**Mackie, Will**

Will Mackie is a literature professional with experience in publishing, writer development and educational settings. He works extensively as an editor of poetry and fiction, with a particular emphasis on list building and long-term creative support. Additionally he has devised and managed development activities for new writers and emerging talent, and has supervised mentoring and retreat programmes for established authors. He also lectures in publishing and creative writing and works as an editorial consultant. He was Director of the independent literary publisher Flambard and Head of Writer Development for Scottish Book Trust, and has a background as an editor at trade publishers in London and Edinburgh. He holds an MA in English Literature from Leeds University.

**Malcolm, Tamara**
Tamara Malcolm is a theatre production consultant. From 2002 to 2009, she was Project Executive Producer, Casting Adviser and Fundraiser to London-based Collective Artistes, a black theatre ensemble from the African diaspora. Her seven-year regime of black theatre visits nationally informs all her work. Out of the Box Productions and The African Consortium were beneficiaries of Tamara’s fundraising, and she has been consulted by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. Founder/Director of The Theatre, Chipping Norton, Tamara was among the first to promote theatre companies Cheek by Jowl and ATC. As producer, she commissioned such writers and composers, as Henry Livings, Sarah Travis, Biyi Bandele, Femi Osofisan, Jeff Clarke and Graeme Garden. Prior to management, Tamara was an actor, most memorably in Peter Brook’s *Marat/Sade* for the RSC. She was awarded an MBE for services to theatre in 2001. She is on the board of Arts in Rural Gloucester 2003.

**Martin, David**

David Martin is the Operations Manager for Bristol Museums, Galleries and Archives. This role includes overseeing Operations at Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, M Shed, Red Lodge, Georgian House and Blaise Castle House Museum. David has over 15 years’ experience working in a variety of roles for UK arts organisations. Aside from dealing with operational activity and visitor services David has a wealth of experience in exhibition production. In his role of Gallery Manager at Camden Arts Centre (London) David delivered the technical solutions for exhibitions including Glenn Ligon, Bruce Lacey, Dieter Roth, Kara Walker and Joao Gusmao & Pedro Paiva. David also worked as the Technical Manager for Spike Island Artspace (Bristol) working with a variety of artists including Laure Provost and Haroon Mirza.

**Matthews, Steven**
Steven Matthews is a poet and critic who is based at the University of Reading. His collection of poetry, *Skying*, appeared from Waterloo Press in 2012. Subsequent work has appeared in a variety of journals and anthologies, including *Poetry and Audience* and *Stand Magazine*. Steven is the author also of seven critical books relating to modern and contemporary poetry and fiction. He has been a regular reviewer of poetry in the *TLS* and *Poetry Review*, and currently writes for the *London Magazine*. Steven is a former editor of *Poetry Dublin*.

**McAllister, Ron**

Ron McAllister became Head of Music at South Hill Park Arts Centre in 1983, commissioning new work, promoting festival activity and serving on the Music Panel of Southern Arts. In 1989 he opened The Maltings Arts Centre in the Borders, where he established an orchestral season, folk festival and producing base for community productions and professional touring. In 1991 he launched Huddersfield’s Lawrence Batley Theatre. Ron launched tours with Theatre de Complicite, The Featherstonehaughs, Benji Reid and Faulty Optic, and was on the Board of the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival for ten years. In 2001 Ron returned to South Hill Park as Chief Executive. Since then he has worked on projects across all artforms – Wildefire, Bracknell Festival, SWALK, the CIAO Festival and Big Day Out, co-commissioned work from dreamthinkspeak and Protein Dance, developed projects with emerging companies, composed music for touring productions and advised on Arts Council England’s Dance Panel.

In recent years Ron has steered South Hill Park Arts Centre through a time of change and development, as CEO, produced the first UK /European tour from Australian company Circa, and has composed for National touring productions of Dracula (Blackeyed Theatre) and Othello (Icarus Theatre Collective.)

