

Shetland *arts*

2017 - 2018: Quarter 4

January, February, March

Report of activity relating to Priority Areas of Activity Statements

Case Studies: Northern Flyway, Student Night, Shetland Youth Theatre's production *The Free9*

Notable variances between target and actual Key Performance Indicators

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.

Q4 in numbers

4 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days

152 Audience Attendances

54 Development Sessions

660 Participations

Shetland Young Promoters Group were busy preparing for the annual Battle Of The Bands. The alcohol free youth event is now in its 9th year and is due to happen on the 27th of April. The group have been meeting weekly to organise all aspects of the gig and have been busy finding and booking the acts for the night, organising the venue and technical specifications and marketing and promoting the event through social media and the local press. Shetland Arts and SIC Youth Services provide support to the constituted group through mentoring and provision of meeting spaces in Mareel. Shetland Arts has also donated a free day of recording to the winner of the event.

The new iteration of arts activity for young people aged 7 - 11 continued in Quarter 4, with **Creativity Club Animation** kicking off in January. Led by filmmaker **Maya Darrell-Hewins**, these sessions covered both 2D and 3D animation, as well as editing and writing the music for the films. The group used iPads and apps which would allow the young people to continue their exploration of the medium after the workshops were finished, but also were able to draw on actual film and run it through an old projector, to see how films used to be made! We had two members of **Maddrim Media** volunteering at the sessions, who also got a lot out of it and are still using their skills gained within the group. The five-week block finished with a screening of the animations in Screen 1 at Mareel for the young people as well as their families and friends, who enjoyed seeing the films on the big screen.

In March, **Jane Cockayne** led five sessions of **Creativity Club**, with a focus on craft. She encouraged the participants to bring in natural materials from around Shetland to create an exhibition in the Mareel foyer. Over the sessions, the young people used sticks, stones, wool and many other materials to create a beautiful wishing tree and a whole host of creatures. This exhibition will be in Mareel during April and May.

Shetland Youth Theatre's production **The Free9** took place in March, with two performances in the Mareel Auditorium (see Case Study). Members of Shetland Youth Theatre will attend the NT Connections Regional Festival at Eden Court, Inverness in April.



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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.

Q4 in numbers

1 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days

60 Audience Attendances

502 Development Sessions

2,163 Participations

Vocational Pathways audio recording and film students have been continuing with their studies on the Creative Industries National Progression Award. At the beginning of January the students started work on their final collaborative film project. This year, participants filmed a green screen sequence in the Mareel Auditorium and in various locations in Lerwick. The project will be used to contextualise their learning from over the past four months and will encompass the final two learning outcomes from their Creative Industries course. As an added bonus, students will have an opportunity to showcase their final film in Screen 1 at the Mareel Student Night on the 20th of June

NC Creative Industries film and music students have been busy working towards completion of their Creative Project units. This year, film students have worked collaboratively on three short film projects that are aimed for screening at Shetland Arts ScreenPlay Festival. Music students have been working on musical genre research projects that will be delivered as a series of Podcasts.

HNC Music students have been finalising their Graded Unit Portfolios. Students create a website that is designed to reflect learning from their academic studies and will act as portfolio for their future professional endeavours. The websites feature, amongst other things, compositions, performance elements, evidence of music theory and music business.

BA Applied Music students spent three days creating a soundtrack for a short film made by NC Creative Industries students. The collaboration was part of the Applied Music annual programme of residencies and saw participants writing, recording, mixing and mastering original compositions with the help of three NC Creative Industries music students.

This year's **MA Music Recording and Production** module began in January with an enrolment of seven students located around Scotland. The recording course is delivered online through weekly Video Conference by our Mareel-based tutors.

The **START/Bonhoga Education Programme** continued into the final quarter of the year, focusing on the exhibition at Mareel of the major video work **The Colony** as part of the Beyond



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Bonhoga off-site exhibition programme. We welcomed school groups from all the participating schools (Whalsay, Sandwick, Aith (including Skeld), Fetlar (including Foula) and Brae) to Mareel to visit the exhibition and to create work with Lead Artist **Amy Gear**. Primary groups made giant nests and created patterns of movement around the auditorium that were filmed from above, and these will all be incorporated into the final exhibition of schools work to be installed in Mareel in May. The Secondary pupils worked on a large collaborative map, tracking their journeys to the exhibition, and outlining Shetland's coastline, and these have become our new temporary table coverings in the Upper Café Bar. Approximately 300 pupils visited the exhibition over four weeks.

