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**Wandsworth Arts Fringe 2021 - WAF Grantees Announced.**

**Artists receive £20,000 in funding to take part in London arts festival this June.**

**Wandsworth Arts Fringe bursts into Wandsworth for two weeks from 25 June - 11 July 2021, shaking up South West London with an eclectic programme of arts and culture that thrills, moves and inspires audiences from across the city.**

Every year, Wandsworth Arts Fringe (WAF) Grants support activities and events that will take place as part of the festival. The grants are designed to help artists, makers and community groups realise their creative vision and engage with Wandsworth residents.

Supported by our 2021 grants, we see the return of some WAF favourites including **People Show and the University of Roehampton** with their 12th consecutive WAF show; another unique, family friendly live art event from **Wild City**; and a dance takeover from inclusive contemporary dance company **CoDa Dance**.

After a year of COVID and social distancing, we will be welcoming projects including *The Adventures of S.U.S.A.N.N. The Robot (And the socially distanced Dr. Morton Hyphen Sinclair)* from **Cat and Mouse Theatre**, *[Re]focus: Exploring unheard voices* from **The Baked Bean Company** and *Finding Strength in Small Things* from **Sound Minds** responding to themes of isolation and connection. We will also be celebrating the diversity of our borough with Latin American music and dance festival ***Congrego!***and embracing nature with ***Citizens of the Climate***from WHABB Studios and **Trees at the Woodfield** with The Woodfield Pavillion. See below for full WAF 2021 Grant Awardee listings.

The WAF Grants are funded directly by Wandsworth Council, primarily through the Wandsworth Grant Fund, which sets £20,000 aside to support WAF activity each year, with a maximum award of £2,000 per project.

**Wandsworth Council’s Cabinet Member for Community Services and Open Spaces, Councillor Steffi Sutters says:**

*“Wandsworth Arts Fringe continues to be one of the highpoints of the borough’s cultural calendar, and I am delighted that despite the pandemic and uncertainty, WAF continues to celebrate the wealth of creative talent in our local community, both live and online. Last year we were thrilled to work with a wide range of Wandsworth organisations to transform the festival into WAF In Your Living Room; this year we hope to be able to deliver a more hybrid offer of both live events and activities and online projects. We are so proud to be supporting all these brilliant projects through the council’s grant programme.”*

**Find out more about the 2021 festival:** [www.wandsworthartsfringe.com](http://www.wandsworthfringe.com)

**WAF 2021 Grant Awardees:**

**WHABBstudio presents**

**Citizens of the Climate**

*Citizens of the Climate* is a collection of personal written stories and audio recordings from Wandsworth residents on how they feel climate change is affecting the environment in which we live.

Discover the stories around Wandsworth and through an online map.

If you are a Wandsworth resident and would like to participate in the project by sharing your story or ideas, please contact [whabbstudio@gmail.com](mailto:whabbstudio@gmail.com).

**Location:** Nine Elms, Wandsworth borough wide

**Website:** [www.whabbstudio.org](http://www.whabbstudio.org)

**The Baked Bean Company presents**

**[Re]focus: Exploring Unheard Voices**

The learning disability community has been hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic, yet not enough people are speaking about it. Actors at The Baked Bean Company want their voices to be heard and to be listened to.

*[Re]focus: Exploring Unheard Voices* is a documentary exploring how people with learning disabilities have been impacted by Covid-19.

**Location:** Online only

**Website:** [www.bakedbeancompany.com](http://www.bakedbeancompany.com)

**World Heart Beat Music Academy presents**

**Congrego! Festival**

*Congrego! Festival* celebrates Latin American music and dance, featuring performances from World Heart Beat musicians plus guest appearances. The festival will include a series of online Latin American music workshops for young musicians aged 5 to 25 to get involved with.

World Heart Beat will also be presenting an online concert performance which will be streamed to care homes as part of their partnership with *Artists ‘n Residents*, an initiative bringing music to the elderly in care homes.

**Location:** WAF Big Top and online

**Website:** [www.worldheartbeat.org](http://www.worldheartbeat.org)

**Battersea Society in partnership with the Royal College of Art present**

**My Battersea**

*My Battersea* is a photography exhibition showcasing the work of the My Battersea Photography Award 2021 winners and finalists. The exhibition explores what Battersea means to those who live and work there.

**Location:** Battersea

**Website:** [www.batterseasociety.org.uk](http://www.batterseasociety.org.uk)

**People Show and the University of Roehampton present**

**141: Shop**

Over the years, People Show and University of Roehampton students have performed in venues like Putney Library, Battersea Park, The Horniman Museum and The Ram Brewery. In 2021 the venue is an empty shop unit in Putney Exchange Shopping Centre.

Over two intense weeks, 25 final year students and People Show artists will create a live and digital performance inspired by the space that is funny, beautiful, imaginative and unforgettable.

