



BOUNCE

ARTS FESTIVAL



Thursday 2 October to
Sunday 5 October 2025
Derry-Londonderry and Belfast



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Welcome Message

Ciara Smyth, Chair of University of Atypical

Welcome to Bounce 2025. Bounce is now in its fourteenth year, and is still the primary disabled-led arts festival in Northern Ireland. I am proud to present to you this festival programme.

The programme is a great celebration of the creativity and resilience of d/Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent artists. I congratulate the staff at University of Atypical for putting together this programme and on behalf of the Board wish to thank the team for their dedication and efforts in co-ordinating this year's Bounce Festival.

I would like to thank the team of volunteer 'Bouncers' who continue to give their time and passion to support our festival each year. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the Board of Trustees that work with me for their dedication and contributions to the organisation over the past year.

I want to acknowledge that in the midst of great anticipation of Bounce 2025, there is also sadness. Seán Fitzsimons, who was our Chair for 4 years, passed away suddenly in December 2024. He is as highly missed as he was cherished by the Board and the team. Seán brought gravitas, integrity, kindness and great knowledge to the organisation. He led the organisation to strive with ambition for positive change for disabled people. Our gratitude to Seán lives on in the work we do.

Thank you to our funders whose belief in us enables us to do this important work. We are grateful to the Arts Council of

Northern Ireland, Belfast City Council, Derry City and Strabane District Council, as well as the support from other funders this year: Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Department for Communities, National Lottery Communities Fund, the Esme Mitchell Trust, Community Foundation NI, Cultural Bridge, and Belfast Harbour Community Awards.

Finally to you, our partner organisations, friends, and audiences: thank you for the enthusiasm you give us. I am sure you will feel that enthusiasm reflected back through this excellent programme. I wish you a fantastic Bounce 2025.

CEO and Artistic Director, Edel Murphy

I am truly excited to welcome you to Bounce 2025, Northern Ireland's showcase of disabled, d/Deaf and neurodivergent artistic talent. Bounce 2025 is taking place in Belfast and Derry~Londonderry over 4 dynamic days, from 2 to 5 October - we have had to add an extra day this year to accommodate our packed programme!



Art is so often the vehicle for activism. With looming cuts to benefits for disabled people in the United Kingdom, we in the arts and disability sector know more than ever how important it is to raise our voice. Bounce is not just a festival, it's a movement.

And so the theme of Bounce 2025 is 'Not Just...', provoking creative conversation on the importance of disability representation, diversity, and intersectionality in the arts

sector. As disabled people, we are not a homogeneous group. As individuals we are Not Just one thing. We experience the world, not through a single lens of identity, but simultaneously belong to multiple social categories that bring different benefits and challenges where these identities intersect.

This year's festival draws disabled, d/Deaf and neurodivergent artists who are also parents, carers, LGBTQIA+ people, people from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds, those who are getting their pension and so on... Each intersection represents different patterns of privilege and oppression, and through being conscious of these intersections, we can support more meaningful inclusion and challenge prejudice for all disabled people.

The opening events 'Not Just...BS' (Breakfast Symposium) in both Derry-Londonderry and Belfast will provide a space for our artists and audiences to connect and network alongside artistic interludes from writers and performers.

The wider programme brings opportunities to laugh, create, contemplate, and participate. Our Bounce 2025 events span comedy, dance, literature, theatre, music and circus with themes including celebration and rebellion, sex and sexuality, identity and belonging, post-partum depression and the power of language. Expect to be joyous, intrigued and challenged.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the huge effort of the contributing artists, the wider Atypical team and those who have partnered with us. It is only through a team effort that we are able to bring you Bounce 2025 and I hand it over to you now - it's yours.

Message from Patricia Lavery, Head of Community Arts and Education, Arts Council of Northern Ireland

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland is delighted to support University of Atypical and the annual Bounce Arts Festival.

One of the top priorities of the Arts Council's draft ten-year strategy, 'Championing the Arts', is to encourage a sector that develops, looks after its people, and is more inclusive. The Arts Council is committed to improving access to the arts for d/Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent artists working here and to provide meaningful opportunities for them to develop their professional, artistic careers.

**PRINCIPAL
FUNDER**



**arts
council**
of Northern Ireland

The Bounce Arts Festival offers a showcase for Northern Ireland talent and an important platform for discussion and debate. It also gives audiences the chance to connect with the experiences of d/Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent artists through the invaluable lens of creativity, in an open and welcoming environment.

Message from Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Tracy Kelly

We are exceptionally proud to support Bounce 2025. Now in its fourteenth year, this inspiring, accessible festival continues to go from strength to strength and we're delighted to be part of its remarkable journey.

Led by University of Atypical, Bounce is a shining example of how the arts can transcend barriers and reframe perceptions. Showcasing the exceptional work of D/deaf, disabled, and neurodivergent creatives, this festival not only enriches our

cultural landscape, but opens up essential space for new perspectives and stories.

I warmly encourage everyone to step outside the 'typical', embrace something new and experience everything that Bounce 2025 has to offer.



