



10th annual Anne Peaker lecture

François Matarasso: A space to think

Tuesday 15th October 2019 | Young Vic Theatre, London



Anne Peaker was a pioneer of arts for, and by, people in the criminal justice system. Our annual lecture honours her work and legacy, which forms the basis of the National Criminal Justice Arts Alliance today.

This year, to celebrate our tenth anniversary of the Anne Peaker lecture, keynote speaker François Matarasso will consider the historical context of participatory arts in criminal justice settings and Anne Peaker's contribution to this. He will go on to consider art's capacity for the kind of reflection that helps individuals grow, and make the case for its importance in terms of human rights and power.

Agenda

6:00pm Arrival and registration – Maria Studio

6:30pm Lecture starts – Maria Studio

Chaired by Alison Frater, Chair, National Criminal Justice Arts Alliance

Welcome: Despina Tsatsas, Executive Director, Young Vic

Performance: 'Sonnet over the Deep', Jason Smith, artist and facilitator

Lecture and Q&A: François Matarasso, community artist and writer

Performance: 'Road to Victory', Lady Unchained, artist and facilitator

8 – 9pm Drinks reception – The Cut Bar

We hope you enjoy the evening and join us for networking after the lecture. Please join in the discussions online using [#AnnePeaker19](#) and tagging [@ArtsCJS](#) on Twitter.

Biographies

Despina Tsatsas, Executive Director, Young Vic

Despina is a theatre producer with experience in both the charitable and commercial theatre sectors and is currently Executive Director of the Young Vic. She has previously worked at Ambassador Theatre Group, Mark Rubinstein Ltd, and the Almeida Theatre. She is a Clore Leadership Programme Fellow, a trustee of Clean Break Theatre Company, and a trustee for The Laura Case Trust. For 5 years she volunteered at HMP Holloway via the Samaritans, training women to provide confidential listening support to others inside.

Jason Smith, artist and facilitator

After spending the best part of 18 years within the justice system, caught within a revolving door, Jason found arts to be life changing. As a writer Jason interrogates subject matter and is an award winning poet and author of poetry collection *Beyond Words*. He has performed at The National Theatre, Roundhouse London, Tate Modern, and The Royal Festival Hall, and has collaborated with various BBC radio productions. As a facilitator Jason has run workshops in prisons and with young people in schools and in the justice and the care systems. Jason is a trustee of Safe Ground.

Alison Frater, Chair, National Criminal Justice Arts Alliance (NCJAA)

Alison is chair of the NCJAA and a trustee of Clinks. A recent MA graduate in professional writing, an academic and an experienced public health consultant, she's championed social justice, especially as an advocate for women's health and equality, working in leadership roles in the public and voluntary sector. She is committed to building the evidence base for the transforming impact of arts, health and justice while using what we already know and feel to change society for the better.

François Matarasso, community artist and writer

François is a community artist whose work embraces creative projects, research and writing. His latest book *A Restless Art: How participation won, and why it matters* (2019) gives an extensive account of the theory, history and practice of community art in Europe and combines decades of first-hand experience with new research and many project descriptions.

Jessica Plant, Director, National Criminal Justice Arts Alliance (NCJAA)

Jessica has led the NCJAA since June 2012. She sits on the Arts Forum, which is administered by the Ministry of Justice, as well as the Prisoner Learning Alliance, which is hosted by the Prisoner Education Trust. Throughout her career Jessica has worked to further the education and cultural opportunities for socially-excluded adults.

Lady Unchained, artist and facilitator

Lady Unchained set up Unchained Poetry, a platform for artists with experience of the criminal justice system. She has worked with a number of charities including Body and Soul Charity, Working Chance and Safe Ground. She now hosts Unchained Nights in partnership with Artsadmin and co-hosts for National Prison Radio's show We Are StraightLine.

Photography exhibition

"Too frequently we are put in this box... shunned as monsters, demons, the worst of the worst. But I'm a son, a father and a friend. And I can paint. I am kind. I am compassionate. I am human too."

No Admission is a photography and poetry project that explores how labels are not fixed and that being imprisoned should not preclude you from being an artist, musician, poet, friend, 'human too'. The photographs and self-portraits were taken by men from HMP Whitemoor over several months on both pin-hole and digital cameras. Their work highlights how creativity can thrive even in the darkest of spaces; that something beautiful can be created not in spite of pain but because of it. Art allows individuals to convey visceral ideas – to communicate pain, vulnerability and the frailty of humanity. The project has also culminated in the creation of a film which examines the role of art and creativity in prison.

Project producers Ellie Brown (University of Cambridge) and Matt Brown (MB Productions Limited) will present a screening of the film in Cambridge at 7pm on 26th October as part of the Intellectual Forum. More information can be found on Eventbrite (search: No admission: An exploration of identity, artistry and humanity).