XTRAX

Fuse Regional Platform

Artist Directory 2012

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In association with XTRAX

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ZEPA
University of Kent

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XTRAX is a founder member of Without Walls, a consortium of eight outdoor festivals in England www.withoutwalls.uk.com

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Accidental Collective

EveryONE is Looking for SomeONE

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Two peculiar figures are wandering about, lost. One is looking for the other, who is looking for the other… Have they been separated, or have they never met before? Will you help them find one another?
This humorous, touching piece is about the essential human drive – to look for and find someone. Whether a long lost relative, a friend you were supposed to meet five minutes ago, or your ideal other half, everyone is looking for someone, aren't they? Who are you looking for?
At times surreal, at times moving, and often out-right-funny – this is a playful meditation on our desire to 'pair up'. The two Monty Python-esque figures pop up all around and, when they finally meet, will delight you with theatrical sketches; from the tale of Zeus and past poetic lists of famous duos, to cheesy Barbara Streisand love songs…
This is a Vaudevillian game of Hide and Seek with a huge heart – and everyone can join in!

Supported by Applause Outdoors 212

Bureau of Silly Ideas

The Pineapple Ride

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We create inspired madness and controlled chaos in the public realm. With a true belief in the power of silliness, we make engaging installations, superb shows and surprising interventions which bring magic to the mundane and encourage people to look at the everyday in new ways. You can commission us to create an installation or performance as part of your festival or event, or simply pick from our range of ready to book silliness!

Come and ride our pedal powered limousine in the style of a pineapple.

Canopy

The Preeners

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Canopy delivers oddball shows and events for the least likely locations. Our aim is to saturate imaginations, inspire bravery and nurture a sense of well-being.

We also aim to be the only performing arts company in the UK with its own orchard. So, by 2015, along side our available shows, we will be producing on-site performances, events and crops, combining high quality performance with the art of growing good food. So make sure you keep an eye on our news page for orchard developments and ways to get involved.

Mrs Preener, a raucous, northern mother, wants to see her new romantic son, Graham, settle down with a nice bird but he has other ideas.
Think Spring Watch meets Blind Date circa 1985. *The Preeners* bring you comedy characters, sensationally sparkly animated costumes and a healthy dollop of audience participation.

Central School of Speech & Drama

Whatever Floats Your Boat

Fiona Watt
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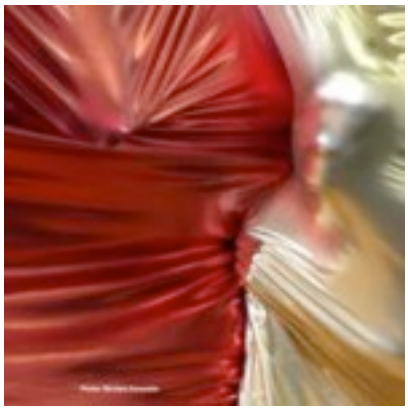
Come and be astounded as this band of travelling misfits take you on an exciting journey discovering the forgotten tales of the River Medway.
Be amazed at the stories of heroism, tragedy and little old ladies darning socks. Prepare to be engulfed in a wave of colour, fun and adventure as this travelling troop sail through the years exploring *Whatever Floats Your Boat.*

Compagnie Talut (France)

Neighbours



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In an iridescent universe we can see the imprint of two beings, like a second skin. They ignore each other, in a neighbourly manner, each one in his bubble. At their first encounter, on edge, one emerges from his shell to expose himself to the outside world. Stripped of his protection, he curls up until the other one materialises to join him. At this point we discover their differences, one is musical, the other one corporeal.

They start discovering and taming each other in a surreal and powerful dance.

Company Chameleon

Search & Find

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Company Chameleon believes in Dance Theatre as a vital method for social change. Their work allows the viewer to experience the art of dance whilst tackling challenging issues in inventive ways that allows the viewer access and inclusion.

Through the performance of their work, and through educational programmes, they hope to support social cohesion and artistic understanding through the propagation of expression, creativity and physicality.