Belfast
City Council

Message from Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council, Cllr Ruairi McHugh

Bounce Festival, as the only professional disabled-led arts festival in the region, is a beacon of inclusivity, creativity, and empowerment. It provides an invaluable platform for d/Deaf, disabled, and neurodivergent artists to showcase their incredible talent, enriching the cultural landscape for all. Our commitment to supporting a full programme in Derry reflects our dedication to ensuring that disabled artists and audiences in the North West have equitable access to, and can fully participate in, the vibrant arts scene.

I would encourage everyone to experience the magic of Bounce, a festival that embodies the spirit of our community and is all about celebrating diversity, talent and extending a warm welcome to everyone.



Derry City & Strabane
District Council
Comhairle
Chathair Dhoire &
Cheantar an tSratha Báin
Derry Cille & Strabane
District Council

At a Glance

Colour	Location
Teal	Derry~Londonderry
Pink	Belfast

Thursday 2 October	Derry-Londonderry
Not Just BS (Breakfast Symposium) Creative networking and panel event 10:30 am - 12:30 pm The Playhouse £5 BSL + ISL Tea, coffee and refreshments from 10:15 am	
Re-collections by Justine Scoltock Exhibition Thursday & Friday 10:00 am - 5:30 pm, Saturday: 9:00 am - 3:30 pm The Playhouse Free (donations welcome)	
(W)right Now Writing workshop 2:00 - 3:00 pm The Playhouse £5	
Still Not Your Pity Party! Cabaret performance 8:00 - 10:00 pm The Playhouse £10 BSL	

Friday 3 October

Derry-Londonderry

Mind the Time

Film screening

12:00 - 1:00 pm | Nerve Centre | £4 | Subtitles

Saturday 4 October

Derry-Londonderry

Dreaming Disability Futures

Workshop

12:00 - 4:00 pm (lunch break from 1:30 - 2:15 pm)

| Void Art Centre | £5

We Should Not March to the Beat of the Same Drum
by Rebecca Strain

Live performance

7:00 - 9:00 pm | The Centre for Contemporary Art

| Free (donations welcome)

Thursday 2 October

Belfast

Passages By Anushiya Sundaralingam

Gallery installation

6:00 - 9:00 pm (Late Night Art opening event) | Exhibition runs Thursday 2 until Friday 24 October in normal opening hours (Tuesday to Friday 10:00 am - 5:30 pm) | Bounce weekend opening: Saturday 4 October 10:00 am - 5:00 pm and Sunday 5 October 12:00 pm - 4:30 pm | Free (donations welcome)

Positive Sounds

DJ set

8:00 - 11:00 pm | The Dark Horse | £5 | 18+ only

Friday 3 October

Belfast

Fócloir Faoi Mhíchumas / Disability Dictionary

Ceardlann / Workshop

10:00 am - 4:00 pm | The Duncairn | £10

Not Just BS (Breakfast Symposium)

Creative networking and panel event

10:30 am - 12:30 pm | The MAC | £5 | BSL | Tea, coffee, and refreshments from 10:15 am

Artist Talk with Anushiya Sundaralingam

Multidisciplinary art discussion

2:00 - 3:00 pm | Atypical Gallery | Free (donations welcome)
| BSL

Speak Up with Alice McCullough

Performance workshop

2:30 - 4:30 pm | Seamus Heaney Centre at Queen's | £5

Disability-Led Queeruptions in the Mainstream:

A Presentation led by JulieMac

Disability theatre presentation

3:30 - 5:00 pm | Ledger Studio | £5 | BSL

Not Just Clowning: An Introduction to Circus Skills

Circus workshop

4:30 - 6:00 pm | Circusful | £5 | 18+

Open Mic Literary Event

Literature

6:00 - 7:30 pm | Seamus Heaney Centre at Queen's
| £5 | BSL

Tales from the Mother

Dance

8:00 - 9:00 pm | Crescent Arts Centre | £15 | Content
warning: Some reference to child loss | BSL + Audio
Description

Saturday 4 October

Belfast

Signs of Dissent

Placard-making workshop

11:00 am - 4:00 pm | The MAC | Free (donations welcome) |
12+ (if accompanied by an adult)

Artistic Mentor

Theatre / Dance

3:00 - 4:00 pm | Crescent Arts Centre | £4

Sick in the City

Live performance

4:00 - 6:00 pm | Location to be announced | Free

Choral Constellation by Open Arts Choir

Music

7:00 - 9:00 pm (with interval) | St Comgall's
£10 plus booking fee | Under 18s must be supervised at all times | Bar available | BSL + Audio Description

Rapture and Repulsion

Theatre work in progress

8:00 - 9:00 pm | Crescent Arts Centre | £10 | 18+ only |
Content warning | Bring your own bottle | BSL

Sunday 5 October

Belfast

From Berlin to Belfast: International Perspectives on Disabled-Led Co-Creation

Visual and performance art discussion

11:30 am - 1:00 pm | Accidental Theatre and Online
| Free (ticketed) | BSL

Eugene McPeake

Music / Film / Storytelling

3:00 - 5:00 pm | The Black Box | £8

Witches

Film screening and Q&A

3:30 - 5:30 pm | Queen's Film Theatre | Up to £9.80 plus booking fee | Content warnings | Subtitles

Out of the Box

Comedy

6:00 - 8:00 pm | The Black Box | £12 | BSL

Not Just BS (Breakfast Symposium)



Not Just BS is a disabled-led networking, discussion and performance forum for artists and activists developed around this year's festival theme 'Not Just...' on the importance of disability representation, diversity, and intersectionality in the arts sector.

