



Event Programme

September - December

www.takeart.org



Music | Theatre | Dance | Circus | Family

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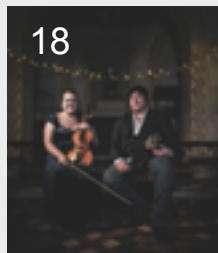
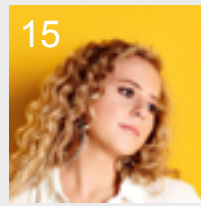
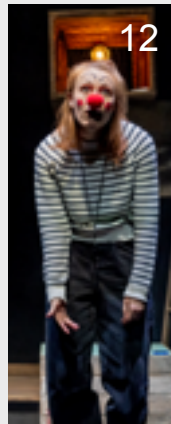
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A Message From Ralph Lister

Executive Director, Take Art

As the seasons change it's an opportunity to look forward as well as to reflect on the recent past. It seems the world is experiencing unprecedented shifts in the weather and the summer has produced record changing increases in temperature, which inevitably focuses our minds at Take Art on climate change.

We commissioned an environmental agency, Julie's Bicycle, to undertake a carbon emissions study of our rural touring activity and they annually produce a national report for the Arts Council of England on emissions, one of the largest of which is that of audiences travelling to see shows.

Our rural touring programme brings artists to the audience and in that respect it represents a viable, environmentally acceptable form of generating live performances. With all the growing concerns around social media, it has never been more important for all of us to find opportunities to congregate and spend time with each other – in real life!

So our forthcoming programme is our way of bringing people together and I hope you find something in the brochure that whets your appetite! Danny has

once again curated an interesting and exciting rural touring programme and to complement that we received good news that the Arts Council of England are supporting our next touring circus project. Plans are underway and tours will take place from June 2027 to May 2028. More details to come.

In addition Alison, Mark, Jane and Jennie are developing and delivering a wide range of opportunities for all ages to get involved in the arts. They are busy working on our under 5's programme and will be working with Early Years staff and under 5's in several parts of Somerset as well as Dorset.

Alison is exploring ways of continuing the successful Rural Touring Dance Initiative, which came to an end in June this year, and Mark is working with several community groups in Chard to extend the Great Mead project in Chard.

Our European work continues with our partnerships with several countries on a European rural touring initiative. Our final conference will be taking place at the end of September in Budapest and a nearby village! In conclusion it is a time of endings and beginnings!

Ralph



Circus Around And About Is Coming Back!

Get ready to look at circus in a whole new way!

When you hear the word circus, you might picture a big top, clowns and ringmasters. But contemporary circus is something entirely different. It's theatre, dance, storytelling and breathtaking physical skill rolled into one. It's funny, moving, surprising and often leaves audiences wondering, "How did they do that?"

One audience member summed it up perfectly after one of our previous tours:

"When people hear the word circus, they

often picture something very traditional – a big top, a ringmaster, a particular kind of spectacle. This is contemporary circus at its most inventive – visually bold, breathtaking and emotionally engaging."

We're delighted to be bringing Circus Around And About (CAAA) to communities across the South West from June 2027 to May 2028, thanks to funding from Arts Council England.

The tour will feature an exciting mix of indoor and outdoor performances, with artists from across the UK and Europe. We're thrilled to have already confirmed two outstanding companies: Cie Zalatai

and Head Over Wheels, with more artists to be announced soon.

