

take
art *HA*

The Take Art Effect



How Take Art is changing
the world in 2019...

How Take Art is changing the world in 2019

Have you ever wondered who Take Art are and what they do?

In case you didn't know, Take Art is a unique, life-changing organisation that doesn't live in a venue, or studio or a whacking great theatre but, primarily, in the villages, towns and rural communities of Somerset.

After 32 years in the business of taking art out to where the people need it, our arms have got wider and longer, our heart is still in the county of apple blossom and ham-stone but our vision echoes out into the whole SW region, the country and even the world.

Take Art is in fact a remarkable entity, operating out of a converted mill on a farm near South Petherton with a team of 12 mostly part time staff. Despite its relatively humble situation, Take Art has for over three decades provided opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to experience, participate and work within the arts. The team at Take Art have also spent day after month, month after year, year after decade, demonstrating that the Arts have the potential to transform lives and communities for the better.

The fold out map and subsequent feature has been created to give you a visual guide to the work, reach and impact of Take Art.

Meet the



BAREFOOT TRAILBLAZER,
ARROW STRAIGHT SAVVY SWIMMER,
TEATIME CAKE BRINGER.

Ralph Lister
Executive Director



AUDIENCE WEAVER,
SHOW-MUST-GO-ON BELIEVER,
LUSH LIVE LOCAL LEGEND

Sarah Peterkin
Director of Rural Touring
& Theatre



TINY FEET DRUMMER,
HERALDING NEW HORIZONS,
PLOTING STARRY SKIES.

Gina Westbrook
Director of Early Years

Take Art Team *in haiku*



DANCE AND DELIVER,
MOXIE FOXY GUMPTION GAL,
DIAMONDS IN HER SWORD.

Alison Lord
Director of Dance



FLAT CAP DIPLOMAT,
MANIFESTING LIFE'S THEATRE,
RISING FROM THE DUST

Mark Helyar
Co-Director of Theatre



SPIDER HEART JUGGLER,
FIERCE FINGERED MATRIX THINKER,
JOB DONE TEA DRINKER.

Ruth Copping
Office Manager &
Project Coordinator



CORKSCREW CIRCUS SMILE,
TEACHER STALKER, SWEET TALKER,
TRULY INSPIRED.

Katy Tilley
Education Coordinator
(Inspired)



LAUGHING LEFT FIELDER,
PIXEL PAINTER, WORD WIELDER,
POET IN DISGUISE.

Louise Monks
Marketing Manager



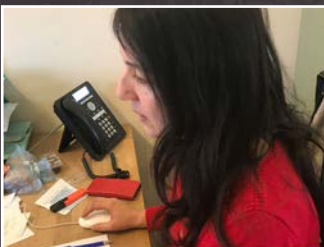
PLATINUM SHERLOCK,
FIRECRACKER, SYSTEMS HACKER,
WHITE MICE IN A MAZE.

Kim Bardgett
Dance Administrator



SOUNDWAVES CONDUCTOR,
SANE MUSICAL GATEWAY DRUG,
LAUGHS LIKE A BEAR HUG.

Jane Parker
The SoundWaves
Network Project Leader



KARATE BAGS QUEEN,
KEEPS THE BOOKS AND OFFICE CLEAN,
KNOWS ALL OUR BUSINESS.

Keely Guy
Finance Officer



SMALL SIZED SHOW STARTER
SPINNING FEATHERS IN THE AIR,
HOPPING TO THE MOON.

Tamsin Mosse
Hopper Project Manager

WE WORK IN SOMERSET....