These key events recognise the need to offer a setting for artists and activists to meet and engage. The events, which are hosted on two different days across Derry-Londonderry and Belfast, include speakers and panel discussions, alongside short music, film, visual art, and literary interludes.

Thursday 2 October

Derry-Londonderry

Not Just BS (Breakfast Symposium)

Creative networking and panel event

10:30 am - 12:30 pm | The Playhouse | £5 | BSL + ISL

| Tea, coffee and refreshments from 10:15 am

Programme Highlights

- **Welcome** - Edel Murphy, CEO and Artistic Director, University of Atypical for Arts and Disability
- **Music** - Colm Herron, a disabled musician from Derry
- **Talk** - Divergently Together by Alan Burns, neurodivergent artist and curator

- **Spoken Word** - Abby Oliveira, presenting an excerpt from her new play supported by the D/deaf and Disabled Artists Support Fund (DDASF).

Panel Discussion chaired by Mel Bradley (Foyle Pride), and featuring:

- **Alan Burns** - neurodivergent audiovisual artist, Disrupt Arts Festival (Dublin)
- **Soso Ní Cheallaigh** - multidisciplinary maker working in English and Irish
- **Dave Duggan** - Derry-based writer of theatre, film, novels and essays
- **Justine Scoltock** - visual artist and community facilitator
- **Catherine Hemelryk** - curator and Director, CCA Derry~Londonderry
- **Edel Murphy**

Friday 3 October

Belfast

Not Just BS (Breakfast Symposium)

Creative networking and panel event

10:30 am - 12:30 pm | The MAC | £5 | BSL | Tea, coffee, and refreshments from 10:15 am

Programme Highlights

- **Welcome** - Edel Murphy, CEO and Artistic Director, University of Atypical for Arts and Disability, with guest Pádraig Naughton, Executive Director, Arts & Disability Ireland
- **Installation** - Flourishing in Times of Change by artists from Brain Injury Matters
- **Short Film Screening** - Lows of the Highlife by Oluwatobi (Tobi) Balogun

Panel Discussion chaired by Ruth McCarthy (Outburst Arts), and featuring:

- **Alice McCullough** - poet, comedian and disability rights advocate
- **Julie McNamara** - playwright, filmmaker and disability activist
- **Paula Clarke** - performance artist, actor and sign language poet
- **Oluwatobi (Tobi) Balogun** - multidisciplinary artist
- **Zofia Kuligowska** - performance artist and researcher
- **Edel Murphy**

Accessibility

Bounce Arts Festival aims to make its events as accessible as possible to all attendees. We offer the following accommodations at all venues:

- **Step-free access**
- **Accessible toilets**
- **Wheelchair spaces**
- **Assistance dogs welcome**
- **Loop systems**
- **Free companion tickets**
- **Travel information (on the booking page and by email or phone)**
- **British and Irish Sign Language at selected events (see listings for information)**

We also offer the following by request:

- **British and Irish Sign Language (if not already included)**
- **Quiet space**
- **Captioning**
- **Audio description and touch tours**

- **Extended toileting, changing, and hoist facilities**
- **Information in Large Print, Easy Read, Braille, and audio formats**
- **Ear defenders**

You must request these additional services at least 2 weeks in advance. While we will do our best to meet your request, we cannot guarantee this in every case.

You can request these facilities when booking your ticket. You can also request them by email or phone:

access@universityofatypical.org

028 9023 9450

Ticketing and Age Ranges

Booking your ticket

Bounce tickets are available at the University of Atypical website: universityofatypical.org/bounce.

From the events pages you will be taken to Ticketsource or to the venue website, where you can book your tickets. Some tickets have a fee. Some events are free but may still be ticketed due to limited capacity. For free events we welcome donations at the door or during checkout. Free companion tickets are available for disabled people who require assistance to attend an event.

We try to keep our ticket prices as low as possible, and to pay everyone fairly. For most events we have a limited number of free or discounted tickets for anyone for whom ticket price is a barrier. If you want to attend an event but cannot afford a ticket—especially if you are disabled or minoritised, or from a background that is underrepresented in the arts—please email access@universityofatypical.org.

Bursaries

We also have four bursaries of up to £50 available to help d/Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent people attend Bounce. Bursaries can be used for travel, event tickets, and subsistence. We will prioritise requests from individuals who live outside Belfast or Derry~Londonderry. To apply, please visit universityofatypical.org or email administration@universityofatypical.org.

Age ranges and content information

If an event is suitable for a particular age range, we have indicated this in the description.

If you require more detailed event guidance or content information, please contact access@universityofatypical.org. Please be aware that many festival events are still in development so we may not have full content information until closer to the time.

You can find venue contact details at the back of this booklet.



Schedule of Events

Thursday 2 October

Derry-Londonderry

Not Just BS (Breakfast Symposium)

Creative networking and panel event

10:30 am - 12:30 pm | The Playhouse | £5 | BSL + ISL

| Tea, coffee and refreshments from 10:15 am

Not Just BS is a disabled-led networking, discussion and performance forum for artists and activists developed around this year's festival theme 'Not Just...' on the importance of disability representation, diversity, and intersectionality in the arts sector.

