

XTRAX

SIRF26



XTRAX x SIRF

Professional Programme

Friday 31 July - Sunday 2 August 2026

ARC, Stockton Arts Centre, Dovecot Street, Stockton on Tees, TS18 1LL

*Presented in partnership with OutdoorArtsUK, Without Walls and
The Engine Room at Stockton International Riverside Festival 2026*

Contents

1. [The Engine Room: Tees Valley Spotlight](#)
2. [XTRAX Panel Discussion in Partnership with OutdoorArtsUK](#)
3. [XTRAX Shorts: Artist Pitching](#)
4. [Partners](#)



Evaluation Form

Thank you for joining us! Please take a few minutes to complete our evaluation form — your thoughts and reflections help us understand the impact of the programme, strengthen future conversations and support our funding applications. [Submit your feedback here](#)

[Submit Your Feedback](#) 

Captions

Captions and translations provided by [Wordl.ai](#)



Credits

Cover Image: Euforia, el origen photo by Ovidiu Matiu
Booklet Design: OutdoorArtsUK

The Engine Room: Tees Valley Spotlight

Friday 31 July, 2.30pm - 4.30pm

Presented by The Engine Room, this session brings together artists, producers, and cultural leaders from across the Tees Valley to share how local talent development, festival programming, and regional investment are creating pathways to international stages.

Hear directly from a new generation of Tees Valley creatives and join Alex Ferris (Chief Executive & Creative Director of Stockton ARC), Heather Walker (Creative Place Programmes Manager, Tees Valley Combined Authority) and other UK and international voices for a panel discussion, *From Local Roots to Global Reach*. The session will explore what it takes for artists rooted in place to build genuine international careers. The ambition, strategy and partnerships that make touring possible, without losing the sense of place that shapes the work.

Tees Valley Combined Authority's Engine Room is a transformative programme designed to position Tees Valley as a nationally recognised hub for creative production and export. It aims to grow the region's cultural economy by investing in talent, infrastructure, and business support, while fostering inclusion, sustainability, and strategic alignment with the Tees Valley Investment Zone. The Engine Room is being delivered in partnership with key cultural organisations including ARC, Stockton Arts Centre, MIMA, New Writing North and Creative Factory through investment from Arts Council England, Tees Valley Combined Authority and UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

The programme aims to:

- Grow the creative sector and build resilience in the creative economy
- Raise the profile of the Tees Valley as a hub of creative production.
- Build skills and capacity across all career stages
- Strengthen infrastructure by acquiring and refurbishing creative spaces and piloting a Creative Land Trust model across Tees Valley.
- Support entrepreneurship through a new Creative Agency and a Creative Export Loan Scheme.
- Promote inclusion and sustainability in all aspects of delivery.

Delivered by Stockton International Riverside Festival in partnership with The Engine Room on behalf of the Tees Valley Mayor and Combined Authority. Funded by UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Arts Council England.

XTRAX Panel Discussion

In Partnership with OutdoorArtsUK

Culture, Identity and Belonging in the Streets

Saturday 1 August, 10am - 12pm

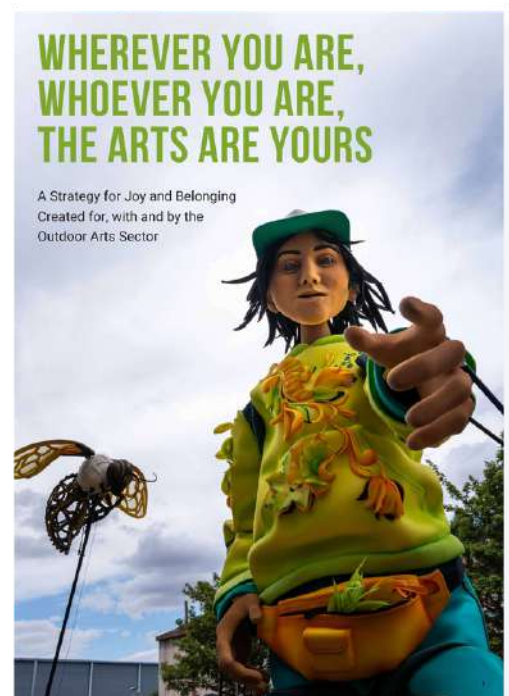
Chaired by [Dr Beatriz Garcia](#)