**Location:** Putney Exchange Shopping Centre

**Website:** [www.peopleshow.co.uk](http://www.peopleshow.co.uk)

**Cat and Mouse Theatre presents**

**The Adventures of S.U.S.A.N.N. The Robot**

**And the socially distanced Dr. Morton Hyphen Sinclair**

*My name is S.U.S.A.N.N. I am a Robot. I am travelling the streets of the UK to find out how to be Human, with my ‘maker' Dr. Moreton Hyphen Sinclair.*

Sentient, hilarious and inquisitive, S.U.S.A.N.N. wants to help the people see a lighter side of life as they wait in queues, take walks through the park or isolate in small communities.

She can reach out to a pensioner in a bungalow complex and be close to children who have lost their playmates. She is the Robot we imagined in the 80's, clunky but very clever.

**Location:** Balham and Putney high streets

**Website:** [www.catandmousetheatre.com](http://www.catandmousetheatre.com)

**Sound Minds presents**

**Finding Strength in Small Things**

*Finding Strength in Small Things* is an exhibition of photo artworks from Sound Minds studio project artists at a pop-up gallery space. The exhibition follows a series of workshops led by artist Sam Haynes and photographer Alejandra Carles-Tolra.

The exhibition will reflect on the artist’s experiences over the past year, focusing on what helped them to battle the boredom and loneliness of lockdown. We will be reflecting on issues of well-being, with local screenings of a documentary made by Sound Minds manager and filmmaker Paul Brewer, showcasing the exhibition alongside interviews and insights from the contributing artists.

**Location:** Battersea Central Mission

**Website:** [www.soundminds.co.uk](http://www.soundminds.co.uk)

**Missing Pages Theatre presents**

**Sunday Morning**

*Sunday Morning* is a short digital performance accompanied by an animation workshop for adults and young people.

The show combines acting with live animation and puppetry techniques to explore our morning routines. Missing Pages Theatre looks at what the individual parts of our bodies go through in the morning, and dives beneath the surface of what we do automatically. Seeking hidden stories, memories and fantasies, the show is a playful conversation with human senses and limbs, inspired by living with ourselves during lockdown.

**Location:** Online only

**Website:** [www.facebook.com/Missing-Pages-Theatre-111262073763442](http://www.facebook.com/Missing-Pages-Theatre-111262073763442)

**Wild City presents**

**Big Sculpture Get Together**

Join Wild City for the *Big Sculpture Get Together* extravaganza. Create BIG towers, tunnels and boulders then roll, topple and scramble through at this unique live art event.

**Location:** Heathbrook Park

**Website:** <https://www.instagram.com/wildcityarts/?hl=en>

**Weave Stories present**

**NOTHING**

*Nothing* is a short film telling the story of Rory, an actor and Wandsworth resident, played by Lloyd Hutchinson - *Florence Foster Jenkins* (Film), *King Lear* (National Theatre), *Housebound* (TV) - who finds himself sofa surfing as a result of the COVID-19 crisis hitting the performing arts industry.

**Location:** Online only

**Website:** [www.weavestories.org](http://www.weavestories.org)

**The Woodfield Pavilion presents**

**Trees at the Woodfield**

*Trees at the Woodfield* is a weekend of art and physical performance events that focus on the good mental health of local communities, utilising the benefits of nature and fresh air on health and wellbeing. The weekend will feature a variety of walks, workshops and activities for individuals and families including art, movement and spoken word sessions inspired by the Woodfield.

**Location:** Woodfield Pavilion

**Website:** [www.thewoodfield.org](http://www.thewoodfield.org)

**Simmy King presents**

**Calvin’s Destiny**

*Calvin’s Destiny* is a British urban short film series that tells the story of love, courage and the desire to be accepted. On the surface Calvin has a good life, a loving family, a good career and a beautiful home. However, he is hiding his truth and is desperate to reveal who he really is to his family. Wigs, bright lipsticks and high heeled shoes are his thing...

**Location:** Open Door Community Centre

**Website:** [www.wandsworthart.com/profiles/simmy-king](http://www.wandsworthart.com/profiles/simmy-king)

**Ballet Soul presents**

**Every Soul**

*Every Soul* involves a series of low-cost workshops with Ballet Soul's Artistic Director, Ben Love.

Dancers of all abilities (aged 8-55+) are welcome to come along and try the Ballet Soul style, which is rooted in the belief that every dancer has their own spirit of movement. Using soulful rhythms and contemporary choreography, dancers will be encouraged to find their own unique expression.

**Location:** World Heart Beat Music Academy, Royal Academy of Dance and online

**Website:** [www.balletsoul.org.uk](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.balletsoul.org.uk%2F&data=04%7C01%7CHannah.Hiett%40richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk%7Cdd6bf5b706954b79196308d8de39db0d%7Cd9d3f5acf80349be949f14a7074d74a7%7C0%7C0%7C637503687385073599%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=%2BYjwrBOVSdIX6xMo8utV8uYJpzycnZpepczVFNsOj%2F0%3D&reserved=0)

**CoDa Dance presents**

**Digital Dance Takeover**

CoDa invites Wandsworth residents to experience an exciting blend of online and live digital dance. Expect dance performances on-demand, live discussion events, dance workshops and an interactive virtual reality installation for you to play with in person. Plus, Wandsworth residents will be the first to experience CoDa's fully immersive 360-degree virtual reality dance show, *As The Floor Shifts*.