Search & Find explores the idea of connection and disconnection between people, as two protagonists search for a way to find a sense of shared understanding and purpose. Physically awesome and sensitive, the work invites you to consider your connection with others.

Dans La Poche

Identi-Tea (Brand new show)

Rosa Parkins
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Enjoy a refreshing cup of Oolong tea served in the traditional manner, as you are entertained with stories of transformation from east and west.
Through the setting of an old Shanghai teahouse, Dorothy Soo, daughter of fu Manchu, blends the traditional tea ceremony with stories, divination and close-up magic to make a heady brew that will revive, refresh and amaze.

dANTE OR die

La Fille A La Mode

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dANTE OR dIE, led by Daphna Attias and Terry O'Donovan, brings to life contemporary stories through process-led dance theatre and site-sensitive work. Through bespoke collaboration, they create thought-provoking, personal interpretation for their audience.

La Fille à la Mode is an immersive, musical journey through surprising locations in and around the Nucleus Arts Centre in Chatham. Seven beautiful female dancers, actresses and musicians, dressed in sumptuous vintage costumes, lead you on a playful and seductive exploration of the continued celebration and exploitation of glamorous 'It Girls' throughout the ages

Dizzy O'Dare Presents…

The Last Apothecary

Alana Jones
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Daft and nutty treatments for equally foolish ailments… A travelling, self-sufficient, and interactive piece that will roam festivals or fetes stopping to cure the convalescents as they go. This comical duo will not fail to delight and charm as they prank and play.

From the creators of The Tiny Travelling Tightwire Show! From The Inky Deep and Cabinet of Curiosities, comes a new street theatre piece for 2012. Victorian down and outs Floggit and Scarper return with their newest business venture – *The Last Apothecary*, a roaming treatment centre full of daft and nutty treatments for equally foolish ailments. If you suffer from knobbly knees, lazy husband syndrome or random levitation, Floggit and Scarper have the cure for you. Catch the intrepid Empirics as they stoop to conquer the world of medical science armed with only a few brain cells between them and a travelling apothecary full of embrocations and liniments.

Supported by Applause Outdoors 212 : A project of Applause Rural Touring and PANeK (Performing Arts Network Kent)

Estelle Rosenfeld

The Tortoise and The Hare

Estelle Rosenfeld
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The hare and the tortoise from Aesop's fable are on tour with the hare up to his old tricks, challenging you to compete in a series of fun races.

Etta Ermini Dance Theatre

Picnic

Etta Ermini
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w: www.ettaermini.com

Founded in 2005 by choreographer Etta Ermini, this physical theatre company explores relationships by extracting elements of the absurd while creating humour but also dramatic events. We are interested in intertwining dance and other disciplines based on creative movement including BMX flatland riding. The dancer/BMX artist combination is a means of collaborating with performers of diverse backgrounds and of connecting the two art forms.

A young couple's lush and joyful picnic is disrupted by the quirks and pitfalls of their relationship. Audience interaction, food, comedy and a highly dynamic movement vocabulary make *Picnic* an enjoyable experience for children and adults alike.

Commissioned by Fuse Medway Festival

Fevered Sleep

Little Universe

Helena Miscioscia
t: 020 7922 2988
w: www.feveredsleep.co.uk

From the biggest of galaxies to the smallest things in the world, Little Universe reveals the patterns and movements that set everything in motion. Visually striking and playfully anarchic *Fevered Sleep* presents a brand new performance for 3 & 4 year olds, created especially for the outdoors.

Fevered Sleep has an international reputation for making outstanding performances for little people that explore really big ideas.

Fittings Multimedia Arts

Master Juba (New Version)

Joel Ava Makinson
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w: www.fittings.org.uk

Following in the footsteps of Master Juba's successful 18 month tour of Britain, Stickman will drum and dance his way from town to town in search of Master Juba, his life, his performances and moments in history. Building a monument in each stopping place, celebrating a pivotal though largely forgotten figure in Black History, shouting the achievements of Master Juba: The Wonder of the World.

