

18 SEPTEMBER - 05 OCTOBER 2019

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## **FESTIVAL FUNDERS:**





dutch performing arts



THE
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IN LONDON









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# WELCOME TO SICK! FESTIVAL 2019

This year's programme brings together outstanding performances, dance, exhibitions, installations and film by artists from across the globe and from here in Greater Manchester. SICK! Festival is not only an arts festival, it is a public conversation about some of the most urgent issues that affect our health and wellbeing as individuals and as a society. We warmly invite you to join this conversation.

This year we begin with a question: What is the value of a life? Drawing on the rich knowledge and understanding of clinical practitioners, public health professionals, academics, charities and - most importantly - those with lived experience, we will explore this question from three angles: Disability & Society, End-of-Life Care and Young People. We will ask: How do we care for ourselves and each other? How do we ensure that all voices are heard? What is it that makes life worth living and how should we act when life seems to have lost that value?



The festival would not be possible without the fantastic contribution of our partners. We are hugely grateful to The Lowry, Contact, The Whitworth, Z-arts, STUN Live, University of Manchester, The NIAMOS Centre and Hulme Garden Centre for hosting this year's festival. Our other partners are too many to list here, but special thanks must go to Manchester Metropolitan University, Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, University of Manchester and Transport for Greater Manchester.

Finally, we thank you the audience for bringing your own thoughts, ideas and experiences to the festival. We look forward to seeing you!

New this year is our **PAY BETWEEN SCHEME**: We know that many people personally affected by the issues we address are on low incomes and we want to reduce this barrier as much as possible. This year we launch our 'Pay Between Scheme', inviting you to select your own ticket price between just £5 and £15, you decide. In addition to this, many events can be experienced free of charge.



MON 16 SEPT-SUN 13 OCT

VENUE
METROLINK
STATIONS
ACROSS
GREATER
MANCHESTER





## GRAPHIC ENCOUNTERS

KAISA LEKA (FINLAND), TIITU TAKALO (FINLAND), JAMIE SQUIRE (UK), UNA (UK)

Graphic Encounters reveals the experiences of women in Manchester through a series of compelling illustrated narratives presented in poster sites across Greater Manchester's Metrolink network.

The project, developed with Manchester Metropolitan University and the LGBT Foundation, explores the lives of four women facing challenges to their health and wellbeing in the city.

Finnish artist **Tiitu Takalo** has created numerous zines and graphic novels, which have been translated into several languages including Swedish, Spanish and Hungarian and English.

Kaisa Leka is a Finnish comic artist and politician. Her autobiographical comics address disability, politics and spiritual searching through a naïvely simple style featuring animals, including a mouse which represents Kaisa herself.

**Jamie Squire** is an illustrator and comic artist from Manchester. Her work tackles themes of mental health, body acceptance and environmental issues.

**Una** is an artist, writer, graphic novelist and creator of *Becoming/Unbecoming*, a graphic memoir. Her work has featured on BBC Radio, Elle and the New York Times.

SICK FESTIVAL COMMISSION

Image credit





## DEATH & BIRTH In My Life

## MATS STAUB (SWITZERLAND)

Death and Birth in My Life invites the audience to join a series of intimate conversations in a video installation about the most moving and challenging experiences in life.

Developed with staff from the Intensive Care Unit at Manchester Royal Infirmary, Mats Staub's powerful video installation focuses on experiences of birth, death, grief and end-of-life care. Personal stories of care and loss are shared, and ethical dilemmas confronted with honesty and warmth.

Mats Staub lives and works in Berlin, creating art projects at the intersections between theatre and exhibition, literature and science. Rooted in a fascination for the most significant moments in people's lives - moments that are unique and personal, yet also universal - Staub's work enables the audience to feel connections with other human beings.

We aim to provide a supportive environment in which to engage with and reflect on the content of this installation, which includes emotionally challenging material about death and end-of-life care. Further information can be found at sickfestival.com

See website for detailed schedule.

## SICK! FESTIVAL COMMISSION

DATE WED 18 SEPT-SAT 5 OCT

TIMES 10.00 - 17.00

10.00 - 21.00 ON THUR

**VENUE**THE WHITWORTH

**ACCESS** 







Image credit Stills from Death & Birth in My Life WED 18 SEPT-SAT 21 SEPT

WED 25 SEPT-SAT 28 SEPT

WED 02 OCT-SAT 05 OCT

TIME 10.00 - 17.00

VENUE 58 KING STREET

**ACCESS** 





## THIS GRIEF THING

### FEVERED SLEEP

This Grief Thing invites people to think, talk and learn about grief. It takes place in a shop where people can have conversations, and buy clothes or objects.

It's for people who have experienced grief, and those who haven't. We're living at a time when many people find death and grief – our own grief or other people's – almost impossible to talk about. We don't know what to say, what to do or how to act. So we stay silent, we pretend that grief doesn't exist, or we hide it. *This Grief Thing* pushes against this, by opening up conversations about grief and making it visible.

Fevered Sleep will open a shop hosted daily by Sam Butler and David Harradine, the artistic directors of Fevered Sleep. You can drop in to browse or chat any time in the shop's opening hours. They will host a series of Grief Gatherings, small group conversations about grief, either in the shop or in community spaces. The project also includes a billboard and poster campaign, which asks 'Can we talk about grief?'

To take part in the Grief Gathering, or to host one, please contact: griefgatherings@feveredsleep.co.uk or Tel: 020 3815 6430

Image credit



# DISABILITY SEEK 1 SOCIETY

# Disability & Society

Disabled artists are at the leading edge of innovative artistic practise across performance, digital, visual arts and film.

