

An Artist's GUIDE TO OXFORDSHIRE VENUES

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Introduction

Oxfordshire is blessed with a surprising number and diversity of live performance venues. This guide unites a group of theatres and venues who regularly work together, and who are keen to find ways to help support theatre-makers and performers within the County and across the region.

There are many differences from one venue to another – our size, the nature of our programme and the way in which we operate – but we are united by wanting to make Oxfordshire a great place to enjoy theatre, dance, music and live performance – and, just as crucially, a great place to make it.

Each venue will give you an outline of how they work, and the best ways to engage with them. We all have different schedules that we are tied to, and each and every one of these theatres is a hive of endlessly frenetic activity. This guide should help to suggest the best fit for you and your work, the best people to contact and the best time to do so. It might help to prevent you from feeling like you are banging your head against a wall, and it might help us to reach people who share our visions, aims and enthusiasms.

We hope that this guide will help you to understand better who you are talking to when you talk to us, and our respective visions and aims. It is best to be clear and up front about what you want and how we can help you – it makes it easier and more likely for us to be able to do so.

Running a theatre is often a knife-edge business. Some of us may be limited in how much time or resource we can offer. But we are all absolutely committed to offering everything we can to local artists, companies, theatre-makers and performers, and ensuring that the resources and assets we have are used as much as possible. Over recent years, our venues have benefitted from some mind-blowingly good shows from local artists. Similarly there are already a number of success stories of companies and artists whose work and careers have been supported and in some cases transformed by the support Oxfordshire venues have been able to give them.

Perhaps you will be the next.

We can't wait to hear from you, and see what we can do together.

Useful Websites

For general advice about approaching a venue and how programming can work we'd recommend reading Routes In by Venues North http://www.thelowry.com/Downloads/Routes_In_-_A_guide_to_getting_new_work_programmed_in_the_North_of_England.pdf

We'd also recommend signing up to *house*. Supported by Arts Council England and delivered by Farnham Maltings, *house* supports venues by improving the range, quality and scale of theatre presented across South East and Eastern England, and exists to build the audience for contemporary theatre across the region. Whilst venues must be in the South and East region, companies from anywhere can register for inclusion on a database and for updates about a wide range of opportunities, including training as well as great resources for marketing shows etc. www.housetheatre.org. They have also just launched www.tourfinder.org, a free tour listings site for companies and programmers.

The Independent Theatre Council and UK Theatre are both membership organisations that offer a huge amount of advice to companies and artists including lots of courses. <http://www.itc-arts.org/>
<http://www.uktheatre.org/>

Arts Council of England is the national development agency for all art forms in the UK. They distribute grants on behalf of the government and using lottery money. They also advocate for and champion the importance of Great Art for Everyone in a huge variety of ways. They also run Arts News and Arts Jobs, national listings to which anyone can sign up and contribute too. <http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/>

The Venues

Currently the Directors of Arts at the Old Fire Station, Cornerstone, The Mill Arts Centre, North Wall Arts Centre, Oxford Playhouse, Pegasus and The Theatre, Chipping Norton meet on a quarterly basis to chat, share and exchange ideas. We are not an exclusive or closed group but we share a lot of the same ambitions and values despite our varying scales. There are many other great venues in the county too. Please note that the information given is subject to change, but will be regularly reviewed.

Oxford Playhouse

Spaces	Main auditorium	613 seats over 2 levels High, proscenium stage with option of forestage or orchestra pit. Fully accessible for audience members (limited accessibility onstage).
	Burton Taylor Studio	50 seats Flexible but small studio on 2 nd floor. Partially accessible (due to stairs).
	Top Room	Capacity of up to 60. Used for talks & readings, rehearsals, R&D, our young companies, workshops, hospitality and private hires. On 2 nd floor with no lift so not wheelchair accessible. Not able to be used during performances.
	Playroom	Capacity of up to 60 Offsite, rehearsal and development space. Not licensed for public entertainment. Accessed by stairs only so not wheelchair accessible.

What we do

Oxford Playhouse is a theatre for everyone.

Originally a thriving repertory theatre, Oxford Playhouse is now mainly a receiving house, presenting week-long runs of mid-scale touring drama from the best of new writing to international work and family shows, from both subsidised touring companies and commercial producers. We programme shorter runs of contemporary dance, music and comedy and the 'Friday at 5' series of lectures, readings and poetry. Alongside our professional programme we support 6 main stage productions by Oxford University students and a number of local amateur groups each year.

During University of Oxford term time, the Burton Taylor Studio exclusively presents work made and performed by current students, The studio is programmed the rest of the year with the best of small-scale touring work including family shows, new writing and spoken word. The studio is more likely to present work by new artists and/or that is more experimental in nature. It is very small!

