



PRESS RELEASE

Exuberant Oxford!

The Exuberant Trust's 10th Anniversary Gala Showcase

7.00pm Sunday 22nd September at the Pegasus Theatre

The Exuberant Trust is a local Oxfordshire charity which supports young people's aspirations in the arts by providing small grants for specific purposes to help them achieve their goals. It was founded in 2003 in memory of Jennifer Graham-Jones and since then has given out nearly 80 grants and over £42,000 to help young singers, instrumentalists, composers, dancers, designers, actors, video makers, jewelers, and workshop leaders. Funded projects have included fees for short courses and workshops, audio and video equipment, help with instrument purchase, work with schools, recording sessions and a CD launch, art degree shows and exhibitions, jewelers' tools, and performance and composition grants. Money is raised from donations through the regular concert series Music at the Limes in Standlake, and occasional showcase concerts at which award holders demonstrate their talents.

The Trustees are delighted that Pegasus Theatre has agreed to host this special 10th Anniversary Showcase which will feature a range of talented young instrumentalists, emerging singer **Anna Shackleton**, a presentation by acclaimed Oxford theatre group **Idle Motion**, and performance by local dance artists such as **Paulette Mae**, Kathak dancer **Anuradha Chaturvedi**, **Hannah de Cancho** of Sole Rebel Tap and street dance group **BodyPolitic**. There will also be work on display and to purchase from designer **Bethan Murphy** and jeweller **Fiona McAlear**. In short an impressive array of Oxfordshire's young creative and performing talent.

We do hope that you may be able to come and join us on this special occasion. In these hard times the Exuberant Trust is more than ever aware of young people who need financial help to progress their artistic ambitions. This event is a great opportunity not only to celebrate the achievements of those we have already supported, but also to raise funds for more young

artists, including initiatives to enable the most disadvantaged young people to experience the arts and discover their own potential.

For more information about the Trust, its activities and awards:

<http://exuberant-trust.org.uk>

Or please contact:

Susie Graham-Jones

<http://drsusie123@aol.com>

Mobile: 07899 914426

For more information about the Gala Showcase please contact:

Susie Crow

<http://susiecrow@gmail.com>

Tel: 01865 557098

Mobile: 07730 228816

Gill Jagers, Press Officer, Pegasus Theatre

<http://gill.jagers@pegasustheatre.org.uk>

Booking details about the event can be found here:

<http://www.pegasustheatre.org.uk/shows/exuberant-oxford/>

Performance running time: 2 hours 20 minutes

About the performers:

Hannah de Cancho is a multidisciplinary dance maker and performer; as well as touring with Wired Aerial Theatre, she is Director of innovative contemporary company Sole Rebel Tap. She received an Exuberant Trust award in 2009 to present work in The Solos Project at the Burton Taylor Studio. She will be performing to the music of emerging producer composer **Rowan Perkins** aka Debian Blak, using his skills in songwriting, audio manipulation and synthesis nationally and internationally, and whom the Trust supported to compose for Sole Rebel Tap's debut performance in 2012.

9 year old **Beth Fairbairn** started playing the violin at the age of 3; an Exuberant Trust Award in 2012 has enabled her to take up a place in the National Children's Orchestra. 16 year old trumpeter **Georgia-Louise French** plays for the Oxfordshire County Youth Orchestra, the Oxfordshire Youth Brass Ensemble and Witney Town Band; her Exuberant Award helped her to purchase a new trumpet for further music studies. 15 year old clarinettist **Raymond Brien** from Wood Green School also plays for the Oxfordshire County Youth Orchestra as well as for his local church; his Exuberant Award helped fund a new clarinet in time for his Grade 8 examination.

Emerging Oxford street dance crew **BodyPolitic** already have a busy schedule of performances and workshops and have just received an Exuberant Award to study and make a video with visiting international choreographer Pat Cruz. **Paulette Mae** is a dance artist based in Oxford

making multidisciplinary work; her Exuberant award enabled the purchase of a digital recorder for exploring ways to layer sound in live performance and record interactions with the everyday. Kathak dancer-choreographer **Anuradha Chaturvedi** is an exponent of the Lucknow tradition, but also makes more exploratory works fusing Eastern and Western elements; an Exuberant award supported a collaboration with composer Malcolm Atkins in 2010 and she will be performing *Quicksilver*, developed with composer Jeremy Thurlow. Soprano **Anna Shackleton** began singing with the Oxford Girls' Choir and now sings in both choral groups and as an oratorio soloist; she will also be performing a set of songs specially composed for her by Daniel-Lewis Fardon; her Exuberant Grant funded her place at the prestigious Abingdon Summer School for Solo Singers this year.

Exuberant support for young artists in local companies will be celebrated. In 2011 the Trust supported Ballet in Small Spaces summer tour through the commissioning of *Commedia* in memory of theatre director Sebastian Graham-Jones, with grants which supported the young musicians of the **Exuberant Players**, and stage designer **Ellen Stewart**. Performance video of *Commedia* by another Exuberant award holder, **Finn Burrows** will be shown. A recent grant from the Trust funded design and set construction for *That is All You Need to Know* by up-and-coming visual theatre company **Idle Motion**; the group which emerged from Cherwell School, has toured nationally and internationally for the British Council, and is now an Associate Company at the New Diorama Theatre and Oxford Playhouse.

Previous Exuberant Award holders

Those whom the Exuberant Trust have helped on their way to successful careers include composer **Cheryl Frances-Hoad**, who won the BBC Young Composer Competition in 1996 at the age of 15 and has since won numerous awards; she is currently the Music Fellow at Rambert Dance and her 'cello concerto commissioned for the Spitalfields Festival will be premiered in November. Double bassist **Dominic Lash** has made a name for himself nationally and internationally as a free improviser, playing a central role in Oxford Improvisers' activities, but also performing in UK, Austria, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and Switzerland, broadcasting on BBC Radios 1 and 3, and recording for several record labels. He has collaborated with another Exuberant Award holder, composer, pianist organist and bandleader **Alexander Hawkins**, whose work spans jazz and improvisation. As leader or co-leader of acclaimed groups Ensemble, The Convergence Quartet and Decoy, and playing with major artists on club, concert and festival stages worldwide, Alexander Hawkins is now recognized as one of the most innovative composers and instrumentalists in new British jazz. Pianist and composer **Kate Whitley** received an award in 2006, and since then has not only received major prizes such as the BBC Young Composer and the Arthur Bliss Prize for Composition, but has developed exciting initiatives to bring classical music out of the concert hall, such as opera company Carmen Elektra, and the Orchestra Project, which in 2011 performed *The Rite of Spring* in a multi-story car park in Peckham to an audience of over 1500.