Featuring Olivier Lataste, Director [Cratère Surfaces](#), Kate Wood, Artistic & Executive Director, [Activate Performing Arts](#) & [Inside Out Dorset](#) and Sho Shibata, Director, [OutdoorArtsUK](#)

As public spaces become increasingly shaped by politics, identity and competing claims of belonging, this panel explores how outdoor arts can foster inclusion, empathy and shared ownership of space. Drawing on perspectives from the UK, Europe and Asia, speakers will examine the challenges facing the sector and ask what role outdoor arts can play in a world marked by deepening division.

Outdoor Arts Sector Strategy

The panellists will discuss the outdoor arts sector strategy, which was commissioned in partnership with Without Walls and 101 Outdoor Arts. The strategy, [Wherever You Are, Whoever You Are, The Arts Are Yours: A Strategy for Joy and Belonging created for, with and by the Outdoor Arts Sector](#), sets out a vision and framework to strengthen the outdoor arts sector over the next ten years. It brings together insights from the sector survey, consultations, interviews and roundtables conducted over the past 12 months. It provides a foundation for the future – focusing on vision, value and challenge – and outlines key objectives as a shared framework that reflects the diverse voices of the sector. [Find out more & read the strategy](#)



Speakers



Dr Beatriz Garcia, Chair of the Board, Walk The Plank (Chair)

Dr Beatriz García is Chair of Walk the Plank, the UK's pioneering outdoor arts and pyrotechnic company, and an internationally recognised authority on culture-led regeneration and the cultural impact of major events. For over 27 years she has examined how culture in public space transforms cities — tracking the cultural programme of every Olympic Games since 1912 and every European Capital of Culture since 1985, and documenting each edition first-hand since 1999. A member of the International Olympic Committee's Culture & Olympic Heritage Commission and Honorary Senior Research Fellow at the University of Liverpool, she advises cities worldwide on placemaking, festivals and outdoor arts.



Olivier Lataste, Director, Cratère Surface (France)

Olivier Lataste is Director of the Theater Le Cratère « Scène nationale » in Alès (France) since October 2021, and its street arts festival Cratère Surfaces. After earning an engineering degree, Olivier worked in Spain and Toulouse as an IT project manager for the National Centre for Space Studies. An avid amateur theater enthusiast, he became deeply engaged in the world of production and touring after supporting a show at the Avignon Off Festival in 2001. Following a postgraduate degree in artistic direction of cultural projects in Montpellier and an internship at Aurillac Festival, Olivier served as administrator for Transe Express company and La Gare à Coulisses.



Kate Wood, Executive and Artistic Director, Activate Performing Arts (UK)

Kate has over thirty years' experience working in the arts, from performing and tour management, through to her Artistic and Executive Director roles, taking Activate from a county-based organisation to one working with international artists and producers, and one that works on major projects such as Green Space dark Skies with Walk The Plank and Nature Calling with the National Landscape Association. Activate believe that anything's possible and everyone's invited and has been producing its programmes with artists that create unforgettable moments for over 35 years, with Kate as its Director for 21 of those years.



Sho Shibata, Director, OutdoorArtsUK (UK)

Sho is the Director of OutdoorArtsUK, a membership organisation that supports and advocates for artists, producers and event organisers of the outdoor arts sector. Its members are committed to widening access to culture by activating outdoor spaces through artistic work. Sho was previously the Executive Producer of Stopgap Dance Company for 16 years, bringing together D/deaf, Disabled, neurodivergent and non-disabled artists, producers and audiences. Sho serves on Arts Council England's Race Advisory Committee and is a member of its Area Council in the South East. He also sits on the board of Play to the Crowd, the umbrella organisation for Winchester Hat Fair.