Playhouse Plays Out is a strand of our programme that takes work offsite around the city. It has the dual purpose of introducing people to theatre by coming to their community and of opening up parts of the city to its residents. It often includes digital elements. We like working with artists and companies who embrace the joys and challenges of working in unusual spaces and who are also interested in audience development. We actively encourage proposals for PPOs from theatre-makers who have something to say to or about our audience.

Oxford Playhouse produces its annual pantomime which runs for 6 weeks over Christmas. . We also produce two family shows each year in the studio, two Plays Out productions and tour work nationally on a regular basis. We are committed to increasing the amount of work we produce and co-produce across all our spaces, especially developing work for the main stage. We commission and employ writers, directors, composers, designers, choreographers and performers plus other team members as required to deliver this producing activity.

Our Learning team run two young companies, 12/16 and 17/25, who create performances for either of our stages and Playhouse Plays Out. We run an extensive programme of holiday activities for young people as well as seasonal workshops for all ages, including Saturday Sessions and Spotlight (for the over 50s). Hey Diddle Diddle is our popular morning workshop for pre-school children. We often employ freelance practitioners to deliver these workshops on our behalf. We work with schools and community groups in a variety of ways including work experience, venue tours and career advice.

<p>OP does not have a Literary Department and we currently do not accept unsolicited scripts. However, we have just launched a comprehensive Writers' Development Programme with three strands: Primary Playmaker, Young Playmaker and Playhouse Playmaker, each strand supporting primary school children, young adults and aspiring professionals respectively to write new plays.</p> <p>We are an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation and are also funded by University of Oxford and Oxford City Council. We are part of Dancin' Oxford festival, sit on the steering group for house and are part of Dance Touring Partnership.</p>		
<p>What We Don't Do</p> <p>We are unlikely to present large-scale commercial musicals and tribute acts, not least because we are located very near to the New Theatre on George Street, a 1800-seat commercial receiving venue. We also don't present non-arts events such as clairvoyants, talent shows or sports events.</p>		
<p>Artist Development opportunities</p>	<p>Evolve</p>	<p>The Evolve Artists in Residence scheme supports three artists or companies each year with seed funding for projects or research and development, the provision of free rehearsal space, and mentoring, advice and support from the Playhouse's finance, development, technical, marketing, learning and creative teams. Applications open in autumn and the year runs from April.</p>
	<p>Associate Artists</p>	<p>We currently have 5 associate artists; Shared Experience, Idle Motion, Michael Gabriel, Fin Walker and Ben Park. Associate Artists are those artists and companies who have had a longer association with Oxford Playhouse. Their relationship with us is more informal and bespoke but we commit to support them through free rehearsal space, mentoring and advice on an ongoing basis.</p>
	<p>Other</p>	<p>When not in use for our own rehearsals or by an Evolve or Associate artist we're happy to offer up the Top Room and Playroom for use. We will prioritise requests from Oxfordshire artists.</p> <p>We are always happy to have a chat with artists about their work and how they might develop, but please do help us to make this as constructive as possible by coming with specific questions. We might be able to suggest someone more suitable to talk to than us! If you invite us to a sharing or performance, we'll try to come.</p> <p>We keep a contact list of artists who live in or have strong links with Oxfordshire and will circulate opportunities we have and we receive around this group. If you'd like to be added to this list or to have something circulated then just drop Katy an email.</p>
<p>Contact</p>	<p>Katy Snelling Programme Manager Katy.snelling@oxfordplayhouse.com 01865 305323</p>	
<p>Website</p>	<p>www.oxfordplayhouse.com</p>	

Old Fire Station

Spaces	Theatre	Flexible space in black box with dance floor. Thrust stage (5x5m) – c130 seats. End on (10x5m) – c90 seats. Other formats available. Fully accessible for audience (apart from balconies). Limited accessibility backstage.
	Loft	Studio space – limited tech - wooden floor unsprung. 5 steps to access. Up to 50 seats.
	Studio	Studio space – dance floor – limited tech. Fully accessible. Up to 50 seats.
	Gallery	Open space – hard floor – limited tech. Fully accessible. Up to 40 seats.
What we do		
<p>We are a multi-form arts centre in the centre of Oxford.</p> <p>Great art for the public We want our reputation to be good quality art aimed at adults which takes a risk, asks a question and entertains. We want our audiences to have fun and be open to new ideas and different people.</p> <p>Professional development of artists We support local early to mid career artists from all disciplines with advice, subsidy, networks and promotion to help them become more successful.</p> <p>Building the confidence and skills of homeless people We help homeless people choose their own labels by including them as audience, participant, trainee, volunteer, contributor or artist. This helps develop networks, build resilience and leads to more stable lives.</p> <p>A new kind of public space We offer a public space which is shared by very different people and helps to break down barriers and promote solidarity.</p> <p>We have a busy 'Making Space' programme in the gallery exploring how and why art is made through exhibitions and workshops. We have a shop selling handmade work by early to mid-career makers. We provide studio space to 7 visual artists We host over 25 regular dance and other classes. We present an eclectic range of shows in the Theatre and Loft on split, guarantee or hire basis. We host regular nights to share work including (usually on a Tuesday): Theatre Scratch, Comedy Scratch, Dance Scratch, Playground (for visual and performance artists), Listening Room (local independent musicians), Hammer and Tongue (spoken word) and Oxford Improvisers (improvised jazz). We produce work in partnership with Crisis enabling professional and homeless artists to make high quality work for the public. We include homeless people in the running of our arts centre as audience, participants, volunteers, trainees and artists. We hire our spaces for rehearsals, workshops, training, meetings and conferences.</p>		
What We Don't Do		
<p>We have no core budget for commissioning work and rely on income generation through business activity to survive. This means we cannot usually subsidise work. Our main offer to artists is through in kind support. We do not have a formal professional development scheme.</p>		