**McCarthy, Shaun**

Shaun McCarthy has been a professional playwright and author for over 25 years. Stage productions include *A Christmas Carol, Smoke and Mirrors*, *Circus Britannica* and *Beanfield* (all Bike Shed Theatre), *Safe* (Mokita-Grit Productions), *London Isn’t Venice* (Mutiny Arts), and *Honest: untouchable*, *See His Face* and *A Frail Light in the Desert* (all Bristol Old Vic). Radio dramas include *The Aran Isles* (R4 Classic Serial) and *Fireworks* (R4 Saturday Play). Shaun has written over 20 study guides to English literature and a series of ‘how to’ creative writing guides. He has held a couple of dozen writer-in-residence posts, in every form of institution from festivals to prisons, boarding schools to hostels for the homeless. Shaun teaches short courses and master classes in writing for performance at Oxford and Bristol universities.

**Merrick, Paul**

Paul Merrick is a practicing visual artist, represented by Workplace Gallery, Gateshead and currently works as a freelance education artist at BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art. He has over 20 years experience and expertise of making works for exhibitions which are presented nationally and internationally in galleries, museums and art fairs. Recent exhibitions include solo presentation at Workplace Gallery, Gateshead, *RIFF,* Baltic|39, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK*, Tip of the Iceberg,* Contemporary Art Society, London, UK, *MALEREI Painting as Object*, Transition Gallery, London, UK *The New Domestic Landscape*, Northern gallery for Contemporary Art, Sunderland. Paul has worked with an extensive number of arts organisations and galleries within the North East region devising and delivering art projects for a broad range of people (BALTIC, NGCA, Shipley Art Gallery, DLI Museum Art Gallery, Woodhorn Museum). In addition he has also worked in partnership with Great North Run Culture (Lead Education Artist), Tees Valley Arts (Host Artist / Arts Award), Koestler Trust, Northern Architecture, CBBC, Children in Need and Creative Partnerships (Creative Agent). Paul is currently also visiting tutor at Newcastle, Loughborough and Teesside Universities.

**McGowan, Hilary**

Hilary McGowan works with museums and heritage organisations to help them stand on their own two feet, be strong and survive into the future. She has over 30 years’ experience of this sector, some of that time as a museums and culture director in York, Exeter and Bristol, and for the last 17 years, she has run her own successful business. In that time, she has worked with over 60 organisations and has clients all over the country. Hilary is known for being an advocate of professional development, having chaired the Museums Association’s Development Committee which launched the new AMA and FMA, introducing the concept of mentoring and CPD to museums. Hilary is a Trustee of Bletchley Park, chairman of The Beecroft Bequest, an AMA Reviewer and a Fellowship Assessor.

**McLean, Rita**

Rita McLean is a museums and heritage consultant. She has worked across the UK museums and heritage sector throughout her career in a range of curatorial, museum development and senior management roles. She was Director of Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery (BMAG) from 2004 until 2012, and prior to this, a member of BMAG’s senior management team with responsibility for the management and development of the service’s historic house/community museums and sites. Her experience spans the delivery of a number of major capital development projects, collections development and interpretation programmes, workforce and audience development and diversity initiatives. Rita’s current consultancy work includes a range of assignments for the Heritage Lottery Fund as a project mentor and monitor. She is currently a member of ACE’s Museum Accreditation Panel, Deputy Chair of the National Trust’s Midlands Advisory Board, a Governor of Compton Verney House Trust and a board member of the Drum intercultural arts centre.

**McManus, Clare**

Clare originally trained in mime and theatre and toured in small-scale theatre for 10 years. She has extensive experience as a project manager and local authority arts officer, with a particular interest in social inclusion and cultural planning, linking arts and heritage into education, environment, health, and housing. As Director of a cultural regeneration agency in Sheffield for 10 years she specialised in strategic initiatives with non-arts partners and in advocacy for the integration of culture into communities. She led on consortium development as lead management agent winning over £600K in contracts for 5 small arts companies. She was a mentor and monitor for HLF on community engagement and is a board member of several arts, heritage & environment organisations. Following an MA in Theatre & Performance at the University of Sheffield she has returned to her performing roots and in particular developed a love of one-to-one performance and live arts.

