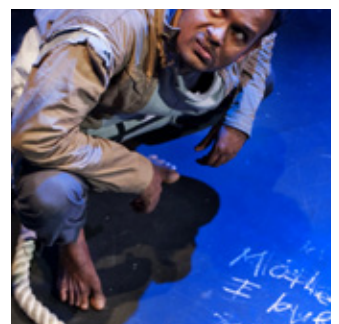
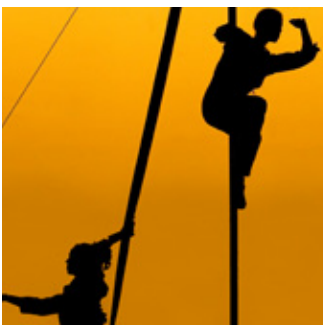
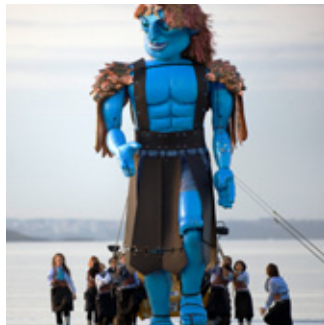




2012

PHYSICAL PERFORMANCE SECTOR IN SCOTLAND



An Overview of the Physical Performance Sector in Scotland

Prepared by Articulation

Introduction

The Physical Performance sector in Scotland has been undergoing a period of rapid development since 2005, partly as a result of several new initiatives but also simply because its time has come. There are now significant numbers of artists and practitioners working in the different genres that this sector represents with an increasing number being funded to create new work.

This document outlines the main initiatives and projects, and the relationships between them. Additionally, it provides information on some of the companies that are undertaking strategic work on behalf of the sector, either because this is their central focus or because they are significantly contributing to key sector needs. This document by no means provides an exhaustive list of companies working in Scotland in this sector; it is representative rather than all-encompassing.

- Articulation - umbrella strategic / development organisation
- Conflux - professional development body for physical performance
- Surge Festival - important public platform for Scottish physical performance: see Conflux
- SSCAN - Scottish Street and Circus Arts Network
- Iron-Oxide - specialist producers of physical performance
- UZ Arts - representative on In-Situ, pan-European street arts network
- EAAC - Edinburgh Aerial and Acrobatics Convention
- Physical Theatre Diploma - run by Adam Smith College
- Community Physical Performance
- Circus Teaching Standards in Scotland
- The Briggait - a proposed new national centre for dance, circus, street theatre and live art
- Cubed - a proposed new creation centre and presentation platform

It must be recognised that all of these developments build on the work of many individuals in the sector too numerous to mention by name. There are still areas that are much in need of development and associated investment, for example more performance opportunities are needed and there is a shortage of teachers available to meet the demand for outreach activities.

However Scottish physical performance is at a critical point where it can develop into a dynamic, high quality and sustainable sector. Additionally, Scotland is in a unique position as it will host the Commonwealth Games two years after the Olympics and this may provide further opportunities for this growing sector.

Context

'Physical Performance' is a term used to embrace the traditional dramatic arts of physical theatre, circus, street theatre, live art and outdoor spectacle, traditional arts that have long existed working often in harmony with music and dance since people have been able to gather to look at, and celebrate life. In our modern western culture such forms of dramatic theatrical performance have been pushed to the fringes by the dominance of the spoken word, the scripted piece and the clearly defined theatre space. In the live arts today, music and dance are all embracing terms; theatre is not. It is time to re-open and to broaden the definition of the word 'theatre'.

Physical performance has at its core a respect for both the human body as an endlessly versatile tool of communication and the capacity for any place, with due care and attention, to become a space for theatrical dramatic performance. The prime concern of physical performance is to draw attention to the performer's relationship with the space they occupy and as an extension of this, the performer's relationship with the audience. The opportunity to access physical performance, be it as an audience member or through educational or professional participation, should be made as widely available as possible.