Artist Development opportunities	Tuesdays	Open events to try new work and get feedback – theatre, dance, comedy, visual arts + regular improvised jazz, spoken word and independent music events (see above)
	Projects	Opportunities to make work and develop skills in working with vulnerable adults. eg Hidden Spire (creating a performance from scratch) and Making Space (in the gallery exploring why and how art is made)
	Networks	Co-hosting Oxford Dance Forum professional development programme, supporting Oxfordshire Theatre Makers and Playground. Informally linking artists to each other.
	Mentoring	Offering advice and support to artists across disciplines to make, develop, showcase and sell work
	Other	We are always happy to meet with artists to discuss possible collaborations. We can sometimes help with space or introductions or promotion. We are more inclined to work closely with artists whose values chime with ours and who are able to talk creatively about money as well as art.
Contact	Jeremy Spafford Director Jeremy.spafford@oldfirestation.org.uk	
Website	www.oldfirestation.org.uk	

The Theatre, Chipping Norton

Spaces	Auditorium	213 capacity Victorian proscenium auditorium, used for live performances of all types as well as a professional cinema programme. A high stage (1.2m) of approx 8m squared. Accessible for audience (to the stalls only) and to performers.
	Rehearsal Room	Attractive, quiet attic rehearsal space, suitable for groups of 30 for a meeting, or casts of up to 8 for rehearsals. Wooden beams, skylights, carpeted floor. Not accessible or suitable for the general public.
	Gallery	Visual arts exhibition space, also used for workshops and rehearsals. Close to the theatre bar and foyer, but no flat floor access.
	'The Space'	Smaller rehearsal, meeting or workshop space, suitable for 25 people or casts of up to 5. Lots of natural light. Close to the theatre bar and foyer, but no flat floor access.
What we do		
<p>We are an eccentric, energetic receiving and producing theatre and arts centre in the Cotswolds. Bringing 50,000 people a year to a town of just over 6,000, we have a mixed programme of theatre, dance, comedy music and arthouse cinema, as well as producing three major productions in-house each year. Recent productions include <i>The Kreutzer Sonata</i> – an adaptation of Tolstoy and Beethoven starring Greg Hicks – <i>My Mother Said I Never Should</i> by Charlotte Keatley, staged in the round, and a series of short Michael Frayn farces. We are regarded by many as the national home of traditional pantomime, with a hugely successful annual show that runs for over 90 performances.</p> <p>We tour our work nationally, work closely with The Mill in Banbury in developing their programme, and have previously worked in support of the rural touring scheme across Oxfordshire. Our Take Part department provide a huge range of workshop and participatory activities, and each weeks, over 400 people attend an activity at The Theatre. We are currently particularly interested in community related work around dementia and the elderly, autism, rural isolation and social housing.</p> <p>Generally our live work is programmed for short runs of a night or two. As a venue which provides 'something for everyone' in our region, we have a very mixed programme and need to ensure we take a little bit of everything. As a venue which receives minimal public funding we have to be cautious in the financial deals we make, and can rarely offer financial support to other companies or artists.</p> <p>We are particularly interested in working with theatre-makers whose work reflects our own programme and that which our audiences enjoy. This is generally done in an informal way, responding to ideas and requests for support on an ad hoc basis.</p> <p>We have recently supported artists and companies such as Fol Espoir, Simple 8, Scary Little Girls and Caroline Horton, and worked with local companies Idle Motion, On the Button, Flintlock and Under Construction. Their work has appealed to us for a variety of reasons that include literary or historical themes, adaptations of familiar titles or authors, engagement with social themes of interest to us, and theatrical styles that combine contemporary flair with dependable story-telling. We have also worked a lot in promenade, site-specific and non-traditional work, but only when the subject or style suits our audience.</p>		
What We Don't Do		
<p>Our programme currently has relatively little dance or classical music, as we don't have particularly developed audiences for that work. We also have to be a little cautious around 'new writing' and anything with provocative or contentious themes. None of these things are impossible, but affect how brave we can be and the sort of support we can offer.</p>		

