



NO

PLAYING

GAMES

Hello and welcome to autumn in what has been an extraordinary year. Everyone here at ROAR sincerely hope you are safe and well, and are adjusting to a new way of living. It has been a challenging time for everyone in their own way, more so for some than others I have no doubt.

At the very beginning, I was a little bemused as to how to respond, and it took some time learning to adjust to working from home. We only furloughed one member of staff from our team of three, and that wasn't myself! Many of our partner organisations were in similar situations and getting things done was a little slow with lots of people being furloughed. I did make use of that strange time to be creative and learn some new skills, and undertake some professional development training online too, as I slowly got used to my new home office arrangement.

Now we are nearly 10 months along and there is no respite, work is fast and furious which just demonstrates the significance of art and culture in the recovery process for individuals and communities wellbeing.

So here is a little summary of what we have been doing and what we are looking forward to.

Sharon Gill, CEO.



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BUZZ IN ABSENTIA

We would usually have an exhibition every month in the BUZZ Gallery at ROAR but this has been hampered by COVID-19 and the Lockdown.

This is why we have worked with some of our members to create online exhibitions of their work.

Go to
www.artsteps.com
search for ROAR and you will find
A members exhibition and solo exhibitions by:
Zanib Rasool, Sarah Cassels and Margaret Hall

If you are a member and would like to look at the possibility of an online exhibition, please, get in touch.

If you are not a member and would like to be our membership form is accessible here:
www.rotherhamroar.com/membership

MORTTAL

Over Lockdown we encouraged our members to participate in a rather strange collaborative project.

Chris Britton
Kaden Blake
Amber Topaz
Sally Robinson
Lombutrup
Margaret Hall
Denise Chafer
Ray Lewis

You were able to submit anything for inclusion in MORTTAL and we encouraged all media types.

You were also able to use and transform submissions in any way you liked.

Maybe after Lockdown 2 we can create the great

MORTTAL Opera

The results are here:

tinyurl.com/morttalroar

Chapel Commissions

In partnership with Wentworth Woodhouse and supported by the WE Great Place programme, we have been developing a professional development structure to help artists experience the public art commissioning process.

We recognise it can be hard to get a commission if you haven't had a commission, so we are devising opportunities for local artists to work with Wentworth Woodhouse for a temporary commission in their Chapel space, with the hope it will prove to be a success and be continued beyond the initial funding period.

Initially postponed, of course, but began in October with Kevan Cadman's exhibition 'Outside In', followed by 'The Suitcase' by Zanib Rasool, Mariam Shah and Shaheen Shah which marks the monumental life change of the first generation of Pakistani women who came to Rotherham in the 1960s, telling their stories through the memories they carried with them in their hearts and luggage.

Unfortunately this exhibition, although installed, is not open to the public due to Lockdown 2.

A video is available on ROAR TV

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=stDD8C1H4vw>

It is of no surprise that the decision not to deliver the Rotherham Show as a physical event had to take place sometime ago.

The Diversity Festival took place online on the 5th September. ROAR were commissioned to co-ordinate and support the content for the event, with funding from National Lotteries and Yorkshire Sport Foundation, to ensure the communities with protected characteristics had a celebration.

There is a new website where you can find the whole festival and its content. The Diversity Festival sponsored Black History Month so you can find content for that too.

<https://www.diversity-festival.com/>



A COMPLETE ARTIST

Organise

time management
guilt management
physical works
catalogue
inventory
portfolio
contacts
contracts
tax
insurance
legal
goals
artist statement
cv
bio
documentation
samples
printing
office
IT

Learn

workshops
what to learn
reading
seeing
talking
mentor
coach
discussion groups
openings
friends
networks with
meaning

Show

galleries
theatres
festivals
online
non traditional
venues
forms of exhibition
packing
shipping
curation
group
solo
printing
info
insurance

Make

Make to sell
Sell work you make
Crit groups
commissions
pushing yourself
comfort zone
improving
searching
block
materials
space/bills
equipment
think, play,
focus space
with others
on your own
in collaboration
facilitation
community service
socially engaged
practice

