

NEW WRITING NORTH

Wednesday 24 May 2023

Next generation of North of Tyne creatives announced

New Writing North and North of Tyne Combined Authority have joined forces to support the next generation of creative industry entrepreneurs in the region. A group of ten Young Creative Associates has been named today.

The [Young Creative Associates](#) programme is part of New Writing North's [Writing and Publishing Skills Hub](#), funded by the North of Tyne Combined Authority.

Each of the creative entrepreneurs is aged 18-30 and lives in the North of Tyne area. Over nine months, they will work with creative industry mentors and their peers as they are supported to explore sustainable routes of self-employment. They will learn business basics, financial management, fundraising, networking and project development skills, and receive a bursary grant of £1000 to support their projects.

Today, the Writing and Publishing Skills Hub also opens applications for its [Creative Associates Residencies](#) programme, open to adults of any age living in the North of Tyne area. There are five positions available for the Creative Associates, who will work alongside New Writing North to develop their own creative projects. Applications are open until 31 July 2023.

The Young Creative Associates 2023 are:

- **Caleb Carter** (Acomb), the founder of thebigship.org, a website for new art writing. Caleb will be expanding The Big Ship by turning its weekly collection of experimental vignettes into a volumized zine.
- **Hazel Atkinson** (Jesmond), who will be designing creative writing workshops that engage with the collections in local museums and heritage sites.
- **Hazel Soper**, (Heaton), founder of Slop Projects, an arts organisation working to promote contemporary rural art, whilst challenging the inaccessibility of the arts sector in rural areas.
- **Ilisha Thiru Purcell** (Jesmond), a poet developing new work exploring trauma, sexuality and landscape, inspired by classical Tamil love poetry.

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- **Kym Deyn** (Heaton) writer, and founder of The Braag CIC, which will launch a new press and publish a run of chapbooks and pamphlets, with a focus on underrepresented and marginalised writers.
- **Lily Tibbitts** (Amble), a writer who is developing Wild Stories, a project that combines nature and creative writing to teach young people about climate change.
- **Louise Page** (Ponteland), a writer and artist who makes work about their experiences as a disabled, queer, genderfluid person, and is writing a graphic novel about Jane Austen, grief, and disability.
- **Maud Webster** (Newcastle), a multidisciplinary creative and researcher who is producing audio walking guides focusing on the urban history of Newcastle.
- **Oisín Liam Power** (Gosforth), a writer, filmmaker, and software developer who explores the intersection of arts and healthcare. He is developing a series of comic strips offering reflections on children's palliative care.
- **Rachel Dickenson** (West Denton), a prison educator who is founding Acting Right Now to make meaningful art with people in prison, with a strong focus on scene-devising and script work.

**Claire Malcolm, Chief Executive of New Writing North, said:** 'We're passionate about uplifting new voices and supporting new work, so it is a genuine thrill to be supporting the next generation of talented young writers, artists and creative entrepreneurs through this innovative partnership with the North of Tyne Combined Authority. There are many talented young people looking to pursue careers in the creative industries, one of the fastest growing areas of the economy, and finding new ways to support them to succeed is important. We want the North East to be a place where you can grow a creative idea into reality with the right kind of support and encouragement.'

**Caleb Carter, Young Creative Associate 2023, said:** 'As exciting as it is to be developing my own projects, I'm most thrilled to work alongside this diverse roster of young creatives for New Writing North, and be part of a collective that represents the type of open and innovative passion for the arts that is so tangibly present in the North of England. Through the programme I hope most that I can develop creative relationships that will lead me to surprising places in my work.'

**Rachel Dickenson, Young Creative Associate 2023, said:** 'Finding out I'd been selected for this programme was the best news I could have had. It was like my project's engine had sparked and I knew it would finally get up and running.'

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## Full bios of the Young Creative Associates 2023

### Caleb Carter

Caleb is the founder of online curatorial, [thebigship.org](http://thebigship.org), which seeks exciting and experimental writing about films, music, books and art outside of the traditional canon. Through the Young Creative Associates, Caleb will be expanding The Big Ship by turning its weekly collection of experimental vignettes into a volumized zine.

Caleb is being mentored by Foundation Press, a North East based community publisher.

### Hazel Atkinson

Hazel is a freelance writer and creative practitioner based in Newcastle. Her fiction has won and been placed in several competitions, and in 2020 she was shortlisted for the Bridge Awards Emerging Writer Award. Hazel is working towards designing, developing and delivering a series of creative writing workshops which will engage with the collections in local museums and heritage sites.

Hazel is being mentored by North East author Carmen Marcus.