<p>We don't generally accept script submissions and rarely produce first time work.</p> <p>We don't programme in August when the theatre is given over to young people's workshops and cinema, or between late October and mid-January due to the panto.</p> <p>We are interested in working with those whom we feel we could really make a difference to – who are interested in working in partnership, and who might benefit from the more rural, quieter setting of The Theatre. Many who have worked here before describe working here as being 'in a chrysalis'.</p>		
Artist Development opportunities	Showing work	We are keen to find opportunities to showcase local companies, theatre-makers and visual artists. Send your submissions to emily@chippingnortontheatre.com making any local connections clear and evident. This will generally be a one or two night run where available. Aim to give 9 months notice of any dates you would like to book. We are keen to work in tandem with other Oxfordshire venues in presenting local work.
	Supporting new work	On occasion we may work more closely with an artist or company to develop a piece. This is unlikely to include financial support, but might include technical support or kit, time and space in the theatre or rehearsal rooms, and advice and guidance. Try and be precise about ways in which we might be able to help you, and if the piece is right, and we are able to, we will. We will often ask for some reciprocal benefit for our audiences – such as a work in progress showing or a schools' workshop.
	Mentoring and Guidance	We have worked with a number of artists and companies both local and national, to share thoughts and experiences in the areas of programming, touring, rural touring, marketing and budgeting.
Contact	John Terry or Emily Moseley on director@chippingnortontheatre.com or 01608 642349	
Website	www.chippingnortontheatre.com	

The North Wall

Spaces	Auditorium	191 in standard short-end on format, stage size 4.5m x 4.5m 153 long-end on, stage size 4.5m x 7.2m. Height 4.8m from stage to gantry. Fully flexible theatre – can also be re-configured to in-the-round, side-thrust and traverse. Most seats in standard format face the stage, but upper and lower galleries offer a side view. Accessible for audience (to the stalls only) and to performers.
	Drama Studio	Rehearsal & performance space measuring 11.5m x 9.6m. Capacity: 60 There are four large windows down to floor level, but sliding window panels allow complete black-out. The floor is lightly sprung, and consists of hardboard laid on MDF. There is a lighting grid in the roof and a sound system.
	Dance Studio	Rehearsal space measuring 8m x 9.6m. Professionally equipped, with a sound system, a sprung Harlequin dance floor, mirrors extending down one wall, and both a fixed and a portable barre. There is a floor to ceiling glass wall on one side of the space, allowing for plenty of natural daylight.
	Gallery	Visual arts exhibition space, which also comprises theatre bar and foyer. Flat floor access from main entrance.

What we do

We are a small-scale arts centre based on the edge of [St Edward's School](#) in North Oxford. The building was completed in 2006 and we opened to the public with a summer festival in 2007. The arts centre offers a fully flexible 200-seat theatre, a public art gallery and studios for dance and drama. Our programme of events places emphasis on new and innovative work.

Since opening, we attracted a number of well-established theatre companies including 1927, ATC, Out of Joint, Bush Theatre and Shared Experience as well as hosting new work by young companies. We often programme from the Edinburgh Fringe. We also programme comedy, music, dance and work for family audiences.

The North Wall exists to provide opportunities for artists, young people and the general public to make and experience art of the highest quality. We aim to promote the notion of art as a tool for living; timely, relevant and socially engaged. Through the cutting-edge programming choices of the arts centre and ground-breaking initiatives for aspiring young artists, we aim to offer both cultural enrichment for audiences, and an 'arts laboratory': a place where people of different ages, experience and disciplines can come together, make connections and explore new ideas and aesthetics. We have a focus on nurturing talent in young and emerging artists, and removing the barriers that prevent them from achieving meaningful careers in the arts.

Young Artist Residencies/R&D for associate companies

We have run residencies for young artists aged 18-25 since 2008. Participants are selected through national auditions. We run a two-week writers' residency over Easter and a three-week residency for actors, musicians, designers and technicians over the summer. The programme includes room and board, and is free for all participants. Ensemble members are mentored by a professional company, who work with the young company to develop a new piece of theatre, as well as to use the time and space to do R&D work of their own.

In-house Productions

The North Wall produced its first in-house show in 2012, which played here for two weeks before transferring

to Arcola Theatre. Since then, our in-house shows have been developed alongside our young artist residencies (see below). Fast Track (Oct 2014) was a play written by one of our residency participants in 2012. Lucy developed the script with the writer over the course of a year, and featured four residency alums in the cast. Our most recent show, *Song of Riots*, is a co-production with Swedish company Awake Projects. It transfers to Battersea Arts Centre in October 2015, having completed a European tour in Spring 2015

Links with Oxford University & Oxford School of Drama

We have week-long slots reserved during the summer season for performances by students from Oxford School of Drama and the University of Oxford. The University of Oxford slot is specifically for young theatre-makers who are presenting a piece of new writing.