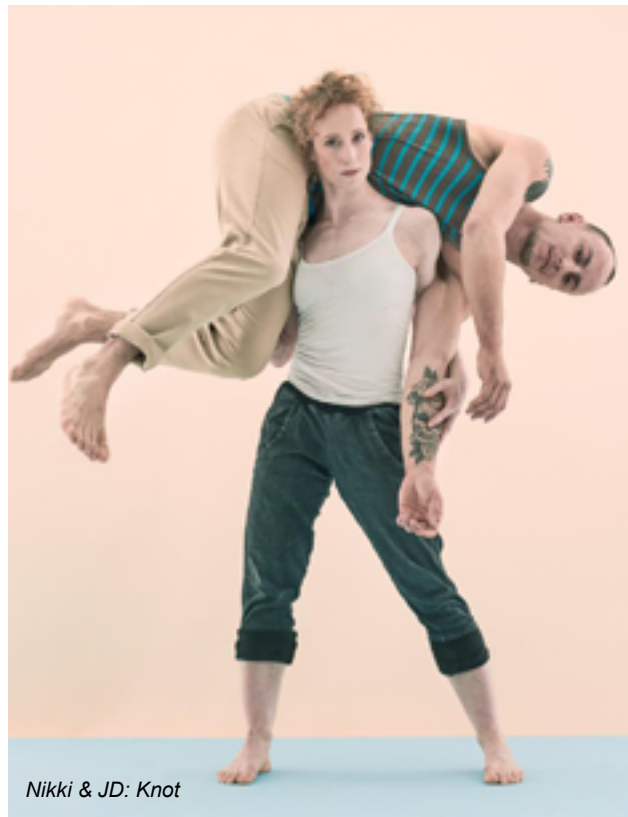
But CAAA is about much more than performances. Alongside the shows, there will be circus skills workshops and community activities for children, young people and families, creating opportunities to get involved, have a go and discover the joy of circus for yourself.

We're also working with community producers and local organisations to welcome more D/deaf and Disabled audiences, helping make contemporary circus accessible to even more people. Students from Circomedia and the National Centre for Circus Arts will also have the chance to perform as curtain-raisers, giving the next generation of circus artists valuable experience.

This ambitious project is being delivered in partnership with Circus City in Bristol - the producer of the UK's largest international contemporary circus festival - alongside a fantastic network of arts organisations across the South West.

We can't wait to share more over the coming months. Until then, why not watch our short film about the previous CAAA tour and discover why contemporary circus continues to amaze audiences of all ages?

To watch the film, open your camera on your phone and screen this QR code. Click on the link that pops up!



Meet The Promoter: Eva Kam



a festival stage for a special performance by Suntou Susso, a Gambian trio of kora players. It was a brilliant example of what can happen when a little imagination, hard work and a welcoming space come together.

We caught up with Eva to find out what brought her to Bridgwater, why she thinks the arts are important to the town, and what advice she has for anyone thinking about bringing performances to their own community.

How have you come to work in Bridgwater?

I first came to Bridgwater in 2013 while working as a freelance chef. During those few weeks, I built local connections and made good friends.

A few years later, when I decided to dedicate my career to community support – specifically promoting cultural diversity, boosting employability, and helping people achieve independence – I revisited the area.

I was inspired to meet so many like-minded individuals working tirelessly for the community, which made Bridgwater the ideal place for me to put down roots and contribute.

What kind of performances do you like to see most?

I love to see culturally diverse performers. I like things that are happy, with comedy. I love music and dance.

Across Somerset, more than 30 local promoting groups give their time and energy to bring high-quality arts experiences to their communities. They're the people who open the doors, welcome audiences and create opportunities for artists to perform in places where you might not always expect to find live arts.

One of these local champions is Eva Kam, who runs Mingle Café in Bridgwater – a place that builds community as well as serving delicious food.

In her first year working with Take Art, Eva transformed the café's backyard into

Why do you think Bridgwater needs art activity?

Arts, music, and food have an incredible power to break down barriers and bring diverse communities together. In recent years, Bridgwater has faced real pressures – from the local pressures and infrastructure demands of Hinkley Point to the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

Creative activities offer a welcoming space to combat loneliness, fostering genuine human connection and a renewed sense of belonging.

Beyond supporting wellbeing, cultural events can revitalise the area, drawing in visitors and restoring pride to a town with such a rich, historic heritage.



Suntou Susso performed in Mingle Café

What wisdom would you pass on to people who would like to bring events to their own community?

Just take the first step! Start small, follow your heart, lean on the passionate people around you.

You don't need perfection to bring people together – you just need the heart to give your community a place to connect, share talent, feel safe and included!

Eva's words capture something at the heart of rural arts: you don't need a theatre or a huge budget to create a memorable experience. Sometimes, all you need is a welcoming space, a good idea and the enthusiasm to give it a go.

From village halls and community centres to cafés and backyards, our local promoters are finding creative ways to bring artists and audiences together across Somerset. And who knows – perhaps the next unexpected stage could be right on your doorstep.

