

Where We Meet The Sea

Performance Call Out - South Devon Artists

Callout for performers, artists and producers making original performance work in and for Devon!

Doorstep Arts and South Devon National Landscapes are offering a fee of **£5000** to an artist/artistic team/company to tour an innovative, exciting piece of theatre to three venues in the South Devon area (Dartmouth, Kingsbridge, and Modbury; to be confirmed) at the beginning of October 2026. The piece will need to respond to the wider themes and topics being explored by the *Life on the Edge* project, and we are especially interested in work exploring the health and wellbeing benefits of connecting with nature, such as through walking on the coast path. The performance could be multidisciplinary, but must result in a piece of theatre/performance suitable for South Devon audiences aged 12+.

We would like **local audiences to be moved by a story about this coastal landscape and its inhabitants** (real or imagined), and to be **inspired to get outside and explore the coast** during the quieter, autumn and winter months, when it can be explored and valued in different ways. Applicants are welcome to use our chosen title of *Where We Meet The Sea* to inspire their work, and the performance may also be given this title where appropriate.

It is essential that you have:

- A long-term commitment to practice that engages with questions of environment, climate and sustainability
- The ability to create work that is accessible for a wide range of audiences, with a particular focus on adult audiences
- Have a proven track record of delivering to and managing budgets for the creation and/or touring of original performance
- Your own public liability insurance

Key dates:

The touring dates for this performance work have already been determined by venue availability and other elements of the wider *Life on the Edge* project. The dates set for evening performances are:

Thursday 8th October - The Flavel, Dartmouth

Saturday 10th October - Kingsbridge Community College

Friday 16th October - Modbury Memorial Hall

Budget:

Due to a limited budget being available, we imagine that an existing piece could be adapted or redeveloped to fit this brief, and also welcome applications from smaller companies, or duo or solo artists. The £5000 budget does not include venue hire costs for performances, as this will be covered by the project, but must take into account: artist fees, rehearsal and R&D space/s and time, and any travel and accommodation requirements. Participatory workshops would also be welcomed as part of your offer, in addition to the three performances, and must be included in your budget.

Venue information:

The piece must be adaptable to different **community venues** that are not all traditional theatre spaces. We are unlikely to have access to the venues for more than a couple of hours either side of the performance, and so easy and quick get-in and get-out processes will be necessary. We welcome interest from those who have their own touring equipment, and who are flexible with regards to technical requirements, or who can provide any necessary equipment themselves.

Doorstep Arts will offer the following support as part of this commission:

- Semi-regular check-ins with a Doorstep Arts producer
- Attendance at a rehearsal to offer creative support and/or to discuss performance logistics
- Possible technical support, including the training of young technicians as part of the process (funding dependent)

South Devon National Landscape can offer mentoring, images and team expertise in the following areas:

- The Life on the Edge coastal environment, how it is changing and our impact
- Information about the project and the hotspots, as well as about the target species and meadow flowers
- Site visits with a member of the team to explore some of the areas and see the species where possible (most flowering and flight times May - June)
- Plenty of landscape views, images and video - see our YouTube channel for some here <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UcbSlh2cysUzcdo81KZO12Sw>

Programming Principles

- We are looking for work that is accessible to a wide range of audiences including those who do not regularly engage with the arts
- This is a small-scale commission call with dates already set, but we are keen to encourage work which can go on to a longer extended life with legacy and would like to support artists and organisations who are making environmentally-relevant work in the SW
- If your show being made/available for October 2026 is dependent on other funding, please indicate this as part of your application and provide as much detail as possible
- We particularly welcome work from underrepresented individuals, including those from the Global Majority and disabled artists. To better support you, it would help if you could let us know about any specific access needs or requirements in your application.
- Artists using theatre, puppetry, movement, music, and other artforms are all encouraged to apply.

To apply - complete this [Google Form](#) or, alternatively, please send us a video or voice recording answering the below questions to helen@doorsteparts.co.uk

Questions on the form include:

- Your name (and company name), postal address and telephone number
- Your experience in delivering performances to a range of audiences around environmental themes
- Title of your performance
- Performance blurb (even if just in draft at this stage), target audience and length

- Space/ location requirements
- Proposed schedule for engagement - long form and attachment
- Specific areas of expertise you'd like to draw on from the project team
- A simple budget breakdown - sent in written form if possible.
- Links/ examples to your work

The deadline for applications is **Friday 22nd May 2026 at midday**.

Some applicants may be invited to meet with us as part of the decision-making process. A final decision will be made by mid-June.

Please email helen@doorsteparts.co.uk or jade@doorsteparts.co.uk if you have any questions.

Further project information - Life on the Edge:

The overall project aims to restore wildflower rich coastal grasslands along the South Devon coast to provide habitat for 30 rare and endangered invertebrates, as well as provide benefits for many more. But also, people are at the heart of our project. Getting more people out on the coast, exploring what this amazing landscape has to offer and increasing their connection to nature is core to our work. But our coastline is a busy place and we need to ensure that we balance the fragile needs of the habitats we are seeking to protect, with the pressures of thousands of residents and holidaymakers who come here to enjoy their leisure time.

The South Devon National Landscape (SDNL) team are working with farmers, landowners, residents and parishes to carry out practical landscape conservation projects of varying scales to improve the wildflower cover, as well as using creative and innovative ways of engaging the communities across the whole of the South Devon National Landscape to get involved. They will learn more about species rich coastal grasslands and these important invertebrates – which includes the rarest bee in Britain, only found at Prawle Point. If we don't do anything to help increase habitat cover, nesting sites and forage area, it is thought this bee will be extinct within the next 5 years.

This habitat is under threat due to coastal squeeze from changes in farming practice and development from the landward side, and coastal erosion on the seaward side. We have five hotspots where we are focusing on larger scale landscape improvements. These have been identified as important insect areas and important plant areas for coastal species.

They are:

- * Wembury on the west side of SDNL
- * Either side of the mouth of Erme estuary
- * Bolt Head to Bolt Tail (roughly Salcombe to Hope cove)
- * Prawle Point to Start Point
- * Brownstone (near Kingswear) to Berry Head on the East side of SDNL

You can see more about the project at www.southdevon-nl.org.uk/life-on-the-edge



**South Devon
National
Landscape**