What We Don't Do

Our commitment to St Edward's School's timetable mean that we don't have an unlimited amount of space & time to offer, and can often only offer it for extended periods of time during the school holidays.

We don't currently programme much classical music or musical theatre – our space isn't suitable for large-scale productions.

We don't accept unsolicited scripts – however we do encourage emerging writers to apply to our Easter writers' residency.

We don't programme in July and August – the North Wall is given over to our summer artists' residencies – or for six weeks over Christmas when we have a Christmas show.

Artist Development opportunities	Showing work	We programme two seasons of work – Sept – Dec and Jan – June. Submit your proposal to Lucy Maycock (contact details below) with information about the event. Please include technical requirements where possible. We do not usually programme work we have not seen, so do invite us to scratch performances or send scripts to accompany your application. Generally we programme for one or two nights. We are more likely to programme theatre mid-week. Our deadline for the autumn season is early June and our spring/summer season is mid-October.
	Supporting new work	Where possible, we try to offer time and space for companies that we have an existing relationship with to develop new work. We would then hope to show the work when it tours. We can rarely offer financial support during the R&D stage. Proposals should be sent to Lucy Maycock (see details below)
	Mentoring and Guidance	We aim to help our residency participants to grow and develop beyond the two or three weeks of their time here, offering advice and support when needed. We are currently in the early stages of developing a platform for young artists to use to co-mentor and offer each other advice and flag up opportunities.
Contact	Lucy Maycock on maycockl@thenorthwall.com or 01865 319450	
Website	www.thenorthwall.com	

Cornerstone

Spaces	Main auditorium	217 (229 if extra front row added) seats in a rake, aisles at each end. Flat floor stage with proscenium (6.5m x 8.5m) Direct access to backstage from private parking at side of venue Fully accessible for audience members and onstage Infra-red hearing
	Diamond dance studio	Semi spring floor, one mirrored wall. One floor to ceiling wall of windows with blackout blinds. Used for our many dance classes. Good rehearsal space. On top floor. Fully accessible via lift. Access to refuge on same floor but evac chair needed for wheelchairs to escape route. Limited use during performances due to noise transfer. Max capacity 60 (approx. 10m x 9m)
	Willow wet art room	Wipe dry hard floor, one floor to ceiling internal wall of glazing. With non black out blinds. Sinks in room. Secondary acoustic panelling. Used for many of Cornerstone's programmed classes in art, craft, writing and private business hires for meetings and seminars. On upper ground floor, fully accessible via lift and flat access to fresh air, full refuge. Max capacity 40
	Flint meeting room	Carpeted room. Secondary acoustic panelling. Used for some Cornerstone classes but mainly private hire for meetings and seminars. Good breakout room. Could be used for R&D. Max capacity 20
	Chalk wet art room	Wipe dry hard floor. Sinks in room. One wall of secondary mirroring. One wall of glazing looking on to box office with non black out blinds. Next to gallery. Because of positioning, busy, can be noisy. Max capacity 27
	Gallery	Large airy and light double height gallery just off the main foyer area. Untreated wooden floors, skylights, hanging system for 2-D work, power points in the floor.

What we do

Cornerstone is here to provide arts, entertainment and culture for the people of south Oxfordshire and beyond and to help nurture national artistic talent

Cornerstone opened in August 2008. It was a brand new build in Didcot where there had previously been no other professional arts provision. Cornerstone is owned and run by south Oxfordshire district council and all our funding other than earned income currently comes from that council. Cornerstone's mission is to provide quality arts entertainment and culture opportunities via performances, participation and visual arts for the people of south Oxfordshire (who fund us via their council tax) and beyond, and our audiences come from across the district, into Oxford, Reading, Swindon and further.

We have beautiful spaces, skilled and enthusiastic staff who are passionate about the arts, and a desire to foster quality and assist artists of all kinds in developing their work. We also have to meet increasingly tight bottom lines in ever tightening climates so we need to make money off our programme's bottom line.

The venue is split across three floors, the lower and upper ground floors access the outside directly on the flat due to the fact that the venue is built on a slope. The venue is fully accessible for people with varying abilities. It is a designated safe place and we have a changing places toilet on the upper ground floor with an

adult changing bed and hoist.

We present a programme of received performances mainly in theatre, music, children's shows and comedy. Our performance programme needs to earn us some 60% annual profit against the spend. And we have a requirement to try to provide opportunities for the whole demographic of our region, being a local authority funded venue – no mean feat. Alongside all this we are dedicated to only programming quality shows and to seeking out and accepting emerging artists, fringe and more challenging work although our limiting factors are that this often requires more marketing resource and yields less income. Only by venues programming this work can companies have the platform to perform to audiences, work in professional spaces and develop longevity in their careers. We are passionate about the importance of arts venues in society as a factor in making a place a better one to live, work and play.