See page 13

Thursday 2 - 4 October

Derry-Londonderry

Re-collections by Justine Scoltock

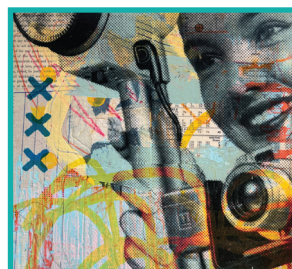
Exhibition

Thursday & Friday 10:00 am - 5:30 pm, Saturday: 9:00 am - 3:30 pm | The Playhouse | Free (donations welcome)

Re-collections is a series of mixed media pieces. It combines elements of vintage photography, advertising, and street ephemera with ink, acrylic, and paper—creating a tension between beauty and decay.

A key element of this exhibition is the exploration of intersectionality—how multiple, interconnected layers of identity, including gender, religion, class, and ability, create unique, overlapping experiences.

Re-collections is an invitation to reflect on what we choose to show the world and what we keep hidden beneath the surface. It is a visual dialogue between the past and present, between the polished exterior and the raw, unfinished story that lies underneath.



Thursday 2 October

Derry-Londonderry

(W)right Now

Writing workshop

2:00 - 3:00 pm | The Playhouse | £5

(W)right Now is a writing workshop for writers of fiction, poetry and drama. It is an opportunity to reflect on writing interests, to practise craft, to sharpen critical modes of address, and to explore where identities intersect.

Dave Duggan lives in Derry, where he writes in English and Irish. His latest book is *Journeywork: a creative life*, a collection of essays (Nerve Centre, 2024) described as 'luminous' in The Irish Times. His work for film and television includes the Oscar-nominated *Dance Lexie Dance* (Raw Nerve Productions, 1996).

Thursday 2 October

Derry-Londonderry

Still Not Your Pity Party!

Cabaret performance

8:00 - 10:00 pm | The Playhouse | £10 | BSL

Following on from Bounce 2024, Foyle Pride is back with **Still Not Your Pity Party!** This encore continues its unapologetic, eclectic collaboration with queer, d/Deaf, disabled or neurodivergent spoken word artists from the North West.

Fighting to reframe the labels of ‘inspiring’ or ‘brave’. Exhausted by sad looks relating to the disability. Tired of dealing with an ableist society’s pity. Enraged, they came together to celebrate their radical brilliance under the watchful guidance of their MQ (Mummy Queer) Mel Bradley. The lineup includes Isaac Quinn, Devin Kane, Alex Cregan, Blaithin Gillen - among others!



Friday 3 October

Derry-Londonderry

Mind the Time

Film screening

12:00 - 1:00 pm | Nerve Centre | £4 | Subtitles

A rare opportunity to witness the unique talent of Stage Beyond Theatre Company on the big screen. The award-winning theatre company empowering adults with learning disabilities produced their debut film in 2021, using Marcel Proust's novel *Remembrance of Things Past* as the guide. They drew in particular on his theory of 'involuntary memory': where a sense, a smell, an object, a colour, places a memory directly into our consciousness. We don't recall, it just arrives.

Ruairi Conaghan (co-producer, writer and director) wrote a prologue and epilogue to frame the memories. He uses extracts from Proust's novel, as well as Brian Friel's beautiful poetry of memory.

Saturday 4 October

Derry-Londonderry

Dreaming Disability Futures

Workshop

12:00 - 4:00 pm (lunch break from 1:30 - 2:15 pm)

| Void Art Centre | £5 | Materials will be provided | Please bring lunch with you.

Dreaming Disability Futures is a writing and dreaming workshop led by writer Alex Cregan. It is inspired by the book *Care Work: Dreaming Disability Justice* by writer and activist

Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha. The workshop explores the politics of disability justice, and the lives and leadership of sick and disabled queer, trans, Black, and brown people.

This two-part workshop begins with a reading, and discussion around access and collective liberation across different identities. The second part is a free writing session. Participants are invited to express their ideas in creative ways that feel comfortable, from writing to drawing to soundmaking.

Saturday 4 October

Derry-Londonderry

We Should Not March to the Beat of the Same Drum

by Rebecca Strain

Live performance

7:00 - 9:00 pm | The Centre for Contemporary Art

| Free (donations welcome)

This live performance draws on Homi Bhabha's notion of the 'third space', where cultural meaning is negotiated rather than fixed, to explore the tensions between heritage and innovation, collective memory and individual expression. Fort Dunree, a site where military history intersects with contemporary art, serves as the starting point for Rebecca Strain and Martha McCulloch's 2023-24 body of work. This live performance emerges from that exploration, seeking a space between past and present, individual and society.



Thursday 2 October

Belfast

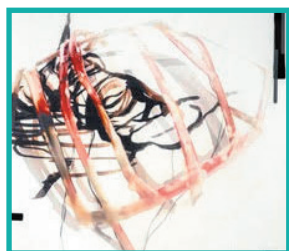
Passages By Anushiya Sundaralingam

Gallery installation

6:00 – 9:00 pm (Late Night Art opening event) | Exhibition runs Thursday 2 until Friday 24 October in normal opening hours (Tuesday to Friday 10:00 am – 5:30 pm) | Bounce weekend opening: Saturday 4 October 10:00 am – 5:00 pm and Sunday 5 October 12:00 pm – 4:30 pm | Free (donations welcome)

Passages is an exhibition of drawings, sculpture and installation exploring the journey of migration. Fragile boats and body-like forms hold stories of movement, memory, and survival. The work reflects the psychological and physical experience of migration—pain, hope, and identity—as we cross borders and navigate change.