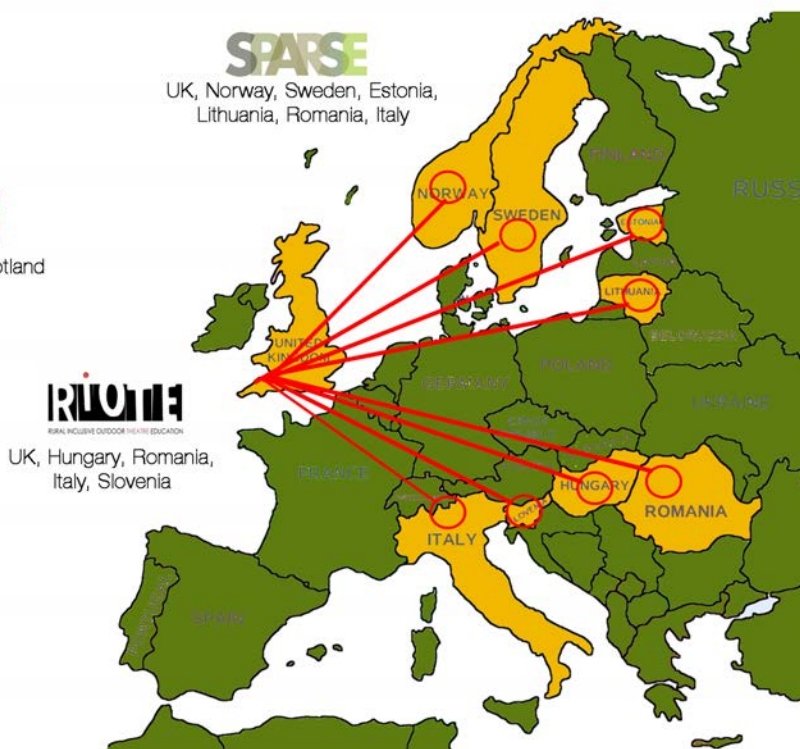


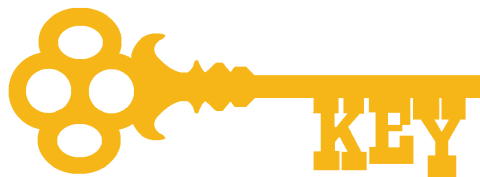
THE SOUTH WEST...














THE



UK... AND EUROPE





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SOMERSET TOWNS



WHERE IT HAPPENS

McMillan Theatre, Bridgwater, Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre, Taunton and Octagon Theatre, Yeovil.

TIMEFRAME

Spring Forward started in 2005 and is now entering its 15th year. It takes place every March over three nights.

WHAT IS SPRING FORWARD?

Spring Forward is a seasonal dance festival offering unrivalled opportunities for Somerset dancers to perform on a professional stage, participate in workshops and watch world-class dance performances. The festival aims to support dancers of all ages and abilities to engage with dance, as audience, dancer, participant and student. It also provides training opportunities for those who teach dance, led by some of the UK's leading dance professionals.

WHO DOES IT IMPACT?

Spring Forward has traditionally offered an amazing opportunity for hundreds of young dancers to work together to create new pieces to perform live on stage. This year however *Spring Forward* will offer even more opportunities for dance within the county, extending its reach to community and older dance groups, helping us extend the impact of *Spring Forward* to the whole Somerset dance community.

The Take Art Effect?

Between 2005 and 2018, *Spring Forward* has enabled over 5,000 young dancers to perform on a professional stage, as part of one of 30 Youth Dance Platforms.

My Tunes



WHERE IT HAPPENS

My Tunes takes place in PRU's in Taunton, Bridgwater and Yeovil, as well as the Actiontrack Studio in Taunton.

TIMEFRAME

Starting in Autumn 2012, *My Tunes* has been delivered in three phases over five years.

WHAT IS IT

My Tunes is a long running Youth Music funded project from Take Art and Actiontrack that utilises the leveling power of music by taking it into challenging places; working with some of the most isolated and disadvantaged young people in the county. It does this by running regular music and music recording sessions for the young people involved.

WHO DOES IT IMPACT?

Since it began *My Tunes* has helped around 300 vulnerable young people, many attending PRU's, to find confidence and a positive outlet through music.

The Take Art Effect?

"I have not seen him be that committed to any other project, the work in these sessions has helped nurture and develop learning in other subjects besides music"

A PRU teacher in regards to a student

Visit: takeart.org/my-tunes



Jump Start

WHERE IT HAPPENS

Yeovil College

TIMEFRAME

Somerset's boys dance group *Jump Start* has been running since 2014 and offers weekly dance classes in Yeovil.

WHAT IS IT

Jump Start is an exciting, high energy, physical adventure for boys that incorporates parkour, break dancing and contemporary dance styles. It takes place in Yeovil but in 2019 we aim to open new groups in various Somerset locations.

