

## Visual Theatre Lab: Puppetry, Technology & Micro Cinema in Theatre

Delivered by Lyth Arts &  
Manipulate Arts

Open to **Highlands & Islands and rural based artists and theatre practitioners (18+)** interested in learning more about puppetry, technology in theatre and micro cinema practices and how these elements can inform and add to their work.

Maximum of 14 places available.

**Dates:** Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th May 2024

**Location:** Lyth Arts Centre, [Lyth, Wick KW1 4UD](#)

**Schedule:** 10-6pm daily, plus animation screening and dinner on Saturday night.

Lunch on both days and an evening meal on Saturday will be provided.

**Travel & Accommodation Support:** 6 accommodation places are available for participating artists at Lyth Arts for the Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights (nights on either side can be discussed with LAC). Travel bursaries are available for anyone travelling outside of Caithness, please let us know in your expression of interest if you require a travel bursary and where you will be traveling from. We may ask participants to car share where possible.

**Visual Theatre Lab Content:** The weekend will include practical sessions from visiting artists, sharings from Caithness based CAIR Residency Artists, discussion and information from Manipulate Arts and Lyth Arts about opportunities for development and presenting work through their programmes - as well as time to be social and explore the surrounding area. Visiting artist details and example sessions are described below.

**Manipulate Arts** (formerly Puppet Animation Scotland)  
Registered charity (SC022042) Summerhall, Edinburgh EH9 1PL [info@manipulatearts.co.uk](mailto:info@manipulatearts.co.uk)

**Lyth Arts Centre**  
Registered charity (SC047359) Lyth Arts Centre, Wick KW1 4UD 01955 641434 [info@lytharts.org.uk](mailto:info@lytharts.org.uk)

Visiting Artist: **Gavin Glover**

With many years' experience as a theatre practitioner, Gavin Glover specialises in puppetry, live feed micro cinema, film making and art installations. Gavin will lead a practical puppetry for contemporary theatre session on the Saturday and a hands-on introduction to micro cinema on the Sunday.

### **Session 1 Acting the Puppet**

By exploring the ways a puppet can walk, run, stumble and fall, we can discover its reactions, feelings and even its sense of humour. By rekindling our sense of play we can create stories and happenings suitable for any audience.

### **Session 2 Micro Cinema**

If we point little cameras at tiny objects we can discover extraordinary details and hidden movements in the most mundane of spaces. By playing with colour, focus and light, we can find surprising narratives in every action to create a fascinating new type of cinema.

Visiting Artist: **Althea Young**

Althea Young is a performance maker and facilitator based in Glasgow. She makes performances for people of all ages and is especially fond of creating unique worlds, where ordinary objects come to life, often using non-human 'performers' to explore ideas of humanness.

Althea will lead a practical session exploring the role of objects and technology as live performers and active characters in theatre making.

CAIR Artist **Micah Mackay**

Micah is an emerging screenwriter, theatre-maker, and historian who works part-time for An Tobar and Mull Theatre.

Micah will share elements of her theatre project in development- Puppet Strings -which uses puppetry, shadow work, and soundscapes to create an 'internal world' for the lead character.

About the organisers:

**Manipulate Arts** The mission of Manipulate Arts is to champion, develop and present brilliant animated film, puppetry and visual theatre in Scotland and internationally.

Formerly known as Puppet Animation Scotland, all of our work is focused around artforms which breathe life into the inanimate or tell stories using primarily images rather than text. Play and manipulation are at the heart of all the work that we champion and support – whether of puppets, objects, digital imagery, or of the human body. We believe that the common thread between these artforms lies in the opportunities they create to discover the latent magic in the everyday, to find common visual languages beyond the reach of words, and to enable play at all stages of our lives.

**Lyth Arts** Lyth Arts Centre (LAC) is Scotland's most northerly mainland arts centre, presenting an annual programme of live performance across Caithness and North Sutherland alongside contemporary visual art and an extensive participatory programme of educational and socially- engaged arts projects led by local creatives in our community.

LAC uses buildings, venues and spaces around the whole county to programme place-based events, socially engaged residencies, touring performances and creative workshops to thematically explore our idiosyncratic location of remoteness, rurality, renewable powerhouse, crumbling industry, graffitied town centres and vast people-less beaches, questioning what it means to be urban and rural and how the two link in our communities. Our North Highland community is at the heart of everything we do and we work across the county acting as a cultural hub for the North of Scotland.

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Please get in touch with an expression of interest to apply for a place on the Visual Theatre Lab by sending an email to Sinéad Hargan [sinead@lytharts.org.uk](mailto:sinead@lytharts.org.uk)

This email should outline:

- your interest in the Visual Theatre Lab weekend
- a summary of your own artistic practice and where you are based
- what you hope to gain from the weekend

Please let us know if you would like an accommodation place, if you would like to access the travel bursary and if you have any access needs when you get in touch.

The deadline for applications is **30<sup>th</sup> April**, as there are limited spaces we encourage early expressions of interest.



Images: Micro Cinema Workshop, Manipulate Festival 2023 Sally Jubb