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.

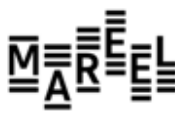
Q4 in numbers

82 Development Sessions
474 Participations

Our **Arts in Care** programme culminated in workshop sessions both in care centres and with key groups. We visited care centres across Shetland, including Walter Joan Gray in Scalloway, Overtonlea in Levenwick and Wastview in Walls, providing sessions in film, music and visual arts. We also worked with both Annsbrae and Supported Living & Outreach, with workshops in visual art and craft.

Our **Wellbeing Choir** continued to run through the winter months, and our Choir Leader **Suzanne Briggs** has even taken up the ukulele to better support the choir in tackling some country songs. An evaluation in January illustrated the impact of the choir on its members:

- “Relaxed, welcoming, fun... love learning harmonies, meeting new people, listening to and singing a variety of songs”
- “I love to try and sing, and the non-pressure environment of this choir is just perfect”
- “Very relaxed and enjoyable, with an inclusive atmosphere”



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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.

Q4 in numbers

61 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days
2,366 Audience Attendances
18 Development Sessions
1,048 Participations

Bonhoga Gallery shop's Curated Retail initiative continued to support a range of local, national and international craft makers with development and retail opportunities.

Mareel continued to host the monthly informal **Shetland Creative Industries Forum** networking events and continued to provide meeting spaces for a number of local artistic groups and individual advice and support to creative practitioners.

Shetland Arts continued to employ a range of creative practitioners, including performers and workshop leaders, to help us deliver our programme of events and activities.

We continued to work with the **Friends of the Garrison** group and provided volunteer training to several members.

As part of the national **Processions** project, in March we commissioned local artist **Christina Inkster** to deliver a series of public workshops during April and May to create a centenary banner celebrating Shetland women's involvement in the Suffrage movement and their right to the vote.



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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.

Q4 in numbers

904 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days

33,781 Audience Attendances

40 Development Sessions

472 Participations

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

Music

In January we welcomed the return of the ever-popular **Fiery Sessions** to the Garrison Theatre, with performances from the **High Level Hot Club**, **Ewen and Martha Thomson**, **Maggie and Bryan** and **Eunice Henderson** and **The South Mainland Fiddlers**, all compered by storyteller **Davy Cooper**. The two afternoon performances were very well attended, with Lerwick's Junior Jarl Squad making an appearance at the 3pm performance, to the delight of the audience.

February saw a visit from **Northern Flyway** (see Case Study).

In March we were delighted to host BBC2 Folk Award 2017 Best Group winners, **The Furrow Collective** who entranced their audience with a set of found folk songs from across the country. This event was complemented later in the month by our latest Classical Season offering - **Neil Georgeson's Dance Music**. Contrasting such popular pieces as Strauss' Blue Danube Waltz with a strikingly contemporary work by Patrick Nunn making use of innovative technology, this was a diverse and masterful concert.

There were more opportunities for members of the public to share and enjoy each others' work at **Open Mic @ Mareel** throughout Q4. And we also saw the continuation of **Mixology** nights with our long-standing resident DJ Lyall.

External Promoters / Hirers

At the end of January we were once again a host hall for the **Lerwick Up Helly Aa** where revellers, vikings and squads enjoyed comedy skits, food and drink, music and dancing well into the wee small hours.

In February, Ragged Wood brought **Lindsay Lou** back to Shetland for a sold-out concert in Mareel, following her appearance at the Shetland Folk Festival in 2016. The Garrison was busy with the 68th annual **Shetland County Drama Festival**. With thirteen performances over 4 days by various school and amateur dramatic groups, the audiences were in good attendance.



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Scottish Opera also made a visit to the Garrison Theatre with their **Opera Highlights** tour, showcasing a variety of well-known pieces to a delighted audience.