Many are also at the forefront of social activism, representing the experiences and concerns of the 11 million+ people living with disabilities in the UK.

Care services have been reduced and the policing of what it means to be disabled increased. People with learning disabilities have a life expectancy 26 years lower than the average. In Iceland, Down's Syndrome has been all but eradicated through genetic screening.

A huge range of social barriers limit the engagement of people with disabilities in the cultural life of the UK. In this context, the voices of these outstanding artists becomes more urgent than ever.



## LET'S TALK ABOUT DIS

## CANDOCO, WITH HETAIN PATEL

Renowned for creating acclaimed and cuttingedge work, Candoco kick off SICK! Festival's performance programme with their unique and powerful brand of choreography.

Visual artist Hetain Patel's critically acclaimed collaboration with Candoco, Let's Talk About Dis, is a playful and intimate performance. It exposes hidden prejudices and misplaced political correctness with humour and charm. The work interrogates attitudes to identity, probing the audience to think beyond surface appearances.

Hetain approaches dance from a cross-arts background, working with performance, installation, video, photography and sculpture, blurring the lines between theatre, gallery and film. His work is often humorous and deeply personal, allowing the audience to form an intimate connection with the performers.

The performance will be followed by a 45-minute post-show discussion exploring issues of identity and representation with members of Candoco.

Let's Talk About Dis is funded by Cockayne Foundation, Grants for the Arts and the London Community Foundation and co-commissioned by ArtsDepot.

#### DATE

WED 18 SEPT & THU 19 SEPT

**TIME** 19.00

DURATION
30 MINS +
POST SHOW
DISCUSSION

VENUE THE LOWRY

**ACCESS** 







Image credit CAMILLA GREENWELL WFD 18 SFPT

TIME 20.30

**DURATION**60 MINS

VENUE THE LOWRY

**ACCESS** 





## A FAMILY OUTING-20 YEARS ON

#### **URSULA MARTINEZ**

Twenty years after bringing her parents onstage in the sublime *A Family Outing*, Ursula Martinez attempts to recreate the show, without her Dad, and with a mother who can no longer remember her lines.

Absorbed in wryly honest and frank conversation, a mother and daughter expose the banalities, hilarity, foibles and frustrations of their relationship. Contrasting past and present, they bicker, cajole and encourage each other through this endearingly ad hoc, entertaining and ultimately uplifting performance.

Since the 'truly hilarious' (Independent on Sunday) original premiered in 1998, Martinez has turned 50, her father Arthur has passed away, and her mother Mila has been diagnosed with early stage dementia. Through a canny interplay with the first production, this bracingly funny recreation blurs the lines between artifice and reality while grappling with who we are and what happens to us as time marches on.

Co-commissioned by the Barbican, SICK! Festival and Perth Festival.

**SICK**FESTIVAL COMMISSION

Image credit HUGO GLENDINNING



## HOW DO WE CHOOSE WHICH WORDS TO USE?

## **UNLIMITED CONNECTS NORTH**

Not all disabled artists use the same terms, and not all those labelled 'disabled' by others self-identify that way. How different are the practices described as 'arts and disability', 'disability arts' and 'inclusive arts'? What role does self-definition play?

SICK! Festival has partnered with Unlimited, Joining Up the Dots Network and the Lowry to celebrate disabled artists, connecting up arts organisations and individuals based in Arts Council England's North Area. Join us for a day of provocations, discussions and encounters, in a relaxed environment.

Unlimited is a commissioning programme for work by disabled artists, delivered by Shape Arts and Artsadmin, with funding from Arts Council England, Arts Council Wales, and Spirit 2012. This event is part of a wider series of Unlimited Connects events in England and Wales.

Twitter handles: @weareunltd @sickfestival @thelowry #UnltdConnects

**DATE** THU 19 SEPT

**TIME** 10.00 - 16.00

**DURATION** 6 HOURS WITH BREAKS

VENUE THE LOWRY

**ACCESS** 







Image credit Sign Language (ASL) USED FOR THE LETTER D THU 19 SEPT & FRI 20 SEPT

**TIME** 12.00 - 19.00

**DURATION** 7 HOURS

**VENUE** THE LOWRY

**ACCESS** 





KAISAIFKA

THU 19 SEPT

Finnish artist Kaisa Leka will deliver a workshop exploring approaches to graphic story-telling as a way of engaging with the physical, emotional and social challenges of life. Central themes in Leka's autobiographical comics are disability, politics and spiritual searching. *Just 15 places available*. *Please book through festival website*.



## THE GOLDILOCKS MIXER

**FELIX PECKITT** 

THU 19 SFPT

The Goldilocks Mixer is a sonic installation by Felix Peckitt that challenges audiences and participants to think about how sound can welcome or isolate people in shared spaces. The Goldilocks Mixer offers an immersive and challenging encounter with sound and society. Whose voice will be heard? Which sounds will be celebrated and which will be silenced?

## DISABILITY ARTS ONLINE ZINE WORKSHOP

**DISABILITY ARTS ONLINE** 

THU 19 & FRI 20 SEPT

Zines, or fanzines, are self-published magazines made for little money and distributed cheaply. Join Disability Arts Online in creating a zine based on the themes of this year's SICK! Festival. Materials and prompts will be provided, as well as a selection of zines to flip through for inspiration and enjoyment.

Image credits TESSA RATUSZYNSKA DANNY HESTER RACHEL ROWEN



## Explore The Hub:

Presented alongside UNLIMITED CONNECTS NORTH, we present a host of interactive artworks, workshops, and audio visual projects which offer bold and engaging perspectives on disability.



# THE

## Explore The Hub:

Presented alongside
Our Disability & Society
Symposium, we present a host of interactive artworks, workshops, and audio visual projects which offer bold and engaging perspectives on disability.