WHO DOES IT IMPACT?

The weekly sessions are open to boys aged 10-18 years old with lots, little or no dance experience – just a passion to move!

The Take Art Effect?

So far 30+ boys have been involved in the project, many of whom have greatly benefited from the opportunity to take part in physical and creative activities outside mainstream sports and education.

www.takeart.org/jump-start



WORD/PLAY

CREATING CHANGE THROUGH THE POWER OF LANGUAGE

WHERE IT HAPPENS

Medical practices and community venues across Somerset.

TIMEFRAME

Word/Play started in 2012 and has had multiple incarnations. We are currently developing a third phase with two groups of 6 -10 participants.

WHAT IS WORD/PLAY?

Word/Play is a social prescribing project for people experiencing mental ill health. It uses performance poetry to empower individuals, giving them the freedom and encouragement to tell their stories. Working with professional performance poets Liv Torc and Roz Hilton for 10+ weekly sessions, participants take part in

spoken word workshops at their GP surgery or local support group, where they are given the chance to build their confidence, develop skills and find new ways to communicate in a safe and fun environment. Each project concludes with a live performance in front of friends and peers.

WORD/PLAY PLUS

Back in November 2017 we launched *Word/Play Plus*, a group where former participants can meet for monthly workshops led by a professional performance poet. This allows them to keep continuity and use writing and performing as a technique for managing their mental health. Since starting *Word/Play Plus* participants have met and performed regularly, taking part in local poetry events and slams.



RAINBOW FISH SPEAK EASY

Take Art has worked with participants to set up their own open mic poetry night in Yeovil, the *Rainbow Fish Speak Easy*, a spoken word and live poetry platform where they and other writers and performers in the area can regularly meet and perform in a fun and safe environment. This event has made six appearances in Yeovil and has been so successful it has toured to Buddhafield and WOMAD festivals.

WHO DOES IT IMPACT?

Word/Play has directly impacted the lives and mental health of over 60 workshop participants, along with having a positive knock on effect on the lives of their friends and families. Through 20 live performances, including an international podcast and shows in County Council chamber rooms and festivals, *Word/Play* has raised awareness of mental health and the positive impact of spoken word poetry to help empower individuals.

The Rainbow Fish Speak Easy alone has given a much need spoken word platform in Somerset, giving a stage to a further 50 local poets. Since its launch 12 months ago it has now been seen by over 400 audience members.



The Take Art Effect?

"As the weeks have gone by my mind has opened, my confidence has grown and I am attending other groups that challenge me to look at myself and others differently... *Word/Play* put me on the right path to being a whole human again." Julie Marter - Participant

"*Word/Play* has been as inspiration. I don't think I would be moving out now into my own place, if it wasn't for this." Paul - Participant



WEST SOMERSET



Hopping Higher

WHERE IT HAPPENS

Various West Somerset locations

TIMEFRAME

January - April 2019

WHAT IS HOPPING HIGHER?

Hopping Higher is a theatre initiative for under 5s and their families living in West Somerset. Building on the success of our pilot programme, *Hopper*, six Early Years practitioners will host 20 fabulous shows in rural settings, specially made for under 5s, inviting neighbouring settings, childminders and family members to join the fun too.

WHO DOES IT IMPACT?

We want young children and families in rural places to have better access to brilliant theatre, in-line with the Early Years Foundation Stage, benefiting communication and language, personal, social, emotional and physical development. West Somerset Opportunities Area has funded *Hopping Higher* as part of its commitment to ensuring that every child in West Somerset has a great start in life. **Visit: takeart.org/hopper**



Dance To Health

WHERE IT HAPPENS

Dunkirk House, Bishops Lydeard

TIMEFRAME

Sept 2018 - ongoing

WHAT IS DANCE TO HEALTH

In our most recent dance initiative Take Art has joined forces with Aesop, to deliver a fantastic new project at Dunkirk House in Bishops Lydeard, which is part of the national project *Dance To Health*; a pioneering 'falls prevention' dance programme for older people. Groups are led by trained dance artists who embed evidence based falls prevention exercise in creative, fun, sociable dance session for older people who have been suffering falls or at risk of falling.

