

The Open Road Carnival Conference (North)

10am to 5pm - Saturday 12th March 2022



This event is one of 3 Regional Carnival Conferences about Disability, Access and Inclusion: how can we work to remove barriers and improve outcomes? Speakers have lived experience (of being disabled and/or excluded) and Industry expertise

The Open Road Carnival Conference (North) is hosted by Callaloo Carnival Arts:

Callaloo Carnival Arts is a disabled led Carnival Arts organisation based in Mirfield, West Yorkshire. We use Carnival Arts to transform people and places.

Our work features traditional & contemporary mas characters, costume, mask, music, dance, and performance in a range of settings. We aim to provide work and development opportunities to people from excluded communities.

We design, produce, and promote inclusive Masquerade and Parades of all sizes at Carnivals, Festivals and Outdoor Events, working across the UK and occasionally further afield. Our signature events are Mirfield Carnival Parade (an accessible Carnival Parade, proudly produced by disabled people) and Callaloo PopUp Carnival, which we developed to bring Carnival to communities who typically face barriers in attending large Carnival events.

For more information and/or to contact us:

E: info@callaloo-community.org

F: www.facebook.com/CallalooCarnivalArtsUK

I: www.instagram.com/callaloo_community/

Please Subscribe to our YouTube Channel: CallalooCarnivalCommunity

Trustees: Clare Ibberson-John, Glen Greaves, Adam Patel, Lily Luty

Artistic & Production Team: Marina Poppa, Jasmine Greaves

Thanks to our Community Cast & Crew: Sadie, Craig, Dan, Rosie, Angela, Róisín, Arielle, Taliah Associate Artists: Deborah Sanderson (Urban Aerial Circus) Jonny Quick (A Bird In The Hand)

With support from The Open Road Project Partners:

Chris Slann and Frankie Goldspink, Directors - New Carnival Company The New Carnival Company (NCC) is a professional arts organisation based on the Isle of Wight, specialising in Carnival and outdoor celebratory arts. NCC run two major outdoor events each year - the IW Mardi Gras (July) and Merry & Bright (December) and they are passionate about inclusion and creating events that everyone can be part of.

They began to develop work with disabled artists, practitioners and performers in 2010 as part of Accentuate London 2012 (Blue Touch Paper Carnival) www.btpcarnival.co.uk and have continued to co-create new opportunities and touring for D/deaf and disabled Carnival people as part of their core activities. NCC initiated the Open Road programme in 2019, aiming to promote greater awareness of the Social Model and its implications and ramifications for good practice in Carnival Arts and Events.

For more information and/or to contact NCC: www.thenewcarnivalcompany.com

Harriet West, Producer and Costume Designer - Artshape

Harriet has 27+ years of inclusive arts experience, is a qualified coach & mentor & freelance creative facilitator in visual & performing arts/film. She has been a Project Manager and artist with Art Shape, an arts charity focused on addressing disabling barriers to the arts, for over 15 years.

Harriet refined her Carnival Arts costume making skills in the past 10 years, learning from Mandinga Arts & Shademakers UK and recently Sunshine Arts International.

Donna Fox, EMCCAN - East Midlands Caribbean Carnival Arts Network In 2011 Derby, Leicester and Nottingham Caribbean Carnivals and Northampton Carnival formed a partnership through the creation of East Midlands Caribbean Carnival Arts Network (EMCCAN). Since then they have worked together to provide mutual support and enhance the development of Caribbean Carnival and Carnivals with a Caribbean flavour in the East Midlands.

EMCCAN supports & encourages better practice, increasing artistic and management quality for East Midlands Caribbean Carnivals and provides leadership to the wider Carnival sector. EMCCAN is always looking for new and innovative ways to support, develop and share Carnival Arts across the East Midlands region and beyond.

www.emccan.org

Alison Denholm - City Arts (Nottingham)

City Arts is a community and participatory arts organisation based in Nottingham. We develop arts opportunities that bring people together, stimulate change and create stronger, healthier communities. We believe participation in the arts can enrich and transform people's lives and have been pioneering this approach for over 40 years. City Arts believes that creativity is a human right. Breaking down barriers to accessing creativity is what drives us.

Since 1977, we have co-produced high quality, bespoke arts projects with communities and groups that we consider overlooked and undervalued, both in Nottingham and beyond. A registered charity, we work creatively and collaboratively with communities and particularly target resources towards vulnerable groups. Our projects include music, performance, festivals, carnivals, visual and digital arts. These are all facilitated by artists particularly skilled in working creatively with people.

Our Carnival programme explores how we can create inclusive and accessible Carnival opportunities and has devised programmes with older people and people with mobility issues so they can take part fully in Carnivals and Parades.

www.city-arts.org.uk

With thanks to our Conference Co-Chairs:

Clare John is a Callaloo Carnival Arts Trustee and also a member of Huddersfield Carnival Management Committee. They have been 'Carnival Crazy' since 1979, when they first went to Notting Hill Carnival during their student days in London. Clare is also a Vincentian citizen, living and teaching in St Vincent before returning to Yorkshire, where she works for the University of Huddersfield as a Student Wellbeing Adviser.

Clare has lived experience of disability.

Isabella Andrew Volunteers for Huddersfield Carnival Management Committee and Chairs Huddersfield Carnival Troupes Group. She also works full time for Leeds City Council Adult Social Care Service. Her passion is to restore and preserve the Culture, traditions and legacies brought here from the Caribbean Islands by the Windrush generation.

Isabella has been involved in Carnival since childhood: as a Masquerader, Carnival Steward, Costume-making Assistant and now as a member of the Carnival Management Committee.

Her lifelong ambition is to visit as many Carnivals as possible.

About our Team:

Glen Greaves is a Data Manager, a Callaloo Co-Founder - now a Trustee - a Soca DJ and Sound Technician. As well as being a devoted Family Man and a lifelong Carnivalist, he is an occasional Poet and an incorrigible Manchester United Fan.

Marina Poppa is a freelance Artist, Designer, Writer and Producer. Their interest in Carnival Arts began in the 1990s after visits to Notting Hill Carnival. Marina was one of the founding members of Callaloo back in 1995 and also co-founded Mirfield Carnival Parade in 2016, a disabled-led event for the whole community.

Marina recently Produced & Directed a series of PopUp Carnival events, bringing mas, music and hope to a range of community venues across Kirklees & West Yorkshire. They are currently working on a PopUp Carnival Tour for 2022.

Jasmine Greaves is an emerging Visual Artist who also works for Callaloo as a costume designer, maker and is currently our Assistant Producer. Jasmine works across West Yorkshire and occasionally further afield. She is looking forward to travelling to International Carnivals once that becomes possible again.

Mirabel Henry is a multidisciplinary Artist who has worked with Callaloo in recent years. A skilled Photographer and a qualified Barber, he is also currently training to be a doula.

About our Guest Speakers:

Arthur France - Community Leader and Founder of Leeds West Indian Carnival. Arthur France MBE is a man who takes his roots and history extremely seriously. The direct descendant of enslaved Africans in the Caribbean, Arthur always describes himself as 'an African born in the Caribbean'.

Ros Alexander - Founder of UKON Careers. UKON Careers is a dynamic organisation, which embraces the spirit and heritage of Carnival to support social inclusion and offer employment opportunities. UKON developed and manages the annual Barking & Dagenham Carnival, bringing all communities within the Borough together in a celebration of ethnic and cultural diversity. Their delivery in all areas is ALL inclusive, ie regardless of ability, disability, age, etc, everyone is included.

Jackie Hagan is an award-winning Performance Poet, Playwright and Arts Activist. Her solo shows 'Some People Have Too Many Legs' and 'This Is Not a Safe Space' won Saboteur Awards for Best Solo Show of the Year. She recently wrote and acted in an episode of 'Criptales' for BBC

2 and BBC America, a series about disabled people's lives, which was nominated for a Bafta. Jackie has toured nationally and Internationally, performing in Rio de Janeiro, New York and Toronto. Her plays are also available in print.

Paul Wilshaw is a Performer, Poet and Producer. He is an Assistant Producer at Mind the Gap and Ramps on the Moon and was an Agent for Change at Leeds Playhouse. Paul was a Co-producer of the BEYOND Festival in Leeds and was a performer in the closing ceremony of the London Paralympic games.

Mind the Gap, based in Bradford, West Yorkshire is England's leading learning disability performance and live arts company. Creating Bold, cutting-edge, world-class theatre since 1988. Mind the Gap tour nationally and internationally.

Tom Juniper is an Autistic, Genderqueer Poet based in South Yorkshire. They enjoy writing and performing poetry in various forms, often about gender and neurodiversity and sometimes about folklore and mythology.