Our theatre programme consists of classics, contemporary theatre, physical theatre and some mask theatre. Our music programme is mainly folk, big band and swing. We would like to develop more contemporary and classical music but would need to do so with some dedicated audience development and publicity resource. We programme quality children's touring theatre and occasionally children's comedy and musical shows. We have a strong stand-up comedy strand with big names drawing the crowds and sitting alongside emerging stand ups. We currently programme no dance performances although would like to work towards doing so but it would need to be part of a dedicated audience development initiative.

We hire out the auditorium for performances by amateur and semi-professional companies as a part of our programme, and this is by application and assessment three times a year. See <http://www.cornerstone-arts.org/auditorium-hire>. These mainly tend to take place in late June and July each year although we will programme them at any time as long as it fits with our professional programme. We have a dark period of two weeks every August for our planned maintenance. We do not generally programme runs of shows as we do not have the audience base to support it.

We are developing our producing work. We are currently in stage 2 of a greenhouse and ACE funded project working with the Gulbenkian theatre, Canterbury, and five performance artists to create a piece of touring children's festive theatre which we anticipate touring in 2017. We are also keen to continue the work we have done supporting professional companies to R&D their work in our spaces. We have worked with Transport Theatre, Scary Little Girls, Reduced Shakespeare Company, hiccup theatre, amongst others in providing space, technical and administrative support in which they have developed their work before performance.

Artist hire rate

We offer all our rooms (including the auditorium by arrangement) for a very reduced hire rate, for artists to develop their work, e.g. for rehearsals and R&D, or meetings. The rate is £7.50 per hour. This rate is not for any commercial activity such as running open classes. Additional resources such as technical, equipment, or photocopying etc. will need to be discussed and may incur a further charge. We are generally unable to offer blocks of time in any of the spaces due to the rest of our programme.

Cornerstone Pops Out

Recently we have begun to programme a strand called 'Cornerstone Pops Out' which aims to bring Cornerstone's high-quality programme to residents of South Oxfordshire outside of the immediate catchment area of the venue. This work is programmed in non-traditional performance spaces such as libraries, village halls, museums, outdoor spaces, heritage spaces, etc. So far we have programmed children's shows in Thame Library and we would like to develop this strand of programming further.

Accessible Work

Cornerstone is committed to presenting work accessible for people with disabilities, both as audience members and participants. We run an annual day-long festival called Access all Areas, in partnership with local learning disability service providers. We also have a commitment to presenting professional theatre for

people with profound and multiple disabilities and have programmed work by Frozen Light and Oily Cart. We offer a relaxed performance as part of the Christmas show run and seek any other opportunities to support people with learning disabilities, artists with learning disabilities and companies providing work for people with learning disabilities.

Participation

Cornerstone has an extensive participation programme, offering around 60 different classes and workshops for adults and children each season. Regular classes run for two five-week terms each season, one-off workshops are generally half-day or full-day workshops during weekends or school holidays. We cover a wide range of art forms, including Youth Theatre, ballet, street dance, tap, West End Dance and other dance forms for children and adults, visual arts such as life drawing, print-making, felt-making, animation. Tutors are employed on a freelance basis by Cornerstone. We also offer a limited number of hires for people running classes in our spaces. We are always interested to hear from new tutors who have teaching experience and can offer high-quality classes or workshops for children or adults.

Outreach and schools

We have no dedicated staff member for outreach, so outreach or accessible opportunities are overseen by the Arts Development Officer who integrates this into her work delivering arts development projects across the district. Arts development happens on a project basis, and generally includes increasing our reach and making high quality arts opportunities accessible to those less likely to access the arts – older people, young people, families on lower income, people with disabilities. We also maintain links with primary and secondary schools in the area, and are able to help visiting companies deliver workshops for schools.

Visual Arts

Cornerstone has two visual arts exhibition spaces, our main gallery on the ground floor, which hosts 8-10 exhibitions each year of between 5 and 8 weeks each, and the Window Wall spaces which are more suitable for 3-D work and more often used for community groups' work or schools. We also sell craft by local makers in our small craft display spaces in the café bar. We programme the gallery by application with a deadline three times a year. For more information see <http://www.cornerstone-arts.org/exhibit-artwork>

Bar gigs

The café bar is a great space for music gigs. It's really visible to passers-by and the acoustics are great. We started to programme gigs in to the space as a way of encouraging potential attenders to come in, encourage our existing audience to engage with music genres that they hadn't tried before and to help artists reach new audiences. All of the musicians and bands that we programme are professional and emerging musicians and the quality of their work is the most important consideration. We then introduced a monthly open mic and as a way of developing some of the musicians in terms of their confidence and performance experience we started asking the open mic'ers to do 30 minute support acts for the bar gigs. Some developed from really nervous performers to confident musicians whose talent was not only honed through practice here and elsewhere but started to believe in their own capabilities. Some of the acts have been good enough to invite to the annual beer and music festival which feature around 21 acts over three days and some have been invited to head line a bar gigs. We are now experimenting with a pay what you want initiative to help try and cover the costs, we pay the musicians even though there is no admission fee, and hopefully in the future we can start to make a small amount of money from it.

