

Press release: for immediate release

Writers' showcase celebrates young talent in Gateshead

An evening of spoken word, film, music and animation is set to showcase talented young people from across Gateshead and the wider North East. Inside/Outside takes place at Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art on Monday 20 January.

Inside/Outside is produced by the New Writing North Young Writers programme, which runs creative writing activity both within and outside school in towns across the North East. The Gateshead Young Writers programme is funded by The Kavli Trust and was launched in January 2019.

The event features contributions from children and young people at Grace College, Kingsmeadow Community School, Kelvin Grove Primary School and Larkspur Primary School, where New Writing North runs its Young Writers' City programme in Gateshead. Other contributors include young people who meet at Larkspur House community centre, those who take part in New Writing North's Saturday writing groups across the region, and participants of Young Writers' City at Excelsior Academy in Newcastle.

Inspired by the theme 'Inside/Outside', young people have written and selected their own work to perform on the evening, with themes including cyber bullying, the environment and a sense of belonging. The evening will also mark the launch of a short film, This Place, which is written and performed by young people from Larkspur Primary School and Larkspur House with Christina Castling in response to Beacon Lough estate, their local area.

Other artists involved in the project include musicians and songwriters Calum Howard and Ziad Jabroo, animator Sheryl Jenkins, writer Lucie Brownlee and the evening's compere, writer and theatre maker, Zoe Murtagh.

Anna Disley, Executive Director (Programme and Impact), New Writing North, said: "We are so grateful to the Kavli Trust for their visionary funding of this two year programme, which provides young people with an opportunity to work with writers, express their own creative ideas and share them with peers and a wider audience. The funding means we are able to respond to young peoples' individual circumstances and provide progression routes in the cultural sector according to their needs and interests. The showcase promises to present amazing talent and ideas that young people in the North East have to offer."

Inside/Outside takes place at Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art at 6-8pm on Monday 20 January. Tickets are free.

--Ends --

For all media enquiries, please contact Laura Fraine at New Writing North laurafraine@newwritingnorth.com 0191 204 8850

Photographers are welcome to attend the event, please contact Laura in advance. Press photographs will also be available from Tuesday 21 January.

Notes to Editors

New Writing North is the development agency for creative writing and reading in the North of England. It works in partnership with regional and national partners to produce a range of literary and performance activities including flagship projects such as New Writing North Young Writers, The Northern Writers' Awards, the Gordon Burn Prize and Durham Book Festival. New Writing North specialises in developing and investing in writers of all ages and acts as a dynamic broker between writers, producers, publishers and broadcasters across the creative industries. Current partners include BBC Radio 3, Channel 4 Drama, Faber and Faber, Northumbria University and Durham University. As a producer of new work New Writing North commissions a wide range of writing from topical essays and publications to award-winning dance theatre productions, short films, live literature and broadcast projects.

Artists

Artists who have helped develop the content for Inside/Outside include: Christina Castling, Calum Howard, Sheryl Jenkins, Zoe Murtagh (compere), Ziad Jabroo, Lucie Brownlee. Becci Sharrock is the Project Producer for Young Writers' City in Gateshead.

Other artists who have worked on the programme include: Sian Armstrong, Bob Beagrie, Tracy Gillman, Ruth Johnson, Laura Lindow, Lauren Vevers, Emily Wiseman