**McMillan, Andrew**

Andrew McMillan was born in South Yorkshire in 1988; his debut collection *physical* was the first ever poetry collection to win The Guardian First Book Award. The collection also won the Fenton Aldeburgh First Collection Prize, was shortlisted for the Dylan Thomas Prize, Costa Poetry Award and the Forward Prize for Best First Collection. It was a Poetry Book Society Recommendation for autumn 2015.  In 2014 he received a substantial Northern Writers' Award. He currently lectures in Creative Writing at Liverpool John Moores University and lives in Manchester.

**McNulty, Paddy**

Paddy McNulty originally trained as an archaeologist working for leading archaeology units, including Wessex Archaeology and MoLA. With over 15 years’ experience in archaeology, museums, and cultural heritage he is a Director of Paddy McNulty Associates, a leading cultural heritage and museums consultancy. At MoLA Paddy became involved in community archaeology projects and went on to develop and delivery activities across South East England. Whilst continuing to be involved in museum activities he worked at MLA London and went freelance in 2010. Paddy has been commissioned to deliver a variety of projects – from developing activities, to wide scale organisational and strategic development projects, through to original research in cross-sector partnership working. His clients have included a diverse range of Independent, Local Authority, and University museums, such as the Museum of London, London Transport Museum, and UCL Public and Cultural Engagement (PACE) – as well as arts and literacy development agencies, including Artswork and The Reading Agency. He is a Trustee of the London Museums Group and an advocate for innovation and creativity in museums.

**Mead, Steve**
Steve Mead is Artistic Director at Manchester Jazz Festival, which he co-founded in 1996, and during which time he has pioneered schemes for commissioning new work and platforms for encouraging original repertoire and young musicians. He is also co-director of Jazz North, the partnership-based jazz development organisation for northern England, founded in 2012 to develop performance opportunities and CPD schemes for musicians. Prior to 2012, he also co-directed NWJazzworks, its regional predecessor, from 2005. Delving further back, Steve composed for a variety of theatre, dance and radio projects – notably as a member of The Glee Club Performance Company – having studied composition, classical guitar, visual arts and writing for his Creative Arts degree. He now sits on several advisory panels for Jazz Services, PRS for Music Foundation and Serious. He enjoys a wide range of music, people and really old things that still work.

**Milican, Nikki**

Formerly a performance artist in the early 70’s she became involved in a more enabling role believing it to be more beneficial to all concerned! Many years were spent programming events cross all disciplines in the UK and internationally, including working for seminal venues such as Midland Group, Nottingham and Third Eye Centre, Glasgow, where she was able to develop festival and commissioning programmes that later became the back-grounding for her independent production company New Moves International (NMI). NMI was formed in 1993 and continued to produce The National Review of Live and New Moves Across Europe she had salvaged from the, by then defunct, TEC and MG. New Moves Across Europe evolved into New Territories to better reflect the growing trends of cross fertilisation between art forms; professional research and development programmes the Choreographic Core and International Winter School were also initiated. The NRLA reached its 30thanniversary in 2010 and the archive was gifted to the University of Bristol where it can be readily accessed in situ, or online. Both nominated (2000) and then awarded (2002) for Excellence in International Dance by the International Theatre Institute, she has also been awarded an honorary doctorate by the Royal Scottish Conservatoire, an MA (Nottingham Trent University) and an OBE for services to the performing arts.

**Mirkova, Lucie**

Lucie Mirkova has over 15 years’ experience working in dance sector in a variety of roles; as a performer, teacher, choreographer, producer, manager and programmer. Currently she works as Programme Manager for Performance and Artist Development at DanceXchange, where she leads on developing and delivering performance programme for regular dance seasons at The Patrick Centre. Within her role Lucie also curates and delivers programme for small and middle scale venues for International Dance Festival Birmingham.  Both programmes comprise of variety of dance styles including contemporary, South Asian dance, hip hop and circus and physical theatre. She holds MA in Choreography from Academy of Performing Arts Prague (2006) and MA Arts Management and Policy from Birkbeck College in London (2012). In June 2015 she completed The Clore Leadership short course and in addition to her position at DanceXchange she sits on the Board of 2Faced Dance Company.

**Morland, Rebecca**
Rebecca Morland is Theatres Adviser at The Theatres Trust, the National Advisory Body for Theatres, where her role involves providing advice and information on any aspect of developing a capital project and sustainably managing theatres. Previously she was a freelance arts manager working with companies on areas such as interim management, funding applications, capital projects and change management. Until 2010 she was Executive Director of Hampstead Theatre. Most of her previous experience has been in regional producing theatre – in particular, as Administrative Director of Bristol Old Vic and prior to that Executive Director at Salisbury Playhouse, but also including periods in Worcester and Colchester. Rebecca’s work has also involved co-producing and collaborations with other producing theatres, with touring companies of varying sizes and scales, and with the commercial sector. She has a strong interest in new writing, as well as small-scale and site-specific work.

**Morrow, Craig**

Craig Morrow is a director, creative producer and arts manager with particular expertise in new writing, contemporary work and artist support. He is Artistic Director of Lincoln Performing Arts Centre, a small/middle-scale presenting venue operated by University of Lincoln. Craig sits on the Steering Group of Lincolnshire One Venues’ Paul Hamlyn Foundation and Esmee Fairbairn Foundation co-funded project empowering young people as producers, creators and consumers of great art. Prior to this he was Artistic Associate at The Brewhouse Theatre & Arts Centre, Somerset for four years with a focus on programming and art form development. Craig is an alumnus of National Theatre’s Step Change, undertaking placements with Paines Plough exploring the role of sustainable new writing in the regions and at Bristol Old Vic, coordinating its Ferment programme in 2010. He also holds a PhD in early modern performance.

**Murdin, Alex**

Dr Alex Murdin is an artist, researcher and producer with a specific interest in art in the public sphere and environmental/rural practices. Other related areas of experience include socially engaged practice, the field of craft & design and arts & health. Alex has worked as advisor to arts organisations and individual artists. He is currently Chair of the Bside festival Board, an Advisor with ALIAS and “critic in residence” in the TOPOS artist-led space in Exeter.

Recent work includes public art development for the Dorset Strategic Partnership, a programme of commissions for Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and developing a Cultural Strategy for the new town of Cranbrook. Previous experience includes board roles with Aune Head Arts and Artsmatrix, working as Creative Director for arts and health consultancy Willis Newson and as Director of the Devon Guild of Craftsmen.

**Murdoch, Alex**

Alex Murdoch is an actor, writer, theatre maker and Artistic Director of Cartoon de Salvo, whose productions include *Meat and Two Veg*, *Pub Rock* and the allotment site-specific show *The Sunflower Plot*. *Hard Hearted Hannah and Other Stories*, which pioneered long-form impro in the UK visited the Kennedy Centre, Washington DC. Alex trained at École Philippe Gaulier and RNT Studio. Credits include performing with Kneehigh, Improbable, NIE, the Comedy Store Players and directing Ionesco's *The New Tenant* (Young Vic).  Following being selected for the Clore Short Course, she became the first artist on the Board of the National Rural Touring Forum and is now developing *Birdhouse -* a support network for independent female theatre makers.  Recent writing credits include the Royal Court 26+ writers programme, the Jerwood / Arvon writing mentoring scheme 2016/17 (selected and mentored by Chris Thorpe) and her first play was commissioned by National Theatre Wales.