On a professional level, the sector must aim for 'specialness'. This notion involves not just a promotion of 'high-quality' work, but work of difference and distinctness. This can be achieved through promoting an understanding of the development of physical performance in an international context, the pursuit of rigour, discipline, risk-taking, cross-form collaboration, the embracing of concepts from non-physical performance disciplines and a sustained drive towards raising the expectations of audiences themselves.

On the most fundamental level this perspective must be advocated through the development of the highest standards of safety and good practice in physical performance work. This in turn will ensure the sustainability and growth of the physical performance sector in Scotland.

Articulation

Status: *Scottish Charity / Co. Ltd by Guarantee
Scottish representative on Circostrada, the European network
for circus and street arts*

Website: www.articulation-arts.org

Contact: *Convenor* contact@articulation-arts.org



Articulation was created to provide a cohesive voice for the physical performance sector. The organisation supports the development of the sector through advocacy, strategic planning, facilitating partnerships and involvement with infrastructural initiatives. It also plays a role in supporting high quality – in the work itself, in health and safety and in teaching standards.

Articulation has a small Board made up of key individuals working to support the development of physical performance in Scotland. These individuals are listed in Appendix I.

Articulation has the following objectives:

- To advocate for the physical performance sector in Scotland to arts policy makers, politicians, and development and funding agencies
- To promote Scottish-based artists and companies
- To encourage co-operation and partnership working between physical performance organisations and artists
- To support the regular creation of high quality work by Scotland-based practitioners
- To encourage professional development of Scottish-based physical performance practitioners
- To encourage co-operation and facilitate partnerships between physical performance sector and the

wider cultural sector

- To facilitate the establishment of two or more permanent bases for physical performance in Scotland, one in Glasgow (the Briggait) and one in Edinburgh (Cubed)
- To facilitate the tuition of physical performance through supporting initiatives that lead to
 - a range of academically accredited / professional courses at different levels
 - high quality tuition training for the general public for all levels of capability
 - creation and implementation of teaching standards
 - provision of teacher training
- To explore the opportunities for Scottish-based physical performance sector provided by the cultural programmes of Olympic and Paralympic Games, Commonwealth Games and other large national events, including Legacy Trust UK regional and national projects
- To encourage wider year-round programming of physical performance arts in venues and festivals

Main Activities:

- Leading on strategic developments for the sector
- Instigating and developing relationships with policy makers, arts development agencies, UK and international organisations working to develop the sectors
- Encouraging partnership working between physical performance agencies and companies
- Providing advocacy
- Representing the physical performance sector within strategic initiatives such as the Briggait

In March 2012, Articulation published '*Circus in Scotland: a Blueprint for Development 2012-2107*' which provides an overview of the current status of this artform and a list of priorities for its effective development. A wider physical performance strategy is due later in 2012.

Conflux



Status: *4 year project supported by the Legacy Trust UK and Creative Scotland*

Note: Conflux is now attracting the support necessary to become a permanent, independent organisation from 2013.

Hosted by: *The Arches*

Website: www.conflux.co.uk

Contact: *Al Seed – Artistic Director alseed@conflux.co.uk*

Alan Richardson – Project Director alanrichardson@conflux.co.uk

The Legacy Trust UK and Creative Scotland have provided funding to support projects across the country that will have a long-term sustainable benefit to communities in the areas of sport, culture and education. CONFLUX is one of these.

The mission statement is as follows:

“CONFLUX will shape the landscape of Street Arts, Circus and Physical Theatre in Scotland for generations to come. CONFLUX will foster a thriving, high calibre Street Arts, Circus and Physical Theatre sector, producing groundbreaking performance while providing Scottish communities access to engaged participatory cultural endeavours.”

The specific remit of CONFLUX is to build, develop and support a thriving professional street arts, circus and physical theatre community that will in turn be able to deliver an extensive range of education opportunities to young people in Scotland. The aim of the project is to play a key role in ensuring that this community can be self-sustaining after 2013 when the project officially winds up.

