

folkestone fringeopen

FOLKESTONE TRIENNIAL 2021 (22nd July-02 Nov)
FOLKESTONE FRINGE TRIENNIAL : WHAT'S HAPPENING, *EXACTLY?*
FRINGE OPEN : SUBPLOT
CATCH THE UNDERCURRENT

Fringe Open is officially *Open* for business...and this year, it is the *SubPlot* to the biggest of all *Plots*.

WHO WE ARE & WHAT OUR PART IS IN THE FOLKESTONE TRIENNIAL

Folkestone Fringe (ff) is an artist-led organisation set up in 2008 to provide opportunities for local responses to the first international Folkestone Triennial. Providing exceptional programmes around each ensuing Triennial, as 'Folkestone Fringe Triennial', ff also develops year-round programmes of festivals & artist-led activities.

Folkestone Fringe Triennial 2021 will deliver an exceptional programme of 3 platforms - curated, open & associate, comprising 140+ events between July - November 21. The project will place challenging, reflective & inspirational voices in the context of the international showcase of the Folkestone Triennial.

Folkestone Fringe poses the question, What's Happening, Exactly? in response to the Creative Folkestone Triennial - "The Plot". Using this question as a title to frame our activity throughout the programme period. This question arose out of lockdown, when our homes & neighbourhoods became our world & many people came to see their immediate surroundings differently. It also affected some of our deepest relationships – family, friends, work colleagues – fracturing some & forging others. Since then, we have used this open question to assess our circumstances globally; addressing wider challenges such as the Refugee crisis, Black Lives Matter movements & the climate emergency. And it is for 2021 that this question develops again, in becoming an overarching title and contextual framework for the work we do throughout the Triennial

period. That work will take shape in 3 strands - Fringe Open being one of them - as its own "Subplot" in response to the themes & questions asked... and with its own story to tell.

WHAT IS FRINGE OPEN?

Fringe Open is the central showcase for a huge range of creative activities taking advantage of the excitement & vibrancy stimulated by the Folkestone Triennial. In 2021, "Subplot" is the chosen title for Fringe Open in response to the Triennial theme "The Plot", and acts as its very own fringe programme that forms its own narrative arc, primarily led by you.

We support lots of people & groups, who are sometimes making their first step on to a public platform, to show work, alongside the major artworks exhibitions. To do this, Fringe Open offers a helping hand to all individuals / collectives who are interested, to develop and express their creativity, no matter their age, background or experience, whilst taking advantage of the activity stimulated by the Triennial period.

From our side - we want to encourage you to join in the fun and activity that takes over the town during the Folkestone Triennial. This year, Fringe Open will host a programme that will span across a summer & autumn season running alongside the Triennial period. To do this - we will support you in showing your work; by helping you make connections; with production queries; liaising with councils / permissions; with timetabling; & with marketing.

WHAT DOES FRINGE OPEN OFFER?

Are you an artist, and want some help with getting your work out there? Are you a local group who are working on a project you'd like to share with others? Are you a business who has a spare wall & wants to be part of the map? Are you someone with a hobby, like gardening, collecting, or running for instance, & want to do more with it?

Everyone & anyone who wants to get involved in Fringe Open and be in the programme - can be - whether you're an individual or group. We just need some information from you & we can start the work together from there.

- We will support you with marketing: We will work with you to develop how you'd like your work to be put out into the world, i.e. through using unique marketing tools such as building your own

profiles, to audience numbers & outreach plans. Generally, we will also continuously publicise your work across our social media channels, our monthly/weekly newsletters, our website, within the digital & printed programmes, as well as through specific target / outreach plans, for the Triennial period.

- We will help you make connections: It's important for you to come to us with a rough idea of where / how you may like your work to be shown, and then we can help you by assisting with the connection to that space. We don't ourselves have spaces to give you, but we are able to help you think about possible locations and connect you to people that might be able to help, i.e. in somewhere unexpected or whether it's outdoors/indoors for instance. Through this, we'll keep in mind the businesses that have come to us in offering their space to be part of the Fringe Open map, and whether networks could be matched up, as well as liaise with the council & with permissions if needs be. Of course, if you have already attained a space, then it can fit into the programme like the rest no problem - it doesn't matter if this is not in Folkestone, it can be anywhere in the surrounding areas to us.
- We will help you with production queries: Fringe Open requires the work to be as self-sufficient as it can be. You will organise and implement the making of your work independently, and in some circumstances, we may be able to offer additional production support.
- We will help you with timetabling: We'll ensure that there are no major clashes, and also help you come to a confirmed date around what other activities are happening, for showing your work. If you can, come to us with a rough date in mind (there is an option on the form as to whether you'd like to present in the summer or autumn season to help us get an initial idea). The Triennial this year is going to be a very busy time, with lots of layers of activity to it as well as visitors, so the two seasons of the Fringe Open programme will of course be happening alongside other events/workshops which we or our associates will be producing.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Think this could be an avenue for you? We'd love to hear from you. If you'd like to list your work, event, exhibitions or activities, email us on **info@folkestonefringe.com** to tell us about it, and we can start a conversation from there.

Submissions for the first round of Fringe Open came in thick and fast! The second round deadline is 10th August, and the submission form will be going live again in early July.

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