

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Cultural Inclusion Conference

How has COVID affected opportunities for the inclusion of disabled young people in arts & culture?

### - Speakers and Panellists -



#### Marsha De Cordova MP

Marsha De Cordova is the Labour MP for Battersea, and has been an MP continuously since 8 June 2017. She currently undertakes the role of Shadow Secretary of State for Women and Equalities.

Marsha says about the Cultural Inclusion Manifesto:

“As a disabled woman and Shadow Minister for Disabled People, I was proud to stand for election on a manifesto for disabled people that declared “Nothing about you, without you”. This also means full access to cultural life for disabled people – not just as spectators, but as active participants. The Cultural Manifesto is another step towards making this a reality for younger disabled people and allowing them to fulfil their full potential.”

#### Paul Morrow

Paul is the author of the Cultural Inclusion Manifesto which led to the Cultural Inclusion movement.

Paul has spent 12 years working in SEND education, teaching art at Westminster Special schools. He has a MA in Art and Design in Education and a Diploma in Special and Inclusive Education from the Institute of Education.

Paul has also worked as a consultant to the Royal Academy of Art and delivered workshops for the Arts and special Educational Needs and Disabilities Conference at the Museum of London. Paul is a practicing artist.



#### Every Child Should

Cultural Inclusion is hosted by Every Child Should - a campaign to ensure all children can access a rich and rounded set of experiences by the time they are 18. Every Child Should promotes the skills and resources young adults need to navigate life and to ensure these reach the half of a million children in the UK likely to need them the most.

Every  
Child  
Should...

## Stephen Unwin

Stephen is a very experienced theatre and opera director, who has been Chief Executive and founding Artistic Director of two very successful theatre companies: English Touring Theatre (1993-2008) and the Rose Theatre Kingston (2008-2015).

Stephen has written eight books on theatre and drama and his first play, *All Our Children*, was performed in London and New York. Stephen has taught in universities and conservatoires in Britain and the US.

He is the father of a profoundly disabled young man and is a passionate advocate for the rights of the disabled, especially people with learning disabilities. Since 2016 Stephen has been Chairman of KIDS, a national charity for disabled children. Stephen also identifies as disabled himself.



## Anna Hoddinott, John Lyon's Charity

Anna has been with John Lyon's Charity for thirteen years and has been the Grants & Communications Manager since 2007. Her primary areas of expertise include arts and music projects, projects that provide opportunities for young people with special needs and/or disabilities and childcare initiatives. Anna is also responsible for the Charity's marketing and communications including the website and Annual Report.



JOHN LYON'S  
CHARITY

John Lyon's Charity gives grants to benefit children and young people up to the age of 25 who live in nine boroughs in North and West London: Barnet, Brent, Camden, Ealing, Hammersmith & Fulham, Harrow, Kensington & Chelsea and the Cities of London and Westminster. The Charity distributes around £10 million in grants each year.



John Lyon's Charity says about the Cultural Inclusion Manifesto: "The Cultural Inclusion Manifesto is, in part, a fantastic response to a report we commissioned and published in 2016, entitled 'Perspectives', and its accompanying conference which brought together music hubs, arts organisations and special schools from our Beneficial Area. 'Perspectives' aimed to support effective arts partnerships by sharing knowledge, understanding, and working practices to ensure that children and young people with special educational needs and varied abilities are able to access the best arts opportunities, to enhance their lives and learning. John Lyon's Charity is committed to supporting high quality, accessible arts provision for disabled young people."

## April Li

April is a mum, advocate and the creator of Portraits of Grit (a human library of stories and lived experiences of disability on Instagram). She also works as a lawyer at a business development bank and is the interim chairman of icandance, a charity that supports children and young people with disabilities through dance and movement."



## Lisha Aquino Rooney

Lisha is an artist and autistic rights advocate, particularly within the arts realm. She is CEO of WhatDo, a clothing company celebrating autistic individuals and neurodiversity; ambassador for Flute Theatre, a theatre company which performs the works of Shakespeare to audiences primarily composed of people who could not ordinarily access the performing arts, including autistic individuals and their families; and governor at Queensmill School, a school for autistic children rated Outstanding in all aspects by Ofsted.

<https://disabilityarts.online/magazine/opinion/letter-art-is-for-everyone-so-dont-exclude-autistic-children-from-galleries/>



## Dr Adam Boddinson

Adam is the Chief Executive for nasen (National Association for Special Educational Needs), the professional membership body for the SEND workforce. He is also the Chair of the Whole School SEND consortium, which is leading on the delivery of the government's SEND Schools' Workforce contract.

Adam is a National Leader of Governance, a Trustee at a large Multi-Academy Trust, a Trustee of the Potential Trust, a member of the National SEND Forum and a Fellow of the RSA. Adam has previously held a number of senior education roles including Director of the Centre for Professional Education at the University of Warwick and Academic Principal for IGGY (a global educational social network for gifted teenagers). He is a Visiting Professor at the University of Wolverhampton, a published author and a qualified clinical hypnotherapist.



