

Shetland *arts*

2017 - 2018: Quarter 3

October, November, December

Report of activity relating to Priority Areas of Activity Statements

Case Studies: Arts in Care film and BA Applied Music Residential

Interim Key Performance Indicator Statistics (appendix)



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Priority Area 1: Youth Arts

This includes the groundbreaking work we do with Shetland Youth Theatre and the support of groups such as Maddrim Media and the Shetland Young Promoters Group. It will include innovative projects designed to increase the engagement of young people in the arts, such as Youth Arts Panels, and exchange programmes with organisations outwith Shetland, encouraging Shetland youth to engage with and help shape cultural events in Shetland.

Q3 in numbers

1 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days
34 Audience attendances
18 Development Sessions
209 Participations

The **Shetland Young Promoters Group** and **Maddrim Media** have been using Mareel's multimedia facilities with the intention of releasing three original pieces early 2018 as part of the 'Creative Little Bundles' project which involves music, film and stop motion animation.

Our popular **Stage 1** programme of Drama workshops for 7 - 11 year olds has been expanded to include creative and fun workshop blocks across all the art forms, called **Creativity Club**. Our first block of sessions focussed on theatre skills, taught by drama practitioner Clare Thompson. The group learned different acting and writing skills, and created several short plays using one prop each as inspiration. These were performed to a large crowd of appreciative family and friends. In the next quarter we will introduce participants to Film Animation and Craft.

Director John Haswell is currently researching and planning for the next **Shetland Youth Theatre** production, which will be part of **NT Connections**. A UK-wide celebration of Youth Theatre, the participants will perform a fantastic play called The Free9 in the Mareel Auditorium, before travelling to Inverness to take part in the NT Connections festival at Eden Court in April.

Priority Area 2: Education & Learning

Programme of activities aimed at skills development for creative industries practitioners as well as evening classes aimed at increasing accessibility and participation in creative activities. The Gallery Education Programme will work with schools to encourage access to and engagement with our exhibition programme. We will also facilitate peer review and support by and for practitioners at all levels of participation and a range of formal learning opportunities in partnership with UHI.

Q3 in numbers

1 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days
32 Audience attendances
400 Development Sessions
1,659 Participations

The **START/Bonhoga Education Programme** continued into the autumn with lead artist Amy Gear making visits to the five participating schools; Brae, Fetlar, Aith, Whalsay and Sandwick to



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continue exploration of the pupils' surroundings and unexpected sites. Each school group is working towards a final collaborative exhibition which will take place in Mareel next May.

In advance of the presentation of the major video work **The Colony** at Mareel, as part of the Beyond Bonhoga Off-site exhibition programme in Feb/Mar 2018, we were delighted to welcome curator **Phoebe Roberts** of the commissioning body **Artangel** and Vietnamese artist **Dinh Q. Lê** to Shetland in October. Here to discuss the plans for the exhibition they gave their time generously to deliver an informal 'in conversation' talk in Screen 2, about the work in the context of Dinh's career and the wider ambitions of the Artangel programme.

This was followed in November and into December by a return of **Know Your Arts From Your Elbow** - the informal evening **Turner Prize** sessions, led by artist Amy Gear, exploring the work of the four nominees for this year's Turner Prize. The weekly sessions culminated with a screening of the live broadcast of the announcement on 5 December.

Formal Learning

Vocational Pathway music and film students have been continuing with their studies on the Creative Industries National Progression Award. During this period they have been learning necessary audio and video production skills. All students have completed the first two learning outcomes.

In mid-October, as part of their Live Performance modules, **NC Creative Industries** and **HNC Music** students hosted a public concert in the Mareel auditorium. Students live-streamed the event through social media giving a real-world opportunity to put into practice technical skills and techniques they have built up during their time in Mareel.

All first semester HNC modules have been completed and submitted to the HNC Progression Board for verification. We are currently looking at a 100% success rate for the first semester.

An online music 'residential' involving **BA Applied Music** students based in Mareel and participants from across the UHI Network took place in October. The project culminated in the students creating two original compositions and recordings (see Case Study)

BA Contemporary Film Making in the Highlands and Islands students completed their 1st semester projects which included short films based on Shetland mythology.