Want to become a promoter?

You can bring Rural Touring shows to your community and create occasions that people talk about for years to come.

We support all our promoters with organising successful events so you don't have to do it alone. We also hold an annual Promoters Meeting, where promoters from across Somerset come together to discover the new season's shows, share experiences and ideas, and meet the team.

Ready to take the first step? For more information, contact Danny Pedler at danny@takeart.org.

Celebrating 10 Years of Dance in Rural Communities

For the past ten years, the Rural Touring Dance Initiative (RTDI) has been bringing extraordinary dance experiences to village halls, schools and community spaces across the UK. It's been a decade of inspiring performances, creative workshops and unforgettable moments, and Take Art is incredibly proud to have been part of that journey.

As the current phase of RTDI comes to a close, we're taking a moment to celebrate everything the project has achieved before planning what comes next.

Over the last three and a half years alone, Take Art has worked with 18 outstanding professional dance companies, bringing

69 performances to communities across the South West. More than 4,000 people have enjoyed live dance in 44 towns and villages, with many venues welcoming artists back year after year as audiences' enthusiasm continued to grow.

But RTDI has always been about much more than performances.

Alongside the shows, hundreds of adults, children and young people have taken part in workshops, residencies and creative activities, giving people of all ages the chance to dance, create and discover something new. Across the South West, the project delivered around 400 hours of dance



Movers and Shakers in action, Broadmayne

activity, welcoming almost 1,000 participants into studios, school halls and village venues.

Some of the most rewarding moments have come from watching communities grow alongside the project. In Broadmayne, Dorset, local children returned each year to work with different dance companies, while the village's much-loved Movers and Shakers group—whose members are all aged 60 and over—embraced everything from contemporary dance and Indian dance to Turkish folk fusion and even breakdance.

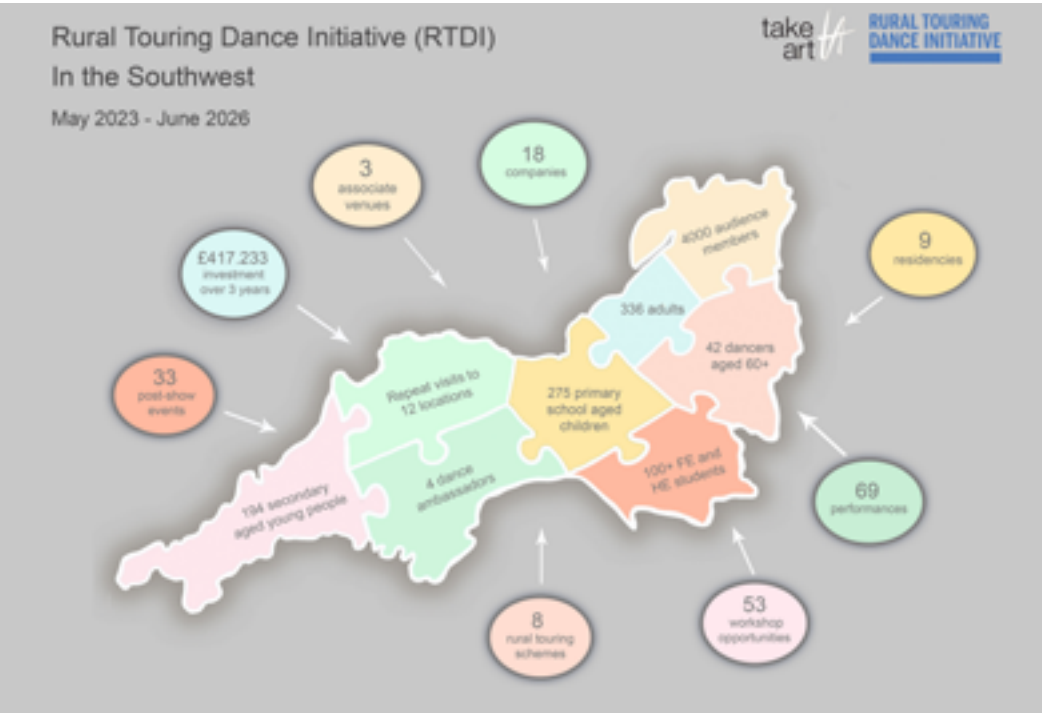
"It was lovely to dance with and meet you all yesterday. Your session was both relaxing and re-energising - just what we needed! The pace was good and we were challenged appropriately." -

Lyn Paine, Movers and Shakers
Seeing confidence flourish and friendships grow has been every bit as rewarding as the performances themselves.

