicians across a broad range of genre. Over the course of the Festival, these artists present concerts and events for public audiences to experience (mostly) in the Medieval Great Hall that we transform into a concert hall. The Summer School & Festival is curated by an Artistic Director, who is responsible for all the artistic programming at Dartington during those four weeks (including any exhibition materials).

#### **Dartington Live**

Launched in autumn 2017, Dartington Live is a diverse programme of contemporary performance incorporating theatre, dance, music and cross-arts practice. The programme runs from October – March. Dartington Live is programmed by a core staff Programme Manager and performances take place in our Space Studios and across the Dartington Hall estate. As part of Dartington Live, we curate a series of residencies to support artists making new work to share with audiences in South Devon and beyond. Dartington Live features local, national and international performers and performing companies.

#### **Barn Cinema**

Running a year-round programme of mainstream and independent film, the Barn Cinema is based in a converted 15<sup>th</sup> century barn in the medieval courtyard at the heart of the Dartington Hall Estate. Fully digital, the Barn Cinema prides itself on its presentation of a huge variety of film including: new releases, carefully selected independent film, documentaries, classics, silent film (sometimes with live soundtracks), children's film and event cinema from around the world (including theatre, opera, concerts and specialist arts presentations). The Barn Cinema is programmed by a core staff programme team. The Barn Cinema works in partnership with other like-minded organisations to deliver Film Festival programme and delivers specialist Outdoor Film presentation across the South West.

**Visual Art** - As of 2018, a revised concept for the visual arts is in development.

## **Year-round Partners at Dartington Arts**

Dartington Arts supports a number of local arts organisations and community projects. These partnerships aim to support a suite of initiatives that reach and engage participants and audiences in our community. The support we provide is tailored to needs of each organisation and is regularly reviewed. The current year-round partners based here at Dartington are:

[Aller Park Studios](#) – an artist-led project in residence for 2019 - 21. Evening and weekend events, including artist film screenings, talks, workshops and performances, are open to all. Artists, writers and musicians are invited to visit Aller Park and share their work in a contemporary art programme that engages with the radical, cross-disciplinary traditions of Dartington.

[art.earth](#) – a group of artists and organisations whose work focusses on contemporary art and ecology, the environment and the natural world, art.earth hosts regular course, symposium and exhibition at Dartington in the Garden Room Gallery at Space Studios.

[Arts Lab](#) – a team of professional local artists who run workshops for groups of other creatives, young people and the wider public plus youth, mental health and education services, students of art and education, and a wide variety of marginalised groups.

[Dance in Devon](#) – regional development agency for dance, which aims to create a county where people's lives are enriched and energised through dance.

[Dartington Community Choir](#) – founded by Imogen Holst at Dartington in 1942, the DCC meet weekly at Dartington to rehearse weekly and perform choral repertoire several times a year.

[Playgoers Society of Dartington Hall](#) – founded by Dorothy Elmhirst in 1946, the Dartington Playgoers are a community theatre organisation based at Dartington.

[SoundArt Radio](#) – beginning as an experimental student radio station at Dartington College of Arts in 2006, and becoming a community radio station in 2009, SoundArt Radio are a diverse broadcaster based at Dartington.

[Totnes Young People's Theatre](#) – for young people aged 8 – 18, TYPT meet for weekly theatre workshops, create and attend performance at Dartington

We also have 'light touch' relationships with Devon Baroque, Totnes Early Music Society, and South West Sculptors Association.

## **Collaborative projects**

Dartington Arts engage in collaborative projects on a case by case basis. When approached by an external organisation for collaboration, these are the things we consider:

- Alignment with Dartington Arts strategic priorities or the wider values and purpose of The Dartington Hall Trust
- Lead in time – is the proposed collaboration planned for at least 6 months ahead?
- Capacity – can we and our other colleagues at the Trust manage the proposed workload as well as our core programme, and do we have budget, if necessary, to support it?

When approaching us about a new collaboration please write a concise proposal that responds to these considerations.

### External promotions

Studios, estate land and the Medieval Great Hall are all available to hire for external promotion of performances and events. You will find more details about this process later in this document.

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### How do Dartington Arts decide what to programme?