Write

about your work
about others work
for publications
to understand
to explain
to confuse
to connect
proposals
grants
funders
reports
applications
commissions
residencies

Sell

gallery
representation
funding as selling
fairs
performances
merch
printing
online
festivals
organisation

Educate

workshops
sharing
talks
statutory
non statutory
what level
experience
income

Financial

budget
records
inventories
pricing
charity
commissions
loans
housing
eating
materials
storage
studio
rehearsal space

Promote

reputation
fan base
brand
social media
presenting yourself
elevator pitch
PR
networking
self publish
meetings
openings
be seen

Career

options

WESTGATE STUDIOS:

It has been a strange time to run a cultural venue, and we have been making changes to ensure it is safe for our tenants and their creative activity. We did however close the office and work from home in line with government guidance.

There have been a few changes with our studio holders, and an increase in demand, so we are moving our office to create another studio, which is all good news.

We have one space available as a private studio.

Our drama studio is still available to rent providing we work within government guidance around numbers and social distancing.

MEMBERSHIP:

We have been supporting our members with direct contact to ensure their wellbeing, and with gathering information around funding and relevant business support they can access. We have devised a number of online sessions and continued with the EGG peer to peer professional development group. The newsletter has been going out fortnightly too with opportunities and relevant information.

AGM:

We held our AGM on zoom, but were able to invite celebrated artist Keith Khan to talk about his creative practice and his current projects, something that would only be possible for us in the virtual world.



CHASE MAGAZINE

We have been interviewing some very talented people that work in Rotherham, highlighting the breadth of artistic activity going on, these include:

Emily Wraw, who plays in a number of different brass band groups as well as working as a Diversity and Inclusion champion for the NHS here in Rotherham.

James Brunt, our very own environmental artist with a world wide following who explores the beauty in our natural surroundings.

Tongesayi Gumbo, who brings his African rhythms and drum beats to schools and community groups throughout the region.

Liz Churton, who has captured the image of Herd Immunity, and is exploring her fascination with animating her own graphic novel.

Zanib Rasool, who has discovered her innate talent for poetry during her academic research journey.

Sithule Moyo and some of her talented family talk about Young Minds Together and their love of dancing, drumming and performing and how this has helped their confidence grow feeding their life ambitions.

Leigh de Vries back from LA and more recently **Chris Bilton**.

A big thank you to all of you for telling your stories. If you would like to propose a creative talent for an interview please get in touch.

All Chase magazine interviews can be seen on ROAR's website - www.rotherhamroar.com/chase-magazine/

FLUX- Creative People and Places Project.

It is a pleasure to welcome Jude Handley as the new project manager, migrating from Yorkshire Sport. Jude started work in June and has been busy getting the formal governance and structures in place and revising the business plans to accommodate the challenges of community engagement during a pandemic! As the name suggests the project is in constant flux, and there is unlikely to be any tangible community based activity for a little while yet. There is more staff recruitment to take place to enable any delivery, so watch this space.

BAMER Creative Network.

It was during the time when the Black Lives Matter movement was in the headlines and ROAR, like many other organisations, released a statement and we were approached with a proposal to support the development of the BAMER Creative Network for Rotherham.

BLM statement - www.rotherhamroar.com

There was recognition that BAMER artists were not accessing opportunities and opportunities were not being made accessible. It is early days, but already the network was commissioned to make content for Yorkshire day and has received a small grant to assist with branding. The group meet via zoom and have recently set up a Whatsapp group.