The response from audiences, volunteers and participants has been overwhelming. One volunteer promoter described an RTDI performance as "outstandingly beautiful" and spoke of the audience rising together for a standing ovation.

Time and again we've heard how these events have surprised people, challenged expectations and inspired them to experience dance in a whole new way.

To celebrate RTDI's tenth anniversary, partners from across the country gathered at the National Rural Touring Forum Conference in June for showcase performances, conversations about the



future of dance in rural touring and, appropriately, a silent disco! The event also marked the launch of Rural Moves, a brand-new podcast exploring the stories behind the project.

Whether you're completely new to dance, a regular audience member, an artist or simply curious about what makes rural touring so special, Rural Moves offers fascinating conversations with the people who have helped shape RTDI over the past decade.

Each episode explores a different aspect of the project, from how audiences discover dance to life on tour, community programming and what the future could hold.

Episode 1 *Is it Dance?* asks how audiences engage with dance from the very start – what do we choose for our menus and how do we describe it?

In *Your Place or Mine*, Episode 2, you'll hear some familiar voices talk about touring with RTDI as dance artists and choreographers. Some funny stories in

this one!

What Makes a Good Night Out in a rural context is the question behind Episode 3 and in Episode 4 we look at the pivotal role of the promoter in Curation in the Community.

RTDI's approach to *Audience Development* is examined in more detail in Episode 5 and finally the three lead partners discuss What next? reflecting on what they've learnt and their hopes and intentions for the future of dance in rural areas.

While this chapter of RTDI has now come to an end, the story certainly isn't over. Take Art and our partners are already exploring how this important work can continue, ensuring that high-quality dance remains part of rural life for years to come.

We'd like to thank every artist, volunteer promoter, venue, school, participant and audience member who has been part of the journey. Your enthusiasm, curiosity and support have helped make RTDI such a remarkable success.

Here's to the next dance.



A series of podcasts exploring a decade of dance in rural communities



Eloquent Productions

Looking After Our People

At Take Art, the shows and projects you see are only part of the picture. Behind every rural tour, every early years music session and every community project, there's a team — and we believe in looking after that team properly.

That's why we're proud to be a Disability Confident Employer and a Real Living Wage Employer.



Disability Confident

Being Disability Confident means we've made a genuine commitment to employing, supporting and developing disabled people. We think about accessibility from the start — in how we recruit, how we run our workplace, and how we support people to do their best work. We welcome applications from disabled people and keep building our understanding, so Take Art keeps getting better as an inclusive place to work.

For an organisation bringing culture to village halls and community spaces across rural Somerset, this matters. Access shouldn't be a barrier, for our audiences or our staff.

Real Living Wage

The Real Living Wage is different from the government minimum wage. It's independently calculated each year based on what people actually need to live on — not the lowest amount an employer is legally allowed to pay.

By choosing to pay it, we join thousands of UK employers who believe a fair day's work deserves a fair day's pay. In a rural county like Somerset, where wages can lag and getting to work can be costly, this is one meaningful way we make sure the people bringing arts and culture to your community can afford to live in it.

Why this matters to you

When you come to a show, join a SoundWaves session, or take part in Soil Story, you're supported by people who are paid fairly and treated with respect. We think that's how you build an arts organisation that genuinely belongs to its communities — and one that's still here, doing good work, for years to come.

Take Art is supporting Somerset Council's Set Up Somerset scheme, which helps get people in Somerset into employment. To find out more visit www.stepupsomerset.org

Take Art is a member of the Disability Confident scheme and is accredited by the Living Wage Foundation.