**Myers, Jodi**

Jodi Myers is an independent arts consultant, working with a wide range of

organisations in both the publicly funded and commercial sectors. In 2008 Jodi, working with Anne Millman, carried out the Theatre Assessment for Arts Council England. Jodi also mentors and coaches managers, producers and artists. From 1996 to 2005 she was Director of Performing Arts at the South Bank Centre and Director of Warwick Arts Centre from 1991 to 1996. Prior to that she was Deputy Director of Touring, with responsibility for drama, for the Arts Council of Great Britain, having joined as Marketing Officer/Touring. Jodi’s early career was spent in marketing opera and stage managing theatre. She has served as a trustee of a number of theatre companies; currently she is a member of the board of Propeller Theatre Company and a governor of the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. She is also independent chair of the National Dance Network.

**Nagarajan, Supriya**

**Supriya Nagarajan** is the director of Manasamitra based in Dewsbury, West Yorkshire. She works internationally as a vocalist. Although her training is in South Indian classical music, Supriya has worked with a number of artists from other genres creating new musical vocabulary and constantly widening the boundaries through collaboration. She also works in the education and community sectors, developing a range of projects, using music within a social context. In her past career, Supriya was a banker and decided to switch careers to pursue her passion. Very recently she developed a sensory music concert piece which is on tour and is currently working on an international project featuring Lullabies from across the world.

**Natt, Kulbir**

Kulbir Natt is a co-founder and Director of Darbar Arts Culture Heritage, which organises the Darbar Festival, described by *Songlines* as the ‘UK’s most important celebration of south Asian classical music’. Kulbir has edited a book about Indian classical music in Britain, and currently is Assistant Editor of *Pulse*, the magazine about south Asian music and dance. He is an artist manager and is editing a publication about cultural leaders in the south Asian sector. Previously, Kulbir worked as a producer for the BBC and Financial Times Television, as well as writing in the corporate world.

**Nicol, Gill**
Gill Nicol trained as an artist and has over 25 years’ experience in the arts. She has worked for many organisations including engage, Ikon (Birmingham), mac (Birmingham), Tate Liverpool, Henry Moore Institute, Spike Print Studio and Arnolfini in Bristol. In 2009, she spent eight months on a work-based cultural leadership programme at Tate St Ives, working on audience development. More recently, she was Head of Interaction at Arnolfini. In April 2011 Gill set up her own agency, lightsgoingon, making contemporary art accessible. Recent work has included training invigilators and guides for the British Art Show7 in Plymouth and leading on a pilot Visitor Experience Programme for Arts Council England across the South West, West and East Midlands. She was the artSOUTH Engagement Programmer in 2013. Gill has an MA in Fine Art Printmaking (Distinction) from University of Brighton and an MA in Feminism and Visual Arts from University of Leeds.

**Nindi, Pax FRSA**

Pax Nindi is an expert and consultant in Combined Arts internationally renowned for his Carnival expertise. He was responsible for strategies relating to Circus, Carnival and Street Arts in UK when he served in the Arts Council as Senior Officer for ten years where he wrote and published their National Carnival Arts Strategy. He is currently Vice President of the World Carnival Commission, Chief Executive of the Global Carnival Centre, Patron for Culture Mix and Carnaval del Peublo and Director of Birmingham Carnival. He is an External Advisor for South Africa Sports and Culture Department, Arts Council of Wales and Arts Council of Ireland. He has created and delivered artists exchanges and collaborations around the world including Bahamas, Brazil, USA, Canada, Trinidad, Italy, Hungary, France and Germany. As an artist he toured extensively with his African Reggae outfit “Harare Dread” in the early 90s releasing over a dozen music albums and for the last five years has been touring NE Brazil regularly where he has a strong fan base. Pax has created giant street arts characters, exhibitions of his photography and digital arts. In 2010 he successfully toured his own one-man multimedia live art show “Whatever Made In Malawi”. Pax has written books, made films and is in demand as an international speaker on Carnival and outdoor arts issues. His recent achievements include, writing and publishing “In Pursue for Carnival Excellence” book, initiating of a new Peace Carnival in Kenya, mentoring Nigeria Abuja Carnival through the British Council, Artistic Director of Hackney One Carnival, Carnaval del Peublo, Ghana Carnival and coordinated the artists in the 2012 Olympic Boroughs in their participation in the Great British Carnival in the Olympic Park. Up to 2013, he was UKCCA Creative Director where he programmed the venue and produced East England Olympics project and directed the Luton International Carnival.

