

# Gavin Stride Curriculum Vitae

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## Personal Details

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## Career Synopsis

Gavin has spent the past 30 years as a leader of creative organisations. He is a maker and producer of new theatre, predominantly for rural communities. He has a proven track record as a fundraiser, partnership builder and policy influencer. Over the past 18 years Gavin has built Farnham Maltings into a creative organisation that works regionally, nationally, and internationally in support of everyday culture. He is the Chair of Wildworks, based in Cornwall and was previously Vice-Chair of the regional council for ACE, Southeast, 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. He is currently co-chair of Surrey Cultural Partnership.

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## Employment History

### Executive Director

May 23 –

Island Collection, Isle of Wight

*Leading the establishment of a new Arts Council NPO which has the ambition to encourage shared ambition, nurture talent, support creative education and produce a cultural strategy for the Isle of Wight*

### Chief Executive

2003 – 2022

Farnham Maltings, caravan and house

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

*Founded 'house' as a 180-venue network designed to collectively present contemporary theatre across the East and South East of England.*

*Established 'caravan' as the international assembly for contemporary performance in 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.*

*Established Farnham:craft town as a distinct identity and set of actions for the town which has secured World Craft City status.*

*Developed a programme of work to animate library spaces across Surrey as performance, exhibition and workshop spaces.*

*Raised over £2.5m 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**

**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**

**Youth Theatre Director.**

**1979 – 1980**

**Salisbury Playhouse**

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## Recent Achievements

*Arts Council NPO process 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2023 - 26.* Increased revenue funding from £52k to £920k per annum.

*New Popular.* £800k investment from Esme Fairbairn towards the development of new theatre work for working class audiences in towns across the South East.

*Rothschilds.* £180k investment to test the presentation of work in libraries across Buckinghamshire.

*Catalyst.* Led consortia bid to ACE 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.

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

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

Recipient of the Olwyn Whymark Theatre Encouragement Award .

Awarded Farnham Community Champion by FTC and the Herald. 2022

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## Conference and Festival contributions (recent)

Panel Speaker Dunkfest, Germany. International collaborations. 2019

Speaker to Canadian Governor General conference 2018. Working together

Speaker ACE/RSA State of the Arts Conference 2015 and 2017

Keynote Speaker National Society of Music Support Services 2016  
Speaker, Balkans Arts Fair, Tbilisi Nov 2015 and 2018, touring work to rural communities  
Keynote speaker, Magnetic North Theatre Festival, Canada, *The European Context for Touring* Canada 2017, 2020  
Platform debate, Push Theatre festival, Vancouver. *International Collaborations* 2012, 15 and 18  
Keynote speaker, National Rural Touring Forum, *Why theatre*, 2018  
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 2018  
Not for the Likes of You, National Audience Development Programme, 2012

### Consultancies

Somerset Thrive, developing joint working with 16 creative organisations,  
University of East Anglia, Developing MA in Creative Entrepreneurship, 2018  
University of Sussex, MA Arts Management, 2017

### Publications

Rural myths - *Arts Professional* 2018  
Keep theatre live - *Guardian Online* 2016  
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*, 2020