XTRAX Shorts

Artists Pitching Overview

Presented in partnership with Without Walls
Sunday 2 August, 10am - 12pm

Click the
hyperlinks
for pitch
details

Featuring:

1. [Chair! by Geraldine Pilgrim Performance Company](#)
2. [A Place Between Mass & Echoes by Inviktus and Symoné](#)
3. [When I Grow Up, I Want to be a... by Nikki Charlesworth Productions](#)
4. [Balance by Blaze Tarsha](#)
5. [Flock by Jennifer Essex](#)
6. [The Groove Mission by Urban Kaos](#)
7. [The Ultimate Players Handbook by Kevin Turner, Company Chameleon](#)
8. [The Divination Palace by Jim Parris, Nzi Dada](#)
9. [FOCASA Festival & the Taiwanese scene](#)
10. [Hualien Performing Public Space Festival Taiwan](#)
11. [Strange Seed Shizuoka & the Japanese scene](#)

XTRAX Shorts is a strand of showcasing developed by XTRAX, designed to complement our showcase programme by providing an opportunity for artists to give a presentation to an audience of promoters and street arts professionals about new or recent outdoor projects.

We are delighted that XTRAX Shorts 2026 at SIRF is presented in partnership with Without Walls.

“Without Walls works with artists at every stage of development, from early R&D through to touring. XTRAX Shorts gives us the chance to bring some of those artists into conversation with programmers and partners at a moment when that exchange can genuinely shape what the work becomes. The four companies pitching this year have all been supported by Without Walls, and all have work that deserves to be seen. We’re glad to be part of a session that creates exactly that kind of opportunity.”

- Without Walls

1. CHAIR!

by Geraldine Pilgrim
Performance Company



[Back to Pitches](#)

CHAIR! by Geraldine Pilgrim

Performance Company

About the Show

CHAIR! A performance that celebrates the act of sitting down. When did our public seating disappear and what would happen if we brought it back? Set in a dreamlike world, CHAIR! imagines how we can once again have public spaces that care. Where people can sit uninterrupted ready to relax, work, remember and have time and place to dream. This performance with chairs plus every day and surreal objects and actions reiterates the fact that everyone has the right to sit down.

About the Company

Geraldine Pilgrim Performance Company has specialised for over 20 years in creating innovative socially engaged participatory site- specific and site- responsive performances with the aim to create performances and events that reach the highest standards of artistic achievement with the participation of young people, older people and arts and community groups working alongside our professional practitioners. Through this method the multi -generational and multi -cultural participants are enabled to learn by doing, increase wellbeing and continue life- long learning within a supportive environment.

About the Person Pitching

Geraldine Pilgrim is a director/designer and installation artist working across theatre and the visual arts. She is known for her evocative installations and site-specific performances that create a contemporary dialogue with occupied and deserted historic houses, buildings and landscapes both in the UK and across Europe. She is also Artistic Director of Geraldine Pilgrim Performance Company which she set up to create socially engaged participatory site-specific and site-responsive performances and events and was co-founder and Artistic Director of Hesitate and Demonstrate visual theatre touring company for eleven years.

Show Details

Stage project is at
Running time
Touring party size
Area required
Art Form(s)

Touring
30 minutes
5/6
Min 10m X 10m
Outdoor Visual Performance

 geraldinepilgrim01@gmail.com

 [Find out more about the show](#)

 +44(0)7961464226



[Back to Pitches](#)

2. A Place Between Mass & Echoes

by Inviktus and Symoné



[Back to Pitches](#)

A Place Between Mass & Echoes by Inviktus and Symoné

About the Show

A Place Between Mass & Echoes (2025) is an outdoor roller-skating dance work created with Inviktus, a collective of LGBTQIA+ and POC skaters mixing latinx and hip-hop, dance, circus, and live djing. Blending choreographed routines with freestyle skating, their work draws from house dance, roller disco and circus to create high energy performance grounded in exchange, empowerment and collective rhythm. The show is a love letter to skate culture and the social dance spaces that foster belonging, while also reflecting on the loss of communal spaces and the impact of social isolation.