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Priority Area 3: Arts & Well-being

We will continue to lead in our partnership work in space2face, the restorative justice and arts programme. We will continue to advocate and support the provision of arts and cultural activities for older people in care settings, in partnership with Alzheimer Scotland, local and national arts professionals and Shetland Island Council's Social Care staff. This work will be in line with, and contributing to, international research in these areas.

Q3 in numbers

1 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days
50 Audience attendances
29 Development Sessions
280 Participations

Our **Arts in Care** programme continued, with artists working in care homes and with participants in care settings. Jane Cockayne delivered some lovely Christmas crafting workshops to the service users at Annsbrae, and Stephen Mercer worked with Supported Living and Outreach to create a fantastic film - a spoof of the *Shetland* drama series (see Case Study).

Wellbeing Choir began again in October under the new leadership of Suzanne Briggs. Suzanne is a current BA Applied Music student, and teaches singing and flute to pupils across Shetland. She managed the transition well, liaising with the previous Choir Leader and providing an excellent selection of songs, some of which were familiar to the participants, and some that were new. She has introduced some slightly more challenging pieces, which the group is enjoying. On Christmas Eve, the group led a carol singing session in the Mareel Cafe/Bar, which delighted everyone in attendance.

We ran a **Christmas Wellbeing Crafts** workshop in the lead up to Christmas, where participants worked with different materials and techniques to create a variety of small Christmas crafts.

Our **Tak your Makkin** knitting group, run in partnership with **Alzheimer Scotland**, continues to run monthly in the Mareel Cafe Bar.

We continued our support for **space2face**, the restorative arts project working with people involved in offending behaviour.

Priority Area 4: Development & support

The support of individuals and groups is integral to our work and includes arts practitioners and creative industries micro businesses, audience development and our formal and informal education work. It also includes staff and volunteer development.

Q3 in numbers

69 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days
2,924 Audience attendances
16 Development Sessions
1,047 Participations



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We continued to provide meeting spaces for the several groups including the **Lerwick Writers Group**, **Westside Writers Group**, the **Peerie Makkers** school knitting project, and **Shetland Moving Image Archive Group** together with non-arts specific groups including Mind Your Head and the Shetland LGBTi group (note that non arts group figures and not included in our KPIs)

Our support for the local creative industries continued through hosting the monthly **Creative Industry Forum** informal meetings.

Our support for individual creative practitioners continued through the provision of numerous paid freelance opportunities in the delivery of our programme of activities including our ever popular **Life Drawing** classes.

During the increasingly popular Wool Week, Bonhoga hosted a small-scale exhibition of knitted work by Shetland **PeerieMakkers**, which is a project that aims to secure the future of Shetland's hand-knitting culture through group tuition delivered by skilled volunteers in primary schools in Shetland. The pieces exhibited were a small sample of the many wonderful pieces created by the schoolchildren.

Bonhoga Gallery continued to build on its reputation as a craft and applied arts hub offering numerous development and curated retail opportunities for local and national makers.

We continued to work with the newly established **Friends of the Garrison** group with the aim to secure the future of the building as a vibrant and sustainable community venue.

Priority Area 5: Programme, Commissioning & Curation

This will include the programming of our cinema, gallery, theatre and auditorium; Wordplay and Screenplay, our highly successful book and film festivals, and Fiddle Frenzy. We will also develop creative residencies in partnership with local and national bodies and extend our regional, national and international reach through the development of a variety of festivals and events.

Q3 in numbers

1,043 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days
49,932 Audience attendances
25 Development Sessions
457 Participations

Full event listings can be found at <http://issuu.com/shetlandarts>

Music

October brought a very special opportunity for us to screen the Soviet Era, black and white, silent film, "By The Law" in Screen 2, accompanied by an atmospheric, live soundtrack composed by renowned Scottish composer, **RM Hubbert**.



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In November the Classical Season continued with a visit from **Edinburgh Quartet**, who worked with us to visit the isles as part of their “North, South, East, West” project, which saw them teach a new piece and perform it with local musicians as part of their concert. Renowned trumpeter, **Colin Steele**, made his first visit to Shetland with his jazz quintet at the end of the month, playing from his award winning album, “Even in the Darkest Places”.

At the end of November, beginning of December, we launched our first Rural Tour of the new **Community Promoters** project. Traditional, Shetland music groups **Beltane Ree** and **Fjanna** toured around Shetland in four nights, playing in Quarff, Sandness, Brae and Whalsay and receiving a warm reception in each. At every gig the main act was supported by a smaller, local act, creating a new performance opportunity.