Central to the work are fragile sculptural boats and vessels that evoke skeletal structures, embodying the tension between vulnerability and endurance. These forms carry not only the physical weight of travel, but also the invisible burdens of memory, trauma, and cultural identity. Bounce 2025 Artist in Residence, Anushiya is a multidisciplinary artist from Sri Lanka, now based in Belfast, who works across printmaking, painting, sculpture, textiles, installation, mixed media, and performance.



Thursday 2 October

Belfast

Positive Sounds

DJ set

8:00 - 11:00 pm | The Dark Horse | £5 | 18+ only

Positive Sounds is a club night led by DJs, visual artists, and promoters with a learning disability. Expect an electrifying night of live DJ sets and a welcoming atmosphere where everyone can enjoy music without barriers. DJ ConRob, DJ Gems and DJ Esclimo will spin their favourite tracks to new visual graphics. Positive Sounds is more than a party, it's a movement!



This event is brought to you by Mencap NI, who are recipients of University of Atypical's Sounds Atypical Award, funded by Belfast City Council.

Friday 3 October

Belfast

Fóclóir Faoi Mhíchumas / Disability Dictionary

Ceardlann / Workshop

10:00 am - 4:00 pm | The Duncairn | £10

Tar linn chun cúrsaí mhíchumais a phlé tré mheán na Gaeilge, na gluaiseachta, na focail agus an spraoi. Stiúrfaidh amharclannóirí agus Gaeilgeoirí Billí Mills agus Soso Ní Cheallaigh an cheardlann seo chun an teanga mhíchumais a phlé tré na healaíona. Tar le chéile chun an Fóclóir Faoi Mhíchumas a chruthú – acmhainn Gaeilge comhaimseartha a phléann le teanga mhíchumais

agus téarmaí nua cruthaithe le Gaeilgeoirí faoi mhíchumas. Mar rannpháirteach, beidh tú in ann pháirt a ghlacadh i gcomhráite, radharc-chruthú, agus marc-chruthú.

Níl eolas ar an nGaeilge ná taithí gluaiseacht de dhíth — níl uait ach intinn oscailte, meon oscailte, agus fiosracht. Caith éadaí compordacha a cheadaíonn gluaiseacht, agus tabhair leat deochanna agus lón, nó, más mian leat, beidh tú ábalta lón a cheannach sa chaife.

Explore disability through Gaeilge, movement, words and play. Theatremakers and Irish speakers Billí Mills and Soso Ní Cheallaigh will lead this Irish-language workshop that creatively explores the language of disability. Join them and help create the Fócloir Faoi Mhíchumas, a modern Gaeilge resource exploring and defining new terms for disabled Gaeilgeoirí identities. As a participant, you can expect to take part in discussions, scene creations, and mark-making.

Participants do not require any prior knowledge of Irish, artistic or movement experience, just a curiosity and a willingness to share. Dress in comfortable clothes that you can move in, and bring a packed lunch, otherwise, you can purchase one in the cafe.

This project has been supported by the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland through The Ultach Fund 2025.

Friday 3 October

Belfast

Not Just BS (Breakfast Symposium)

Creative networking and panel event

10:30 am - 12:30 pm | The MAC | £5 | BSL | Tea, coffee, and refreshments from 10:15 am

Not Just BS is a disabled-led networking, discussion and performance forum for artists and activists developed around this year's festival theme 'Not Just...' on the importance of disability representation, diversity, and intersectionality in the arts sector.

See page 13

Friday 3 October

Belfast

Artist Talk with Anushiya Sundaralingam

Multidisciplinary art discussion

2:00 - 3:00 pm | Atypical Gallery | Free (donations welcome) | BSL

Bounce 2025 Artist in residence, Anushiya Sundaralingam presents an artist talk in the Atypical Gallery, explaining the themes behind the art installation *Passages* (p25) and how she works towards creating spaces for shared stories and building cultural understanding. The exhibition contains layered meanings relating to carrying history, crossing boundaries and our ongoing work on memory and rebuilding.

Friday 3 October

Belfast

Speak Up with Alice McCullough

Performance workshop

2:30 - 4:30 pm | Seamus Heaney Centre at Queen's | £5

Speak Up is a two hour performance workshop for writers, performers or aspiring speakers who would like to share your words on stage. Feel inspired, recharged, and believe in the power of your own voice.

In this workshop, award-winning performance poet Alice McCullough will share what has helped her come out of her shell and share her voice, including insights she has learned from studying performance skills with various internationally renowned teachers from Second City Chicago to the Gaulier School in Paris.

Friday 3 October

Belfast

Disability-Led Queeruptions in the Mainstream:

A Presentation led by JulieMac

Disability theatre presentation

3:30 - 5:00 pm | Ledger Studio | £5 | BSL

This workshop will reflect on the last 25 years of disability arts and disability-led theatre. It will explore 'The WrOnG WOm3N, makin' WrOnG work for the WrOnG audiences' from JulieMac's experiences.

