

# THE CO-CREATING CHANGE FESTIVAL

22-26 NOVEMBER 2021

LIVE AT BATTERSEA ARTS CENTRE (BAC) & ONLINE

BAC is a relaxed venue. This means we understand disability through the social model and work to remove barriers.

Both the online and in person festival are **relaxed**. This means you are welcome to make noise, move, tic, stim, come and go as you need to and generally respond naturally to the festival.

The whole online conference will be captioned.

The in-person conference is at BAC. BAC has step-free access to all parts of the building via a lift and gendered, all genders and accessible toilets.

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*Please note, the event schedule may be subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.*



# DAY ONE

MONDAY 22 NOVEMBER. ALL SESSIONS ARE ONLINE, ON AIRMEET.



Running from 10am-4.30pm, there will be provocations from international speakers, world music, breakout rooms and interactive workshops from across the globe.

The Dhaqan Collective would like to invite you to a day celebrating those across the world who are working towards more just and equitable creative futures. One which asks the question what does co-creative arts practice look like in the context of a world underpinned by exploitative economic systems often rooted in white supremacy and capitalism. On this day we want to take the opportunity to frame this conversation on co-creative practice and design by acknowledging the global context that we find ourselves in.

From the pandemic, to the war on terror, hostile border control to climate change we are trying to live/ thrive/ work/ survive under some trying circumstances. And yet we resist through our everyday lives, through joyful interactions and sparks that centre our humanity. We believe co-creative arts projects that give space to these moments and allow space for rest and resistance are vital. So how do we do this work, how can we learn from each-other and how do we share resources and power more equitably?

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- 10.00-10.30 GMT** **FESTIVAL WELCOME**  
**Fozia Ismail, Dhaqan Collective** and **Dr Sara Salem, Assistant Professor of Sociology, LSE** (specialising in post-colonial work)
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- 10.30-11.30 GMT** **THIMALI KODIKARA X LOUIS V: CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND COLONIALISM**  
A conversation between **Thimali Kodikara, co-host of the podcast Mothers Of Invention** which highlights feminist solutions to the climate crisis, and **rapper and activist Louis V.**
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- 11.45-12.45 GMT** **CREATE SYRIA: A SPACE TO EXPLORE ARTS AND SOCIAL CHANGE**  
**Ettijahat-Independent Culture and The Change Collective.** An opportunity to share our experience in the quest to alleviate pressures on artists and cultural practitioners through the work on Create Syria, by continuously exploring new and peculiar approaches to dealing with arts in communities.
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- 13.30-14.30 GMT** **CO-CREATIVE PRACTICE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND WIDER DIASPORA**  
**Zana Masombuka** is a 24 year-old Johannesburg based creative director who draws inspiration from her upbringing in rural KwaNdebele, in a small town called Siyabuswa. She uses nature as a starting point for her collaborative projects. 'A Multidimensional Visionary co-creating with the Universe.'  
**Joy Gregory** is an artist who is known for exploring issues of identity in her work, through explorations of race, gender and sexuality.  
Presentation: the role of plants in our survival and how nature is a vital starting point for exploring co-creative projects and decolonial practices in the arts.
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- 14.40-16.00 GMT** **CO-CREATIVE PRACTICE IN ARGENTINA AND SOUTH AMERICA**  
**Inés Sanguinetti** is a dancer and choreographer deeply committed to working for social equity through art. Inés is the **coordinator of the Latin American Art Network for Social Transformation.**  
She will also be in conversation with **Romina Sosa**, a First Nation Argentinian who came through one of the programmes for social change and went on to set up her own dance company. The Fuera de Foco Crew develops artistic productions with young people from the "La Cava" neighbourhood, trains young people in areas of art and culture and builds cultural centres.  
Inés has designed an interactive workshop where we will co-create together using the body and exploring the themes that will be explored. She discusses 4 areas, broadly covering: co-creative design using the arts in education, health and how to co-create with tensions of people with different power in the space (i.e. social class, race, gender etc) and role of co-creation for healing.
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- 16.15-16.45 GMT** **CLOSING COMMENTS**  
**Fozia Ismail Spicer.** Closing comments, what next and rest of the festival.