About the Company

Inviktus is a roller skating dance collective of seven LGBTQIA+ and POC performers founded in 2024 by director and Guinness World Record holding circus artist Symoné. Rooted in the global street skate community, the collective brings together distinct identities, movement languages and skill sets under one shared ethos: many bodies, one momentum.

About the Person Pitching

Symoné is an interdisciplinary director and performer working across live art and outdoor and indoor theatre. Other indoor and outdoor productions include The Body Is Obsolete (2026), Nullspace Motel (2025), UTOPIAN (t&c's apply) (2022), and Euphorica (2022). Across these works, Symoné combines non-linear storytelling with sensorial emotional environments and movement-based performance to examine how communities gather, celebrate and imagine new futures. Symoné is currently a board trustee with The Posh Club by Duckie and co-curator for Queering the Arts Outdoors with 101 Outdoor Arts.

Show Details

Stage project is at

Running time

Touring party size

Area required

Art Form(s)

R&D seeking funding / Preparing for 2027 touring
20-25 minutes

5

5x5m hard flooring, levelled flooring

Dance, Performance Art Theatre, Circus

✉ productions@symoneperformingartist.com

🌐 [Find out more about the show](#)

☎ +44(0)7766596622



[Back to Pitches](#)

3. When I Grow Up, I Want to be a...

by Nikki Charlesworth
Productions



[Back to Pitches](#)

When I Grow Up, I Want to be a... by Nikki Charlesworth Productions

About the Show

“When I grow up, I want to be a...” will be a puppet show, focused on children and their dreams. Exploring what disabled children want to be when they're older, the world telling them they can't because they're disabled, and the puppets showing the world who is boss. It is a flagship production, exploring the artistic and storytelling potential of puppetry and Visual Vernacular (VV) when combined.

About the Company

Nikki (Theatre Designer and Maker) and Hearn (Dancer and Actor) are both leading practitioners of accessible theatre and have worked together on outdoor and mid-large scale theatrical productions that champion the artistic integration of access. Their collaboration on What Happened to You?, toured nationally and internationally across diverse spaces including outdoor studios, libraries and hospitals, thematically exploring disability and the importance of access and inclusion for young children through puppetry.

About the Person Pitching

Nikki Charlesworth is a Theatre Designer, Maker and Facilitator, Puppet Designer and Puppeteer. Passionate about access, inclusion and breaking down barriers for Deaf and disabled artists and audiences, Nikki has worked at the forefront of disabled-led theatre making, championing the creative integration of access. Her work as a designer has visited both theatres and unconventional spaces across the UK and internationally. Recent/current collaborations include: Diverse City, Buxton Opera House, 1623 Theatre Company, LipService Theatre and Leeds Playhouse. Nikki also creates new work as Designer and Director under Nikki Charlesworth Productions and has toured nationally and internationally. Her work is unique in its nurturing focus on puppetry, health and disability for young audiences.

Show Details

Stage project is at

Running time

Touring party size

Area required

Art Form(s)

Creation and Research and Development

40 minutes

5

Flat, level access

Puppetry, Dance, Visual Vernacular (VV)

✉ NCharlesworthProductions@gmail.com

🌐 [Find out more about the show](#)

☎ +44(0)7900384502



[Back to Pitches](#)

4. Balance

by Blaze Tarsha



[Back to Pitches](#)

BALANCE

Balance by Blaze Tarsha

About the Show

"The ordinary is sometimes the extraordinary." Balance is a physical affirmation — a manifestation of inner strength and unity. Balance inspired by African head carrying and the tottenham court basket carrying races. This universal tradition is connected to all cultures, not only does it unify us, but it ignites the individual's self-strength, resilience, and pride. Balance begins as a walkabout, a moving installation of vibrant characters who engage with the public with playful charm navigating the space whilst balancing large objects on their heads. They show off tricks, play with risk and perform in the novelty of grace under pressure. What starts off as a solo becomes a public invitation for the audience to join in for a joyful but unpredictable basket balancing race.