WHO DOES IT IMPACT?

We are confident the project will really make a difference to the lives of the 12 dementia patients taking part and help reduce the frequency of serious falls. *Dance to Health* also allows us to recruit Somerset based dance artists and help them achieve 'Later Life Training'.



SOMERSET WIDE



RURAL TOURING

WHERE IT HAPPENS

Somerset Wide, predominantly in the village halls, churches, pubs and community settings of South Somerset and Taunton Deane.

TIMEFRAME

1987 to current day, with two seasons of shows from September to March.

WHAT IS RURAL TOURING?

Take Art Rural Touring was set up to bring professional, high quality music, theatre, dance and performance to local venues and communities across Somerset. It relies on the partnership between local volunteer promoters and Take Art and by working together, memorable social events are organised in rural areas where people live and meet. These events can help play a vital role in keeping villages alive and vibrant, strengthening communities and improving health and wellbeing.

WHO DOES IT IMPACT?

"Rural touring is about more than just performances, it plays an important part in the social life of small communities, it involves people of all ages and backgrounds, it can be a catalyst for community development." Only Connect Report by Francois Matarasso

The Take Art Effect?

From 1987 to date, Take Art has put on 3,000 shows in 250 villages, paying 3,000 artists half a million in fees, to entertain and enthral over 175,000 audience members from across Somerset. Sarah Peterkin who has run the scheme since 1991 is feeling quite tired now.

Visit: takeart.org/rural-touring



**SOMERSET
WIDE**

WHERE IT HAPPENS

Somerset Wide



TIMEFRAME

BARN is a three-year theatre initiative (2017-19)

WHAT IS BARN?

BARN supports Somerset's emerging theatre-making sector to develop, test and showcase new work in a predominantly rural context. We achieve this in part by offering artistic and business support for theatre-makers, thanks to generous funding from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. As part of BARN last October Take Art launched BARNfest, a small-scale theatre festival showcasing work made in Somerset and the South West, produced in partnership with The Brewhouse. Over two days, sell out audiences enjoyed performances from Somerset-based companies and theatre-makers Wassail; Tor Theatre; Mumblecrust; Shoebox Theatre and Richard Crowe. The festival also featured discussion, networking, pitches and provocations.

WHO DOES IT IMPACT?

BARN is for anyone committed to making theatre in Somerset. It resources people to

take risks, build resilience and sustain their practice. It does this by nurturing emerging work, providing support and safe places for ideas to incubate, grow and flourish through an ideas fund; business support; scratch, work in progress and showcase events; and an annual BARNfest. So far BARN has supported over 10 new theatre shows, several of which will be touring in 2019.

HA The Take Art Effect?

"BARNfest was very good for exposing my work to industry professionals and programmers, developing new relationships and getting feedback on the play from an industry audience."

Rina Vergano - Horses! Horses!

"I think we've demonstrated that there is an audience for theatre in Somerset, especially in a local, community context. Small steps are having a massive impact." **Nick White - Wassail**

"BARN has been a cornerstone for my own practice over the past two years, enabling me to research, develop and showcase a new one man show." **Richard Crowe - Over the Wall Picking Apples**

Visit: takeart.org/barn





inspired

WHERE IT HAPPENS

In 75 Somerset schools, including primary, secondary, special schools, PRU'S and Early Years settings.

TIMEFRAME

InspirED started in 2013 and offers a rolling programme of termly opportunities.

WHAT IS INSPIRED?

InspirED is a Somerset wide education project that offers exciting and unforgettable arts opportunities to schools and Early Years settings through a range of high quality performance, exhibitions, artist-led workshops and training.

The project is run by a consortium of three award-winning Somerset arts organisations, Somerset Film, Somerset Art Works and Take Art, in partnership with Somerset County Council, contracted by Somerset Education Partnership Board and supported by SASH and SAPHTO.

Each academic year *InspirED* delivers a rich programme of events, workshops and training, including online resources, performance platforms, CPD and Networking. Take Art offers dance, drama and Early Years opportunities within the project.

WHO DOES IT IMPACT?