BAMER CREATIVE NETWORK

Join Now

Open to any creative individual
from a BAMER community

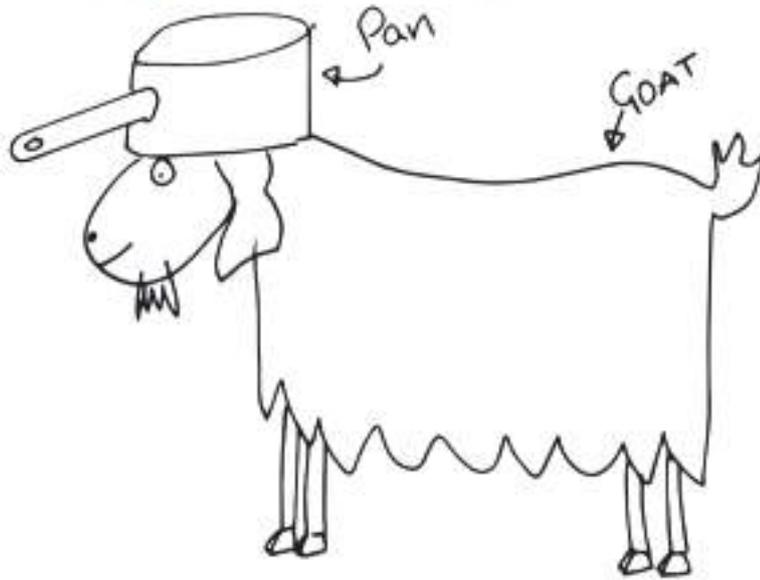
living or working in the Borough of Rotherham
who wants to connect with other creatives for:

support
encouragement
opportunities
collaborations
learning
advocacy
representation in the sector

We are setting up a Whatsapp group so get in touch to join it
bcnrotherham@gmail.com
rotherhamroar.com/bamer



This is a goat with a pan on it's head.



Bags of Creativity

ROAR is very proud to have been a participating organisation and activity developer for Bags of Creativity.

Eight Local Cultural Education Partnerships have recruited their own teams of 20 local creative practitioners and organisations each to design activities for Bags of Creativity. Child development specialists, Dr Karen Dunn and Di Chilvers have given training and mentoring to these local teams to ensure that activities are both tailored to the contents of the bags and engaging for children in each age range. LCEPs are working directly with social services in their local authority to distribute the bags to vulnerable children via trusted adults including social workers and foster carers.

Each area has produced Bags of Creativity for three separate age groups, containing 20 specially designed activity postcards. IVE has curated and supplied age-appropriate materials for the bags which will be identical across the region. For 2-6 year-olds, an orange bag contains vibrant chiffon scarves, a space blanket, and many other materials to enhance imaginative play. 7-11 year-olds will receive a bright green bag full of colouring pencils, pipe cleaners and further tactile materials for creative expression. 12-16 year-olds will receive a navy blue bag with contents including watercolour paints and modelling clay, giving them additional ways to explore their creativity. LazenbyBrown of York designed the Bags of Creativity free of charge.

RothTrails

RothTrails has been created by 5 Rotherham artists and funded by Yorkshire Sport Foundation.

Jennifer Booth, Kevan Cadman, Tair Rafiq, Luke Walsh and Leigh de Vries have worked to develop the trails that are designed to get you out and about around Rotherham.

Exercise is very important for our physical and mental well being in these challenging times so to have a reason to get out and about, to explore our environment is really useful.

We encourage you to get out and about either by yourself, with your family, or in your bubble.

Exercise, explore and create

There are 5 Trails to choose from:

A Green Man Journey – Starting at The Rotherham Minster

A Historical Wander – Starting at The War Memorial in Clifton Park

Share a Message – Starting anywhere

A Woodland Discovery – Starting at Canklow Woods, Boston Castle

A 50 Year Walk – Starting at Rotherham General Hospital

LIFE ACT

Perhaps one of the hardest consequences of lockdown has been on the most vulnerable.

Life Act, our drama group for adults with disabilities, has not been able to meet up face to face which has a significant impact on the social lives and wellbeing of its members.

To partially mitigate this impact we have been able with our funders – Reaching Communities- permission to ensure all the group members can access a weekly zoom meeting through the provision of necessary equipment.

This has meant they can stay in touch, and learn new skills and they made a video for the Diversity Festival.

This has encouraged the group to find new ways to continue making new work while remaining safe.

The recovery of Rotherham's communities and the general mental and physical well being of people will be our main focus for the immediate future. We will work with partners to design innovative creative responses and support our members to meet those needs and hopefully demand for activity.

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