Creative space

We want to establish Cornerstone as a hub for creativity for the community. A place where people can come at any time and create and engage with creativity and meet like-minded souls if they wish. So we are working on encouraging people to see Cornerstone, and particularly the café bar as their space to create. They could be knitters, sketchers, writers, they may want to get out of the house where they can work and not be disturbed or distracted, they may want to be inspired by watching other people or meet up and discuss their work. So we have signed up as a venue for November Novel Writing Month NoWriMo, and invited writers to come and write their novel here in the café and we are starting an initiative called Creative Tuesdays when

<p>people can come and work in the café bar until we close. We will re-organise the furniture for them, are putting in additional power points and discuss their work with them.</p> <p>It's a further extension of the artist's rate that we introduced to help artists to develop their work by offering them a reduced rate for room hire and to encourage people to come and create their work as professionals here at Cornerstone.</p>		
<p>What We Don't Do</p> <p>We don't generally programme runs of shows as we don't really have the audience base to support it financially. We currently buy in our Christmas show although following the outcome of the greenhouse project we may look to commissioning/co-producing in the future. We don't programme (or accept hires for) non-arts shows, like wrestling or other sports events, mind reading etc and we don't programme religious gatherings. Currently we don't programme flat floor events but it is something we have logistical ability to do and would be open to in the future.</p>		
<p>Artist Development opportunities</p>	<p>Artists hire rates</p>	<p>We offer our spaces for artists of all genres to develop their work (e.g. for rehearsals or meetings) at a reduced room hire rate. If you would like more information email louise.birt@southoxon.gov.uk or cornerstonehires@southoxon.gov.uk</p>
	<p>Other</p>	<p>We are always happy to talk with artists about their work. If you invite us to a sharing or performance, we'll try to come.</p> <p>For artists who wish to develop their work to involve community members as participants, we can offer advice, brokering and training opportunities through the arts development service.</p>
<p>Contact</p>	<p>For performance programming and general artist development: Emma Dolman 01235 515131 emma.dolman@southandvale.gov.uk</p> <p>For bar gigs and bar creative space, open mic and hires: Louise Birt on 01235 515132 louise.birt@southoxon.gov.uk</p> <p>For visual arts, participation programme, Cornerstone Pops Out, outreach and schools, and arts development projects: Miranda Laurence 01235 515134 miranda.laurence@southoxon.gov.uk</p>	
<p>Website</p>	<p>www.cornerstone-arts.org</p>	

Pegasus Theatre

Spaces	Pullman stage	<p>A stage plan and elevation can be downloaded from our website, here: www.pegasustheatre.org.uk/visit-us/visiting-companies</p> <p>Auditorium Capacity 133 people</p> <p>Auditorium Colour Dark grey, with coloured acoustic panels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage Size Total width: 9.3m (discounting masking) • or approx. 6.5m between legs in their normal positions • Total depth: approx. 7.1m (back wall to front row of seats) or approx. 6.6m from U/S blacks or cyc, to the toes of the front row of the audience! • Height: 5.1m (floor to LX bars) or 4.2m (floor to underside of borders) <p>Stage Floor: Sprung wooden dance floor (extending fully into both wings). The main stage area can be covered with Black Rosco dance floor (total size: 8.3m wide x 6.4m deep). The stage is at floor level with a tiered auditorium – the front row of seats is effectively on the front edge of the stage.</p>
	Studio	<p>Capacity: No fixed seating. Various seating arrangements are therefore possible for performances. Please contact us to discuss your requirements. Maximum audience capacity is 50 people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studio Size Total width: 8.6m • Total depth: 9.5m • Height: 4.2m (floor to LX rig) <p>Studio Floor: Wall to wall fully sprung wooden dance floor, with under-floor heating. Black Rosco floor (lino dance floor) semi-permanently laid to cover entire floor.</p>

What we do

Pegasus runs an exemplary programme of creative learning, participation and training for young people, at the heart of a thriving professional theatre. We support the development of artists and companies and explore how we engage creatively with our community, popping up in unexpected ways and places. At the heart of our ambitions is a weaving together of the different strands of our work. We offer opportunities to thousands of young people each year to engage with professional artists, to connect more closely with the art on our stages, and in turn to challenge those artists, to inspire and inform their work.

Our professional programme of visiting work encompasses drama, dance, film, comedy and music. This programme is focused on work for schools, families and young people but not exclusively, and includes work that also appeals to an adult, crossover audience. We are especially drawn to work that is playful, different, with a twist or edge to it. In addition, we consider hires of our spaces to companies from our local community. This curated mix of professional work of the highest standard and work from our community is an important and vibrant part of our artistic identity. Our facilities and resources will be devoted to supporting a company like Paines Plough or Tavaziva Dance one week, to a production from a local school or our own young theatre and dance companies the next.

