

Gavin Stride Curriculum Vitae

Personal Details

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Career Synopsis

Gavin has spent the past 30 years as a director and producer of new theatre, predominantly in new spaces for new audiences. He has a proven track record as a fundraiser, partnership builder and policy influencer. Over the past 15 years Gavin has built Farnham Maltings into a creative organisation that works regionally, nationally and internationally in support of the independent theatre sector and of the crafts. He is the Chair of Wildworks, based in Cornwall and was previously Vice-Chair of the regional council for ACE, South East, Chair of the Independent Theatre Council and Crying Out Loud. He has contributed to conferences and publications on creative business and the independent arts sector and is a Fellow of the RSA.

Employment History

Chief Executive

2003 – to date

Farnham Maltings, caravan and house

Responsible for repositioning the organisation as a creative organisation that supports performing arts and crafts across South East England.

Founding 'house' as a 200-venue network designed to collectively present contemporary theatre across the East and South East of England.

Established 'caravan' as the international showcase of contemporary performance for England within the Brighton Festival. Extended this programme to include taking programmes of new work to North America and China. Managing a year of exchange with Korea with ARCO and ACE and sustaining the work of Visiting Arts.

Establishing Farnham:craft town as a distinct identity and set of actions for the town which is now nominated for World Craft City status.

Secured over £1.5m from trusts and foundations in the past two years for the creation of new art works for the South East of England.

Leading 'Things to do before we die' as a region wide initiative responding to the challenges of diversifying the audience and workforce amongst the region's NPOs.

Artistic Director

1994 - 2002

New Perspectives Theatre Company

Responsible for all aspects of the regional touring company for the East Midlands. Diversified activities to include running of Mansfield arts centre and a programme of participatory arts.

Director Humberside Theatre in Education <i>Responsible for the development and direction of work for young people. Reorganised company in preparation for Unitary Authority Status. Piloted Performance Indicators.</i>	1993 - 1994
Associate Director Royal Theatre, Northampton	1990 - 1993
Director Watford Palace TIE	1987 – 1990
Youth Theatre Director. Salisbury Playhouse	1979 – 1980

Recent Achievements

Arts Council NPO process 2012, 2015 and 2018. Increased revenue funding from £52k to £920k per annum.

Catalyst. Led consortia bid with four market town arts centres to develop new funding sources £280k

South Wing. £2.6 million capital development of redundant kilns at Farnham Maltings. Sources included Local Authorities, Trusts, Legacies and private giving. Completed on time and within budget.

New Popular. £800k investment from Esme Fairbairn towards the development of new theatre work for new audiences in towns.

Rothschilds. £150k investment to test the presentation of work in libraries across Buckinghamshire.

Caravan. £300k project including investment from UKTI, SEEDA, British Council, ACE, Local Authorities to deliver regional International export programme. Every two years since 2008

Craft South. A significant regional development organisation to promote craft enterprise in the South East region. ACE, SE grant in process,

New Popular. £800k investment from Esme Fairbairn towards the development of new theatre work for new audiences in towns.

Establishing *No Strings Attached* as a small grants scheme for young theatre makers to support their first arts project post graduation.

Commissioned and Directed *Brilliance by Kevin Dyer* which toured twice nationally to village halls and was a finalist in the NRTF new play awards.

Recipient of the Writers Guild of Great Britain Olwyn Whymark Theatre Encouragement Award .

Conference and Festival contributions (recent)

Panel Speaker Dunkfest, Germany. International collaborations. 2017

Speaker to Canadian Governor General conference 2016. Working together

Speaker ACE/RSA State of the Arts Conference 2010 and 2011

Keynote Speaker National Society of Music Support Services 2015

Speaker, Balkans Arts Fair, Tbilisi Nov 2005 and 2008, touring work to rural communities

Keynote speaker, Magnetic North Theatre Festival, Canada, *The European Context for Touring Canada* 2016,

Platform debate, Push Theatre festival, Vancouver. *International Collaborations* 2012 and 15
Keynote speaker, National Rural Touring Forum, *Why theatre*, 2014
Speaker, Theatre 2000 and 2004, *Independent Theatre*
Conference Chair, Theatre 2005
Convenor, Arts and Suburbia with the School of Suburban Studies, Kingston University. 2004

Professional Roles (selected)

Boards and Committees

Chair Wildworks, Cornwall 2018 – to date
Chair Crying Out Loud. 2010 – 2016
Vice-Chair Regional Council Arts Council England, South East, 2005 – 2015
Chair of Independent Theatre Council, 2000 - 2007
Board Member East Midlands Arts. 2000 – 2005

Working Groups

RSA/ACE state of the Arts research group 2013
Philanthropy in the Arts ACE, 2011
New Economics Foundation. The Social value of theatre. Jointly commissioned by ITC, TMA and SOLT, DCMS. Arts in Rural England, 1999-2001
Witness at Parliamentary Select Committee Enquiry into Theatre 2006
Best Value consultancy group for Audit Commission 2001
ACE Rural Arts Forum member 2006
Not for the Likes of You, National Audience Development Programme, 2010

Consultancies

Somerset Thrive, developing joint working with 16 creative organisations,
University of East Anglia, Developing MA in Creative Entrepreneurship, 2014
University of Sussex, MA Arts Management, 2015

Publications

Rural myths - *Arts Professional* 2016
Keep theatre live - *Guardian Online* 2015
There is such a thing as society – *The Stage*, 2015
Surrey seems to be the hardest word – *Arts Professional*, 2018
Village halls are not the only fruit – *Mailout*, 2014