### Hazel Soper

Hazel is the founder of Slop Projects. Slop Projects is an arts organisation working to promote contemporary rural art, whilst challenging inaccessibility of the arts sector in rural areas. Often in the countryside, physical access to art can be limited due to isolated locations, lack of transport and information, and economic barriers. The Young Creative Associates programme will support Slop to develop a new exhibition, bridging the gap between visual art, creative writing and music.

Hazel is being mentored by Laura Brewis, experienced Arts Producer of We Make Culture.

### Ilisha Thiru Purcell

Ilisha Thiru Purcell is a poet based in and from Newcastle upon Tyne. Her poetry has appeared in *Popshot* and is upcoming in *The Butcher's Dog* and *Nature Nurtures Anthology*. Ilisha will be developing new work exploring trauma, sexuality and landscape and will culminate in the exhibition of a short poetry film. The film will consist of a sequence of poems inspired by the classical Tamil love poetry and merging aspects of the Tamil landscape with that of the North East.

Ilisha is being mentored by award-winning poet Shash Trevett.

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Kym Deyn

Kym Deyn is a writer based in Newcastle. They are a winner of the 2020 Outspoken Prize for poetry and have been shortlisted for awards including the Bridport Prize and the Creative Futures award. Kym will be supported to develop The Braag CIC. The Braag supports writing and culture in the North of England, with a focus on underrepresented and marginalised writers. Through the Young Creatives Associates The Braag will launch a new press and publish a run of chapbooks and pamphlets.

Kym is receiving a bespoke package of mentoring from a range of industry experts.

Lily Tibbitts

Born and raised in Northumberland, Lily is an avid writer, and winner of the New Writing North Young Northern Writers. Lily will be supported to develop Wild Stories, a project that aims to combine nature and fiction. Through a wide range of outdoor activities and creative writing sessions, the young people taking part will learn about climate change and nature-based solutions through stories.

Lily is being mentored by North East based author H. F. Askwith.

Louise Page

Louise Page is a writer and artist from Northumberland. They make work about their experiences of being a disabled, queer, genderfluid person. Their mainstream books have been published by Scholastic, whilst their single-edition Artists' Books have been acquired by the Wellcome Collection. The Young Creative Associates will support Louise to write a graphic novel that looks at Jane Austen, grief, and disability.

Louise is being mentored by award-winning graphic novelist Una.

Maud Webster

Maud Webster is a multidisciplinary creative and researcher. Maud's project aims to produce audio walking guides focusing on the urban history and design of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. The theme of 'guide' one will translate existing research on the Rise and Fall of Newcastle's public toilets (1850s – today) into a piece of mapped narrative non-fiction storytelling.

Maud is being mentored by award winning audio producer Alannah Chance.

Oisín Power

Oisín Liam Power is a writer, filmmaker, and software developer. His work explores the intersection of arts and healthcare and has earned him multiple regional writing awards. Oisín will develop a series of comic strips offering bite-sized reflections on children's palliative

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care and shine a light on the aspects that often remain unseen. The comic strips will be uploaded to social media to broaden their reach, make them easily accessible and to pave the way for an animated film on a similar theme.

Oisín will be mentored by award-winning graphic novelist Hannah Berry.

Rachel Dickenson

Rachel Dickenson was born and raised in West Denton, Newcastle. She has been passionate about acting and creative writing all her life and currently works as a Prison Educator. Young Creative Associates is supporting Rachel to start Acting Right Now. Acting Right Now is about making meaningful art with people in prison, with a strong focus on scene-devising and script work.

Rachel is being mentored by experienced writer and theatre practitioner Tearlach Duncanson.

About New Writing North

New Writing North is the development agency for creative writing and reading in the North of England.

Based in Newcastle upon Tyne since 1996, it is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation. The organisation works in partnership with regional and national partners to produce a range of literary and performance activities including flagship projects such as the Northern Writers' Awards, Young Writers, the Gordon Burn Prize, Durham Book Festival and the David Cohen Prize for Literature.

New Writing North specialises in developing and investing in writers of all ages and act 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, Hachette Children's Group, Northumbria University and Durham University. In 2023, it launched a Writing and Publishing Skills Hub with support from North of Tyne Combined Authority.

As a producer of new work, New Writing North commissions a wide range of writing including podcasts and audio projects, essays, publications, productions, short films, live literature and broadcast projects. New Writing North's extensive and award-winning Young Writers programme develops the creativity and skills of young people. Work in schools with children and their teachers is complemented by a large and diverse out-of-school programme that is open to all, with a special focus on areas with fewer opportunities.

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As a promoter and producer of festivals and literary events and through its partnerships with schools, libraries, universities and prisons, New Writing North engages audiences with enriching and creative reading experiences.

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