**Oakley, Christopher**
Chris Oakley is an artist who has worked with film and digital media since the late 1990s. He has exhibited work in galleries, museums and alternative spaces worldwide, and has been an active participant in the European Media Arts circuit. Part of his activities as a visual arts practitioner have involved providing creative lead on engagement projects aimed at people with learning disabilities, which have had the goal reducing exclusion and encouraging professional development. He maintains a broad interest in the visual arts alongside his interest in the convergence of digital media with other disciplines*.*

**Olding, Simon**

Professor Simon Olding is a writer and curator with an especial interest in modern and contemporary craft. He is Director of the Crafts Study Centre, University for the Creative Arts and leads its programme of exhibitions and events. These underpin the Craft Study Centre’s twin roles as an accredited museum and a research centre of the University. He is an advocate for the crafts through external roles: Deputy Chair of The Leach Pottery; President of Walford Mill Crafts and a Patron of Stroud International Textiles. His research and writing is often focused on craft makers and organisations in the South West of England.

**O’Neill, Liz**

Liz O’Neill is Chief Executive and Artistic Director of Z-arts, Manchester’s venue for children and families.  She is also chair of the Big Imaginations network of children’s theatre programmers in the North West and a Steering Group member for TYA: England (Theatre for Young Audiences.) She is currently a recipient of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation Breakthrough Award, who are supporting her to pursue her vision for family theatre, working with artists and other co-producers to develop, commission and produce new work that reflects the diverse nature of family experience today. Previously Liz was responsible for establishing **PANDA** (Performing Arts Network and Development Agency), a regional organisation with a national profile, and offering business support to emerging performing arts practitioners. She held this post for seven years. At the same time Liz has worked as a Creative Producer, both independently with her own company *Art Bandit and Chloe Poems* and for Contact theatre, running their *At Home*residency programme and in 2008 working on secondment to Contact as Acting Executive Producer.  Her earlier years in venue management were at Manchester’s *green room,*Liverpool’s *Unity Theatre*and*York Arts Centre*. Liz is also a Life Coach, volunteering with CIAO (Coaching Inside and Out) at Styal Women’s prison.

**Parsons, Julien**

Julien Parsons has 25 years of museum experience. He is senior collections officer and content lead for the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM) in Exeter and a freelance writer. His subject specialism is British archaeology for which he holds a PhD (Birmingham University, 2004). He has held curatorial positions at Birmingham (1990–91), Sheffield (1991–97), Cheltenham (1997–2004) and Exeter (2004–5) museums. An AMA since 1996 and now a mentor, Julien has led RAMM to a Collections Trust award (2013) and in 2014 published articles on museology and archaeology. He has curated countless redisplays and exhibitions covering many themes and ranging from small-scale temporary shows to the complete re-interpretation of RAMM’s collections, which helped win the Art Fund prize of 2012 for the best museum in the UK. He lives in Exeter and now combines museum work with a long-cherished ambition to write a book on Victorian archaeologists.