## Clare Madge

Claire is a museum consultant, blogger and autism parent. Since 2012 she has been advocating for improved autism access to museums and cultural venues, founding Autism in Museums to support organisations with training and raising awareness of how to welcome autistic visitors. Claire also sits on the London and South Committee of the National Lottery Heritage Fund and spent four years on the Access Advisory Group at the Horniman Museum.

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AutisminMuseums>

Web: <https://www.autisminmuseums.com/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/autisminmuseums>

## Housni Hassan (DJ)

Housni has a dance diploma from Lambeth College and a diploma in performance making from Central School of Speech and Drama. During his training he gained a vocational placement with Wayne McGregor/Random Dance, Jonzi D productions and New Adventures.

Housni has worked extensively in London, the UK and also internationally. Housni is also a regular performer with Spare Tyre and Access all Areas. Housni's has performed extensively with Corali most recently, Adieu (2020) Technicolour Everyday (2019), The Major Arcana (2018), Find Your Way (2017), The People Race the Fish (2016) and Origami Atoms (2015)





## Sarah Archdeacon

Sarah studied theatre at Dartington College of Arts, 1989 to 1992. She is Corali's Artistic Director and joined the company in 1992. Alongside her work with Corali, Sarah is also an associate artist for Stans Cafe.

Sarah also creates her own solo work, most recently, Celestial Navigation, performed at the Calder Bookshop theatre, London, and the Georgian House Museum, Bristol, in 2019. Sarah was Disability Theatre Development worker for Bournemouth borough council from 2001 - 2004.

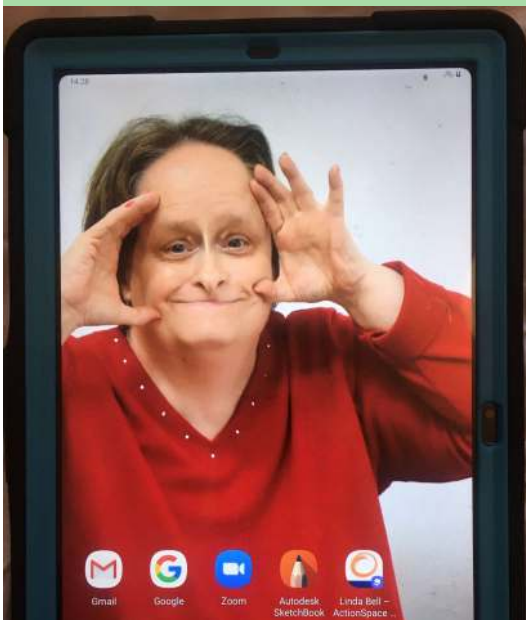
## Andrew Miller, UK Disability Champion, Arts & Culture

Transforming perceptions and raising the profile of disability throughout his 30 year career, Andrew's mission has been to democratise our cultural industries. He is recognised as one of the most influential disability advocates in the UK with extensive experience of the arts, education, broadcast and film sectors.

Starting out in broadcasting in the 1980s, Andrew belongs to the first generation of disabled presenters of British television and he went on to produced and direct BAFTA nominated tv arts documentaries. He later became the first wheelchair user to run a major UK arts venue at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama in Cardiff, he occupied senior positions at Arts Council England and Royal & Derngate Theatres, and created the R17 Festival of Russian Culture in Wales. As a consultant his recent clients have included the University of Oxford Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities, the British Council and Coventry City of Culture Trust.

Uniquely Andrew is a National Council member of both Arts Council England & The Arts Council of Wales. He is a trustee of Welsh National Opera, and from 2016-19 of UK Digital arts agency, The Space. He is Chair of the BFI Disability Screen Advisory Forum, a member of BAFTA and the London Transition Board Arts & Culture Group. In 2020 he co-founded the UK Disability Arts Alliance, #WeShallNotBeRemoved to support disabled artists and disability arts organisations through and after Covid.

Andrew is also the UK Government's first Disability Champion for Arts & Culture, establishing the role as a powerful campaigning platform for greater inclusion across the arts, museums and film. His pioneering career has been recognised by the National Diversity Awards, The Shaw Trust's Disability Power 100, The Stage 100 and the award of an MBE in the 2021 New Year Honours for services to disabled people in the cultural industries.



## Charlotte Hollinshead

Charlotte is an ActionSpace Associate Artist and Art Facilitator. She has led ActionSpace's South London art studio based at Studio Voltaire for over 21 years supporting artists with complex learning disabilities to develop their individual arts practice and deliver an extensive range of commissions, events and exhibitions. Charlotte also manages ActionSpace's live art participatory programme, supporting artists with a live art practice to create and deliver public workshops and events.