Frolicked

The Alchemist

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w: www.frolicked.co.uk

Frolicked is a puppet theatre company run by Beka Haigh. Along with a host of other artists, we create, design and perform magical and intimate puppet shows...

The Alchemist is a medieval man who desperately wants to make his name in his contemporary scientific community, and make a small fortune on the side. Unfortunately, due to another dangerous attempt to make gold, his latest assistant has met a grisly end. As the Alchemist continues with his experiments alone, he makes several mistakes with potentially catastrophic consequences. If only he could get some peace from those mischievous rats and that damned bluebottle.

Galloping Cuckoos

Driftwood

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w: www.thegallopingcuckoos.com/

A group of fisherwomen roam the coast, hauling their small fishing hut, made of worn, splintered driftwood, rusty timber and sailcloth. They seek places to drop anchor and connect with the locals – to share their sea stories through choral song, old folk tunes and live music.

Supported by Applause Outdoors 212

Granny Turismo

Granny Turismo

t: 01392 454160
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Granny Turismo have been delighting audiences wherever they go and is one of the most talked about acts around. When Doris and Mary arrive on their souped-up shopping trolleys with their pumping tunes, everyone takes notice. N.B. the grannies are loud.

Institute for Crazy Dancing

Life Boat

Jason Hird
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w: www.icdancing.com

The *Life Boat* is a beautiful skeleton of a boat. It is an exceptionally slow-turning ride containing four hammocks. Set within a heavy rope circle, participants are invited to gain their bearings at north, south, east and west prior to a pre-boarding briefing. Participants are then free to spend as long or as little time as they wish in a hammock – looking at the world from a different and slowly changing point of view.

Jane Pitt

Ri-Zound

Jane Pitt
t: 07767 783 946
e: jane@janepitt.co.uk
w: www.janepitt.co.uk

Jane Pitt's *Ri-zound* takes the festival to the river as 100 floating Medway voices resound the river aboard the Kingswear Castle Paddle Steamer. Sounds and images from this festive voyage are installed inside the Kent Cultural Baton for all to enjoy over the Fuse weekend.

A Spark commission supported by Kent County Council.

Kawa Circus (India)

t: +91(0) 141 2530 348 / +91 (0) 141 2530 440
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w: www.kawamusic.in

Kawa Circus tells the story of an itinerant troupe of artists from a circus of Rajasthan (India) arriving with all their material and happiness in rhythms and music. While settling themselves, the public shares immediately the intimacy of this company with the tyrannical director, the mesmerized traditional dancer charming everyone, the joyful acrobat and funambulist acting like a film star, the naïve but concerned acrobat and pole-vaulter and the musician always laughing at his colleagues. The show starts with several breathless tricks constantly disturbed by tiffs and other personal matters, working the anger of the director off on his artists, who finally have the last word.

Kazzum

Paper People

Emily Campbell
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e: emily@kazzum.org
w: www.kazzum.org

Based around a mobile newspaper stand, the vendors use their papers to tell the smaller tales within the BIG story that is the Olympics. Watch the characters emerge in 3D from the pages, before the *Paper People* wheel off to sell their papers, and tell their stories, elsewhere.

Les Goulus (France)
The Horsemen

Jean-Luc Prévost
t: +33 (0)1 48 58 78 78
e: gouludrus@wanadoo.fr

Three very smart French horse-riders make a demonstration of training in preparation for the Olympic Games. Even if, sometimes, they are a bit ridiculous, they always keep 'the French attitude'.

Les Krilati (France)
Fando Comme Lis

Jacqueline Simeon
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w: www.leskrilati.com

Fando Comme Lis is a modern, burlesque, tender and poetic mime show.

Fando, a shy boy, and Lis, a mischievous girl, meet near the old railway station with the same dream. It is their language, a special language made of words without words, using aerial circles and tissues, ropes, Chinese mast and acrobatics. Be captivated in a true hymn to love and imagination.