Julie McNamara (Mack) is a QueerCrip, working class Butch

Dyke, and a prolific playwright, theatre and filmmaker. Her creative mayhem, and commitment to disability activism, has led to her receiving many awards in Australia and the United Kingdom.

Friday 3 October

Belfast

Not Just Clowning: An Introduction to Circus Skills

Circus workshop

4:30 - 6:00 pm | Circusful | £5 | 18+

Not Just Clowning is an opportunity for those with no previous circus skills to see what circus performance is all about in a relaxed, no pressure setting. This workshop is open to everyone over 18, but is particularly welcoming to d/Deaf, disabled or neurodivergent participants. You will be introduced to performers with years of experience in circus skills. You will learn some circus skills including poi, juggling, clowning and hula hoops. There will be something for all abilities.



Friday 3 October

Belfast

Open Mic Literary Event

Literature

6:00 - 7:30 pm | Seamus Heaney Centre at Queen's
| £5 | BSL

Following our fantastic literary sharing event at the 2024 festival, we are looking for d/Deaf, disabled, and neurodivergent writers who would like to share their work with an audience.

For audiences, this is a chance to hear work read by disabled writers—some writing about disability and some not—along with a glass of something in the beautiful Seamus Heaney Centre.

If you are interested in reading your work, please see the festival website for more details. Access facilitators need to read the work in advance, so we will allocate all slots before the day of the event.

Drinks will be available from 6:00 pm and readings will begin at 6:30 pm.

Friday 3 October

Belfast

Tales from the Mother
Dance

8:00 - 9:00 pm | Crescent Arts Centre | £15 | Content warning:
Some reference to child loss | BSL + Audio Description

Tales from the Mother is a conversation through dance between two women. The work is the result of a new commission by two of Northern Ireland's most respected disabled dancers, Linda Fearon and Helen Hall. The pair first met as dancers, but soon discovered their lives intersected in a deeper, more personal way—through motherhood. Over time, they talked, they shared stories, they listened. A quiet understanding grew between them—a witnessing of each other's joys, struggles, and sorrows. Composer Isaac Gibson has developed bespoke sound design to accompany the work, inviting audiences into the intimate dialogue between mothers. This dance performance blends contemporary movement with personal narrative. It invites the audience to come close, to listen, to bear witness to these stories and the emotions they carry.

This piece has an approximate running time of 45 minutes.

This performance is funded through the Arts Council of Northern Ireland Commissioning Programme supported by National Lottery Funding.





Saturday 4 October

Belfast

Signs of Dissent

Placard-making workshop

11:00 am - 4:00 pm | The MAC | Free (donations welcome) |
12+ (if accompanied by an adult)

Make your mark and have your voice heard in our placard-making workshop. If you're marching for a cause, celebrating your identity, or want to get crafty, this session is for you. Join us for creative, hands-on work in a relaxed and supportive environment.

This workshop is led by illustrator Elly Makem. Participants of all ages and abilities are invited to design and create bold, beautiful placards using a range of provided materials.

No artistic experience is needed. All materials provided. Drop in or stay for the whole session. Let's raise our voices, and our placards, together.

Saturday 4 October

Belfast

Artistic Mentor

Theatre / Dance

3:00 - 4:00 pm | Crescent Arts Centre | £4

Strap yourself in for an afternoon of boisterous and bonkers physicality! Experience an exhilarating showcase of dance and physical theatre from the Rogue Encounters ensemble, drawing on their acclaimed projects 'Physical Graffiti', 'All Doors Open', and 'Urban Species'.

This vibrant 40-minute performance celebrates the creative voices of young people through six musical sequences bursting with energy, humour, and heart. The ensemble explores the beauty of diversity with innocence, exuberance, and unity through joyful movement. Bold choreography and Direction by Billi Mills, with Artistic Direction by David Calvert.

Saturday 4 October

Belfast

Sick in the City

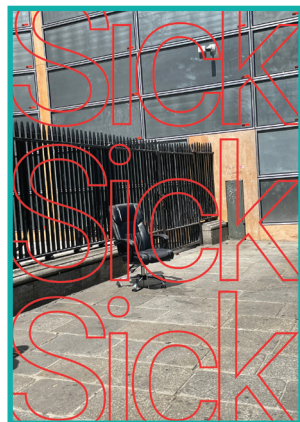
Live performance

4:00 - 6:00 pm | Location to be announced | Free

Sick in the City combines elements of socially engaged practice with audio-visual technologies for a live performance reclaiming public space in Belfast city centre. Using audio-reactive visuals and live broadcasting methods, the performance contains references to contemporary culture, disability justice, abstraction, written word, hedonism,

revolt, political-response, nonsense, life-experience, emotions, emojis, and absurdity.

Sick in the City was developed by artists Husk Bennett (Belfast) and Chris Yohei Tokunaga (Berlin), in partnership with University of Atypical and COVEN Berlin, following a series of community co-creation and consultation workshops, and residencies in Belfast and Berlin.