# DAY TWO.

**TUESDAY 23 NOVEMBER. LIVE AT BATTERSEA ARTS CENTRE AND LIVESTREAMED ON AIRMEET.**



**A two-day, live, in-person get-together. There will be delicious food, networking, keynote speakers, discussions, provocations, workshops, laughter AND a live show: *Rent Party*.**

*Rent Party* has been co-created by an extraordinary group of artists from Peterborough with writers and creators from Manchester's House of Ghetto: Darren Pritchard and Stewart Bowdon.

*"You are cordially invited to the party we all need. We'll sing, we'll dance, play games and tell our stories; creating a kaleidoscopic picture of what it means to be gifted, working class and LGBTQI+."*

*Rent Party* is a co-created production written by Darren Pritchard, produced by Jumped Up Theatre and supported by Moving Roots.

All events will be live streamed via Airmeet and anyone who joins digitally will be able to access the discussions and join in.

The scratch hub will be available for those people who might need a quiet space to do some work from during the day.

There will be a chill out space and a room to hold a meeting in if during the conference you connect with someone and want some space to talk an idea through.

## 12.00- ARRIVE, THEN LUNCH

13.15 GMT

Arrive, have a hot drink, find a seat, go to the loo, meet old and new colleagues and settle into the beautiful grand hall for lunch from 12.30.

13.30-

15.15 GMT

## CO-CREATION: IF NOT NOW, WHEN? IF NOT US, WHO?

**1.30pm-1.40pm Fozia Ismail Spicer** – a global perspective of Co-Creation. What does co-creative arts practice look like in the context of a world underpinned by exploitative economic systems?

**1.40pm-2pm . David Price OBE. *The Power of Us: we are the people we've been waiting for*.** Can we trust in our 'mass ingenuity'? Whose voices need to be heard, and what role does the artist have to play in ethical co-creation?

**2pm-2.15pm. When needs must. Co-creation in a crisis.** Cultural spaces – Led by Arts In Homelessness International.

**From 2.15pm.** Questions to the speakers.

15.30-

17.30 GMT

## CAN YOU TOUR CO-CREATED THEATRE?

Join Darren Pritchard, creator of *Rent Party*, and members of the Moving Roots network to discuss co-created theatre and how it can tour.

Moving Roots is a collective of arts organisations; Battersea Arts Centre, Lyrici Arts, Common Wealth, The Old Courts and Jumped Up Theatre, spanning across the UK (London, Medway, Cardiff, Wigan and Peterborough.)

Across three years we are collaborating with communities and artists to explore pioneering new ways to make, stage and tour live performances across the UK. Moving Roots will give local people agency and empowerment to be a catalyst for creativity, leadership and the change they want to see in their communities.

The process of co-creation at the core of Moving Roots challenges hierarchies and 'top-down' ways of working – we love it because it invites a wide range of voices to the table making the work rich, relevant and powerful. This session talk discusses the impact of *Rent Party* by Darren Pritchard, a co-created show toured to each of the venues with a bespoke cast in each venue..

18.00-

19.30 GMT

## HOT DINNER DATES

Find someone to chat with, share an idea, discuss the day and eat a hot meal. Dating is not mandatory! Some tables will be hosted by artists and co-creators.

20.00 GMT

## RENT PARTY – LIVE SHOW

You are cordially invited to the party we all need. We'll sing, we'll dance, play games and tell our stories; creating a kaleidoscopic picture of what it means to be gifted, working class and LGBTQI+.

# DAY THREE.

**WEDNESDAY 24 NOVEMBER. LIVE AT BATTERSEA ARTS CENTRE AND LIVESTREAMED ON AIRMEET.**



## **10.30-13.00 GMT CO-CREATION AND CHANGING THE RULES: CAN WE DO IT? LED BY UNION CHAPEL**

The UC Community Leaders are a group of 9 North London residents who are directly impacted by homelessness, unjust mental health systems and racism and sexism within the arts, brought together through Union Chapel's Creative Community Leader training programme, where they were trained and supported by Katy Rubin to develop as Legislative Theatre facilitators, and to begin to inform UC's programmes and practice.

The Community Leaders will engage the audience in Legislative Theatre: a creative, participatory decision making process. The performance is based on their own lived experience, and improvisation and policy development will address gender equity, mental health and other issues within arts organisations.