Ben Ottewell of Gomez took to the Mareel Auditorium stage in early March, with an acoustic gig for returning promoter Mac Events. This was followed later in the month by a Shetland debut for popular West Coast of Scotland folk-rockers **Tide Lines**, brought here by Beyond Presents. Mareel in March was especially busy with the annual **Shetland Schools Music Festival**, showcasing the talent of primary pupils throughout Shetland in classes as well as the **Young Musician of the Year** and **Gala Concerts**. In the Garrison, **Islesburgh Drama Group** presented their Spring production, **Absurd Person Singular** to enthusiastic audiences. And closing the month was another **Student Night** offering from the UHI students in Mareel, this time also being live-streamed on the Mareel Facebook page.

Film

It's been a slightly quieter quarter in the cinemas than we might have hoped for, with no huge hits like last year's Q4 blockbusters *Trainspotting 2* and *Beauty and the Beast*. There were a number of films that did very well, however, such as *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle*, *I, Tonya*, *Darkest Hour* and *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*. We even brought back *Darkest Hour* and *Three Billboards* for second runs, as well as Q3 hits *Paddington 2* and *Murder on the Orient Express*.

Family films did disappointing business overall, with both new Pixar release *Coco* and Aardman Animation's comedy *Early Man* failing to attract large audiences. Right at the end of the year, however, the animated adaptation of *Peter Rabbit* did extremely well, with adults as well as children flocking to see it.

We had very positive audience feedback for a four-film season of films set during the First World War, which was programmed during January and February to coincide with the exhibition **We're Here Because We're Here** at Bonhoga. The first film in the season, Stanley Kubrick's brilliant 1957 drama *Paths of Glory*, was introduced by history teacher and WWI scholar Jon Sandison, who gave an illustrated talk on how the Great War has been portrayed on film and television over the years.

Exhibition

This quarter was dominated by the spectacular exhibition in the auditorium at Mareel, **The Colony**, a three-screen video installation by commissioning body **Artangel** and Vietnamese artist **Dinh Q. Lê**. With generous support from Artangel, SADA was able to present this large-scale work as part of Beyond Bonhoga, the ongoing off-site gallery programme. Our technicians rose to the challenge, working with extremely valuable high spec audio-visual equipment on loan from outwith Shetland, recreating and then maintaining the work to exacting



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standards throughout the five week run of the show. The feedback from the public was extremely positive and we were delighted to welcome over 1,000 visitors to the show.

Our informal exhibition spaces in Mareel featured *Klondykers* by award-winning photographer **Jeremy Sutton-Hibbert** and portraits by local photographer **Liam Henderson**.

Bonhoga Gallery re-opened for business on 10th January after the Christmas closure. The Upper Gallery opened on 19th January with an exhibition telling the story of the contemporary memorial *We're Here Because We're Here* by **Jeremy Deller** and presented by 14-18 NOW and the National Theatre of Great Britain. The project saw over a hundred young men from Glasgow and Shetland take part and this local connection helped with footfall in the gallery during this usually quiet period.

Also proving very popular with visitors in the Lower Gallery was an exhibition of limited edition prints featuring the Aurora Borealis from Shetland born artist **Ellie Mulhern**. She is self-taught and paints using oils, capturing fine detail to present realistic images. Now living in Aberdeen she is a professional painter and her work is exhibited in galleries throughout Scotland.

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.

Q4 in numbers

17 Development Sessions

Q4 saw the **Northern Flyway** project (see Case Study) visit Mareel Recording Studio to record their album in advance of a well received concert presentation at Mareel. The project brought together folk elements, intricate vocal harmonies, beatbox, birdsong and interview material in an inspiring blend. The Mareel concert was also recorded and filmed for promotional use, with some post-production being done in the studio.

In March, we facilitated an online live broadcast by **Kris Drever**; an hour-long acoustic special which was streamed from the Mareel Green Room by our Studio Technician Tim Matthew. More sessions took place in conjunction with a new contact in Northern Ireland, **Karol Lynch**, culminating in the mixing and mastering of a single by Irish folk stalwarts **Stockton's Wing**. The tracks were recorded in Belfast, sent to Mareel for mixing, and approved online by the band before mastering.