#### Dartington International Summer School & Festival

**Musical excellence** is the core principle of the Summer School & Festival. The Artistic Director of the programme is responsible for all curatorial decisions and the team at Dartington Arts support the delivery of the Artistic Director's vision. The current Artistic Director (2020 – 2022) is Sarah Mohr-Pietsch.

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| Genre                  | Classical repertoire, early & baroque, choral works, opera, music theatre, chamber music, folk, jazz, world music, and multimedia. The summer school also runs course in writing, composition and conducting. The Festival programme also includes guest speakers    |
| Format                 | Artists are invited to be resident for one week (in some cases, longer) to lead a course (or courses) and perform as part of the festival. Artists are remunerated with a stipend payment, and provided with all accommodation, food and additional travel expenses. |
| Programming period     | 15 months. We programme in the spring for the following summer i.e. April 2018 for July 2019.  |
| Enquiries              | <a href="mailto:summerschool@dartington.org">summerschool@dartington.org</a><br>01803 847080   |
| Additional information | The current artistic director does not accept cold enquiries from musicians or ensembles, preferring to develop relationships with artists and collaborators over time before inviting them to the Summer School & Festival  |

#### Dartington Live

Risk and relevance are the core values of the Live Art programme. **Dartington aims to programme work that reflects the world in which we live.** This can be the wonder and curiosity of childhood, through to works highlighting the desperate situation of artists under oppressive regimes. **We seek out performance that is aligned with our organisational values:** to be a catalyst for deep personal and societal change. **We are inspired by artists to present live art in extraordinary, playful and creative ways** which engages directly with audiences. At the end of every season, we invite audiences back to share their experiences and ideas for our future programme.

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| Genre  | Theatre, music, dance, inter-disciplinary performance and everything in between  |
| Format | We see as much work as we can, and where we can't we will ask for filmed content, images and concise project or tour packs, and seek audience or venue testimony. Performances will be invited for short |

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|                        | runs of 2 – 4 shows. We also co-produce shows for longer runs. We agree a fee and/or a box office split for performances. We invite artists to be resident to create new work, these artists usually come with funding or we will fundraise to support specific residencies. We negotiate further terms on accommodation and travel expenses. |
| Programming period     | 6 – 12 months   |
| Enquiries              | <a href="mailto:becca.gill@dartington.org">becca.gill@dartington.org</a><br>01803 847075  |
| Additional information | We will not programme work being performed within a 40 mile radius of our venue. We do not programme mainstream or classic works. We rarely, if ever, accept a residency or performance on a cold enquiry, but that can be the beginning of a conversation.   |

### Barn Cinema

Dartington has a long history of film, having a film unit as part of the Estate in the 1940s. As a result, we hold a fascinating archive of film that we are slowly but surely digitising. Passionate about film and excellent presentation, the Barn Cinema aims to express the values of our organisation in its independent film programme, and select mainstream releases that will entertain and inspire our audiences. We work with the Independent Cinema Office to bring audiences intriguing films from around the world, with a specific focus on underrepresented voices and films that shine a light on global issues. We pride ourselves of great film presentation at our cinema and in our outdoor films. We work with Transition Town Totnes on their annual film festival; and with our colleagues at Schumacher College. As well as mainstream and independent film and documentary, we screen Event Cinema from some of the world's finest venues for music, opera, dance and theatre, and a Children's film programme.

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| Genre       | Mainstream releases, independent film and documentary, Event Cinema, classic film, silent film and children's presentations. Some films include Q&A events with filmmakers.  |
| Format      | Year-round film programme of mainstream, independent, family and event cinema, limited availability as a straight hire (for which we need at least 3 months' notice and will quote accordingly)  |
| Programming | Year-round programme 6 – 8 weeks ahead   |
| Enquiries   | Cinema Programmer: <a href="mailto:ali.donkin@dartington.org">ali.donkin@dartington.org</a><br>Marketing: <a href="mailto:will.kemp@dartington.org">will.kemp@dartington.org</a><br>Box office: 01803 847070   |
| Notes       | You can hire the Barn for private screening although availability is limited. We cannot screen any film not in receipt of a BBFC age rating for which the distributor or promotor is financially responsible for, although we can help facilitate the process. This is true of all film screened anywhere on the Dartington Hall Estate. |

## **External Arts and Performance Promotions**

Dartington's Medieval Great Hall is available to hire by external promoters for arts and performance events, as are the studios at our Space Studio building. We consider the following when considering a booking by external promoters presenting performance work to audiences here at Dartington:

- Is the performance of comparable quality to the Dartington Arts programmes?