The project, through a school's subscription model, has engaged with hundreds of teachers and practitioners and tens of thousands of children and young people. In the 2018 Autumn term alone, Take Art engaged with over 1,000 children, teachers and young people.

HA The Take Art Effect?

“Having participated in *InspirED*'s DramaNet, CPD and the Octagon performance event, I can say this service provides inspirational workshops and opportunities for our students, as well as staff.” Selina Keedwell – Bishops Fox's School, Taunton

SOMERSET WIDE



Out There

WHERE IT HAPPENS

Various Somerset locations

TIMEFRAME

July 2018 - Summer 2021

WHAT IS OUT THERE?

Out There is a participatory music programme for NEET's, young people, who are not in education, employment or training. It is delivered through Actiontrack at their recording studios in Taunton and various locations, giving participants new skills and renewed confidence. Students will be referred to the project through a number of agencies, including FE colleges, CSW Group, Somerset County Council Post 16 Advisor, PRU's, schools and Youth Support.

WHO DOES IT IMPACT?

Through *Out There* we are working with 70 young people in 121 and small group sessions, culminating in a collaborative sharing event. To help capitalise on the impact of this project, Take Art and Actiontrack will work with NYMAZ and the Somerset Music Hub to develop a viable online teaching resource suitable for NEETs.



Diversity Forum

WHERE IT HAPPENS

Various Somerset locations

TIMEFRAME

Jan 2016 - ongoing

WHAT IS THE DIVERSITY FORUM

The Diversity Forum for the Performing Arts in Somerset provides a safe place for people to have honest conversations around diversity and equality. Over the last few years, we have showcased the culturally diverse; explored gender issues of inequality; debated the tricky subject of 'class'; and heard the voices of young people responding to the provocation of why they feel 'arts organisations are failing them'.

The Take Art Effect?

Actions following our forum event, *Stimulating Women*, included: venue programmers ensuring a better gender balance, a director making a conscious choice to choose a female director and the introduction of a 50/50 gender rule for a new Young Associate Company.



SOUTH WEST

THE SOUNDWAVES NETWORK

WHERE IT HAPPENS

Across the South West, within three Early Childhood Music Learning Communities, located in Plymouth, Bristol and Somerset.

TIMEFRAME

July 2018 – on going (born out of Take Art's two-year SoundWaves Extra project).

WHAT IS SOUNDWAVES NETWORK?

The SoundWaves Network is a three-year Early Childhood Music Education programme incorporating a strong element of training for the current and future Early Childhood workforce in the South West.

The programme aims to bring the Early Childhood music community together, including Early Years settings, staff, musicians, advisory teachers, Music Education Hub leads, lecturers and Early Childhood Studies students at Plymouth, UWE and Yeovil College University Centre. Their joint goal is to influence and implement effective music learning opportunities for the under 5s.

WHO DOES IT IMPACT?

The SoundWaves Network is a hugely significant programme for Early Childhood music and all young children living in the South West and beyond. We are committed to supporting the early childhood music sector across the whole South West to provide all young children with the very best musical opportunities to learn and develop.

The Take Art Effect?

Due to the work of *SoundWaves* one third of Music Education Hubs in the South West region have now extended their provision to include Early Years. We have provided 570 Early Years professionals, including child minders, school teachers, music practitioners, university lecturers, students and county advisory teachers, with free or low cost professional development and training. We have brought child centred music learning to over 3,000 Under 5s, particularly those from deprived areas.

THE UK



CREC: TRINITY COLLEGE CERTIFICATE MUSIC EDUCATORS: EARLY CHILDHOOD?

WHERE IT HAPPENS

Centre Research for Early Childhood,
Birmingham.



TIMEFRAME

Sept 2017 - ongoing



WHAT IS CREC?

The Trinity College Certificate for Music Educators: Early Childhood is a course led by a strong team of mentors, all of which have completed the MA programme at Centre Research Early Childhood (CREC), Birmingham.

Take Art's Early Years Music Lead, Jane Parker, is a Course Director and Regional Mentor for the South West and three of *The SoundWaves Network* music practitioners are currently students on the course.

The course is run in partnership with the charity MERYC-England.

WHO DOES IT IMPACT?