This project is funded by Cultural Bridge, which celebrates bilateral artistic partnerships between the UK and Germany through the collaboration between Arts Council England, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, British Council, Creative Scotland, Fonds Soziokultur, Goethe-Institut London and Wales Arts International / Arts Council of Wales. [Cultural-bridge.info](https://cultural-bridge.info)

Saturday 4 October

Belfast

Choral Constellation by Open Arts Choir
Music

7:00 - 9:00 pm (with interval) | St Comgall's
£10 plus booking fee | Under 18s must be supervised at all times | Bar available | BSL + Audio Description

Open Arts Community Choir, winners of the prestigious Royal Philharmonic Society's Inspiration Award 2025, is celebrating 25 years! The choir will perform songs from their incredibly successful history under St Comgall's atmospheric atrium. A beautiful evening of music and memories from throughout the years, guaranteed to uplift and inspire.

Saturday 4 October

Belfast

Rapture and Repulsion
Theatre work in progress

8:00 - 9:00 pm | Crescent Arts Centre | £10 | 18+ only |

Content warning: adult themes, conversations about sex, sadomasochism, tantra, rage, and revolution. | Bring your own bottle | BSL

Rapture and Repulsion is a QueerCrip performance piece in development, written from interviews with d/Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent artists and activists. Crips talking sex and sexualities, from the good, the bad and don't get outta bed! This is a script-in-hand reading of new work on sex and disability, up front and centre and not to be missed.

Julie McNamara (Mack) is a QueerCrip, working class Butch Dyke, and a prolific playwright, theatre and filmmaker and disability activist. Deni Francis is a mixed race brown, professional actor and writer and an Indian/Irish child of colonialism, working class, lesbian, femme, feminist, activist.



Sunday 5 October

Belfast

From Berlin to Belfast: International Perspectives on Disabled-Led Co-Creation

Visual and performance art discussion

11:30 am – 1:00 pm | Accidental Theatre and Online

| Free (ticketed) | BSL

Join the creative team behind our Cultural Bridge project (see **Sick in the City** on page 35), for an artist panel discussion exploring the learnings from our international partnership. The discussion will delve into the challenges of international residencies for marginalised communities, and discuss the relationship of queer and disabled communities in the arts. Visual art curator, writer, researcher, educator and advocate, Dr Jane Morrow, will lead the discussion with artists Husk Bennett (Belfast) and Chris Yohei Tokunaga (Berlin).



Sunday 5 October

Belfast

Eugene McPeake

Music / Film / Storytelling

3:00 - 5:00 pm | The Black Box | £8

This is a rich, immersive live performance from Eugene McPeake and The Urban Arts Centre. It blends folk, blues, jazz and original compositions, which are paired with a poetic short film to create a layered storytelling experience rooted in place, memory, and imagination.

Eugene is a Belfast-based musician, composer, and artist with deep roots in Ireland's musical heritage. As a solo artist for over 10 years, Eugene has created a significant body of work spanning live performance, film scores, and experimental projects. His band, The UAC, has performed at numerous festivals and cultural events, and is known for its compelling blend of traditional and contemporary sounds.

This event is funded by University of Atypical's music grant programme 'Sounds Atypical' through Belfast City Council.

Sunday 5 October

Belfast

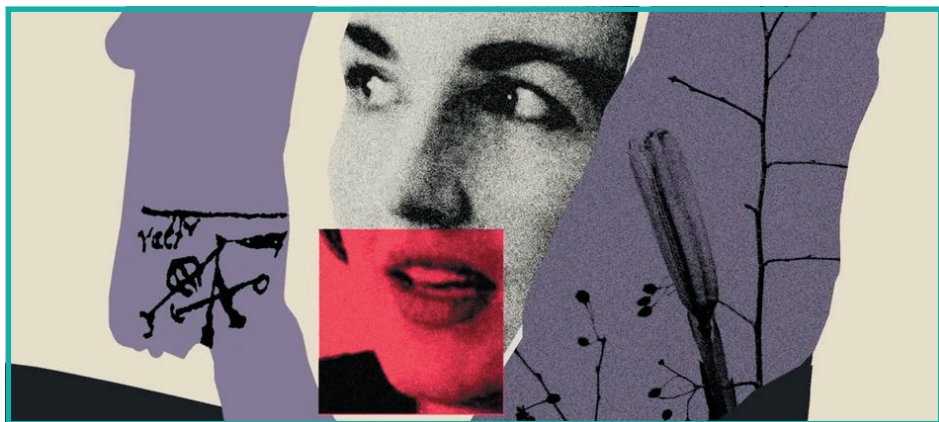
Witches

Film screening and Q&A

3:30 - 5:30 pm | Queen's Film Theatre | Up to £9.80 plus booking fee | Content warning: Contains themes of suicide, murder and violence towards children | Subtitles

In this personal and intimate film writer-director Elizabeth Sankey uses her own story of being admitted to a psychiatric ward after the birth of her son to explore the unexpected yet compelling connections between perinatal mental health illness and the history and portrayal of witches in western society. Using clips of cinematic witches to illustrate her own experience and those of other women, alongside interviews with medical professionals and academics, Sankey creates her own spell book for all to use.

The screening will be followed by a short Q&A about the themes of the documentary.



Sunday 5 October

Belfast

Out of the Box

Comedy

6:00 - 8:00 pm | The Black Box | £12 | BSL

Back by popular demand, Ross Mitchell presents a bold new lineup of Northern Ireland's finest up and coming neurodivergent and disabled comedians. Ross has been performing standup across the island of Ireland for 13 years, with sets that often draw on his own experience with autism. This year's lineup includes Mustafa Said, Katriona Kirwan, Tiff Minson, William Callahan, and Leo Lardie. Each comic has carved out their place in the United Kingdom and Irish comedy scenes with their original voices and unforgettable humour. Get ready for a night of comedy that's insightful, unapologetic, and refreshingly different.