About the Company

Driven by a passion for creativity, inclusivity, and social connection, Blaze Tarsha stands proudly in celebration of diversity. The company aims to challenge perceptions, build cultural bridges, and highlight the beauty that exists within our differences. By creating memorable shared experiences, Blaze Tarsha continues to use performance as a powerful tool for storytelling, education, and community empowerment, leaving audiences inspired long after the spectacle has ended.

About the Person Pitching

Blaze circus and theatre artist - who's career evolved into a multidisciplinary artist, toured internationally with Nofitstate Circus as Aerialist after which she Co founded Just More Productions as Creative Director and producer of "Do What Ya Mama Told Ya!" Blaze continues to grow as Artistic Director and as Physical Theatre Circus Performer that is particular interested in incorporating cultural creative impulses into outdoor work.

Show Details

Stage project is at

Running time

Touring party size

Area required

Art Form(s)

Development / Touring

30 - 40 minutes

6

Large Outdoor Space - Market - Town square

Walk about - Street Theatre, Circus, Dance, Acrobatics

✉ Blazetarsha@gmail.com

🌐 [Find out more about the show](#)

☎ +44(0)7481906052



[Back to Pitches](#)

5. Flock

by Jennifer Essex



[Back to Pitches](#)

Flock by Jennifer Essex

About the Show

Flock is a playful, interactive movement experience for children, families, and adventurous adults. Participants put on wireless headphones, immerse themselves in music and voice prompts, and become part of a living, moving “flock.” Through synchronised action, wearable design, and collective play, the work transforms public space into a site of imagination, connection, and shared movement.

About the Company

Jennifer Essex Dance specialises in work that is interactive, strikingly visual, joyful and collaborative. Recent work has focused on large scale participatory projects with community at their heart.

About the Person Pitching

Dr Jennifer Essex is a dance artist, choreographer, and Artistic Director whose practice explores communication, attention, and collective participation in public contexts. Her large scale co created works, including HOME (2024), engage diverse communities through site specific performance, movement, sound, and participatory design. Supported by Arts Council England, her practice spans festivals, galleries, and public space, combining choreography, interactive design, and inclusive, audience centred methodologies.

Show Details

Stage project is at

Running time

Touring party size

Area required

Art Form(s)

Research and Development

30 minutes

2

Walk about

Dance

✉ jen.j.w.essex@gmail.com

🌐 [Find out more about the artist](#)

☎ +44(0)7969447177



[Back to Pitches](#)

6. The Groove Mission by Urban Kaos



[Back to Pitches](#)

The Groove Mission by Urban Kaos

About the Show

OUR MISSION- To bring GROOVE to gatherings, FUNK to festivals and HAPPINESS to hearts. To get parents PARTYING, kids CAVORTING, strangers STRUTTING and the masses MOVING together. An outdoor participatory dance experience where young hearts run free!

A fierce, high energy walkabout dance trio storming outdoor spaces in bright, festival vibe costumes. We use music that ignites the soul, invites and uplifts an audience. Using euphoric anthems, driving beats and soaring feel good melodies (with a little touch of dance party cheese for good measure!) that provokes nostalgia inducing joy.

About the Company

We are a dynamic, Stockton-based creative dance and production company known for our energetic performances, engaging workshops and community-focused events across the North East of England. Founded in 2005, our organisation has built an outstanding reputation for bringing movement, passion and creativity to people of all ages and abilities. We are more than just a dance company - we aim to provide safe, joyful experiences—where people can connect, share stories, and feel heard. Our interactive project style aims to combat inactivity, promote physical and mental well-being, and equip participants and audiences with the tools to lead happier, healthier and more fulfilling lives.