The course is aimed at raising the quality of early childhood music education. The CME: Early Childhood is equivalent to a Level 4 NVQ / Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) / Higher National Certificate (HNC).

HA The Take Art Effect?

Chris Pascal (Director Centre Research for Early Childhood) said,

"The mentoring in this course is of the highest standard with excellent results. I believe all involved should be congratulated on creating and delivering an outstanding course which will make a significant contribution to the quality of music education for young children."

RURAL TOURING DANCE INITIATIVE (RTDI)



WHERE IT HAPPENS

England, Wales & Scotland

TIMEFRAME

2015 - ongoing



WHAT IS RTDI?

The Rural Touring Dance Initiative (RTDI) was launched with the aim of bringing exciting and innovative dance theatre and dance performance to rural locations, using the established rural touring schemes to help make this happen successfully.

The project offers some of the most dynamic and charismatic contemporary dance companies in the UK.

Take Art are one of the partners within the project, alongside leading dance institution The Place; Birmingham-based independent producing studio China Plate; and the National Rural Touring Forum (NRTF).

WHO DOES IT IMPACT?

The project aims to seek out great dance companies that are excited to tour rurally, while supporting rural promoters and schemes to build audiences for dance in rural spaces.

The Take Art Effect?

Since 2015, 135 RTDI performances have been staged in rural venues across the UK and have been seen by over 8,000 audience members.

The dance companies who have been touring include Uchenna Dance, Lost Dog, Luca Silvestrini's Protein and Joan Clevillé Dance.

The project has received overwhelmingly positive response from participating rural touring schemes and promoters.



WHERE IT HAPPENS

Slovenia, Italy, Romania, Hungary and the UK.

TIMEFRAME

Nov 2017 - August 2019

WHAT IS RIOTE

RIOTE, Rural Inclusive Outdoor Theatre Education, brings together theatre companies from Hungary, Italy, Romania, Slovenia, as well as Broken Spectacles based at Dartington in Devon. Culminating later this year in August, the project involves skills and knowledge sharing between the partners. Take Art will be imparting their knowledge of rural touring to potential new village promoters in Hungary over the summer months.

WHO DOES IT IMPACT?

This project will strengthen and deepen our relationships with arts organisations across Europe. If all goes to plan, the ultimate benefit to Somerset residents will firstly be more international work coming into the county and secondly, more opportunities for our own home-grown talented companies and performers to take their work into Europe.

TA The Take Art Effect?

"I was really happy to meet such open and friendly people at the promoters' meeting at North Cadbury Village Hall - it was a unique experience for me. I have now had the chance to get a picture first hand of Take Art and how it works with local people".

Kincső Veres following her first visit to UK and to Take Art.

EUROPE



SPARSE

WHERE IT HAPPENS

Estonia, Italy, Lithuania, Norway, Romania, Sweden and the UK.

TIMEFRAME

June 2018 - 2021

WHAT IS SPARSE?

SPARSE is a partnership between seven European countries, all working together to formalise a pan European Rural Touring Network.

Currently, with the exception of the UK, a rural touring network does not exist within much of Europe. As part of this project Estonia, Italy, Lithuania, Norway, Romania and Sweden are working together to devise a plan for rural touring in their countries, based on the successful rural touring model that has been operating in the UK for the last 25 years. Take Art in Somerset are Carn2Cove in Cornwall are supporting the research and development aspects of this project.

WHO DOES IT IMPACT?

Like RIOTE this project will allow Take Art to forge stronger ties with multiple arts organisations across Europe. SPARSE will take professional performing arts companies to rural audiences in local community venues across the partner countries.

The aim is to readdress the imbalance of the cultural offer for rural communities, so they can experience a similar standard of shows to that of urban audiences.

The Take Art Effect?

"A rural touring scheme is like an arts centre with hundreds of volunteers, operating in multiple spaces, serving multiple communities."

Ralph Lister, Take Art

WELCOME TO TAKE ART



Find us online

For more information on Take Art including our events, projects and news, visit our website:

www.takeart.org

Follow us on:

Facebook, Twitter & Issuu

Mailing list

If you would like to receive a copy of the programme through the post, or sign up to receive our e-bulletin, email info@takeart.org or sign up at www.takeart.org

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