

# PERFORMING ARTIST SUPPORT IN SOMERSET

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## INTRODUCTION

Several organisations and companies offering support for Performing Artists and Freelance Creatives in Somerset have collectively created this document to highlight the resources and opportunities we're each able to share.

We've tried to be as clear and pragmatic as possible, stating what we all can, and can't, offer and who to contact in the first instance.

Please be aware that this information may change over time, so we'll do our best to keep it updated and relevant. If anyone else would like to add to this document, please let one of us know (contact details below) and we'll get back to you.

We hope you find this useful!

Take Art (Theatre & Dance); Taunton Brewhouse; The Octagon Theatre & Westlands Entertainment Venue; Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre; Little Bulb Theatre Company; and The David Hall.

**TAKE ART THEATRE**  
*Rural Arts Organisation*



### What we can offer at the moment

- **Networking events:** live and online to share ideas, news and good practice;
- **Advice and Support:** on funding applications, planning, company development, rural touring etc (face to face, email, telephone or zoom);
- **Training:** workshops on business planning, budgeting, funding, marketing etc;
- **Signposting:** brokering relationships between theatre-makers, programmers and promoters to develop performance opportunities in Somerset; signposting to other progression opportunities (festivals, funding, producers, training, networking events) locally, regionally and nationally;
- **Bi-monthly newsletter** with news from across the county, opportunities, resources etc.

### What we are not currently able to offer

- Rehearsal space;
- Commissions funding;
- Marketing Support.

### Partnership potential

Now that [BARN](#) has come to an end after 6 years, we no longer have some of the specific resources we were able to offer through that initiative (eg seed & growth fund). That said, as ever, we're always keen to work in partnership, so happy to talk about possible shared events, festivals, showcasing, scratch opportunities.

**Contact:** Mark Helyar (he/him), Director of Theatre: [mark@takeart.org](mailto:mark@takeart.org)

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

#### What we can offer at the moment

- **Networking events:** live and online to share ideas, news and good practice;
- **Advice and Support:** on funding applications, planning, company development, rural touring etc (face to face, email, telephone or zoom);
- **Training:** workshops on business planning, budgeting, funding, marketing etc;
- **Signposting:** brokering relationships between dance-makers, programmers and promoters;
- to develop performance opportunities in Somerset; signposting to other progression;
- opportunities (festivals, funding, producers, training, networking events) locally, regionally and nationally;
- **Bi-monthly newsletter** with news from across the county, opportunities, resources etc.

#### What we are not currently able to offer

- Marketing support;
- Rehearsal space.

**Contact:** Alison Lord (she/her), Director of Theatre: [alison@takeart.org](mailto:alison@takeart.org)

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

### TAUNTON BREWHOUSE

*Multi-arts performance venue in Taunton*



#### What we can offer at the moment

- In-kind space for Rehearsals, R&Ds etc;
- Feedback and guidance on ACE Project Grants applications (subject to staff capacity);
- Linking up artists with other artists, organisations or local bodies;
- Showcase opportunities (work-in-progress sharings, scratches);
- In kind space for networking meetings;
- Marketing advice (subject to staff capacity);
- Partnership working opportunities.

#### What we can offer when we have funding

- Seed funding;
- Training courses in creative and practical disciplines (writing, directing, marketing etc.);
- Commissions and co-productions.

#### What we are not currently able to offer

- Full producing;
- Tour booking.

**Contact:** Will Bourdillon (he/him), Artistic Programmes Manager: [will@tauntonbrewhouse.co.uk](mailto:will@tauntonbrewhouse.co.uk)

**Website:** <https://www.tauntonbrewhouse.co.uk/>

## THE OCTAGON THEATRE & WESTLANDS ENTERTAINMENT VENUE

*Multi-arts performance venues in Yeovil*



### What we can offer at the moment

- In-kind studio space for artists, creatives and performers for rehearsals, R&Ds etc. dependant on availability;
- In-kind space in our Lounge Bar at Westlands, for meetings or to work with free parking & Wi-Fi available;
- Support and guidance for emerging artists and practitioners on funding applications, personal and company development and signposting to opportunities as relevant;
- Able to introduce and help broker connections/relationships with companies, arts organisations or existing networks as appropriate;
- Commissions – small pots of funding available should the project meet our strategic objectives. Does involve an application process, details of which will be announced later this year;
- Co-productions - funding available should the project meet our strategic objectives;
- Platform for showcasing work – although hire costs of the theatre may apply.