About the People Pitching

Over more than two decades, Amy Walton and Kelly Ensbury have developed Urban Kaos into a force to be reckoned with! Their work spans school programmes, festival appearances and bespoke community projects that champion inclusion, creativity and confidence-building. Through tailored workshops and performances, the founders encourage participants to explore movement, express themselves and engage with others in fun, supportive environments. Examples of previous outdoor work includes: Fenwick Christmas Window Reveal, SIRF, Festival of Thrift, Orange PIP Market, Between the Tides, Redcar Kite Festival, Tall Ships, Pride events UK wide, Darlington by the Sea, Darlington Dance Festival, Thames Festival, Coventry Festival, Manchester Day Parade.

Show Details

Stage project is at

Running time

Touring party size

Area required

Art Form(s)

Ready to tour

30 minutes

4

Static or processional, adaptable piece

Dance, community, participatory

 info@urban-kaos.co.uk

 [Find out more about the artist](#)

 +44(0)7734174602



[Back to Pitches](#)

7. The Ultimate Player's Handbook

by Kevin Turner, Company Chameleon



[Back to Pitches](#)

The Ultimate Player's Handbook by Kevin Turner, Company Chameleon

About the Show

The Ultimate Player's Handbook is a co-production by Company Chameleon (UK) & Clémentine & Lisard (Spain). In the heart of a town square, a living handbook unfolds: one written not on paper, but in movement, strategy, and play. The Ultimate Player's Handbook is a vibrant street performance that explores the games we play every day, where rules are made and broken, roles shift between winner and loser, and cooperation is as vital as competition. Co-directed by Clémentine & Lisard and Company Chameleon, the piece transforms a public space into a playground, where teams form, alliances shift, and every move asks us to reflect on the parts we play: on stage, in life, and in the spaces between.

About the Company

Company Chameleon started when Kevin Edward Turner and Anthony Missen met at Trafford Youth Dance Theatre in the mid-1990s. Two ordinary lads from Manchester, they shared an ambition to dance professionally. After developing their talent they returned to Manchester in 2007 and Company Chameleon was born. Today, Company Chameleon tours internationally, staging over 50 indoor and outdoor performances every year.

About the Person Pitching

Kevin Edward Turner MBE (he / him) is the Artistic Director and Co-Founder. Kevin started dancing at the age of eight with Trafford Youth Dance Theatre. His formal studies were at the Northern school of Contemporary Dance where he gained a first class degree. Kevin co-founded Company Chameleon in 2007 and has since created, performed, led, directed, produced and facilitated performances, masterclasses, workshops, residences, interventions and participatory projects nationally and internationally. In 2025, Kevin was appointed MBE and recognised in the New Year Honours list, for his services to dance and mental health.

Show Details

Stage project is at

Running time

Touring party size

Area required

Art Form(s)

Touring

25 minutes

5/6

10m x 10m flat even surface

Dance

 Kevin@companychameleon.com

 [Find out more about the show](#)

 +44(0)7760888928



[Back to Pitches](#)

8. The Divination Palace

by Jim Parris, Nzi Dada



[Back to Pitches](#)

The Divination Palace by Jim Parris,

Nzi Dada

About the Show

The Divination Palace is inspired by traditional African art, architecture and Yoruba cosmology. A joyful and reflective experience that invites you to participate in a moment of divination and a ritual. In The Divination Palace each participant randomly takes 1 of 16 different cards and is then guided to a specific cloth banner, with accompanying music and movement. As a result of their collective action, the appearance of the palace is transformed into vibrant colours and patterns, creating a distinctly African spectacle.