## SICKOS

#### **IACKIF HAGAN**

#### **THU 19 & FRI 20 SFPT**

Jackie Hagan is a live artist who was diagnosed with a rare and variable disease. Most commonly 'sufferers' live for 5-15 years after symptoms show. This was six years ago. In this new video project, she has decided to face it by talking to other artists with shortened and uncertain lifespans.

## UNLIMITED COMMISSIONS ON SCREEN

#### **VARIOUS ARTISTS**

### **THU 19 & FRI 20 SEPT**

UNLIMITED have commissioned numerous outstanding documentary, animation and artists' video projects. We present a selection of recently commissioned work. Check website for details.

## **EVOLUTION (VR INSTALLATION)**

#### **FSTHFR FOX**

FRI 20 SEPT

Stepping into the imagined study of Francis Galton, the Father of Eugenics, the viewer will explore a fantasy collection of specimens, making their own selections and facing uncomfortable questions about what we value and what we discard.

## **LEAKY ROBOTS**

#### PRAMINDA CALEB-SOLLY

FRI 20 SEPT

Join Praminda Caleb-Solly (D4D, Bristol Robotics Laboratory / UWE) as she demonstrates the possibilities of telepresence robots for disabled people. How can virtual presence affect a person's sensory experience of place? What is lost and what is gained? DATE
THU 19 SEPT &
FRI 20 SEPT

**TIME** 12.00 - 19.00

**DURATION** 7 HOURS

**VENUE** The Lowry

**ACCESS** 





Image credit JACKIE HAGAN



# AN IRRESPONSIBLE FATHER'S GUIDE TO PARENTING

## **LAURENCE CLARK**

Growing up, Laurence never saw dads with cerebral palsy; which made him think he'd never be a parent himself, but then his future wife says he'd better be prepared for the fact she wants babies...which is a pretty strong opening line.

Comedian Laurence Clark starred in BBC1's documentary We Won't Drop the Baby, following his family's journey as they welcomed their second child into the world. The response it received worldwide was at times inspirational and uplifting – at others, derogatory and incredibly personal. Laurence's show explores these reactions, and questions his role as a father with cerebral palsy.

Putting the audience in the driver seat, *An Irresponsible Father's Guide to Parenting* gives a comic, brutally honest and charming account of what it's really like to be a disabled parent. A hilarious, moving and interactive performance that asks some tough questions about society and the perceptions that we have of those who do not follow societal norms.

Funded by Unity Theatre Liverpool and supported by The Lowry.

**DATE**THU 19 SEPT

**TIME** 20.30

**DURATION**60 MINS

VENUE THE LOWRY

**ACCESS** 







Image credit RICHARD ANDERS DATE FRI 20 SEPT

TIME 10.00 - 16.00

> DURATION 6 HOURS

VENUE THE LOWRY

**ACCESS** 







This event begins with the question 'What is the value of a human life?'. What does this question mean for people living with disabilities, for their families, for society, for those who might not even be born yet? Join the conversation...

10.30 – 11.30: Panel 1 - Economics of Care:
The United Kingdom is undergoing hazardous times, affecting many care services. How is austerity affecting people with disabilities? How have those who require care throughout their life been impacted by cuts? How could the negative outcomes of austerity be counteracted? Whose responsibility is it when the economics change the dynamics within the care sector?

#### 11.45 - 12.45: Panel 2 - Technology:

In a century in which technology is increasingly pervasive, what role could it have, or should it have in improving the lives of people living with disabilities? Can innovative technology benefit care providers and facilitate care processes? Do robotics increase agency for those in need or distance them from any social interaction? What is the future of care with upcoming technological innovations?

Image credit CAMILLA GREENWELL



12.45 - 13.30: BREAK

13.30-14.30: Panel 3 - Media and

**Representation:** This panel considers the ways in which disabled people are represented and represent themselves in contemporary culture, in film, television, literature and theatre. It explores the role of culture in shaping, shifting and disrupting attitudes towards disability.

14.45 – 15.45 Panel 4 - The Right to Exist:
It seems that the very right to exist of people with disabilities is under threat at both ends of life. Genetic screening provides a mechanism whereby whole groups of people with particular conditions can be prevented from ever existing. At the end of life too, it appears that the lives of people with disabilities are valued less than others. The Learning Disability Mortality Review points to systemic failures that leads to lower life expectancy among people with learning disabilities.

SEE SICKFESTIVAL.COM FOR PANELISTS

DATE FRI 20 SEPT

TIME 12.00 - 18.00

DURATION 6 HOURS

**VENUE** THF I OWRY

**ACCESS** 







## RADIO LOCAL -DISABII ITY & SOCIETY

#### **HUNT & DARTON**

Radio Local is a pop up radio station built with. and for, those local to it and broadcasting live over the airwayes of Reform Radio for the duration of a whole day. Join us for our six hour marathon radio show, made and inspired by Salford's residents and addressing the festivals considerations around disability.

This is a magazine-style show, so expect chat, music, guests and games. Climb into to one of our sheds to help build the show with jingle making and scriptwriting to be featured on-air and of course critiqued by ever-present hosts Hunt & Darton. Tune in or come down and enjoy our green room (featuring only green interior and snacks) before making an appearance on the show as a panel member or to share your immediate news. Tea and Hobnobs available all day - obviously.

Commissioned Artist: Byron Vincent focussing his series on people's fears and neuroses. He is working on the equation that Happiness = the Absence of Anxiety.

Guest Presenters: Live Art duo L.A.L (Life at Large), Kevin Clarke and Amy Pennington.

Come and be local with us!