The proposed presentation will be assessed by our Arts programmers and the Executive Director of Arts, who will make the ultimate decision on whether an external promotor can present performance at Dartington.

- Can we physically stage the production?

Dartington's Medieval Great Hall has technical restrictions that may mean a performance is not physically possible in the space. Our events team can advise promoters. The studio spaces have greater technical capacity, and the technical requirements of a performance will be assessed by our technical and Health and Safety team. A risk assessment is required for all external arts and performance events at Dartington.

- Is the performance aimed at a particular audience that we have in our catchment area?

We will also consider if a performance is appealing to our audiences to maximise the box office potential for the external promotor.

- Does the performance clash with others in the programme thereby splitting the potential audience?

We will not book professional contemporary live performance from an external promotor during our Dartington Live Season.

We will not book any music performances by an external promoter during the Dartington International Summer School & Festival.

We will consider what else is in the diary close to a proposed performance. An initial enquiry to hire one of our performance spaces does not guarantee the space can be used, even if it is available as there may be a similar event in the diary close to the required booking that will compromise the audience numbers (this includes public film presentations).

We will not accept a booking for a performance that has been performed within a 20 mile radius of Dartington in the last 6 months as this compromises potential sales.

## **Box office and Marketing**

External promoters are responsible for their own marketing and promotion. Dartington will provide a box office service for external promoters the cost of which is 12% of gross ticket sales plus VAT. External promoters of artistic performance events are not permitted to sell tickets through another agent. As well as the box office service, the 12% fee includes:

- Listing on the events section of the Dartington website

- Inclusion at least once in our weekly email-outs to our mailing list [reach 22000 people]
- Weekly sales update
- Post event box office sales analysis

Dartington abides by data protection legislation and can only pass on customer details to an external promotor with the express permission of that customer, although permission will be sought if required. Our box office requires at least 7 working days to add an event to our system. Please be advised that at least 3 months is recommended for marketing an event successfully.

For information about the box office service for external promotors, please contact [nikki.lewis@dartington.org](mailto:nikki.lewis@dartington.org)

### **Technical support**

Any external promotion taking place in the Great Hall or the Studios and requiring technical equipment and support will need to obtain the relevant support from an approved supplier. For details of our approved suppliers please contact [patrick.collins@dartington.org](mailto:patrick.collins@dartington.org). If a promoter proposes bringing in their own technical team they will also need to liaise with Patrick Collins, Production Manager.

All external promotions are subject to the terms of the hire agreement. We also require all external promotors to hold employer and public liability insurance.

### **Hiring studio space or the Great Hall**

Our studio spaces are available to hire for workshops and rehearsals. The Medieval Great Hall and heritage rooms are available to hire for conferences, events and weddings. [Full details are available online.](#)

To discuss hiring estate land for any arts and performance, initial contact should be with [john.channon@dartington.org](mailto:john.channon@dartington.org), Estate Manager. Use of the formal gardens by external promotors is currently restricted.

Here are some guidelines:

- All bookings are subject to availability and the terms of a hire agreement. During 1 October – 31 March we prioritise our core Dartington Live programme in our studios.
- The Medieval Great Hall is operated by the trading arm of the Dartington Hall Trust and although both trading and charity share the same set of values, rates and terms are commercial. External promotors need to be aware of this when setting ticket prices, which we would recommend in the region of £15 - £20. Advice on ticket prices for other venues at Dartington is available on request from the Dartington Box Office: 01803 847070.
- The Dartington Hall Trust is an ethical, values driven organisation in all areas of our business and charitable purpose. We consider all enquiries in the context of our values and purpose, and reserve the right to decline a booking if the potential hirer promotes values that are at odds with that of the organisation.

**Other policies**

The Dartington Hall Trust is open about our policies regarding (among others) equality, child protection, data protection, health and safety, and land use. If you require further details about any of these policies, please contact [yvonne.barnes@dartington.org](mailto:yvonne.barnes@dartington.org), Company Secretary.