

# beafordarts

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## Breathing Space

Devon Theatre Residencies at Beaford Arts

**This Autumn will see the launch of a new programme for theatre makers and practitioners committed to producing and presenting work in Devon to utilise the facilities of the Beaford Arts Residential Centre to make new work as part of a creative retreat.**

Beaford Arts is England's longest running rural arts organisation set in North Devon's stunning UNESCO Biosphere Reserve bounded by Exmoor, Dartmoor and the West Atlantic coast. We are regularly funded by Arts Council England and Devon County Council to support the development and delivery of our activities.

This Autumn will see the launch of a new programme for theatre makers and practitioners committed to producing and presenting work in Devon to utilise the facilities of the residential centre to make new work as part of a creative retreat.

Our organisation has three main strands:

**Beaford Education** – Greenwarren House, our residential centre, which accommodates over one thousand young people from Devon and South West every year to extend their arts education in this unique and peaceful environment.

**Beaford Archive** – a collection of over 80,000 images which is predominantly the work of James Ravilious (1939-1999) who spent 17 years living in and, and documenting, rural north Devon in the 1970s and 80s. This Summer his work can be seen at the National Theatre, London.

**Beaford Events** – Beaford works with over 30 communities across North Devon to create and present live arts events in non-theatre spaces. We also commission and partner with artists and companies to create special projects and events.

Beaford Arts links across these activities working with a range of artists to engage in new ways with North Devon's land, its people and the issues they face. We aspire to be a Centre of Excellence in Rural Arts, and want to enable artists to spend creative time in the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve accordingly.

## **Breathing Space – Creative Retreats**

Beaford Arts Creative Retreats are three long weekends from November 2009 to March 2010 for companies or collectives of theatre makers to have a sustained period of time to develop new work or to experiment with and develop their practice. The weekends are linked and should be utilised as stages within the development of a piece of new work or the establishment of new practice. The final weekend of the three will feature a presentation or performance of the work created to an invited audience of other practitioners, producers and theatre makers from across the region.

The weekends will be hosted by Beaford Arts with support and professional advice on hand from members of staff. As there will be three companies in residence on each weekend, there will also be opportunities to network and meet with other local practitioners. We are seeking proposals from theatre making collectives or emerging theatre companies committed to producing and presenting work in Devon who would benefit from this opportunity.

### **Outcomes**

We are hoping that through these residencies:

- Theatre-makers will engage with the challenges and opportunities of creating and working in non-theatre spaces in this county.
- Theatre-makers can develop new connections with other local practitioners.
- Beaford Arts will help to encourage the development of new work originating from Devon.

### **Facilities**

The centre can accommodate up to 40 people in dormitory and individual rooms (of the latter there are only two) and has two studios, a music room (with grand piano), a lecture room, a multimedia suite, kitchen facilities, a common room and a very large field (with electricity and water supply)! There is also a large hall with sprung wooden flooring adjacent to the centre which is available.

Breakfast and teas and coffees will be provided throughout the weekends. A range of other catering options are available from self-catering to basic menus.

### **Eligibility:**

You may apply as a collective of individuals interested in working together to create theatre, or as an existing theatre company. We may match-make artists in the future, but for this residency we cannot accept applications from single individuals. Preference will be given to Devon residents and also to proposals that explicitly address our key outcomes. All individuals within a collective or company must be aged 18 or over.

## **Applications**

Proposals should be a maximum of two pages detailing:

- Your proposed activities over all three weekends with short and long term objectives for your group to achieve
- How your proposal matches with our preferred outcomes.
- Name and contact details of the lead applicant
- CV of the lead applicant

Where possible, please indicate names and members of your group and whether they live and work in Devon, along with brief information about their professional experience.

**Applications should be received by 31<sup>st</sup> July and selection will be completed by the 14<sup>th</sup> August.**

### **The Selection Panel includes:**

Hannah Ashwell  
Programming and Events Manager for Beaford Arts

Mark Wallace  
Director of Beaford Arts

Phil Hindson  
Theatre Officer for Arts Council England South West

And one other theatre professional from the South West

### **The dates for the residencies are as follows:**

**12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> November 2009**

**21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

**11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

Companies or collectives should utilise all three weekends with a view to presenting their final ideas or scratch performances on the 14<sup>th</sup> March with invited producers, promoters, directors, performers and other artists.

Please submit applications to:

Hannah Ashwell, Programming and Events Manager, Beaford Arts  
[Hannah@beaford-arts.org.uk](mailto:Hannah@beaford-arts.org.uk)

Or by post: Beaford Arts  
Greenwarren House  
Beaford Arts Devon  
EX19 8LU

## **Additional Information**

### **Beaford Education**

The Beaford Arts Residential Centre was established in 1966 by the Dartington Hall Trust. It is based at Greenwarren House, an early 19th century residence in the peaceful village of Beaford in North Devon.

Every year, over a thousand young people and adults from the Devon and beyond participate in residential courses at Beaford, taking part in a wide spectrum of arts activities both in the centre and the surrounding area working with local and international artists. Students work over a sustained period of time in our purpose built studios to widen their horizons in the arts beyond the National Curriculum and exam criteria.

### **Beaford Events**

We present annual Spring and Autumn seasons of performance, music, dance and comedy across the 920 square miles of the UNESCO North Devon Biosphere Reserve. These pieces are specially selected by Beaford with our partners and feature international, national and regional artists presenting new work.

Our partnerships with more than 30 local communities enable us to work in some of the most beautiful landscapes and historical towns and villages. Our venues range from halls to ancient churches and barns to beaches.

We also work to commission special projects with artists that enable them to have residencies and the opportunity to work in our environment and with our communities for extended periods.

### **Beaford Archive**

The Beaford Archive was established in the early 1970s to document the land, its people, and their traditional way of life in rural North Devon.

Shortly after its inception, artist and photographer James Ravilious (1939-1999) was asked to take "a few photos" for the collection. Seventeen years and nearly 80,000 images later, he had created a uniquely detailed portrait of a corner of England on the brink of change.

*"These photos, anything but nostalgic, reveal the persistence of an England one had thought long gone."* – Alan Bennett.

Beaford Arts is funded and supported by:

