

Supporting the community since 1618

Hammersmith & Fulham Disability Arts Festival

Since 1618

**HAMMERSMITH
UNITED
CHARITIES**

*Festival
of Joy*

“Only if we free ourselves from the existing held view on art and disability in our society, can we be part of the creative process more successfully.”

Wolfgang Stange

Hammersmith United Charities celebrates its 400th anniversary next year (2018).

As part of those celebrations, we want to celebrate the diversity of our Area of Benefit. We are doing this in a number of ways specifically including a new emphasis on support for local artists with a disability.

Working with Hammersmith and Fulham ArtsFest, the Lyric Theatre, Turtle Key Arts, the Council and others, Hammersmith United Charities is facilitating the launch of JOY which will integrate and emphasise work by, for and with people with disabilities into the annual Hammersmith and Fulham Artsfest.

JOY will include;

- Panels of people with disabilities identifying local artists with disabilities and curating presentations of their work – an open house/road show specifically showcasing artists with disabilities
- An opportunity for special schools and community groups working with people with disabilities to create their own work with the support of professional artists

But at the heart of the festival will be an original and groundbreaking new commission directed by the renowned Wolfgang Stange, Artistic Director of Amici Dance Company, a Lyric resident dance company.

“Stange has a genius for directing” The Sunday Times

Wolfgang Stange has an international reputation for creating integrated performance involving artists with and without disabilities, creating stunning work together.

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With this commission, any artist of any age with a disability living in the Borough will be invited to an open workshop. Wolfgang will choose participants at random and work with them over the next few months to create a 30 minute piece of theatre, dance and circus inspired by 400 years of Hammersmith United Charities. This will be premiered at the ArtsFest in June.

Finally, at the end of September, JOY will hold a weekend of celebration to rejoice the efforts of the project in the past year. This will be held over 2 days at the end of September in the ballroom of the town hall.

This grand event will bring together all the work across the whole spectrum of JOY (work in schools and adult community groups) and ArtsFest 2018 to be curated and programmed into a spectacular celebration.

All who take part and work with JOY over the year will be invited back to perform and celebrate the efforts of all. This will be a way for the community of Hammersmith and Fulham to be inspired and look towards a brighter future of inclusivity and community.