About the Company

Jim Parris (Artist and Academic) met Xumo Nounjio (Artist and Composer) in 1987 when they were both living in Barcelona and have collaborated ever since, working as the company Nzi Dada. Jim currently lives in Manchester, UK and Xumo lives in Olot, Catalunya. Between 2000 and 2008 Jim and Xumo created and presented shows at indoor and outdoor festivals in UK and across Europe including National Theatre London; Festival de Arte Contemporanea Madrid, Arts Festival Utrecht. Their work together reflects a joint interest in ancient African tradition whilst at the same time being fashioned by modern practices.

About the Person Pitching

Dr Jim Parris (Lead Artist) started the jazz band Carmel in 1981 and enjoyed many years of success as a recording artist, selling over 3 million records. As well as being an accomplished bass player, Jim has always had an interest in all aspects of performing arts. In 2000 he collaborated with dancer/performer/poet Benji Reid on the highly successful trilogy The Waiting Room. In February 2004, Jim completed the soundtrack to Lemn Sissay's one man play 'Something Dark' directed by John McGrath.

Show Details

Stage project is at

Running time

Touring party size

Area required

Art Form(s)

Touring

45 minutes

7

Min 14m x 14m

Installation, music and dance

 info@xtrax.org.uk

 [Find out more about the show](#)

 +44(0)7760888928



[Back to Pitches](#)

9. FOCASA Festival & the Taiwanese Scene (Festival)



[Back to Pitches](#)

FOCASA Festival & the Taiwanese Scene (Festival)

About the Festival

Founded in 2011, FOCASA Circus is Taiwan's first professional contemporary circus company, dedicated to advancing the art of contemporary circus. Since 2017, the company has been recognized for nine consecutive years by the National Culture and Arts Foundation as a recipient of the "TAIWAN TOP Performing Arts Group". Over the past fifteen years, FOCASA Circus has pioneered and cultivated the contemporary circus scene in Taiwan, transforming the island into fertile ground for the genre's growth. The company stages over 100 performances annually, both at home and abroad, and has toured 98 cities across 25 countries. Our presence has been featured on major international stages, including the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and the Festival OFFd'Avignon. In 2023, FOCASA launched Taiwan's first circus arts festival, attracting over 80,000 audience members and featuring international companies from 8 countries. The second edition in 2025 expanded to three circus tents, hosted an even broader range of international companies and welcomed 250,000 audiences. The third edition will take place in early 2027.

About the Person Pitching

Sophia Chang (Sophie) is currently the International Affairs Manager at FOCASA Circus in Taiwan, specializing in international touring and cross-cultural collaboration. In 2026, she has joined XTRAX as an international project manager. She is fluent in both Mandarin and English, and is dedicated to strengthening Taiwan's presence on the global performing arts stage.

 info@xtrax.org.uk

 [Find out more about the festival](#)

 +886902312909 (Whatsapp)



[Back to Pitches](#)

10. Hualien Performing Public Space Festival Taiwan (Festival)



[Back to Pitches](#)

Hualien Performing Public Space Festival Taiwan (Festival)

About the Festival

Hualien Performing Public Space Festival is a place-based festival organized by the Hualien County Cultural Affairs Bureau in eastern Taiwan. Through a guest curator model, each edition develops new site-specific works inspired by Hualien's culture, landscapes and communities, bringing contemporary arts into public space.

Hualien Performing Public Space Festival is a government-led festival that transforms public spaces into platforms for artistic creation and community engagement. Since its launch in 2020, each edition has invited guest curators to develop new site-specific works inspired by Hualien's unique landscapes, cultures and local stories. The festival brings together performing arts, visual arts, public art and outdoor performances while encouraging dialogue between artists, communities and place. Looking ahead to the 2027 edition, the festival aims to expand international collaborations and welcomes artists and festival partners to create new projects in Hualien.