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Case Study: Northern Flyway



Northern Flyway is a large scale, ambitious 75 minute music and visual production devised by **Jenny Sturgeon** and **Inge Thomson**. The work incorporates birdsong and field recordings alongside both acoustic and electronic music. Inge was born in Fair Isle and Jenny is based in Shetland, so Mareel Recording Studio was a natural choice for them to record the material.



After an extensive production period in **The Barn** in Banchory, the show premiered there before two further performances at **Celtic Connections** in Glasgow. They travelled to Shetland to spend 4 days recording in the Mareel Studio in the lead-up to their performance in the Auditorium.



Due to the flexible nature of our spaces we were able to provide the musicians rooms where they could record together, separately and also work on arrangements and sonic textures. At any one point there were different activities taking place in the Green Room, Live Room and Control Room. This flexibility allowed the group to achieve a great deal during their relatively short recording time.



At points, all 3 rooms were used for simultaneous recording and their personal monitoring packs tied into our data lines so that the musicians could hear themselves and each other and perform as if together in one room.

As is often the case with recording projects, the material evolved and was refined during this period of intense work, so the live performance at the end of the week greatly benefited. The recordings were taken away by Inge Thomson for further editing and mixing and the album will be released later in 2018 to coincide with a more extensive tour.

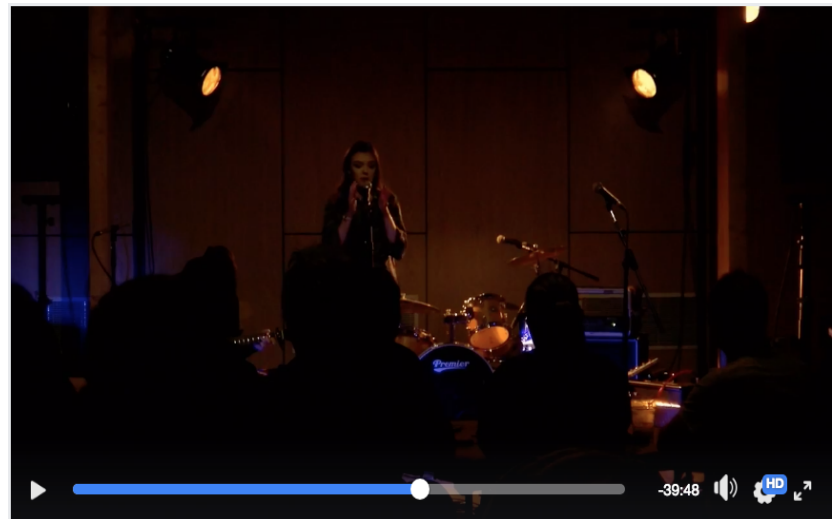
Northern Flyway is supported by Creative Scotland and PRS Foundation's Open Fund.

Case Study: Music and Film Student Night

On the 29th of March Shetland College NC, HNC and BA music and film students held a diverse showcase concert featuring some of the work they'd produced throughout the academic year.

The performance formed part of the music students' live performance module assessments and the film students directed a live feed of the event which was [broadcast on Facebook](#).

The students worked closely with Shetland Arts' Production, Programming and Marketing departments to plan and stage the well-attended event.



Shetland Arts was live.

29 March · 🌐

We're live with a night of brilliant music from our students!

A great range of music - if you can't make it down to Mareel tonight we've got you covered.

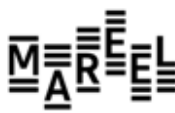
Inspired? Check out our music, film and audio courses here -

<https://www.shetlandarts.org/education/courses>

#ThinkShetland #ThinkUHI University of the Highlands and Islands Shetland College UHI

1.3K Views

11 Likes 32 Comments 14 Shares



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Case Study: Shetland Youth Theatre's production The Free9



As part of **National Theatre's NT Connections** project, Shetland Youth Theatre staged a production of ***The Free9***.

Based on the story of the 'Laos 9', *The Free9* follows eight young people as they attempt to flee North Korea. The resulting performance was "a masterful piece of theatre... A thoroughly gripping performance by all." (Shetland Times Review).

Two performances were staged in Mareel in late March and members of Shetland Youth Theatre will attend the NT Connections Regional Festival at Eden Court, Inverness in April.

Shetland Youth Theatre member **Maddison Reynolds** blogged about her experiences in the run up to the performances:

"When I first read through the script of The Free9 I was quite surprised. It is an immensely powerful story, with a whole range of emotions throughout. The play is based on a true story about nine North Korean teenagers and their efforts to try and escape the cruel regime in the north for freedom in South Korea."

"The production has been a journey for me and for everyone else involved. It has serious themes and heartbreaking stories but, it also shows that the characters are still real people who can have a happy few moments, too. Although the storyline is deep, everyone involved enjoys doing it. After a particularly hard scene, someone will always come with something that will instantly lighten everyone's mood."



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“There is so much hard work that has gone into this production such as Izzy Swanson making sure the stage set is perfect and helping us all get into character with our costumes. Molly Williams, who is in the play, has also choreographed a K-Pop dance routine for us. The cast are all a happy, unique bunch and bring each of their talents so well to the play. Then, there is our director, John Haswell. He is fantastic at bringing the production together and makes sure that everyone shines. He often makes us laugh and tries his hardest to make this play the best.”

“All of us are very excited to get to perform in Lerwick, then in April we will perform at the Eden Court theatre in Inverness. As well as performing there we will take part in workshops. This is all possible as part of the National Theatre Connections 2018 and hopefully it will be an amazing experience!”



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Notable variances between Target and Actual KPIs

	Target*	Actual	% Achieved
Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days	3,000	4,591	153%
Audience Attendances	160,000	200,368	125%
Development Sessions	1,300	2,163	166%
Participations	9,000	18,655	207%

* Targets as set in 2014

The trend of exceeding targets for Concerts, Screenings and Exhibition Days and the resultant Audience Attendances has continued from previous years. A significant contribution can be attributed to a new exhibition space coming into use in the upstairs foyer of Mareel in 15/16 and a new Curated Retail initiative beginning in 16/17.

Note: because many of our exhibition spaces are 'ambient' and unticketed, and therefore do not directly produce attendance and engagement data, we use divisors based on the attendance at other events in the same building which do produce attendance data (i.e. dividing the number of covers at the Bonhoga Cafe and number of tickets sold at events in Mareel by a percentage). We use visitor research to test and adjust these divisors.

Note: audience numbers do not include online viewers of live broadcasts or SADA produced videos. This may be included in future KPIs

Development sessions and participations also continue to exceed targets. A large number of these KPIs as generated through strong numbers of students enrolled on the formal education programmes developed and delivered on behalf of Shetland College UHI (Vocational Pathways, NC, HNC, BA and MA levels).

Large numbers of sessions and participations are generated by well supported developmental events organised by venue hirers, such as the Young Fiddler of the Year, Schools Music Festival and Shetland County Drama Festival.

Our own developmental events, including Fiddle Frenzy, Wordplay and Screenplay generate significant participation numbers, the latter's education programme expanded in 2017 with all schools in Shetland being offered the opportunity to be involved.

Note: The level of over-delivery highlighted above is under review and will likely decrease to be more in line with targets as a result of the impact of Shetland Charitable Trust funding cuts over the coming two years.



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Key Performance Indicators					Concerts, Screenings, Exhibition Days				Audience attendances				Development Sessions				Participations			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
Priority Area of Activity																				
1. Youth Arts	3	0	1	4	8	202	0	34	152	388	14	39	18	54	125	284	370	209	660	1523
2. Education & Learning	1	0	1	1	3	78	0	32	60	170	234	179	400	502	1315	1465	952	1891	2163	6471
3. Arts & Well-being	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	50	0	50	17	35	29	82	163	195	111	301	474	1081
4. Development & Support	85	92	69	61	307	5474	6054	2924	2366	16818	56	41	16	18	131	909	1095	1248	1048	4300
5. Prog, Commissioning & Curation	1107	1168	1093	904	4272	44874	53821	50466	33781	182942	40	197	25	40	302	1814	2487	457	472	5230
6. Broadcast, Recording & IP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	27	46	17	127	50	0	0	0	50
Programme Total	1196	1260	1165	970	4,591	50628	59875	53506	36359	200,368	398	518	534	695	2,163	4519	4906	4106	4517	18,655
SCT Annual Target KPI					3,000					160,000					1,300					9,000
% of Target					153%					125%					166%					207%