When approaching us, please indicate if you'd want to be considered for a slot in our professional programme or as a community hire. We usually programme at least 9 months to a year ahead of time, so bear this in mind when approaching us.

We are also a producing theatre. We currently produce our own in-house Christmas show each year, and are

<p>currently developing a new play about self-harm to tour Oxfordshire secondary schools in spring 2016.</p> <p>We don't have a literary department and can't accept unsolicited scripts. We are an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation and receive revenue funding from Oxfordshire County Council and Oxford City Council for our creative learning programme. We work in partnership with Dancin' Oxford on our dance programme.</p> <p>The support of artists has always been an essential part of Pegasus' DNA. We support both emerging artists looking to find a foothold in the industry, and more established artists, keen to push the boundaries of their work. We offer both artistic and organisational support, desk space, performance and scratch opportunities as well as, simply, time and space to think and create.</p>		
<p>What We Don't Do</p> <p>We don't programme large-scale, commercial work, tribute acts or work that doesn't have the potential to appeal to a younger (teenage/student) audience. Drama and dance form the mainstay of our programme.</p> <p>We programme professional work typically for 1 or 2 nights maximum. We don't programme week-long or extended runs.</p>		
<p>Artist Development opportunities</p>	<p>SPARK Supported Artists</p>	<p>SPARK currently offers 9 artists/companies, producers and writers a two year programme of structured support. Tailored specifically to the needs of each, opportunities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A week-long residency (or equivalent) in the building with rehearsal space and support for the staging of a scratch performance or sharing. • Dramaturgical advice from Pegasus' Artistic Director. • Expert advice in the areas of fundraising, marketing, audience development and company structure. • Networking and mentoring opportunities with other artists and companies.
	<p>Other</p>	<p>To be considered for support from Pegasus, please contact us and let us know about your work. Links to videos, or a chance to see your show is often useful, but please give us plenty of notice, and try to explain why you think you think Pegasus would be a good fit for you and your work.</p>
<p>Contact</p>	<p>Creative Producer, Hester Bond: Hester.Bond@pegasustheatre.org.uk / 01865 812166</p>	
<p>Website</p>	<p>www.pegasustheatre.org.uk</p>	

The Mill Arts Centre

Spaces	Theatre	Capacity for 200 seated and 250 standing. Flexible black box space. Fully accessible.
	Millers Bar	Function room on first floor. Capacity up to 100 standing and 70 seated. Has small stage and bar. Fully accessible.
	Dance Studio	Light and airy studio with sprung floor and barres. Capacity for up to 40. Fully accessible
	Art Studio	Capacity of up to 40 theatre style. Comfortable teaching space for up to 20. Fully accessible.
	Meeting Room 1	Meeting and rehearsal rooms on second floor. Capacity of up to 30. Fully accessible.
	Meeting Room 2	Meeting and rehearsal rooms on second floor. Capacity of up to 30. Fully accessible.
	Long Room	Rehearsal room on first floor. Capacity up to 30. Fully accessible.
What we do		
<p>The Mill-Matching local ambition with artistic opportunities to see and do amazing things.</p> <p>The Mill is a multi-form arts centre in the heart of the market town of Banbury.</p> <p>We are a receiving house who present majority one night live events including comedy, theatre, music, variety and dance. We have a growing film programme and a rapidly expanding programme of events aimed at families. We also support local amateur companies, schools and colleges to present showcase events which can run for up to 1 week.</p> <p>Along with the live and film programme we offer a wide range of visual arts classes for all ages. These are programmed both during the day and evenings. We are constantly looking to develop this offer and where possible like to work with professional artists as tutors, offering the highest quality creative offer for our students.</p> <p>We have a resident dance Company “Anjali” who currently use the dance studio on a regular basis, we are looking to develop the use of this space and the dance programme as a whole so would be particularly interested in working with dance/physical theatre focused companies.</p> <p>We programme 12 exhibitions per year in our gallery/exhibition space and where possible like to feature local artists, we also have a series of craft cabinets where work can be sold</p>		
What We Don't Do		
We do not receive core funding and so are unable to subsidise artists' work however we are able to offer support in kind and are open to developing mutually beneficial creative partnerships		
Artist Development opportunities	Projects	<p>We are currently developing our Little Creatives visual arts programme providing opportunities for artists to work in an early year's environment.</p> <p>Adult Theatre company: this is a new project that we hope to launch in January 2016 which will require professional artists as facilitators.</p>
	Teaching Opportunities	We are always developing our visual arts education and participation programme and welcome project proposals from all disciplines.

Contact	Georgia Geary Arts Centre Director georgia.geary@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Website	www.themillartscentre.co.uk