**13.00-13.45 GMT LUNCH**

## **13.45-15.00 GMT HOW DO WE GROW AND REPLICATE OUR WORK?**

In December 2020, five very different projects were selected to be supported by the Co-Creating Change Network to explore the possibility of growing and/or replicating their methodology and approach to co-creation. These notions of growth and replication are intertwined yet different. For some it is about scaling up and for others about spreading out to new locations. The emphasis is on approaches and methodologies and the intention is to find ways for each approach to be marketed and adopted by others. This event will share the learning of these commissions and will be led by the Young Foundation.

## **15.15-16.30 GMT CO-CREATION AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

An interactive session led by The Agency and the Beatbox academy exploring how co-creation underpins their working with young people.

Keynote speech from **Marsha De Cordova MP** considering the role that co-creation could play in politics.

## **16.45-17.45 GMT (ONLINE ONLY) BUILDING TOGETHER: KNOWLE WEST MEDIA CENTRE, UK X BETTER BRICKS, USA**

Thanks to the Co Creating Change International Commission Knowle West Media Centre (KWMC), a digital arts charity based in Bristol UK, have had the unique opportunity to connect with The Better Block Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit in Dallas USA. Better Block "educates, equips, and empowers communities and their leaders to reshape and reactivate built environments to promote the growth of healthy and vibrant neighbourhoods" and KWMC "support people to make positive changes in their lives and communities, using technology and the arts to co-create more equitable and sustainable futures". Both organisations use digital fabrication as a democratic tool for neighbourhood transformation.

Community members & staff from KWMC and Better Block have been exchanging methods and learnings around neighbourhood led place-based practice. In this session you will get a chance to find out more about the two organisations, explore some key insights arising from the exchange and hear about plans for future collaborations between the two neighbourhoods.

# DAY FOUR

THURSDAY 25 NOVEMBER. ONLINE, ON AIRMEET. PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE ARE MULTIPLE SESSIONS RUNNING AT THE SAME TIME.



## MAKING IT HAPPEN: PRACTICAL CASE STUDIES

### 10.00-12.00 GMT WHO PAYS FOR CO-CREATION AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

**Create Gloucestershire** talk about how they work with third sector organisations, artists and community members. This open discussion talks about how the partnerships came about, what the third sector understanding of co-creation as a tool for social change is and how they are all working together. We hope this conversation will be a catalyst to think about how we can all better advocate for the work we do and engage with third sector organisations who are interested in co-creation.

### 10.00-11.00 GMT CO-CREATION AND ETHICS - RUN BY KERRY MORRISON

When it comes to participatory practice, co-creation, and socially engaged art, let's think through the topic of ethics together. In this session, we'll explore our understanding of ethics in relation to our practice and our organisation. We'll be questioning if we should work and practice by an agreed code of ethics; and if so, what might a code of ethics look like and what would having a code of ethics mean to you, to your organisation, to those you employ and commission, and those you work with.

### 12.00-13.00 GMT CO-CREATION AND HI-JINX

**Ben Pettitt-Wade** has been working with artists with learning disability and/or autism for close to 20 years, 14 years with Hijinx, with Spare Tyre Theatre Company in London, and while on sabbatical with Danza Mobile in Sevilla. He has devised and directed numerous productions for the company, including Meet Fred and Mission Control alongside Kully Thiarai, a Hijinx and National Theatre Wales collaboration. Ben will talk about his approach and experience of devising performance alongside neurodivergent artists.

Ben will be joined by Hijinx Associate Artist **Richard Newnham** to give his own insight into his journey with Hijinx and contribution to the making of Meet Fred.

### 12.00-14.00 GMT CO-CREATING CULTURAL PROGRAMMES.

**Strike A Light** and **Manchester International Festival**.

Arts, community or cultural organisations and funders across the country are looking to increase engagement in their programmes from local communities and diverse audiences. The traditional model is to create a programme first and then deliver outreach activity to try to bring communities to the programme. Our methodology, Gloucester Presents, turns this on its head: we begin with the community and with our co-creators, without predetermined outcomes, and create a cultural programme together.

This results in high quality arts activity; high levels of participation; support, attendance and engagement from diverse communities; a relevant and varied programme over which the local community have ownership; long term relationships with communities and artists.