Alys Williams: The Light House

Love is a complicated business. It gets even more complicated when the person you love doesn't want to be alive. Tender, funny and defiantly hopeful, *The Light House* is a real-life story of falling in love and staying in love, even when the lights go out and you're lost in the dark. It's a love letter to life.

Join the emergency response as we dance in the kitchen, sing in the streets and try to turn the lights back on. It gets lonely, muddling through these days and nights. So why don't we do it together?

"A truly remarkable play that leaves you dizzy, a little breathless and smiling your happy smile all the way home" (I Thank You Theatre)

Trigger warning: Contains themes of suicide and hospitalisation

Dates & Times:

3 Sep – Front Room, Weston-super-Mare | 7.30pm | £15

4 Sep – Pound Arts, Corsham | 7.30pm | £14 | 01249 701628

5 Sep – Pen Selwood Village Hall | 7:30pm | £13 / £8 low income/child | 01747840680 | Doors open 7pm Pen Pub in attendance

6 Sep – Croscombe Village Hall | 7.30pm | £13 / £9 low income/under 25's | Doors open 7pm



Little Bulb: Listen Dance

A raucous evening of social dance and live music! Put on your dancing shoes and get ready to hit the floor in this raucous evening of social dance from Fringe First, Herald Angel and Olivier Award-Winning Little Bulb.

Try everything from ceilidh to candy, disco to DnB - there's even a beginner's guide to moshing! All accompanied by a genre-hopping live band and sprinkled with Little Bulb's signature theatre magic. A joyous night out that celebrates the past, present and future of social dance. Sometimes hilarious, sometimes moving, always joyful, all are welcome.

Dates & Times:

12 Sep – Caryford Community Hall | 7.30pm | £12 advanced / £15 on door £8 advanced / £10 on door under 18's | 01963 350980 | doors open 7pm

19 Sep – Axbridge Town Hall | 7.30pm | £12/£8 low income/under25's | 07803 252123

3 Oct - All Saints Church Hall, Langport | 7.30pm | £15/£10 low income/students | 07935 352 695



Pipeline Theatre: George & The Drag Queen

George and The Drag Queen - Fete brought them together.

A new play from Pipeline Theatre presents George and Maddy - a pair of wise-cracking oddballs, set in that bastion of Englishness: a St. John Ambulance gazebo in a village fete. Oh, and Usman - a Drag Queen.

With three actors, a transmogrifying set and Pipeline's trademark immersive soundscape, this show will take you on a provocative, darkly funny, but ultimately life-affirming theatrical journey.

Trigger warning: Contains scenes of empathy and mutual understanding.

Dates & Times:

2 Oct – Kilve Village Hall | 8pm | £12 / £10 low income £40 family (2+2 or 1+3) | 07814 613 908

3 Oct – Whitstone School Hall, Shepton Mallet | 7.30pm | £14 / £7 low income/under 25's



Maddie Storvold: Live

Somewhere between a stand-up set, a kitchen-table confession, and a finely crafted folk song lives the music of Maddie Storvold. With a voice that can hush a room and a storyteller's instinct for capturing the irreverent and the heartfelt, Storvold pens songs that feel instantly lived-in.

A standout voice in Canada's folk and roots scene, Storvold first captured national attention when she won the CTV's The Launch with celebrity mentor Bryan Adams, earning widespread recognition for her powerful voice, and producing a single, "Don't Say You Love Me" that shot to number 1 on the country charts in less than 3 hours. Since then, she has taken her music across the world, performing at festivals and venues throughout Canada and the UK, and building a loyal audience drawn to her authenticity, heart, and playful humour.

More dates coming in 2027!

Dates & Times:

22 Oct - Westfield Church, Bridgwater | 7:30pm | £5 | tickets from takeart.org

23 Oct – Roadwater Village Hall | 7.30pm | £11 | from Roadwater Shop or Valiant Soldier Pub

24 Oct – Lydeard St. Lawrence Village Hall | 8pm | £12/£10 students/under 18's | 07825 815 400 | doors open 7pm



CarmenCo: A Pocket Opera

CarmenCo's "A Pocket Opera" is more than a concert: It is a performance of Spanish music presented as a play which roughly follows the story of Bizet's opera Carmen but told from her point of view. Dare you consult the cards with her? What does she think of the men in her story? Did she foresee her gruesome ending? And does she like the opera Bizet wrote about her?