The project is based at The Briggait and managed by The Arches, the principal delivery partner, who, with multiple partners including Adam Smith College, Creative Scotland and Iron-Oxide Ltd work together through an Advisory Panel for the project. The delivery of the project involves collaborations with venues and organisations across Scotland such as Dance Base, Mischief La-Bas, UZ Arts, Aerial Edge, Promote Yt, Theatre Modo, Oceanalover, MacRobert Arts Centre, Aberdeen International Youth Festival and The Palace, Kilmarnock amongst others.

Key activities of the project include:

- Festivals: Conflux runs the annual SURGE festival, to celebrate the range of activities it runs throughout the year, and to provide a public platform for Scottish physical performance. Features include performances from Scottish professional and emerging artists, high calibre international performances, workshops, masterclasses, residencies and other participatory activities.
- Artists' Residencies: The provision of space, funds, training and collaborative opportunities for professionals to create new work and develop their level of skill.
- Masterclasses: Some of the very best international (and Scottish) practitioners and companies are invited to deliver programmes of masterclass-intensives to professionals working in Scotland. They are also invited to present their own work to a public audience.
- Education and Outreach: Central to the project is an extensive range of participatory activities for young people (with a specific focus on 16-24 year-olds). This is a key means to building tomorrow's audience for physical performance, and engaging potential future performers.
- Platform for work: Creating touring circuits of venues, community settings and festivals for work in the sector.

Performance areas that the project supports include: multi disciplinary outdoor performance, physical theatre and movement work, circus (including aerial skills, acrobatics & acro-balance, manipulation & balancing skills), mask-work and mask-making, clown, site specific physical work and physical storytelling. Blending these forms with other disciplines, especially dance, puppetry and object theatre, is also supported and is seen as essential to development of these and other forms.

Scottish Street and Circus Arts Network

Status: *Informal e-group*

Contact: sscan.network@gmail.com



SSCAN is an informal network of professionals working primarily in physical performance including artists, performers, producers, technicians and programmers. SSCAN replaced an older network, Scottish Streetnet that was launched in 2004 primarily for street artists. The network plays a key role in disseminating information on a wide range of topics of interest to its members including training and job opportunities. It is also a forum for discussion. It has over 200 individual members and represents most of Scotland's physical performance companies (professional and community).

Membership to the network is free and is done simply by emailing SSCANetwork-subscribe@yahoogroups.co.uk

New members are required to complete a form that provides basic information on their practice. In the first 4 months of SSCAN's existence, a more extensive form was used in order to provide baseline data for future research in to the physical performance sector. A summary of this data is available on request.

Edinburgh Aerial and Acrobatic Convention

Status: *Unincorporated Association (not-for-profit)*
Website: www.eaac.info
Contact: info@circushost.com



EAAC is a 3-day event that introduces arts such as trapeze, acrobalance, tumbling and aerial hoop to the Scottish public in September each year. It is the UK's largest event of its kind and brings together individuals and groups from all over the country wishing to expand their existing practice through a wide range of workshops teaching new skills and arts.

The current aim is to further promote aerial and acrobatic arts and include a focus on teaching standards and safe practice. Many workshops are led by world class performers and teachers who pass on their skills and techniques to approximately 150 participants annually. The Convention also offers workshops in a number of disciplines rarely taught in Scotland.

Iron-Oxide

Status: *Scottish Charity / Co. Ltd by Guarantee*
Specialist producers for physical performance
Website: www.iron-oxide.org
Contact: contact@iron-oxide.org



Since its formation in 2006, Iron-Oxide has established itself as one of Scotland's leading creators of large-scale, outdoor work with a remit to capacity-build within Scotland. Iron-Oxide's first major production was an aerial adaptation of TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS for Edinburgh's Capital Christmas. In 2009, the company co-created and produced FEET FIRST, a major showcase of Scottish street and circus arts as part of Edinburgh's Hogmanay. 18 separate new works were commissioned which featured 150 artists and performers. In 2010, the company created CARGO, a Scottish-Government Expo-Funded co-production with the Edinburgh Mela.