Image credit STEPHEN KING





## STILL NO IDEA

#### LISA HAMMOND AND RACHAEL SPENCE

Lisa and Rachael want to make a show, but there's a problem: they don't have any ideas. So who do they turn to? The Great British Public of course!

They make a pact. They'll go onto the streets, interview people, and whatever story the public come up with – that will be the show. No backing out, no changing what they don't like. Deal.

Exploring public perceptions and assumptions about disability, Still No Idea is Lisa and Rachael's quest: a mischievous look at two friends searching for drama, action, and a story to tell. Part-verbatim theatre, part-confession, part-comedy sketch show with a bit of singing and dancing thrown in. Turns out getting the public to write your story is quite an adventure.

"Pin sharp, provocative and hugely entertaining"
The Times

"Wonderful to watch ..... hilariously rude and naughty" The Daily Telegraph

DATE FRI 20 SEPT & SAT 21 SEPT

TIMES FRI 19.00, SAT 20.30

**DURATION**60 MINS

**VENUE**THE LOWRY

**ACCESS** 







Image credit IDIL SUKAN DATE SAT 21 SEPT

**TIMES** 15.00 & 19.00

**DURATION**60 MINS

VENUE THE LOWRY

**ACCESS** 





# THE NATURE OF WHY

#### BRITISH PARAORCHESTRA

Playfully fusing contemporary dance with a cinematic live-score by Goldfrapp's Will Gregory, *The Nature of Why* smashes the divide between musicians, dancers and the audience, in a performance bursting with passion and joyous intensity.

Taking inspiration from the unconventional curiosity of theoretical physicist Richard Feynman, *The Nature of Why* explores his search for meaning in the world around us. The stage itself becomes a site of discovery as the constantly shifting action invites audiences to seek out their own unique encounters, resulting in an epic and immersive theatrical experience like no other.

"This isn't a performance you simply see or hear. It's one you feel". (Bristol 24/7)

Commissioned by Unlimited and performed by an ensemble of musicians from The British Paraorchestra, *The Nature of Why* is choreographed by Caroline Bowditch, conducted by Charles Hazlewood, and directed by Caroline Bowditch and Charles Hazlewood.

Produced by Paraorchestra and Friends.

Image credit PAUL BLAKEMORE



# END WEEK 2 End of Life

We all die, and most of us will experience the death of a loved one at some point in our lives.

How prepared are we, as individuals and as a society, to cope with these most difficult of experiences?

Developed in collaboration with Manchester Metropolitan University, University of Manchester and staff from the Intensive Care Unit at Manchester Royal Infirmary, this section of the programme explores the emotional and ethical challenges that confront those involved in the care of the dying as well as those facing their own deaths and their families.



# THE DIRECTOR

## LARA THOMS - APHIDS (AUSTRALIA)

Demystifying the death industry with humour and first-hand knowledge, *The Director* is a performance starring artist Lara Thoms and charismatic ex-funeral director, Scott Turnbull.

Together they invite you to dig a little deeper into what happens after we go. Blurring the roles of funeral director and theatre director, Thoms and Turnbull ask each other to perform tasks, share knowledge and give feedback on each other's actions. Balancing macabre reality, playfulness and the tragic elements of death, the result is a spiky, funny and invigorating performance.

Lara Thoms is interested in socially engaged, site-specific and participatory possibilities in contemporary art and performance. Lara's projects sit within the common theme of reconsidering social hierarchies and highlighting the less visible. She was recently shortlisted for the Victorian Creative State commission and was the co-creator of the major project ICON by Field Theory for Federation Square. In 2019 Lara began her role as co-director of arts organisation Aphids with Mish Grigor and Eugenia Lim.

The Director is supported by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts and the City of Melbourne through Arts House. DATE
WED 25 SEPTTHU 26 SEPT

TIME WED 20.00, THU 20.30

DURATION 60 MINS

VENUE Z-ARTS

**ACCESS** 





PAY BETWEEN SCHEME (£5-£15)

Image credit BRYONY IACKSON DATE THU 26 SEPT

TIME 18.30

DURATION 90 MINS

VENUE MANCHESTER MEDICAL SCHOOL

**ACCESS** 





# **ISLAND**

#### STEVEN FASTWOOD

In this film, four individuals experience the year in which their lives will end. Illness progresses, relationships gently shift, and we are witness to rarely seen and intensely private moments.

One person shares their acceptance of death, whilst another is surrounded by a community in shock. We observe bedside care and the rhythm of breathing. In a pathology lab, microscopic biopsies in close-up show the interior of bodies, our biology. Filmed over 12 months on the Isle of Wight, *Island* is a life-affirming reflection on the phenomena of dying, portraying the transition away from personhood and observing the last days and hours of life and the moment of death. Like the ferries cyclically arriving and departing in this enigmatic landscape, the film appears buoyant, afloat. Death is shown to be natural and everyday but also unspeakable and strange.

The presentation of the film will be followed by a post-show discussion with artist and film-maker Steven Eastwood, exploring the ethical and emotional challenges faced in making *Island*.

www.islandfilm.co.uk

\*\* \* \* \* \* \* \* "A memento mori in a pretty direct form"

The Sunday Times

\*\*\* \* \* "Hauntingly evocative" The Guardian

Image credit Steven Fastwood





# DYING TOGETHER

## LOTTE VAN DEN BURG (NETHERLANDS)

Dying Together asks if moments of collective death can tell us something about how we relate to each other in life. Does the way we experience these moments through the media reveal differences in the way we value the lives and deaths of others in the world?

The public is invited to participate in a deeply moving physical thought exercise, reflecting on recent situations where many people have died together.

