



RESTOKE .ORG.UK

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Co-Artistic Director - Paul Rogerson

Company Manager - Sarah Richardson

Marketing Manager - Sarah Nadin

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Restoke is an arts organisation who put the
people of Stoke-on-Trent at the
heart of artistic adventures.

We produce performances in surprising locations,
from pottery factories to disused chapels, from swimming
pools to a working mens club...

We work with people of Stoke-on-Trent and
professional artists in dance, music and
spoken-word to co-create our performances and
programmes, driven by the stories, talents and
commitment of those who take part.

2018 was the year of the UP MEN! The creation and performance of MAN UP took us on another epic journey into co-creation with a group of 21 talented and trusting men who committed to this adventure.

I don't think we were prepared for quite how intensely emotional this journey would be for both the performers and audiences who were part of it. There were challenges we faced in balancing our responsibility of offering sensitive and meaningful engagement with the logistics of making a show in an alternative venue... a process we continue to refine, reflect and learn from. We are hugely grateful to the performers, collaborators, audiences and funders who created and supported MAN UP.

It is clear that the growing dialogue around masculinity and mental-health is of great importance and that the arts can contribute to this - offering new ways of expressing ourselves, creating unlikely bonds of understanding, and giving a platform for lived experiences to be heard in a truly unique way. Restoke is committed to keep this conversation and creativity going in Stoke-on-Trent and we are fundraising for an UP MEN legacy programme... watch this space!

Meanwhile we have been able to continue planning new ventures for 2019 and we're really excited to be starting new workshops for children, young people and mothers. Thanks to funding from Arts Council England, The Ragdoll Foundation and the Aziz Foundation we are able to involve more people in life-affirming artistic experiences in this New Year.

In 2019 we'll also be celebrating 10 years since Restoke first began! Read on to learn more about our 2018 and here's to a rich and creative year ahead.

**Clare Reynolds & Paul Rogerson
Artistic Directors**



MAN UP

MAN UP was a ground-breaking performance about masculinity and mental health. Created with and starring men from Stoke-on-Trent the show was performed in August 2018 in Goldenhill Working Men's Club.

Before these 21 men took to the dance floor of a Working Mens Club we had spent 12 months holding conversations, events and workshops which opened up creative dialogues around masculinity and mental health alongside a team of professional artists.

Artistic Directors – Clare Reynolds & Paul Rogerson

Project Manager – Sarah Richardson

Marketing – Sarah Nadin

Dance Artists – David Mckenna, Frankie Hickman, Rhys Dennis

Spoken Word – Jamie Thrasivoulou

Musician – Mike Walsh

Composers – Paul Rogerson, Mike Walsh, David Pickstock

Visual Artist – Rob Pointon

Projection Artists – Rob & Matt Vale (Illuminos)

Designer – April Dalton

Lighting Design – Danniella Vickerstaff

Photographer – Jenny Harper

Artistic Evaluator – Nicola Winstanley

UP MEN – Paul Forrester, Courtney Conteh, Rob Mitchell-James, Keith Claringbull, Matt Spooner, Adrian Mckenize, Adrian Ball, Howard Shawcross, Peter Dutton, Mick Tomlin, Nick Jones, H, Shaun Wall, CJ Walley, Brian Chondo, Jamie Neville.



“The show left me trembling with joy, laughter, tears, hope, to have seen such vulnerability become strength, the isolated gathered. Inspirational, essential, the kind of show every man needs to see...”



SEAMS

SEAMS was a one-off performance, developed and performed in Keele Chapel in Newcastle-Under-Lyme, Staffordshire, as part of The Social History Society's Annual Conference held at Keele University in June 2018.

It was made collaboratively with Ceri Morgan and The Dawdlers- a geopoetics research group at Keele University, and was performed by a cast of intergenerational performers.

In 2016, The Dawdlers wrote and exhibited poetry in response to the former colliery site at Silverdale, to explore the legacies of North Staffordshire's coal mining industry and to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Aberfan disaster in South Wales.