Performance supported by Interreg IVa through ZEPA

Little Cauliflower

The Machine

Will
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w: www.littlecauliflower.co.uk

For 3000 years Professor Allen's Machine has travelled around the world planting all the trees, the grass, the flowers and chocolate pie. Sorry, not chocolate pie. This morning, for the first time ever, he called in sick (he has a very poorly tummy and he might be gone sometime). His two bumbling assistants have been left in charge. They're completely useless and they need your help!

The Machine is a piece of interactive street performance and engages the audience in a new and innovative way. The performers use suggestions from the audience to help them fix the machine, which is powered by bicycles and over 3 metres tall. The audience sit on the bicycles and pedal in order to animate the machine building to a finale where sunflower seeds pour out for every child to take home and plant.

Supported by Applause Outdoors 212

NoFit State Circus

Barricade

Ali Williams
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w: www.nofitstate.org

During the last 3 years NoFit State has established itself as the UK's leading contemporary circus company.

The wind is rising on *Barricade*, a spectacular new open-air show about bridging the gaps, overcoming the obstacles and dealing with the disturbances that whirr us away from our friends and obstruct us from achieving our goals. An iconic new set structure divides the audience and sets the scene for a maelstrom of high skill aerial and acrobatic acts, powerful images of creation and destruction, comedy chases and a spectacular fire show finale.

Commissioned by the European network ZEPA, Barricade will be created at Atelier 231 in Sotteville-en-Rouen and tour England and France in 2011 and 2012.

Pif Paf

The Submercycle

Pete Gunson
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w: www.pif-paf.co.uk

Beautifully crafted and expertly piloted, waiting to take you on a voyage into the deepest seas of your imagination. All you have to do is find the jetty and your trusty steward Bergamot, will take care of the rest. Set off on the voyage of your life with surprises and adventures along the way. Pince the pincers, ring the ships bells and wonder at the wonders.

The Submercycle has been commissioned by The Sheffield Children's Festival.

Polymathematics

Puppit + Digit

Tom Walsh
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Amy Nicholson
e: amy@polymathematics.co.uk
w: www.polymathematics.co.uk

The Brainchild of Tom Walsh and Amy Nicholson, Polymathematics absorb our environment and reuse it to create new, unique and interesting work.

Not so long ago, in a galaxy far, far away…
Two mysterious life-forms set out on a journey to explore new worlds and learn about the cosmos. On New Year's Eve they entered our solar system and this summer they will arrive on planet Earth!

Using their technologically advanced sensors, you'll be able to share your stories with *Puppit + Digit* by logging your videos, photos and written words into their memory banks. Join in the interactive fun as they meet new friends the world over!

Supported by Applause Outdoors 212

Rannel

Fhlip Fhlop
e: info@rannel.co.uk
w: www.rannel.co.uk

Take a whole bag full of classic comedy routines, shake them up and update them for the hip-hop age and you have the exhilarating and hilarious *Flhip Flhop.*
Life can be really boring, especially when you're a decorator with time on your hands and beats in your head. But when your mate's into the same sounds as you are, work gets a bit funkier. This crazy pair of painters escape the monotony of their dull jobs by taking refuge in hip-hop, MC-ing and beatbox, mixing it up but usually ending up just mixed up.

Rebecca Ashton, Sophie Fuller and Alix Godden

Changes in The Current

The Right Step Dance Company
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w: www.therightstepdc.co.uk

Choreographers Rebecca Ashton of The Right Step Dance Company, Sophie Fuller and Alix Godden have been awarded a commission for their site-specific work *Changes in the Current*, a riverside performance incorporating dance, photography and the written word in an interactive 'visual memory bank'.

Reckless Invention

Turbo Jonez and The Temple of Boom

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w: www.recklessinvention.co.uk

Reckless Invention is a street theatre company that specialises in animating public spaces. We produce highly visual, interactive street theatre performances that engage with audiences and animate their environment.