In December, we presented a very popular Christmas offering with the **North Ness Boys** and **Freda Leask** taking the stage in the Auditorium. The office party crowd were out in force for a sold-out, standing gig by Queen II, one of the UK’s most popular Queen tribute acts, with support by popular local act **The Bashies**.

2017 closed with a sell-out **Hogmanay at Mareel with The Revellers**, sponsored by Event Scotland. Following the previous years, very successful Hogmanay night with Fiddler’s Bid, we decided to retain the same format of Variety Gig, Bells Performance and an opportunity to dance. The Variety Gig was a great mix of local acts; **Kansa, Arthur Nicholson Band, Vair** and a triumphant return to the stage from **Hom Bru. The Revellers** brought in the Bells in 80’s style, with a rousing singalong as the year turned. The party then continued with the Alan Nicolson Dance Band and our resident Mixology DJs in the Cafe Bar.

Open Mic @ Mareel continued throughout Q3 and was well attended by both those willing to share their work and those willing to listen and appreciate. This is now becoming a staple of our offering.

Mixology nights were both an opportunity for our longest standing DJ Lyall and emerging DJ Brandon to entertain and set the mood for a chilled night out in Mareel, throughout October, November and December.

External Promoters / Hirers

October saw a varied offering of gigs in Mareel and the Garrison, starting off in the Auditorium with **Roddy Woomble** making a welcome return to Shetland, promoted by Ragged Wood Promotions. The next night saw a very different offering in the Garrison with the ever-well-attended **Accordion & Fiddle Festival** musicians taking the stage.

Beyond Presents gave the Mareel Auditorium a particularly busy week at the end of the month with 3 back-to-back gigs - **Newton Faulkner, Lucy Spraggan** and **Scouting For Girls**. All of the artists involved were delighted with their gigs and the experience at Mareel, with some members of Newton’s band taking the time to record a track in the studio.



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November opened with an ambitious day of recording and performing by the **Shetland Mandolin Band**, who spent the day in the studio and then played to an enthusiastic crowd in the evening, supported by local acts **High Level Hot Club** and **Haltadans**.

December began with what is almost a homecoming gig for **Lau**, promoted by Ragged Wood, at the end of their UK tour celebrating a decade of music making together.

Film

The cinemas were busy over this quarter, particularly in December, which saw a 29.5% increase in admissions compared to December 2016. Overall, admissions for the quarter were up 6.7% on the previous year, with some films underperforming (The Lego Ninjago Movie, Justice League) but some doing extremely well (Paddington 2, Murder on the Orient Express, A Bad Moms Christmas, Star Wars: The Last Jedi, and, right at the end of December, Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle and Pitch Perfect 3).

We hosted several interesting screenings and events this quarter, including Soviet-era silent thriller *By the Law* with live music from award-winning Scottish singer-songwriter RM Hubbert, on tour from the Hippodrome Silent Film Festival in Bo'ness; a four-film season of classic horror in the run-up to Halloween, with the choice of films being voted for by customers in an online poll; a screening of documentary *Poor Kids* followed by a panel discussion, marking Challenge Poverty Week and run in association with Community Planning and Development, Shetland Islands Council; and two films from Fokus: Films from Germany, a partnership between Goethe-Institut (Glasgow) and Filmhouse (Edinburgh).

We also put on several screenings for schools in early December, of *The Muppet Christmas Carol*, *The Man Who Invented Christmas* and *Wonder*. We charged £4 per pupil, with accompanying adults going free, and were delighted with the response - over 300 attendances, from Bells Brae, Sound, Sandwick, Whiteness, Aith, Sandness, Dunrossness, Mid Yell and Baltasound. We were as accommodating as possible, adding a couple of extra screenings in cinema two - one for an ASN group and the other with a later start time for a group from the northern isles - and giving a tour of our projection box to a class from Aith Junior High. We hope to do more of these screenings in future, as there definitely seems to be demand.

Exhibition

Autumn was busy at Bonhoga with **Hairst**, a selling exhibition of applied art and craft from Shetland and the UK and prints by **Gail Kelly** in the Lower Gallery. Hairst provided customers a unique opportunity to purchase from a diverse collection of high quality but affordable contemporary art and craft. High volumes of positive feedback was received and the exhibition experienced healthy sales, selling £4000 of craft during the short three week exhibition period.