This gradually changing constellation of people creates new relationships and new meanings, to each other and to those people whose lives were swept up in tragedy. Amsterdam-based artist Lotte Van Den Berg aims to make apparent the conflicts and contradictions that are present in society, examine them collectively and raise awareness about them.

Lotte van den Berg has won several awards, amongst which the Erik Vos prize and the Charlotte Kohler Prize. Her visual language is sober, bare. Images, movements and scenes are, through dedicated attention for detail, condensed to their essence. Van den Berg moves between the worlds of dance, theatre and film, creating an open and very personal style, which invites the audience to contemplate different perspectives and angles.

DATE THU 26 SEPT-FRI 27 SEPT

TIME THU 19.00, FRI 20.30

**DURATION**2 HOURS +
CONVERSATION

VENUE STUNTIVE

**ACCESS** 



PAY BETWEEN SCHEME (£5-£15)



Image credit SALIH KILIC DATE FRI 27 SEPT -SAT 28 SEPT

> TIME 19.00

DURATION 40 MINS

> VENUE THE YARD THEATRE

> > **ACCESS**





# WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT DEATH

#### **JOANNA ROSENFELD**

We Need to Talk About Death dives into Joanna Rosenfeld's personal stories, historical recordings and tender reflections about deaths she encountered in her family. Playfully, she invites us to contemplate our relationship with dying and our own mortality, while asking the question: What is too much?

Joanna considers how the authentic and autobiographical sharing of stories about death and grief affects the audience, giving space to contemplate our own relationships and our experiences of loss.

Joanna Rosenfeld is a Brighton based German Theatre Maker, Performer, Director, Artist, Poet and Mother. She made 'Unspeakable, Unspoken - Transformations into Motherhood', a solo performance piece and workshop, directed by Dr Kath Burlinson, and brought it into hospitals and community centres, working with GP's, midwifes and service users. She loves shared experiences and diving deep. She lives with her partner, their daughters and their various cats in Hove, trying to stay a Mensch.

We Need To Talk About Death is a work-in-progress.

Image credit

F-HER AGE. ELIZABET AGED 15 YEA OTTE. NHER 18TH Y ASTSAMUE HEEGE, OXFO O, AGED 29 Y REN WHO DIE 

DATE SAT 28 SEPT

TIME 10.00 - 16.00

**DURATION** 6 HOURS (WITH BREAKS)

> VENUE THE BRIGHT BUILDING

> > **ACCESS**







In this day of conversation and discussion, we invite you to join clinical practitioners, academics, artists and those with profound personal experiences of end-of-life care, to explore the emotions and ethical dilemmas that they have to address when confronting death head on.

**10.30 – 11.30 Panel 1 - Turning off the Machine**This panel will explore questions around authority, autonomy and decision-making at the end of life, considering the roles of clinical staff, family members and the dying person themselves.

#### 11.45 - 12.45 Panel 2 - The Sanctity of Life

This panel explores new approaches to the sacred inside and outside clinical settings: At the end of life, many people feel a strong need to reaffirm the sanctity of life, but what does this mean to people, and how do they express it, in an increasingly secular society? How can these feelings find a place in the context of a busy, clinical setting?



#### 12.45 - 13.30 BREAK

#### 13.30 - 14.30 Panel 3 - Elephants in the Room

With the rise of Death Cafés and the Death Positive movement, along with a host of documentaries and theatre performances that confront the end of life head on, are we really getting better at talking about death or is it still something we avoid?

# 14.45 - 15.45 Panel 4 - Death & Inequalities

The life expectancy of people living in parts of Manchester is up to twelve years lower than other areas, the starkest of reminders of the way in which social and economic conditions affect our lives, and our deaths. Whilst we consider care for the dying to be of the utmost importance, how is the provision of care provided influenced by inequalities, not only within our own communities, but globally?

SEE WEBSITE FOR PANELISTS. IN ASSOCIATION WITH MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY AND MANCHESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY DATE SAT 28 SEPT

TIME 12.00 - 18.00

DURATION 6 HOURS

VENUE SEE WEBSITE

**ACCESS** 





# RADIO LOCAL -DEATH!

#### **HUNT & DARTON**

Hunt & Darton are your unflinching hosts for six hours of broadcast radio, live from the heart of Manchester.

Make jingles, write the soap opera, play games, scavenge, moan, find love or be our news on the hour. Listen to our raves (not rants), food reviews of immediate independent eateries, traffic reports from the nearest road, to our programmes created by our commissioned artists and to all our local legends celebrating their contributions to the community and spinning their records. Chat, guests and programmes all inspired by the festivals theme of End of Life.

Tune in at radiolocal.co.uk, tweet in @huntdarton, gram in @huntanddarton or just come down we'd love to see your face.

Commissioned Artists: Lois Weaver as Tammy talking to Debbie Jones, Jackie Stacey, James Thompson and about palliative care and pride in ageing. Yara El-Sherbini and Davina Drummond investigating floristry for funerals.

Guest Presenter: Stand up comedian Smug Roberts

Come and be local with us!





# IN CONVERSATION

#### MATS STAUB & PROFESSOR MAHESH NIRMALAN

The creator of *Death & Birth in My Life* will talk about the origins of his deeply moving new installation with Mahesh Nirmalan, Professor of Medical Education and Consultant in Critical Care Medicine at Manchester Royal Infirmary.

They will discuss the complex ethical issues that exist around end-of-life care, and the process by which Mats worked with those touched by these most challenging of experiences. No booking required.

# RAINBOW DEATH CAFÉ

# **LGBT FOUNDATION**

A Death Café with a difference, our special "rainbow" edition is a chance to talk openly about death and dying, exploring the subject with particular reference to the experiences of people in the LGBTQI community.