In addition to its own work, the company has a strong commitment to supporting the growing Scottish street theatre and circus community and produces the work of a number of artists including Ramesh Meyyappan, Oceanalover, Adura Onashile and Strangebird Zirkus. It is also leading a number of strategic initiatives including Cubed (see below).

The company is currently developing Cumulus, a partnership approach to providing innovative, high quality, communal, on-line management resources to practitioners and organisations engaged in creating and producing performance arts work.

UZ Arts

Status: *Scottish Charity / Co. Ltd by Guarantee*
UK and Irish representative on In-Situ, pan-European street arts network
Website: www.uzarts.com
Contact: info@uzarts.com



UZ Arts works with artists in all art forms to create and produce work outside conventional venues. The company have commissioned a wide range of work as part of the festivals and one-off events they produce. As the UK and Irish representative to the pan-European street arts network In-Situ, UZ have raised the profile of Scottish artists in Europe and brokered and raised funds for cross border collaborations, productions and tours.

UZ also works closely with artists and companies developing and producing new shows including Mischief La Bas' "The Zoo". UZ create their own work directed by UZ's Neil Butler – in 2009 this included "Iconic Burns" to launch the Year of the Homecoming and the Finale of Big in Falkirk.

UZ are committed to cross art form and international collaboration and exchange. They have a close association with the Sura Medura Arts Centre in Sri Lanka and have facilitated international residencies and artist exchanges with the Centre.

In 2000, UZ developed and produced the first Big in Falkirk, Scotland's National Street Arts Festival in partnership with Falkirk Council. The event ran for 10 years as an annual, multi artform outdoor festival. UZ also developed the Merchant City Festival as a multi artform festival with a strong street arts programme.

Physical Theatre Diploma

Status: *course accredited by Adam Smith College*

Contact: simonabbott@adamsmith.ac.uk

The Diploma in Physical Theatre Practice offers the only accredited physical theatre training available in Scotland, and is organised in association with Adam Smith College and the Arches Theatre, Glasgow. A second Diploma in Circus Skills has been validated and although it is uncertain when this will commence.

Participatory Physical Performance in Scotland

Theatre Modo: www.theatremodo.com

Bright Night International: www.brightnightinternational.com

Physical performance is ideally suited for community engagement as it is inclusive and non-competitive and often attracts people who have shown no previous interest in culture or sport. Many Scottish companies and artists deliver participatory activities while also producing professional work.

Theatre Modo uses high quality engagement in circus, street theatre and carnival arts as a catalyst for individual and community change. It develops and directs participatory youth and community projects in Glasgow, Aberdeenshire and elsewhere across Scotland. The work ranges in scale from one-off skills workshops to large scale community extravaganzas involving hundreds of participants. It has developed its own social circus model, CircoModo.

Bright Night International is a social enterprise that aims to engage, inspire and promote inclusion in the arts through cross disciplinary performance, including parkour. It is working with Newcastle-based Let's Circus to develop techniques that encourage youth circus activity.

Circus Teaching Standards in Scotland

Aerial Edge: www.aerialedge.co.uk

All or Nothing: www.aerialdance.co.uk

Strangebird Zirkus: www.strangebirdzirkus.com

2009 saw the formation of SATA (Scottish Aerial Teachers Association) in response to awareness of the importance of teaching standards and teacher training; to date it has not proved to be more than a forum for discussion. However, standard setting (with respect to health and safety and teaching methods and techniques) is a core element for aerial companies teaching public and youth classes, particularly Aerial Edge, All or Nothing and Strangebird Zirkus. Standards may need to be ratified by other teachers in due course or modified to be more inclusive of other environments and skills. The Scottish sector is not yet of a size to have an independent body undertaking this work on behalf of the sector.

Infrastructure Projects

The Briggait houses a large, undeveloped shed space and the intention is to turn this into major centre for physical performance, dance and cross-artform collaboration.

The vision for the Briggait is to be:

“A crucible for experimentation; a hub; a home; delivering inspirational opportunities for training, making and sharing work in the cross-over worlds of dance, circus, live art, street performance and visual arts, providing opportunities for professional, aspirant and recreational practitioners of all ages & abilities to develop their practice... the Briggait will be a facility unique in the UK, nurturing creative interaction amongst diverse artforms and disciplines.”