Turbo Jonez is a Beats Archeologist. He's in search of the ultimate phat beat to scratch. His quest takes the audience on a musical journey through time. The perilous road takes us through some of the most dangerous and hideous tracks of the 90's 80's 70's 60's, all the way back to that fool Mozart and his crew. It's an endorphin rich soundtrack that assaults, teases, embraces, transforms and transports the audience through their own deep, secret memories of tunes that rock.

Swank

Jolly Holidays

Fool's Paradise, managing agent
t: 01392 454160
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w: foolsparadise.co.uk

Join the Jones' on their Jolly Holiday. Big Mam, Wee Dad, and their kids delectable Dolly and the ever naughty little Willy who push Nana Noreen in her armchair around the beautiful sites of your town. They are joined by recently returned Uncle Neville. This comedy odd ball, seaside postcard family are in search of a jolly good time.

tangled feet

Nathan Curry
t: 07986 300727 | e: currynathan@hotmail.com | w: www.tangledfeet.com

tangled feet are an award-winning physical theatre ensemble, dedicated to making innovative live performance. tangled feet are an ensemble of theatre practitioners committed to making original work. The company has developed a trademark style of experimental performance, which always begins from a process of physical improvisation and play.

That is Solid Turns Into Air
Industries have changed, bombs have fallen, tower blocks have soared and markets plummeted. The past is wiped away and new futures promised. How does a city survive as all that is solid melts into air? What does it take to let go of the past when the future is still out of reach? tangled feet tell the exhilarating and moving human story of urban regeneration in a gravity-defying piece of highly physical storytelling.

Hide
Everyone loves watching other people, there are an infinite amount of stories in the everyday; theatrical moments of happiness, hope and oddity. But do we see all the stories? Step inside The Hide and gaze across humanity in it's natural environment. You may even be in for a surprise! "The natural world is the greatest source of excitement." - David Attenborough

The Honk Project

Trundlehonk! Mr Honk's Sad Trombone

t: 01392 454160 (managing agent)
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w: www.honkproject.com

The Honk Project is a troupe of musical clowns, a medley of musical misfits, a bevvy of beavering brass bandits. We are all about bringing music and theatre clowning together in wonderful, hilarious, titillating, aurally and visually inspiring, and just generally rip-roaring shows.

What do you do when your musical instrument has a mind of its own? How do you cope when your team starts to test you?
In this hilarious, family-friendly walkabout show, meet the loveable Trundlehonk, a keen member of the local brass band, whose troublesome trolley and extremely wilful horn simply refuse to play along…
Complete with a magnificent stand-alone bandstand, Trundlehonk! is packed full of rousing live music, physical comedy and slapstick. A wonderful medley of mayhem that you won't want to miss!

Supported by Applause Outdoors 212

The Sparky Initiative

Opening Parade

Ciaran McKay & Charlie Cook
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charliecookdesign@gmail.com

The Sparky Initiative have been working with local schools, the University of Kent, community groups and recreational groups, as well as professional and amateur performers, to create a really unique and vibrant parade, celebrating river Medway and its heritage. This is a true spectacle of the creative talents here in Medway.

What's Coming Out Of The Box?

Spread The Love

Estelle Rosenfeld
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w: www.what-box.org/

Spread the Love is a walkabout piece, exploring sensory responses to the question: What is Love? It is the cheese on the toast, the cherry on the cake, the pink and fluffy and the warm fuzzy feeling inside!

The love is spread by our 'love machines', performers who are the two-halves of a single heart and they use all five senses to ask and propose answers to our question. Participants peep through a hole in the performer's heart hat and watch a short animation film about what love is. They hear love songs from around the world, by listening through the love machine's gloves. Some participants might touch the fluff, the fur, the sticky, the warm and the ice-cold through feely pockets concealed in the performer's cloak. For taste there are love hearts that the machine distributes and participants can smell what love is as scents are spayed onto a special *Spread the Love* card which they take away as a keepsake.

Supported by Applause Outdoors 212