This event is free, but if you have the means and would like to please consider buying a coffee and cake to support the venue. This event has been produced in conjunction with Research in Arts and Humanities at Manchester Metropolitan University.

LGBT Foundation is a national charity delivering advice, support and information services to lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) communities.

https://lgbt.foundation/

DATE SAT 28 SEPT

TIME 16.00

DURATION 45 MINS

**VENUE**THE WHITWORTH

**ACCESS** 





DATE SAT 28 SEPT

TIME 16.30 - 18.30

DURATION 2 HOURS

VENUE MILK AND HONEY CAFE

**ACCESS** 





Image credits
TANJA DORENDORF /
T+T FOTOGRAFIE
LGBT FOUNDATION

DATE SAT 28 SEPT

**TIME** 20.00

DURATION 60 MINS

**VENUE** Z-ARTS

**ACCESS** 





# **BEFORE THE END**

#### **CATHERINE GRAINDORGE (BELGIUM)**

On the 19th April 2015, Michel Graindorge passed away. The politically committed lawyer and public figure was also the father of the actor and violinist Catherine Graindorge. A man dies, a daughter loses her father.

Catherine Graindorge tells the story of the bond between father and daughter and the loss of what we love. With words, images and music, she goes back to the last fifteen months of her father's life, to their common past but also, and even more so, on the traces left by those who are gone. As a storyteller, she distils emotions, plays with the absurdity of situations, and handles the poetry of images and humour to construct a story that is at once funny, tender and moving.

Catherine Graindorge always uses the reality of situations, events big or small that concern or move her. In this autobiographical project, her artistic approach is intimate; she has chosen to perform a solo act, mixing theatre and sound.

Image credit GREGORY NAVARRA



# Young People

A YouGov survey undertaken for the Princes Trust revealed the shocking statistic that 18% of young people do not consider life to be worth living.

How can we ensure that young people living in Greater Manchester do value their lives?

The final week of SICK! Festival has been developed in collaboration with young people from across Greater Manchester through organisations including Reform Radio, Young RAPAR, Peshkar, 42nd Street and the Proud Trust and presented in partnership with Contact.

Taking place in venues across Hulme, the programme incorporates a fantastic range of performances, workshops and other events that passionately explore what makes life worth living for young people today.

# DATE TUES 1, WED 2 & THU 3 OCT

TIME 19.00

DURATION 60 MINS

**VENUE** STUNLIVE

**ACCESS** 



**BSL WED ONLY** 



# **BABY FEVER**

# CONTACT YOUNG COMPANY (UK) / DEGASTEN (NETHERLANDS)

Co-presented and commissioned with Contact.

This autumn Contact Young Company have been working with Amsterdam-based multidisciplinary company Degasten. Co-produced by SICK! Festival this show will strive to answer the main question proposed by this year's festival: What is the value of a life?

A group of outstanding young artists will explore the commodification of happiness. How have everyday milestones in life been affected by materialism in today's society? How much pressure are we placing on young people to conform to society's norms, and to associate happiness with material goods and success? How does this relate to race, disability and mental health? And how does the young generation feel about wanting to have children? Can they afford to? Do they even want to?

**SICK** FESTIVAL COMMISSION

Image credit





# THE YEAR MY VAGINA TRIED TO KILL ME

# **AMY VREEKE**

Commissioned with Contact.
Co-presented with Contact & Z-arts.

In 2016 stand-up comedian and theatre maker Amy Vreeke was diagnosed with endometriosis. Now she's here to relive twelve years of misdiagnosis, toilet-based mishaps and failed one-night stands.

Endometriosis causes the uterus lining to grow in other parts of the body, creating a wide range of painful symptoms that can affect a woman's everyday life. Through bluntly delivered jokes, captivating storytelling and a little help from the Gilmore Girls, Amy explores the taboos that surround women's health and gives us an insight into a life with a chronic illness.

"Bluntly honest Amy Vreeke [has] a likably down to earth personality and professional approach that would work anywhere." (Graham Chalmers, The Harrogate Advertiser).

#### POST-SHOW DISCUSSION

Amy Vreeke will be joined on Thursday by Professor Andrew Horne for a post-show discussion exploring the themes raise in Amy's performance. Professor Andrew Horne is the Chair of Academic Board, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists; and Co-Director of EXPPECT Centre for Pelvic Pain and Endometriosis.

# **SICK** FESTIVAL COMMISSION

WED 2 OCT & THU 3 OCT

**TIME** 20.30

DURATION 60 MINS

VENUE MARTIN HARRIS CENTRE

**ACCESS** 









Image credit ANDY HOLLINGWORTH

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THU 3 OCT & FRI 4 OCT

TIME THU 20.30, FRI 19.30

DURATION 60 MINS

**VENUE** Z-ARTS

**ACCESS** 



**BSLTHU ONLY** 



# **WILD LIFE FM**

# KIM NOBLE (UK) & POL HEYVAERT / CAMPO (BELGIUM)

Co-presented with Contact and Z-Arts.

Exploring anxiety, identity and the need to forge our own place in the world, WILD LIFE FM creates a live radio show revealing how we discover ourselves through music.

This show is not going to be what you expect. It's not a play. It's not a gig. It's also both of those things and more. Nine young musicians from Manchester and London join performance artist Kim Noble, director Pol Heyvaert (CAMPO, Belgium) and musician Jakob Ampe. Together they make a funny, brutal and painfully honest live radio show that gives an insight into the intense and often confusing teenage life. With self-written songs and sound bites from daily life they bring a coming of age story of the next generation.

Kim Noble is an award winning comedic performance and video artist. His multi-disciplined approach has led him to work across theatre, TV, film, art and comedy.