The performance integrated readings of these poems, a recording of a former Silverdale miner, music, singing and movement. In under a week of rehearsals, Restoke, The Dawdlers and the cast created and performed SEAMS to an audience of 150 people, made up of conference delegates and the general public. The project was funded by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Keele University, Keele Institute of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Keele Institute for Social Inclusion and the Impact Case Study Development Fund, Keele University.



See an evaluation report by Nicola Winstanley here:
https://issuu.com/restoke/docs/seams_report_web

**“sincere,
meaningful,
brave”**

Artistic Directors – Clare Reynolds & Paul Rogerson
Dance Artists – Anna Belyavin & Frankie Hickman
Singers - Kit Henson & Grace Pennington
Costume - Gabriella Gay
Photographer - Jenny Harper
Artist-Evaluator - Nicola Winstanley
The Dawdlers - Ceri Morgan Sylvia Crawley Stephen Seabridge Daniel Skentelbery
The Performers - Yolanda Gómez Gálvez, Lynne Bailey, Rachel Bate, Beatriz Brett, Gwen Chavalier-Brookes, Amy Cowap, Leon Oakley, Wendy Goodwin, Becky Page, Eileen Pearson, Lucy Prall, Keith Roberts, Indie Sandhu, Therese Dimelow.



MAN UP EXHIBITION

We strive to find creative ways to capture and share our projects and process. Working with an Artist-Researcher Nicola Winstanley offers us the potential to apply our artistic values to every aspect of our work, including the evaluation.

As part of capturing the process of creating MAN UP Nicola curated an exhibition both for audiences at the venue and in a follow up exhibition at Keele University in partnership with Keele Arts.

The two exhibitions were very different due to the nature of the space. Nicola used the toilets of the Working Mens Club and a telephone booth, curating images and content from the UP MEN, documentation of early conversations and stories with sketches of the process by Rob Pointon and written word. Nicola also created bespoke beer mats to capture the audience's feedback at their tables.

For Keele University the exhibition had to take a more traditional form and included photography from Jenny Harper as well as poetry, quotes and written content from the evaluation process. The exhibition took place during October 2018, coinciding with mental health awareness week.

Evaluator – Nicola Winstanley
 Photographer – Jenny Harper
 Visual artist – Rob Pointon
 Additional content from the UP MEN.

MAN UP YOUTH

Funded by YMCA GO (YMCA North Staffordshire) we were able to offer a 4-day residency for boys aged 11-17. Working in dance and spoken-word to explore the themes of MAN UP but how they affect adolescent boys.

Lead Dance Artist – David Mckenna
Supporting Dance Artist – Frankie Hickman
Sound & Music – Paul Rogerson



Other happenings in 2018...

GUEST WORKSHOPS

In 2018 we delivered creative workshops and guest talks for –

- Trinity-Laban Conservatoire for Dance & Music
- Matthew Bourne's New Adventures
- Engage - 'A Social Prescription', Whitworth Galley
- Staffordshire University
- Keele University
- Leek & Buxton College
- Suicide Prevention Conference - Stoke-on-Trent City Council & Stoke-on-Trent Public Health

Paul has been working with New Vic Borderlines as the Musical Director on a new musical co-created with young people in Stoke-on-Trent to be performed in July 2019.

Clare is working with Terrestrial, a new socially-engaged arts organisation in Avon. She has been delivering workshops in Weston-Super-Mare with Addaction (a charity which supports people in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction) and leading open workshops for local people. Her work with Terrestrial and people in Weston-Super-Mare will develop throughout 2019.

RESTOKE SMALL FOLK & YOUTH

This year we received funding from The Ragdoll Foundation to deliver free dance and creative workshops for children aged 5-11 in Stoke-on-Trent who may not usually have the opportunity to get involved. Weekly workshops will commence in January 2019.

We are also working with YMCA GO to offer more dance opportunities to young people aged 11-17. Monthly workshops will take place throughout 2019

Details on our website:

www.restoke.org.uk/youth

MOTHER

In late 2018 we received an Arts Council National Lottery Project grant to begin research and development of a new project – MOTHER. During the first half of 2019 we will be building partnerships and running workshops with groups who support mothers in Stoke-on-Trent, as well as initiating creative collaborations between performing mothers.

Thank You!