About the Person Pitching

Yi Cian is the Project Coordinator of the Hualien Performing Public Space Festival. Since 2021, she has coordinated five editions of the festival, collaborating with guest curators to create new works inspired by Hualien's local culture, history, landscape and communities. She is interested in how outdoor arts can strengthen the relationship between people and place and looks forward to building future collaborations with international festivals and artists.

✉ hccc8227121@gmail.com

🌐 [Find out more about the festival](#)

☎ +886 963 586 556



[Back to Pitches](#)

11. Strange Seed Shizuoka & the Japanese scene (Festival)



[Back to Pitches](#)

Strange Seed Shizuoka & the Japanese scene (Festival)

About the Festival

Strange Seed Shizuoka began in 2016 as a unique street theatre festival unparalleled in Japan. The festival's slogan was 'What is street theatre?' This question provided festival organisers, artists, and audiences alike with an opportunity to encounter and re-examine street theatre as a new genre of expression. The festival aims to break down the barriers between the theatre and the public, creating an environment where everyone can enjoy theatre. The venues are concentrated within a 20-minute walk of each other, including the area around Sunpu Castle Park and Aoba Symbol Road. Strange Seed Shizuoka transforms the entire city, producing a magnificent gathering of street theatre!

Strange Seed Shizuoka launched 'Strange Lab' in 2025 to nurture and support street theatre artists. Current artists are Yukio Suzuki, Ryutaro Okuma, ZERO KO & Asami Yasumoto.

About the Person Pitching

Kazuki Sugai has been a part of contemporary dance company AfterImage since 2003, running their production and costumes department since 2010. During this time, he has also supported numerous performances as Performing Arts Coordinator for the Aichi Triennale and the Aichi Arts Center Dance Program. Kazuki has served as Festival Manager for street theatre festival "Strange Seed Shizuoka" since 2019 and taken on responsibility as International Coordinator since 2022. As of 2026, Kazuki manages the "Strange Lab" programme, the residency arm of Strange Seed Shizuoka's festival that is dedicated to nurturing and supporting emerging Japanese street artists.

✉ international@strangeseed.info

🌐 [Find out more about the festival](#)

☎ +81 90 3458 5185 (JAPAN)



[Back to Pitches](#)

Programme Partners

Xtrax

XTRAX

XTRAX supports the development of inspirational outdoor performance and delivers UK and international showcases, tours, and events. Established in 2001, we believe everyone has the right to experience great art in the streets, parks and public spaces where they live, and we help to make that happen. Based in Manchester and with a global outlook, we champion international mobility, brokering UK and international partnerships to help artists and festivals create extraordinary experiences for audiences, and to enable artists to generate touring income from their work. Talk to us if you'd like to discuss how to develop international connections for your projects. [Find out more](#)

Without Walls

 WITHOUT
WALLS

Without Walls is a network of over 35 organisations presenting the best outdoor arts to people in towns and cities across England. Since its formation in 2007, Without Walls has developed and toured over 200 new shows both in the UK and internationally across 22 countries.

Without Walls is supported by Arts Council England as a National Portfolio Organisation.

[Find out more](#)

OutdoorArtsUK

Out
door
Arts uk

OutdoorArtsUK is a national membership and strategic organisation that aims to bring together the many diverse parts of the Outdoor Arts sector. OutdoorArtsUK celebrates the amazing work, talent and achievements of the individuals, companies and organisations working in this most accessible of art forms. [Find out more](#)

Stockton International Riverside Festival

SIRF26

The Stockton International Riverside Festival (SIRF) is an annual free outdoor arts and street theatre festival in Stockton-on-Tees. Taking place in early August, it attracts international artists performing to thousands of spectators each year. It showcases outstanding international street theatre, dance, circus and music acts with a packed programme of shows for all the family. [Find out more](#)

The Engine Room

TEES
VALLEY

Tees Valley Combined Authority's The Engine Room aims to grow the region's cultural economy by investing in talent, infrastructure, and business support, while fostering inclusion, sustainability, and strategic alignment with the Tees Valley Investment Zone.



[Back to Contents](#)