Pol Heyvaert is a Belgian stage director and designer with long-standing ties to Ghent-based theatre company, Campo.

CAMPO is a Ghent (Belgium) based arts centre with a diverse programme, ranging from theatre, dance and performance to festivals, neighbourhood kitchens and debates.

\*\*\*\* \* \* \* "Inspiring, self-deprecating, heartfelt and very entertaining" London Theatre 1

 $\star\star\star\star$  "A punching satire on how society treats the next generation" Time Out

Image credit CAMPO



# LIVING LIBRARY -YOUNG PEOPLE: MORE THAN A SCORE

#### **ONE-ON-ONE EXPERIENCE**

Presented with Greater Manchester Living Youth Charter and Manchester Metropolitan University

Whether in our own lives or the lives of those around us, dealing with the ups and downs of life, or serious mental illness, we all confront issues with mental health. We rarely have the opportunity to discuss these matters openly, and mental illness still has huge stigma attached to it. Within our communities there are many who can offer profound insight into the challenges of mental health, either through personal or professional experience.

Living Library gives you an opportunity to meet young people with unique, often challenging stories, and others who work with them. Visitors of the Living Library have 15 minutes for frank and open conversation, to listen, ask questions and reflect.

DATE FRI 4 OCT

TIME 14.00 - 17.00

DURATION 3 HOURS

VENUE
BROOKS
BUILDING,
MANCHESTER
METROPOLITAN
UNIVERSITY

**ACCESS** 





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sickfestival.com @SICKfestival

DATE FRI 4 OCT

TIMES 10.00 - 14.00 & 12 00 - 16 00

> **DURATION** 2 HOURS + I UNCH

VENUE **NIAMOS HULME** 

ACCESS







the grand auditorium.

Developed and presented in partnership with Manchester Metropolitan University as part of the Greater Manchester Living Youth Charter of Rights.

# **GRAPHIC ENCOUNTERS WORKSHOP**

#### **JAMIE SOUIRES**

Graphic Encounters is a free workshop with comic artist Jamie Squire exploring how you can use drawing, graphic narratives and comics to express your own experiences of mental health and well-being.

# **REFORM RADIO**

#### PODCAST CLINIC

Award winning local digital radio station Reform Radio will be hosting a podcast clinic, offering you a chance to get your voice heard and make your own podcasts. Let the world know what makes your life worth living?



# SIGN OF THE TIMES

#### **BERNADETTE RUSSELL & ROB KENNEDY**

Sign of The Times is a free workshop with artists Bernadette Russell and Rob Kennedy. Cross the boundaries between art and protest to answer the question, 'What do you want?' Create the placards for the protest of your life!

# **COMEDY WORKSHOP**

#### **OHEK**

Helping us look at life through a different lens this workshop will help you explore the darker side of life with a lighter touch. Designed as an introduction to stand-up comedy you will be helped to develop your own material. Places limited: To sign up, email steve@sickfestival.com by 27th September.

FRI 4 OCT & SAT 5 OCT

TIME FRI: 21.00 SAT: 16.00 & 20.00

> DURATION 60 MINS

VENUE STUN LIVE

**ACCESS** 







# BODY OF KNOWLEDGE

#### SAMARA HERSCH (NETHERLANDS / AUSTRALIA)

Co-commissioned with Performance Space, Australia.

Body of Knowledge is a new performance work that explores all the different ways teenagers and adults talk about their bodies - including, pain, ageing, pleasure, grief, shame, sexuality, boundaries and consent.

The work will involve the teenage performers phoning in from the safe havens of their homes across Manchester and Amsterdam, speaking live to the audience in the hope of finding the wisdom of age and experience.

Samara Hersch is a theatre maker and director who explores the intersection of contemporary performance and community engagement. She is interested in finding new ways of listening and public acts of intimacy, imagining different ways for non-professional performers and audiences to connect.

Realized in the framework of the European Project Be SpectACTive and funded by the Australia Council for the Arts.

# **SICK** FESTIVAL COMMISSION

Image credit PIFR CARTHEW





# RADIO LOCAL -YOUNG PEOPLE & MENTAL HEALTH

**HUNT & DARTON** 

Hosted by deadpan duo Hunt & Darton, *Radio Local* is exactly that: local. It's built with, by and for local people, telling their stories, sharing their news and playing their jingles.

Setting up for the duration of a day in our new home of Hulme, we are asking people to help us make radio. Shaping its identity, its sounds, words and music to reflect and celebrate its immediate community and culture whilst delving into discussions surrounding the festivals ponderings on youth. Invited local legends join us every hour, H&D attempt to become more local and there is loads of family fun from our local scavenger hunt, our intergenerational assault course and our content generating word games.

Commissioned Artists: Highrise Theatre take to the streets of Hulme to find its rhythm making connections and music with the young people they encountered empowered by drill and grime.

Scottee sent co-director Matty May to Manchester's gay village to speak about queerness, wellness and mental health but only via Grindr, Growlr and Scruff.

Guest Presenter: Stand up comedian Amy Vreeke

Come and be local with us!