*The Image is of Linda Bell, ActionSpace artist with her new tablet.*



## Jenny Sealey

Jenny has been Graeae's Artistic Director since 1997. She has pioneered a new theatrical language and aesthetics of artistic access experimenting with bilingual BSL and English, prerecorded BSL, creative captioning, in ear/ live audio description methods. *Two, The Fall of the House of Usher, peeling, Bent, Blasted, Diary of an Action Man, Blood Wedding (Japan) Romeo and Juliet (Japan and Bangladesh)* are particular examples but this 'aesthetic' now influences all Graeae's independent and co produced work. Recent theatre credits for Graeae include: *Blood Wedding* (co-produced with Dundee Rep Ensemble, Derby Theatre), *The Threepenny Opera* (co-directed with Peter Rowe, co-produced with the New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich, Nottingham Playhouse, Birmingham Rep and West Yorkshire Playhouse); *Reasons To Be Cheerful* (2010 co-produced with The New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich and Theatre Royal Stratford East) *The House of Bernarda Alba* with Manchester Royal Exchange.

Radio includes directing *Little Dorrit*, *Midwich Cuckoos*, writing and directing *Three Sisters Rewired* for BBC Radio 4. Outdoor productions include *Against the Tide; The Iron Man; The Garden, The Limbless Knight – A Tale of Rights Reignited –* and recently a contemporary opera for 14-18 Now WW1 Centenary *This Is Not*

*For You* with disabled veterans. Other International work includes: *Belonging in Rio with Crescer e Viver*. She is currently preparing a Tokyo production of *The Tempest* with artists from Japan, Bangladesh and UK.

The aim is to share and develop the accessible ethos within performance and use this to form a global cohort of Deaf and disabled artists to challenge and change the perception of possibility and push for a cultural shift and an equal playing field.

In 2009, she was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Honours list.

Jenny co-directed the *London 2012 Paralympic Opening Ceremony* alongside Bradley Hemmings (GDIF). She also won the *Liberty Human Rights Arts Award*.



## Freddie Adu

Freddie is the current Headteacher of Queensmill School which has just enjoyed its fourth successive 'Outstanding' Judgment under his leadership. Freddie has led the school since September 2015, overseeing the school's successful recent expansion with a brand new Autism-Specific Free School opening in RBKC in September 2021. Queensmill have taken part in each of the most recent conferences, and prior to the pandemic and during, collaborated extensively with the Flute Theatre Company, bringing Drama and Theatre to students with autism within the school, at home and in local Theatres.

## Katy Brown

Katy is Assistant Head at Hampstead School. Katy has worked in education settings in London for the last 20 years, beginning her career working as a teaching assistant in a mainstream primary school. After completing her PGCE at Central School of Speech and Drama in 2003, Katy taught Drama and Performing Arts across KS3-5 at Hampstead, assuming leadership of Drama in 2009 and then the Performing Arts Faculty. Katy joined the senior leadership team in 2019 and is now responsible for the line management of Performing arts, Sport, Art and design as well as pastoral responsibilities for restorative practice, tutoring, values based education and year 7.





## Anita Kerwin-Nye

Anita has over thirty years in charity and education and draws on a wealth of successes and failures, networks and nuance to find new approaches to age old problems. A qualified teacher and youth worker Anita's work is rooted in her experiences working with some of the most disadvantaged communities in the country.

Currently Executive Director for the YHA Anita has worked for many UK charities and established numerous consortiums to tackle specific issues around speech and

language, SEN workforce development and access to the outdoors – often through securing and running seven figure statutory contracts across DFID, Department for Education, and Department of Health. Anita also helps major funders review their approaches to grant making.

Anita recognised that no matter what role her attention was drawn to the needs of the same half a million young people, the country's most vulnerable. Those who consistently access public capital the least and who would benefit from it the most. Addressing this inequality has become Anita's career commitment and forms the basis of her campaign, Every Child Should.

A Fellow of CIPD she has a long career in organisational development and as a Fellow of RSA she encapsulates their mantra of "think like a system; act like an entrepreneur"

## Cultural Inclusion is also supported by:



### Dr Matt Overd

Matt is the co-founder of Every Child Should. He is an experienced third sector leader and expert in outcomes based strategy development, implementation and evaluation. Having worked for very large, medium and very small charities, he now provides consultancy support to a range of organisations.

Matt has particular interest in individual and community resilience, youth led approaches, conflict resolution, disabilities and inclusion, user engagement and humanitarianism.



### Rachael Christophides

Rachael is a senior communications and campaigns professional with over 20 years' experience of influencing in the public and voluntary sector -especially on the rights of disabled children and adults.

Rachael started her career in Parliament before moving to the voluntary sector, working for national disability charities. She played a key role in shaping the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 and has researched and published influential reports and has contributed to numerous government consultations on disability issues.