**Pasek-Atkinson, Diana**

Diana has a combined business, creative and education background pursuing a career across these fields nurturing the creative and cultural sector for over 20 years. She is a fellow of the RSA (Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce) and a trustee and senior fellow of Arts Development UK (AD:UK). Diana utilised her first Degree qualification, BA (hons) Fine Art, running her SME producing greetings cards and prints and offering educational workshops. She achieved a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), Art and Design with distinction, subsequently working in the museums, galleries and heritage sector. After achieving an MBA in 2002 Diana delivered contracts as a Creative Project and Events Manager for clients including Creative Partnerships and Arts Council England. Diana was employed as Strategic Officer Creative Industries with Nottinghamshire County Council Arts Development Team for seven years. The role included commissioning participatory arts, managing a gallery programme and coordinating a creative industry network. Diana thrives on nurturing creatives and their businesses. She is a mentor for Crafts Council and offers creative and business development and project management services.

**Patel, Jaivant**

Jaivant Patel is an independent dance artist from Wolverhampton. He graduated from Northern School of Contemporary Dance in 2004 with a BPA (Hons) Contemporary Dance. He has worked with choreographers such a Laurent Cavanna, Jeremy Nelson and Sharon Watson. Whilst training in contemporary dance. Jaivant further developed his keen interest in South Asian Dance forms. He still continues to creatively explore how its language, aesthetics and principles both inform and influence his work.In 2006 he received Arts Council funding for his first research and development project called ‘Saruat’. In 2009 he was involved in a collaborative creation with Shobana Jeyasingh at Greenwich Dance Agency entitled ‘Creating Hybrids’. Alongside his choreographic work, he was also featured in a film made for 2012 London entitled ‘Dance like the Bird That Flies. Jaivant is Artistic Director for a non-profit voluntary organisation called Jai Jashn Dance which delivers Bollywood, Kathak and Bharatanatyam classes to the local community. In 2014 he again received Arts Council funding for a community engagement project called ‘Tiranga’. Most recently he was involved as featured artist for Wolverhampton’s first ArtsFest and was an ambassador for the first Alchemy Black Country festival.

**Pickthall, Sarah**

Sarah is an artist **consultant**, transitional **coach** and **community producer** with over 20 years’ experience in performing arts, television, funding, training, education and diversity in the UK, Japan Turkey and most recently in Rio. Sarah trained in Theatre and is a specialist in Kabuki with a long stint in Children’s Television in the UK as a writer, performer and puppeteer. Her company Cusp Inc works with a diversity of individuals, organisations and partners across the private and public sectors using coaching and creativity. Sarah’s professional life has also been about making life feel better and mean more, driven by her passion for people’s voices being heard, so they can move forward in their lives and be counted.  Sarah is also co-director of Sync Leadership Programme.

**Porter, Liz**

Liz Porter has worked within the Creative Industries since the mid 90’s. She has gained wide experience (particularly around D/disability Arts Culture Access and inclusion) in a variety of arts development project management and access consultancy roles; working for organizations such as, Shape, EXTANT, DaDa-South, English Heritage, Improbable, Accentuate Heritage RNIB CultureLink SE and Towner. She is a writer for Disability Arts Online a Mystery Shopper for Attitude is everything and a long-standing member of the Access Advisory Group at the Royal Pavilion and Museums in Brighton. As a disabled freelance creative performance storyteller and workshop leader Liz has also gained broad experience in self-generated and commissioned projects/residencies working with culturally diverse audiences and participants of all ages in settings from castles, parks schools museums and festivals to Libraries Day Centres and community venues.

**Pryer, Kay**

Kay Pryer is currently developing a dance and film project with Northumberland County Council, working with Wayne McGregor/Random Dance and Ravi Deepres, as the final event for the North East Cultural Olympic programme. Kay is passionate about dance as a means of engaging communities and empowering people of all ages through working with the best practitioners and companies. Kay has 25 years’ experience in administration, organisation, creative development and project management across public sector and arts organisations. In 2001, Kay took up the post of Administrator at Dance City and during her five years there she worked with many regional, national and international dance companies. She also co-facilitated a month-long International Dance Festival. In 2006, Kay became a freelance project manager developing and delivering community arts and health projects to all ages across Tyne and Wear in a range of artforms including, dance, creative writing, and film.