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This was followed in November and December by **Beach Scenes and Other Obsessions**, a celebration of the work and career of local artist **Maxie Bain**. This was his first solo show in Shetland since returning to live here after 40 years in the south of England and a wonderful combination of his recent landscape work and early portraits (the latter of which have never been shown in Shetland before). The work of Glasgow based printmaker **Louise Scott** was exhibited in the Lower Gallery during Maxie's show. Louise specialises in copper plate etchings of marine and birdlife. Both shows were very popular with our audiences and we were delighted to welcome both artists back to Bonhoga.

Priority Area 6: Recording, Broadcast and Intellectual Property

Maximising Mareel's digital production facilities (principally for music and video recording and broadcast), we will provide opportunities for musicians and producers to generate revenue and Intellectual Property. Shetland Arts will continue to create, protect and monetise its own Intellectual Property assets in partnership with Shetland Arts Intellectual Property Community Interest Company.

Q3 in numbers

46 Development Sessions

Quarter 3 saw work commence on a new project by singer-songwriter **Gemma Anderson**, well known locally as vocalist with The Bashies. **Trookers** also continued their album project, which is shaping up to be an interesting release.

The **Shetland Mandolin Band** recorded an album on the Mareel stage, as well as recording their concert in November for inclusion on CD, mixed and mastered at Mareel in time for Christmas release. The album was very well received, and Radio Shetland broadcast a special hour-long feature on the band using excerpts from the concert.

The studio provided support for local film-maker **Keiba Clubb** on a video project for Grieg's Seafood, as well as recording and mixing the score for an **LHD** Christmas promotional film, which re-created a classic John Lewis commercial with a local flavour.

There were more clients looking for digital transfers from reel-to-reel and cassette; voiceover sessions for TV; and more editing work on audio for Wellbeing Audiobooks. Mixes of past concerts were produced for local musicians putting together audition tapes, and we provided a week of training in November for a studio engineer from the mainland looking to enhance his skills. All in all another busy and varied quarter!



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Case Study - Arts in Care film with Stephen Mercer

Local film maker Stephen Mercer worked with participants from Supported Living and Outreach to create a short spoof on the popular drama series *Shetland*. Here is Stephen's blog about the process.

Session 1 & 2 - Pre-production

"It was great to meet everyone and chat about what films they like. Taste in films varied but everyone liked comedy so it was important that our film was funny. We also chatted about what roles people would like to do like operating the camera, recording sound or acting etc.

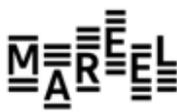


Someone had the great idea of making a spoof of the *Shetland* crime drama so our film idea was set!

In the second session we talked about the story and what everyone wanted to see happen in the film. We wanted action and comedy but it was also important to show some scenes of *Shetland*. As well as this we also chose some music for the film. Once we had a story I turned this into a script so we could start filming in the next session."

Sessions 3 to 5 - Production

"We filmed for three of the sessions, filming 2 scenes per session. Although we had a lot to cover, everyone was very enthusiastic and creative and we all had a lot of fun. There were lots of roles on set and everyone got to try one or two things at least. A favourite was the stabilised camera which was very tactile and easy to use. The crew were great and the actors were amazing!"



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Session 6 - Post production

“Once we had filmed our scenes I put it together with some scenes of Shetland to create the final film. We all watched it together in our final session which was great fun. We actually watched it twice! Everyone seemed to really enjoy their time making the film as well as watching it. I hope it gives some people the confidence to make a film of their own.”



The video went viral over the Christmas period, with thousands of views and very positive feedback on Facebook and Youtube. You can watch the video by following this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wu_2xIkqxQc

Case Study - BA Applied Music Residential

November 29th 2017 - report by Shetland Arts' Creative Digital Apprentice Peter Tomlinson

“I sat in last week on the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) BA Applied Music Residential at Mareel.

Three accomplished Shetland musicians were given part of an ancient Tam Lin folk tale and were tasked with creating a piece of music which acted as a soundtrack for the story.

“I hope we’ve done enough”, said Suzanne Briggs, one of the participants (and Shetland Arts Wellbeing Choir leader) about the assignment, in which students from UHI campuses all over Scotland were given a different part of the same story to interpret in their own way.