The three musicians perform entirely from memory, enabling them to act with each other, and to engage the audience members, involving them in the dialogue.

Dates & Times:

13 Nov – Norton sub Hamdon Village Hall | 7.30pm | £14 from Norton Shop

14 Nov – Holford and District Village Hall | 7.30pm | £14 / £11 low income/under 18's | 07778 595 261

15 Nov – Lamyatt Village Hall | 6pm | £15 / £8 low income (all tickets include complimentary tapas) 07938 174468

20 Nov – Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Village Hall | 8pm | £12 | 07788 817 619

21 Nov – Wootton Courtenay Village Hall | 7.30pm | £12 | 01643 841067

22 Nov – Caryford Community Hall | 7.30pm | £12 advanced / £15 on door | 01963 350980

Farnham Maltings: The Tailor of Gloucester

Celebrate the 160th anniversary of Beatrix Potter's birth with a fresh adaptation of her classic tale, featuring original music by double Olivier Award-winner Darren Clark (The Curious Case of Benjamin Button).

Four fabulous actor-musicians bring Beatrix Potter's beautiful story to dazzling new life, retold through the eyes of the resourceful mice who live between the hems and stitches. With live music, inventive puppetry, and a wardrobe of surprises, the story whirls into the twenty-first century, reimagined against the glamorous, high-pressure world of fashion.

Perfect for family audiences, The Tailor of Gloucester is a heartwarming tale of kindness, creativity, and courage - a story that shows the importance of doing what's right, even when no one is watching. So, wrap up warm and immerse yourself in a festive show that glitters with humour, song, and style.

This is Beatrix Potter as you've never experienced her before: mischievous, musical, and tailor-made for the holiday season.

Dates & Times:

28 Nov – Templecombe Village Hall | 2pm | £12 adult/£5 child / £30 family (2 adults + 2 children) | 07849 510415



Christmas With Jackie Oates & John Spiers

Two of the most recognised musicians on the British folk scene today bring their understated brilliance to Somerset, and invite you into their captivating world of English carols, wassails and other historical traditions from the British Isles and far beyond.

Jackie Oates (two-time BBC Radio 2 Folk Award winner and five-time nominee) and John Spiers (Bellowhead, Spiers & Boden) combine their considerable talents to provide a beautiful and warm evening of the highest calibre music; the perfect antidote to the materialism of the festive season.

These concerts include original music and selected covers, and a host of instruments are played - fiddle, melodeon, percussion, recorders and stomp box - creating a richly textured sound. The duo provide inspiration for a simpler and wholesome Christmas - one where tradition, family, ritual and celebration are the beating heart.

Dates & Times:

11 December – Holford and District Village Hall | 7.30pm | £14/£10 low income/students/under 18's | 07778 595 261



Help Keep Creativity Alive Across Somerset

Take Art is unlike most arts organisations. We don't have one theatre, gallery or concert hall. Instead, our stage is Somerset itself.

Every day, we bring creativity, connection and opportunities to communities across the county. From village halls filled with laughter to nurseries buzzing with imagination, from older people discovering new friendships to young artists finding their confidence, our work reaches thousands of people every year.



We believe everyone should have the chance to experience the arts, regardless of where they live. But we can't do it alone.

Your donation could make a difference

As an independent charity, Take Art relies on the generosity of people who believe creativity should be accessible to everyone.

Like many charities, we're facing increasing financial pressures. Public funding has become more limited, while the demand for our work continues

to grow. Donations help us continue reaching communities across Somerset with inspiring, inclusive and accessible arts experiences.

Whether you choose to make a one-off gift or become a regular supporter, you'll be helping us create opportunities that bring people together, improve wellbeing and enrich lives.

How we use your donations

Your support doesn't simply fund projects. It helps create moments that people remember. A child discovering the excitement of live performance. An artist bringing their work to audiences who might otherwise never experience it.

Whether your gift is large or small, every donation helps us continue our work. You could help provide creative materials for workshops, support performances in village halls, enable artists to visit schools, or simply help us continue reaching communities that value these experiences so deeply.