Since 2010 the Briggait has been home to 45 visual artist's studios and the offices for several significant physical performance and dance organisations including Conflux, UZ Arts, Theatre Modo, YDance and Mischief La-Bas. The main hall has housed events, performances and workshops in circus, dance and other physical performance activities. It is already a creative hub.

The undeveloped shed space is used for developing physical performance work, rehearsals and training during the day, for circus classes in the evenings and for circus skill master classes most weekends. In addition to the aerial rig, there is a level, matted floor area for acrobatics and a 'messy space' for set and prop making. The shed does not have a heating that makes its use difficult in the winter. Currently, Conflux rents the shed from WASPS studios whilst Aerial Edge pays half of that rent and manages the rig and all circus activity there.

Wasps Studios are leading on the future Briggait development with Conflux and Dance House. Together the partners are planning a flexible space for training and professional development (as opposed to an education institution with a set curriculum and a tightly packed schedule or a creation house for end product). Internationally there are few places that would offer the same benefits to professional artists and companies to develop and make work, to be given enough time to play, devise and rehearse in a space fit for purpose and for that space to be housed in a building full of other artists of many varieties.

Cubed is a proposed centre in Edinburgh that would focus on the development of talent and the creation of high quality circus and physical theatre suitable for national and international touring. It would also serve as a specialist receiving venue for these artforms from all across Scotland, the UK and overseas.

In the UK, there is a major shortage of creation spaces for circus and physical theatre with none offering full performance conditions. The requirements of artists and companies creating work designed for national and international touring are not currently being addressed.

Not only would it serve a key role in moving forward the circus sector in Scotland, it would also be part of a growing international network of creation centres and venues working together to drive forward the creation of high quality circus. A beacon project such as this would garner much international attention from important circus organisations (whether venues, festivals or development organisations), thereby putting Scottish work very firmly on a wider platform.

A suitable building has been identified and a feasibility study is being undertaken by the two partners for this project, Iron-Oxide and Universal Arts. Provisional on the outcome of this study, the project aims to realise its plans by 2014.

Appendix 1: Articulation Board

The Board members of Articulation represent the major initiatives developing the physical performance sector in Scotland at present:

- Chloë Dear (Convenor) – Creative Producer of Iron-Oxide Ltd, Strategic Advisor to Conflux, Scottish representative on Circostrada
- Al Seed – Artistic Director of Conflux
- Alan Richardson – Project Director of Conflux
- Mark Gibson – co-Director of Aerial Edge, organiser of EAAC (Edinburgh Aerial and Acrobatic Convention)
- Martin Danziger – Artistic Director of Theatre Modo
- Neil Butler – Director of UZ Arts, Scottish representative on ISAN (Independent Street Arts Network)
- Sarah Jean Couzens – Company Manager of Mischief La-Bas
- Simon Abbott – initiator of and course leader for the diploma in Physical Theatre Practice
- Jaine Lumsden – Creative Scotland Observer
- Glasgow Life observer

Articulation effectively subsumed a previously existing informal body called the Scottish Street Arts Forum that met irregularly to discuss the strategic development of street arts in Scotland. Most of its members are now on the Board of Articulation or an observer.

Appendix 2: Other Relevant Initiatives and Organisations

2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and 2014 Commonwealth Games

The 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the 2014 Commonwealth Games may offer significant opportunities for physical performance.

Scotland is in an unprecedented position given the close proximity of these international events. In 2009 the Scottish Government mandated Creative Scotland (then Scottish Arts Council) to provide strategic leadership and co-ordination across the cultural sector, and related sectors, to develop, facilitate and deliver a coherent and meaningful programme of national activity in the context of London 2012 and Glasgow 2014. Glasgow Life on behalf of Glasgow City Council will support the delivery of various aspects (including Glasgow 2014 Cultural Programme (city) of the Games including citywide legacy.