Not the types to always do things conventionally, Briggs, Barry Nisbet and Natalie Cairns-Ratter used stomping boots to record a heartbeat, a piercing scream in the auditorium and, amazingly, were allowed to use the actual town hall bells for a part of their recording. They

were surprised to find out the bells could be sounded from a tiny wooden keyboard, something usually reserved for the Guizer Jarl apparently.

The only orthodox methods used were traditional fiddles and flute playing. Midi drums were also implemented to great effect.

Despite how busy the trio had been, they were tremendously helpful as I took notes on their journey, taking time to talk me through techniques and explaining why they did certain things.

The style of the track was dictated by a 30-second intro they were given by UHI. After hearing the recording, they debated about what it evoked in them.



The completed piece counts towards their ensemble work in their overall course.

Cairns-Ratter said that working with others to a time constraint was challenging but very rewarding. The group agreed and felt this was probably the biggest obstacle.

Briggs felt that she had to hear the recording to truly “get” the Scots dialect, as it did not jump off the page at her in written form.

They cited the facilities at Mareel as a huge benefit in their three-day project, Nisbet saying it had “been brilliant” coming in to work on it.

The triumvirate also spoke at length about how flexible the UHI courses are, allowing for your own time management and freedom. Family commitments, touring and musical practice would get in the way of a usual university course but UHI give really highly acclaimed teaching – in both person and Skype – allowing those with less time for a full-time educational timetable to get the same tuition as those in cities and universities around the country.

They praised the multi-genre nature of the course – no type is valued higher. They spoke highly of the ability to prioritise what is important to you at that time.

The finished piece that I was lucky to hear was a refreshing, engaging and interesting interpretation of the much-imitated Tam Lin folk story. Barry Nisbet, Natalie Cairns-Ratter and Suzanne Briggs were all very friendly and allowed me to see the sophisticated steps and their unconventional methods of creating a stirring soundtrack.”



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| Key Performance Indicators | Concerts, Screenings, Exhibition Days | | | | | | Audience attendances | | | | | | Development Sessions | | | | | | Participations | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|------|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------|--------------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|--------------|----|----|----|
| | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q5 | Q6 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q5 | Q6 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q5 | Q6 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q5 | Q6 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q5 | Q6 |
| Priority Area of Activity | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Youth Arts | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 202 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 34 | 236 | 14 | 39 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 18 | 71 | 284 | 370 | 50 | 101 | 58 | 209 | 863 | | | |
| 2. Education & Learning | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 78 | 0 | 32 | 0 | 32 | 110 | 234 | 179 | 92 | 190 | 118 | 400 | 813 | 1465 | 952 | 361 | 778 | 520 | 1659 | 4076 | | | |
| 3. Arts & Well-being | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 50 | 17 | 35 | 11 | 9 | 9 | 29 | 81 | 195 | 111 | 76 | 131 | 73 | 280 | 586 | | | | |
| 4. Development & Support | 85 | 93 | 29 | 22 | 18 | 69 | 247 | 5474 | 6665 | 1489 | 835 | 600 | 2924 | 56 | 41 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 16 | 113 | 711 | 966 | 245 | 385 | 417 | 1047 | 2724 | | | |
| 5. Programme, Commissioning & C | 1107 | 1165 | 364 | 330 | 349 | 1043 | 3315 | 44874 | 53339 | 14762 | 15419 | 19751 | 49932 | 40 | 197 | 7 | 17 | 1 | 25 | 262 | 1814 | 1702 | 115 | 314 | 28 | 457 | 3973 | | | |
| 6. Broadcast, Recording & IP | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 37 | 27 | 29 | 17 | 0 | 46 | 110 | 50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | | | |
| Programme Total | 1196 | 1258 | 394 | 352 | 369 | 1115 | 3569 | 50628 | 60004 | 16283 | 16254 | 20435 | 52972 | 398 | 518 | 147 | 246 | 141 | 534 | 1,450 | 4519 | 4101 | 847 | 1709 | 1096 | 3652 | 12,272 | | | |
| SCT Annual Target KPI | | | | | | | 3,000 | | | | | | 160,000 | | | | | | | 1,300 | | | | | | | 9,000 | | | |