All activities are open to everyone and CoDa will be specifically reaching out to Wandsworth residents who have any experience of neurodisability and conditions such as MS, acquired brain injury and Parkinson's.

**Location:** Online (discussions and workshops), Battersea Arts Centre and Roehampton Green (interactive virtual reality installation)

**Website:** [www.codadance.com](http://www.codadance.com)

**Raysto and KP present**

**The Great Pebble Dash**

An outdoor game for all ages, families and bubbles. Follow the visual clues posted online to match the shapes, textures and patterns in the landscape and find tiny, pebbleface artworks by Raysto, hidden in plain sight.

The pebblefaces are inspired by the shapes, shades and textures of the stones’ geological formations. Clues posted on [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/TheGreatPebbleDash) and on [#TheGreatPebbleDash](https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/thegreatpebbledash/) on Instagram will give a close up of the hidden pebbleface, a general location and a number, so you can work out where you are on a circular route around the park. When you find a pebbleface, take an image or selfie (without giving away the location) and move on to the next one. Post them all online and include #TheGreatPebbleDash when you’ve finished.

**Location:** Heathbrook Park and Wandsworth Park

**Website:** [www.kp-projects.co.uk/the-great-pebble-dash](http://www.kp-projects.co.uk/the-great-pebble-dash)

**Black Heroes Foundation presents**

**John Archer**

An interactive event featuring drama, film, music, spoken word and song to celebrate Battersea’s first Black Mayor, John Richard Archer.

**Location:** WAF Big Top

**Website:** [www.blackheroesfoundation.org](http://www.blackheroesfoundation.org)

**Providence House presents**

**YES Music Performance**

A multi-disciplinary and multi-generational creative arts showcase, highlighting the developing talents and aspirations of young people from Battersea.

**Location:** WAF Big Top

**Website:** [www.providence-house.org](http://www.providence-house.org)

**WAF 2021 will also see the realisation of some of last year’s WAF Grants, which were not able to come to fruition because of the Covid-19 pandemic:**

**Blackshaw Theatre presents**

**Trouble at Sea: A Miss McSkimming Mystery**

Miss McSkimming takes to the high seas in her second adventure, written by Richard Stratton. Expecting a pleasant trans-Atlantic cruise, Miss McSkimming must instead deal with a missing companion and a series of mysterious thefts, all whilst trying to avoid panic amongst her fellow passengers.

A rollicking comedy with mysteries and hilarious sound effects abounding, this radio play recorded in front of a live audience promises to delight audiences, young and old!

**Location:** WAF Big Top

**Website:** [www.blackshawtheatre.co.uk](http://www.blackshawtheatre.co.uk)

**Press requests**

For more information or images, please contact

Polly Cotran: polly.cotran@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**About Wandsworth Arts Fringe**

Wandsworth Arts Fringe is brought to you by Wandsworth Council, supporting the arts and culture industries across the borough.

Part of Wandsworth Council’s arts and culture programme, WAF brings together over 300 creatives in an array of nooks and crannies throughout the borough - indoor, outdoor online and in unexpected places - revealing a Wandsworth you never knew existed.

The festival is emphatically inclusive and welcomes participation from artists across all art forms - including street performances, exhibitions, comedy, theatre, music, dance and everything in between.

This is your opportunity to try something new, take creative risks, test new ideas and reach new audiences. WAF also offers development support such as professional and peer advice, networking events and marketing.

**About Wandsworth Council**

Wandsworth Council is proud to support the borough’s cultural infrastructure and ensure that all residents, businesses and visitors have access to quality creative activities.

Wandsworth Council arts service’s mission is for culture to thrive in Wandsworth. We seek to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate in and celebrate culture through a variety of means and activities. Alongside Wandsworth Arts Fringe, the arts service are behind **Wandsworth Artists' Open House,** a free annual event inviting visitors to explore over 100 artists’ works as they open their homes and studios to visitors, and **Creative Wandsworth,** an education programme working with schools to inspire, involve and educate young people about the creative opportunities in Wandsworth, including creative careers and future skills. [wandsworthart.com](https://wandsworthart.com/) | [wandsworth.gov.uk/arts](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/arts)

Wandsworth Council’s new Arts and Culture Strategy 2021-2031 is now open for public consultation. Find out more: [wandsworthartsstrategy](http://bit.ly/wandsworthartsstrategy).

**Follow us for the latest updates on local arts and culture:**

Facebook: [@wandsworthartsfringe](https://www.facebook.com/wandsworthartsfringe/)  | Twitter: [@WAFfringe](https://twitter.com/WAFfringe)

Instagram: [@wandsworthartsfringe](https://www.instagram.com/wandsworthartsfringe)  | YouTube: [Wandsworth Arts Fringe](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwqN6i2CBZB7l1Jht6AMTYw)