Regular monthly donations are especially valuable because they allow us to plan confidently for the future, ensuring our work can continue to grow and reach even more people.

If you are able, please consider supporting us and help create the next chapter of Take Art's story.

For more information please visit the Donate page on our website or scan the QR code on the right. Thank you.



Event Calendar

Date	Time	Company	Event	Venue, Sat Nav, Postcode & Tel	Page
3 Sept	7:30pm	Alys Williams	The Light House	Front Room, Weston-super-Mare BS32 1FF	12
4 Sept	7:30pm	Alys Williams	The Light House	Pound Arts, Corsham 01249 701628 SN13 9HX	12
5 Sept	7:30pm	Alys Williams	The Light House	Pen Selwood Village Hall 01747 840680 BA9 8LS	12
6 Sept	7:30pm	Alys Williams	The Light House	Croscombe Village Hall BA5 3RJ	12
12 Sept	7:30pm	Little Bulb	Listen Dance	Caryford Community Hall BA7 7JJ tickets01963 350980	13
19 Sept	7:30pm	Little Bulb	Listen Dance	Axbridge Town Hall 07803 252123 BS26 2AR	13
2 Oct	8pm	Pipeline Theatre	George and the Drag Queen	Kilve Village Hall TA5 1EA 07814 613908	14
3 Oct	7:30pm	Little Bulb	Listen Dance	All Saints Church, Langport TA10 9QF 07935 352695	13
3 Oct	7:30pm	Pipeline Theatre	George and the Drag Queen	Whitstone School Hall Shepton Mallet BA4 5PF	14
22 Oct	7:30pm	Maddie Storvold	Live	Westfield Church Bridgwater TA6 7EU tickets from takeart.org	15
23 Oct	7:30pm	Maddie Storvold	Live	Roadwater Village Hall TA23 0RE tickets from Roadwater Shop & Valiant Soldier Pub	15
24 Oct	8pm	Maddie Storvold	Live	Lydeard St. Lawrence Village Hall 07825 815 400 TA4 3LH	15
13 Nov	7:30pm	CarmenCo	A Pocket Opera	Norton Sub Hamdon Village Hall TA14 6SF tickets from village shop	16
14 Nov	7:30pm	CarmenCo	A Pocket Opera	Holford and District Village Hall 07778 595 261 TA5 1SD	16
15 Nov	6pm	CarmenCo	A Pocket Opera	Lamyatt Village Hall BA4 6NJ 07938 174468	16
20 Nov	8pm	CarmenCo	A Pocket Opera	Curry Mallet & Beercrocombe Village Hall TA3 6SY 0778 8817619	16
21 Nov	7:30pm	CarmenCo	A Pocket Opera	Wootton Courtenay Village Hall 01643 841067 TA24 8RH	16
22 Nov	7:30pm	CarmenCo	A Pocket Opera	Caryford Community Hall BA7 7JJ tickets01963 350980	16
28 Nov	2pm	Farnham Maltings	The Tailor of Gloucester	Templecombe Village Hall 07849 510415 BA8 0HP	17
20 March	7:30pm	Jackie Oates and John Spiers	Live	Holford and District Village Hall 07778 595 261 TA5 1SD	18



Coming to Somerset in 2027



Events On The Map

- | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Axbridge | 6. Curry Mallet | 11. Lydeard St. Lawrence | 16. Templecombe |
| 2. Bridgwater | 7. Holford | 12. Norton sub Hamdon | 17. Weston-super-mare |
| 3. Castle Cary | 8. Kilve | 13. Pen Selwood | 18. Wootton Courtenay |
| 4. Corsham | 9. Lamyatt | 14. Roadwater | |
| 5. Croscombe | 10. Langport | 15. Shepton Mallet | |



Never miss an event again!

Want to hear about great shows and creative events happening near you? Sign up to our newsletter and we'll keep you up to date with what's coming to your local community, from live performances and family shows to creative activities and events you can get involved in.

Our newsletter arrives every other month, so we promise not to fill up your inbox! You can also request a free copy of our latest brochure to be posted straight to your door – just add your postal address when you sign up.

Scan the QR code with your phone's camera to join us, or visit www.takeart.org to sign up!

Contact

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