Creative Scotland and Glasgow Life have co-authored *Scotland's London 2012 and Glasgow 2014 Cultural Plan*, which sets out the ambitions to capitalise on Scotland's unique position.

http://www.creativescotland.com/sites/default/files/editor/2012_to_2014_Cultural_Plan_0.doc

The Plan's overarching aims are to:

- develop and present an inspiring programme of exemplary activity that provides meaningful cultural experiences for Scotland's communities
- strengthen, support and sustain the cultural sector by creating new opportunities, increasing profile and nurturing collaborations
- challenge and inspire ambitious professional development within the cultural sector and across other

sectors (sport, health, science, tourism, natural and built environment, education etc)

The Plan's overarching objectives are to:

- create new artistic, cultural and creative experiences for Scotland's diverse communities, encouraging broader and deeper engagement and participation
- create new contexts, sites and settings for artistic, cultural and creative practitioners to develop and deepen their practice.
- promote and establish a fresh, sophisticated and contemporary image of Scotland that positions Scotland as a nation that is attractive to live in, invest in and to visit

The Plan's Legacy Objectives are:

- a body of creative work that has a lasting legacy and impact
- larger, more engaged (and new) audiences – both locally and internationally
- an enduring confident, contemporary image of Scotland presented to ourselves and across the world
- stronger international cultural networks (Olympic and Commonwealth)
- a more highly skilled, more confident and more ambitious cultural sector that can connect effectively with other sectors

Scotland's London 2012 and Glasgow 2014 Cultural Programme values have been selected to reflect the values of the modern Olympic movement and the Commonwealth Games' values of Humanity, Equality and Destiny. These universal principles have been combined with aspirations pertinent to Scotland's context which are to:

- promote quality of creative process, production and experience
- provide wide and diverse opportunity for cultural engagement
- generate a legacy via a long term and deep rooted approach to professional and audience development
- strengthen culture's potential to contribute to community development and community sustainability
- reflect individual, community and national identities and the relationships between nations and cultures
- celebrate success, achievement and the human spirit

Scottish Government and Glasgow City Council Plans

The Scottish Government's priority is to get the Scottish public to be physically active with people living long and healthy lives. Its plan is based around four themes:

- **An Active Scotland** - This may offer some opportunities for physical performance as the Scottish Government wants to attract people into exercise and physical activity for whom traditional forms of sport may not appeal.
- **A Connected Scotland** - The Scottish Government aims to motivate and inspire people across Scotland to celebrate Scotland's cultural wealth and to make international connections. There are specific programmes around learning, exchanges and third sector organisations. The Let's Get Scotland Dancing programme that aims to involve people across the country dancing could have some connection with physical performance. There is also reference to a large-scale outdoor celebration being planned by National Theatre of Scotland.

- **A Flourishing Scotland** - the opportunities that the Games will offer for businesses, tourism and improving the country's skills base.
- **A Sustainable Scotland** - the Games will act as an exemplar for environmental standards

On your marks ...Get set...Go: A games legacy for Scotland (published 2009)

http://gameslegacyscotland.org/sites/default/files/attachments/AnnualUpdate2011_0.pdf (update 2011)

Glasgow City Council's 2014 Legacy Plan aims to encourage people to get involved in sport, recreation, healthy living, cultural activity, training and volunteering up to and beyond 2014. The legacy for Glasgow will be a more prosperous, active, inclusive, accessible, green and international Glasgow. There is little specific detail on cultural activity.

<http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/A65EB7BF-63E9-4AEE-928F-1187990B29FD/0/GlasgowLegacyFrameworkdigitalversionupdated05May11.pdf>

ARTICULATION

Scotland's umbrella organisation for physical performance, it supports the development of the sector through advocacy, strategic planning, facilitating partnerships and close involvement with infrastructural initiatives.



All content © 2012 **Articulation Arts Ltd**

Physical Performance Sector in Scotland 2012

Prepared by Chloë Dear on behalf of **Articulation Arts Ltd**.

contact@articulation-arts.org <http://www.articulation-arts.org>

Design: VICKERSCREATIVE.CO.UK



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL