

# Gavin Stride Curriculum Vitae

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## Personal Details

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## Career Synopsis

Gavin has spent the past 25 years as a director and producer of new arts work, predominantly in new spaces for new audiences. He has taken work to the National Theatre, Georgia and his production of Independent People was selected for the Reykjavik City of Culture in 2000. Over the past decade Gavin has established Farnham Maltings as a creative organisation that encourages the most people to make the best art they can. Gavin is the chair of Wildworks and was previously Vice-Chair of the regional council for ACE, South East and Chair of the Independent Theatre Council. He is a regular contributor to discussions on supporting new creative business and on sustaining touring theatre.

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## Employment History

### Chief Executive

2003 – to date

Farnham Maltings, caravan and house

*Responsible for repositioning the organisation as a creative centre that supports performing arts and crafts across South East England. Established business support, international export programme and a rural arts initiative. Founder of 'House' – a 190 venue network designed to present more theatre across the East and South East of England. Established 'Caravan' as the international showcase of contemporary performance.*

*Now leading 'Things to do before we die' as a region wide initiative to respond 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

1993 - 1994

Humberside Theatre in Education

*Responsible for the development and direction of work for young people. Reorganised company in preparation for Unitary Authority Status. Piloted Performance Indicators.*

### Associate Director

1990 - 1993

Royal Theatre, Northampton

### Director

1987 - 1990

Watford Palace TIE

### Training Officer

1984 - 1986

Thamesmead CVS

**Youth Theatre Director.**  
Salisbury Playhouse

1979 – 1980

### Artistic Achievements (selected)

Producer 'Caravan Abroad' taking a cohort of English performance to North America and China 2015 and 16

Writer and Director *The Iranian Feast* and *In Praise of Elephants*. Two national tours in 2013 and 2015

Director *The Drawer Boy* UK premier in collaboration with Passe Murialle, Toronto. 2011

Writer and Director. *Polish Play* Regional and two national tours to village halls of an event-based piece based on the experiences of new migrants, 2006/07

Producer *Thank God for Cod*. A new play on the history of the world from the Cod's point of view. Toured Arts Centres and village halls, 2007

Director. *Independent People* by Halldor Laxness. Toured village halls across East Midlands and to Reykjavik as British contribution to the European City of Culture, 2000.

Writer and Director. *Walking the Tightrope* a play for five year olds and their grandparents. Two UK tours. Festival performances in Scotland, Ireland and Denmark and the National theatre, 1999

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### Recent Funding Achievements

*NPO process 2012 and 2015*. Secured revenue funding through the National Portfolio Process that has allowed the Farnham Maltings to lead on international export and touring theatre across east and southeast England

*Catalyst*. Led consortia bid with four market town arts centres to develop new funding sources £180k

*Made Well*. 100k year long craft residency programme for Surrey.

*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. 2006

*Caravan*. £210k project including investment from UKTI, SEEDA, British Council, ACE, Local Authorities to deliver regional International export programme. 2008, 10, 12, 14, 16

*So Surrey* £180k new investment into two year Creative Communities project involving nine district and borough authorities. 2008

*Craft South*. A significant regional development organisation to promote craft enterprise in the South East region. ACE, SE grant in process, 2010

*Farnham Creates*. [www.farnhamcreates.com](http://www.farnhamcreates.com). A collaborative initiative between the Farnham Maltings, Craft Study Centre, New Ashgate Gallery and the University College at Farnham to promote culture and creativity. 23K Arts Council England, SE grant, 2011/13

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### Conference and Festival contributions (recent)

Panel Speaker Dunkfest, Germany. International collaborations. 2015

Speaker to Canadian Governor General 2010. Working together

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

Keynote Speaker National Society of Music Support Services 2011

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* 2004, 2006  
Platform debate, Push Theatre festival, Vancouver. *International Collaborations* 2007, 2008  
Keynote speaker, National Rural Touring Forum, *Why theatre*, 2006  
Speaker, Theatre 2000, *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 2018 – to date  
Chair Crying Out Loud. 2010 – 2015  
Vice-Chair Regional Council Arts Council England, South East, 2005 – 2015  
Chair of Independent Theatre Council, 2000 - 2007  
Accredited Coach with Performance Coach Training 2009  
Board Member East Midlands Arts. 2000 – 2005  
UK Assitej representative, 1994  
Founder and Chair of Pride of Place. A national grouping for rural touring theatre companies, 1995 – to date.  
Presenting bi-annual national conferences since 1998.

### 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, 2008  
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, 2003

### Consultancies

Somerset Thrive, developing joint working with 16 creative organisations, 2008  
University of East Anglia, Developing MA in Creative Entrepreneurship, 2007  
University of Sussex, MA Arts Management, 2006  
New Dawn, ERDF Objective 2 bid for Nottinghamshire County Council to develop Cultural Tourism programme, 1998  
Lincolnshire RCC, Creative Consultation Programme for Market Towns, 2001

### Publications

Rural myths - *Arts Professional* 2006  
Keep theatre live - *Guardian Online* 2007  
There is such a thing as society – *The Stage*, 2004  
Surrey seems to be the hardest word – *Arts Professional*, 2003  
Village halls are not the only fruit – *Mailout*, 2006

### Memberships

Fellow Royal Society of the Arts  
Member ITC  
Member Assitej  
Member Trans European Halle  
Member Informal European Theatre Movement