### What we are not currently able to offer

- Full producing;
- Training courses or networking events.

### Partnership Potential

We are always keen to work in partnership, and happy to discuss opportunities to work in partnership on projects, events or productions that meet our strategic ambitions and objectives.

**Contact:** Katherine Hoskins (she/her), Arts Engagement & Outreach Manager:  
katherine.hoskins@somerset.gov.uk

**Website:** <https://www.octagon-theatre.co.uk/>

## LITTLE BULB

*National touring company based in Frome*



### What we can offer at the moment

- Artistic & producing mentoring;
- Opportunities to see work-in-progresses;
- Specific freelance performance opportunities (through recruitment process).

### What we are not currently able to offer

- Rehearsal space.

### Partnership Potential

- We make all our shows and projects in partnership with others. We are always open to conversations about shared ambition and how we can best work together to realise them.

**Contact:** Fiona Baxter (she/her), Executive Producer: fi@littlebulbtheatre.com

**Website:** <https://www.littlebulbtheatre.com/>

## TACCHI-MORRIS ARTS CENTRE

*Multi-arts performance venue in Taunton with a programme of professional, community and education shows. (Theatre, 240 capacity)*

Tacchi-Morris  
ARTS CENTRE

### What we can offer at the moment:

- **Rehearsal Space:** Ad-hoc, in-kind studio space for artists, creatives and performers for rehearsals, R&Ds etc;
- **Meeting/Work Space:** Ad-hoc, in-kind space in our foyer for meetings or to work (free Wi-Fi and coffee/tea available);
- **Advice and Support:** Information for emerging artists and practitioners on touring to venues, types of deals etc. (face to face, email, telephone).

### What we are not currently able to offer

- Producing;
- Training courses;
- Commissions and co-productions.

### Programming

We are keen to programme more work by Somerset artists, creatives and companies. We would be very happy to have face-to-face/telephone meetings to discuss in detail your show and if/how we could support it coming here.

### Partnership Potential

We are a small arts centre with limited resources, but we are open to working in partnership where possible and are happy to discuss opportunities to work in partnership on projects, events or productions.

**Contact:** Andy Pulleyn (he/him), Centre Director [andy@tacchi-morris.com](mailto:andy@tacchi-morris.com)

**Website:** <https://www.tacchi-morris.com/>

## THE DAVID HALL

*Performing Arts Centre in South Petherton*



### What we can offer

- **Rehearsal Space:** Studio space for artists, creatives and performers for rehearsals, R&Ds etc at a reduced hourly rate;
- **Meeting/Work Space:** Meeting space in our hall or meeting room (free Wi-Fi and coffee/tea available);
- **Advice and Support:** Information for emerging artists and practitioners on touring to venues, types of deals etc. (face to face, email, telephone);
- **Programming:** We are keen to programme more work by Somerset artists, creatives and companies. We would be very happy to have meetings to discuss in detail your show and if/how we could support it coming here.

### What we are not currently able to offer

- Producing;
- Training courses;
- Commissions and co-productions.

### Partnership Potential

We are a small rural arts centre with limited resources, but we are open to working in partnership where possible and are happy to discuss opportunities to work in partnership on projects, events or productions.

**Contact:** Emma Westerman (she/her), Programme Manager: [emma@thedavidhall.org.uk](mailto:emma@thedavidhall.org.uk)

**Website:** <https://www.thedavidhall.com/>