### 14.30-15.30 GMT CO-CREATION WITH CHILDREN - RUN BY JENNIFER JACKSON

This event is about making with children, particularly with girls, and what does co-creation with children look like in practice. Children have had a rough time during the pandemic; their identities have changed, and their autonomy has been compromised. We want to talk about the way girls have their space and their autonomy shaped, and what could it look like to give power to children. We have been talking about risk in childhood, and who is allowed to take risks. The girls already feel, at this young age, that the world is different for them than it is for boys. During our time together, we talked about this a lot. They wanted to occupy space, and to dance, and scream, and to just be allowed to get on with it. As an artist, I can create a space for this to happen, and a big question is 'how' this space is created.

### 16.00-17.00 GMT JUDAH ARMANI

InHouse Records is a different kind of record label: it operates in and out of UK prisons with a remit of reducing the re-offending rate by operating as a fully functioning record label. Since launching in 2017, InHouse has a re-offending rate of less than 1%.

An example of Co-Creation, come to hear InHouse Records founder and graduates from the programme talk about how co-creation evolved, some of the principles for co-creation in challenging circumstances and first hand experience of what that journey has been like.

# DAY FIVE.

**FRIDAY 26 NOVEMBER. LIVE AT BATTERSEA ARTS CENTRE AND LIVESTREAMED ON AIRMEET.**



## LEARNING WHAT WORKS: CASE STUDIES & EVALUATION

### 10.30- 11.30 GMT CREATIVITY WORKS

Creativity Works will share how they have worked in a co-created way and the impact that has on individuals. An interactive workshop talking to volunteer facilitators from Writing Space peer led group and Keynsham Snap & Stroll will share how this approach supports wellbeing and mental health as well as inspiring a creative connections.

Speakers: **Philippa Forsey, Creative Wellbeing Programme Manager; Greg Atkin, Writing Space Volunteer Facilitator; Adrian Wyatt, Keynsham Snap & Stroll, Volunteer Facilitator**

### 12.00- 13.00 GMT

#### HALIMA MALEK

Join **Halima Malek**, creator of She Spoke, to explore how she worked alongside women from her community, a spoken word artist and Strike A Light in Gloucester to bring people together through poetry and textiles. Halima will share how the project was developed, how she created a safe space for women from different cultural backgrounds and faiths, and why she's continuing to work both online and in person to improve accessibility to creative activity in the community. We will also explore how this project developed into a community led programme of work which supports women's mental health and ensures their voices are heard.

### 12.30- 13.30 GMT

#### INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION TELLING TALES TOGETHER: DOORSTEP ARTS (DEVON, UK) X JOHN NAMAI (KENYA)

A case study showing how young people and staff at **Doorstep Arts** (Torbay UK), non-profit arts education organisation and **Zamaleo Act**, an East Africa centre for Artistic Excellence, have begun an online cultural exchange and sharing of professional practice and creative techniques.

**John, Jade and Amy** have been observing each other's practice in creative sessions with their young people via Zoom and sharing photos and videos, how they discussed the nature and structure of their organisations and their practices.

They will discuss their growing partnership and how they are keen to investigate issues faced by local young people in each community, exchanging best practice of their community co-creation work with young people.

### 14.00- 15.30 GMT

#### FROM MICRO TO MACRO LEVEL LEARNING: EVALUATING COMPLEX PROJECTS

A workshop with **Susanne Burns, Independent Consultant and Evaluator of Co-Creating Change Network**

Susanne will draw on her experience of evaluating complex projects as well as working across organisations to develop overarching evaluation approaches that move beyond the individual project.

### 16.00- 17.00 GMT

#### IN CONVERSATION: EVALUATION: IMPOSITION OR OPPORTUNITY FOR LEARNING?

**Susanne Burns, Independent Consultant and Evaluator of Co-Creating Change Network** with **Andy Curtis, Research and Evaluation Manager, Paul Hamlyn Foundation**

Susanne and Andy will explore new approaches and trends in evaluation and learning that can shift the field away from seeing the process as being purely about monitoring and accountability, reports and notions of success towards an understanding of the importance of it for improvement and change, future focussed learning and reflection.



# THANKS FOR JOINING US!

[COCREATINGCHANGE.ORG.UK](http://COCREATINGCHANGE.ORG.UK)

**BATTERSEA  
ARTS CENTRE**

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