Venue Information

Belfast

University of Atypical for Arts and Disability

Atypical Gallery and Ledger Studio
109-113 Royal Avenue,
BT1 1FF
028 9023 9450

The Black Box

18-22 Hill Street,
BT7 1NH
028 9024 4400

Circusful

23-25 Gordon Street,
BT1 2LG
028 9023 6007

Crescent Arts Centre

2-4 University Road,
BT7 1NH
028 9024 2338

The Dark Horse

30-34 Hill Street
BT1 2LB
028 9023 7807

The Duncairn

Duncairn Avenue,
BT14 6BP
028 9024 4400

The MAC

10 Exchange Street West,
BT1 2NJ

Queen's Film Theatre

20 University Square,
BT7 1PA
028 9097 1097

Seamus Heaney Centre at Queen's

38-40 University Road,
BT7 1NN
028 9097 1077

St Comgall's Ionad Eileen Howell

Divis Street,
BT12 4AQ
028 9020 2030

Derry-Londonderry

The Centre for Contemporary Art

10–12 Artillery Street,
BT48 6RG
028 7137 3538

Nerve Centre

7–8 Magazine Street,
BT48 6HJ
028 7126 0562

The Playhouse

5–7 Artillery Street,
BT48 6RG
028 7126 8027

Void Art Centre

10 Waterloo Place,
BT48 6BU
028 7130 8080

Support University of Atypical

Become a Volunteer:

Our fabulous volunteer team is made up of disabled and nondisabled people. We rely on them to make the Bounce Arts Festival, and our other events throughout the year, a great experience for audiences and artists. If you would like to become a 'Bouncer' please email volunteer@universityofatypical.org.

Donations:

University of Atypical is a registered charity. Every year we have to fundraise to make Bounce happen, and to keep our ticket prices as low as possible. If you are in a position to support us with a donation, you can tap your card on one of our donation stands at an event or in our Atypical Gallery or donate online at universityofatypical.org/donate

Merchandise:

If you want to represent your Atypically Fabulous self out and about, you can buy our t-shirts and badges at Bounce events or at the Atypical Gallery. All profits go towards supporting our work at Bounce and throughout the year to make the arts accessible for everyone.

Sponsors and Partners



Esme Mitchell Trust



Belfast City Council



Derry City & Strabane District Council
Carrickfergus
Chesham & Strabane
Chesham & Strabane
Derry City & Strabane District Council



Arts & Disability Ireland



THE DUNCAIRN

CCA DERRY~LONDONDERRY

Void



COVEN BERLIN



The Dark Horse

Acknowledgements

Staff:

CEO and Artistic Director - **Edel Murphy**
Business Development Manager - **Laura Bradley**
Access and Inclusion Manager - **Jonathan Mitchell**
Community Engagement Manager - **Sheena Kelly**
Creative Programmes and Studio Lead - **Neave Wright**
Access and Inclusion Coordinator - **Aoife Boyle**
Administrator and Gallery Coordinator - **Zara Lyness**
Volunteer Coordinator - **Cinzia Savonitti**
Marketing and Media Officer - **Stuart Calvin**
Finance Officer - **Caroline Shiels**

Board of Trustees:

Ciara Smyth (Chair); Miriam Bacon; Adam Bradley; Tania Carlisle; Mave Dempster O'Neil; Aisling Doherty; Peter Fleming; Nicki Heptonstall; Christina Herdman; Gwen Kennedy; Hannah Slattne.

With thanks to

In-kind support from: The MAC, The Duncairn, Nerve Centre, Seamus Heaney Centre at Queen's, Outburst Arts, and Belfast International Arts Festival.

Partner venues: The Playhouse, Crescent Arts Centre, Queen's Film Theatre, Void Art Centre, The Black Box, The Centre for Contemporary Art.

Partners in the programme: Circusful, Open Arts, Rogue Encounters, Arts and Disability Ireland, Brain Injury Matters, Mencap NI, COVEN Berlin.

Access service providers: Thank you to all the access service providers without whom our festival could not run.

Volunteer Recognition:

Thank you to our volunteer team - also known as the Bouncers. We couldn't do what we do without you.



Contact Information

Ground Floor, 109-113 Royal Avenue, Belfast, BT1 1FF

028 9023 9450 | @universityofatypical | universityofatypical.org

Next Year's Festival Dates

We invite you to get involved in Bounce 2026 from Thursday 1 October to Sunday 4 October 2026. The festival theme for Bounce 2026 is *Arts and Activism*. Proposals from artists and organisations that are disabled-led should be sent by 4:00 pm on Monday 8 December 2025. Please request a proposal form by emailing administration@universityofatypical.org with 'Bounce Proposal 2026' in the subject line or visit universityofatypical.org to complete the form.



'University of Atypical for Arts and Disability' operates under the legal name of 'Arts and Disability Forum'. The registered office address is Ground Floor, 109-113 Royal Avenue, Belfast, Co Antrim, BT1 1FF. The Company Registration Number is NI051776, and the Charity Number is 101588.