DATE SAT 5 OCT

TIME 12.00 - 18.00

**DURATION** 6 HOURS

**VENUE**SEE WEBSITE

**ACCESS** 





Image credit STEPHEN KING DATE SAT 5 OCT

TIME 19.00 - 01.00

DURATION 6 HOURS

VENUE NIAMOS CENTRE

ACCESS

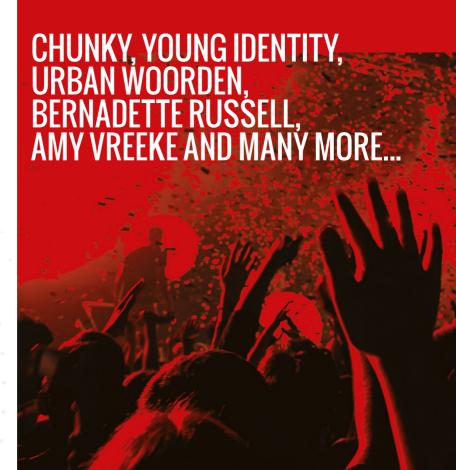


PAY BETWEEN SCHEME (£5-£15)

From the grand auditorium to hidden studio spaces, TAKEOVER FINALE will present a vibrant and packed evening of performances, spoken word, music, provocations, digital exhibitions, artistic interventions and immersive experiences, by, for and about young people.

Featuring some of Manchester's most exciting young artists, musicians and performers and others from across the UK, *TAKEOVER FINALE* confronts the recent YouGov statistic that 18% of young people in the UK believe 'life is not really worth living' and asks what does make life worth living for young people today.

**Chunky:** Bringing this year's SICK! Festival to a close, we welcome Chunky to the stage. A proud Mancunian with roots in Zimbabwe (having relocated as a child), Chunky possesses a rare ability to work any crowd into a frenzy, whilst handling everything from the latest, bass-heavy cuts to live jazz with consummate ease.



**Young Identity and Urban Woorden:** Manchester's Young Identity goes head-to-head with Urban Woorden from Belgium. Young Identity delivers dynamic poetry and spoken word workshops for/ young people in major arts venues and in local communities across Manchester. Belgian company Urban Woorden create a space where young people can empower themselves through poetry, slam and rap, through creation and performance.

**Amy Vreeke:** Also premiering her new show *The Year My Vagina Tried To Kill Me* in this year's SICK! Festival, stand-up comedian and theatre maker Amy Vreeke creates multi-genre, autobiographical work that explores social taboos with candour and comedy.

**Bernadette Russell & Rob Kennedy:** Writers, artists, performers and activists Bernadette Russell & Rob Kennedy explore the boundaries between the personal and the political, art and protest. Join them to make your mark!

Creative projects developed by Peshkar, Young Rapar and Reform Radio will be featured in the programme. Many other artists will be announced on our website nearer the time.

Developed and presented in partnership with Manchester Metropolitan University as part of the Greater Manchester Living Youth Charter of Rights.



# **SIGNPOSTING**

#### **DISABILITY:**

**DISABILITY RIGHTS:** We are disabled people leading change, working for equal participation for all. **www.disabilityrightsuk.org** 

SCOPE: Support for disabled adults in the local community. www.scope.org.uk

**THE DISABILITIES TRUST:** Offer community-based and residential support for people with acquired brain injury, complex physical or learning disabilities and autism. **www.thedtgroup.org** 

#### **MENTAL HEALTH:**

**SAMARITANS:** Supporting anyone in distress, around the clock.

www.samaritans.org

**MANCHESTER MIND:** Supporting better mental health for everyone.

www.manchestermind.org

# **END-OF-LIFE & DYING:**

**DYING MATTERS:** National coalition which aims to change public knowledge, attitudes and behaviour towards dying. **www.dyingmatters.org** 

**DIGNITY IN DYING:** A national campaign and membership organisation campaigning for change across the UK. **www.dignityindying.org.uk** 

**MARIE CURIE:** Providing care and support for people living with terminal illness and their families. **www.mariecurie.org.uk** 

**CHILD DEATH HELPLINE:** A dedicated helpline that offers help to anyone affected by the death of a child of any age. www.childdeathhelpline.org.uk

**THE BEREAVEMENT TRUST:** Providing a caring, empathetic listening service to those experiencing loss or bereavement. **www.bereavement-trust.org.uk** 

**SURVIVORS OF BEREAVEMENT BY SUICIDE:** A self help organisation supporting for those who are bereaved by suicide. **www.uksobs.org** 

# **IDENTITY & SEXUALITY**

**STONEWALL:** Campaigning for the equality of lesbian, gay, bi and trans people across Britain. www.stonewall.org.uk

THE PROUD TRUST: Home of the LGBT youth and other identities. www.theproudtrust.org

**LGBT FOUNDATION:** A charity offering advice, support and information to LGBT communities. **www.lgbt.foundation** 

# **YOUNG PEOPLE**

**42ND STREET:** Providing support for young people (11-25s) experiencing mental health difficulties. **www.42ndstreet.org.uk** 

**YOUNG MINDS:** Fighting for young people's mental health. **www.youngminds.org.uk** 

**CHILDLINE:** Childline is here to help anyone under 19 in the UK with any issue they're going through. **www.childline.org.uk** 

**THE MIX:** Free information and support for under 25s in the UK. Get advice about sex, relationships, drugs, mental health, money & jobs. **www.themix.org.uk** 

# **ACCESS KEY**



Wheelchair accessible



**BSL** interpreted



Contact: info@sickfestival.com or call 0161 696 6410 for access information

# **ADVISORY GROUP**

The development of the programme for SICK! Festival 2019 would not have been possible without the phenomenal support, guidance and insight of our advisory groups. These groups include academics, clinicians, public health professionals, charity workers, artists, activists and individuals with personal experience of the issues we address. We would like to thank:

# **DISABILITY & SOCIETY**

Lucy Burke (MMU), Danielle Conway (Breakthrough UK), Laurence Clark (Artist), Amanda Sutton (Venture Arts), Amber Okpa-Stother (Venture Arts), Trish Wheatley (Disability Arts Online), Charlie Ingram (Cheshire & Wirral NHS Partnership Trust), Cherylee Houston (DANC).

#### **DEATH & END-OF-LIFE CARE**

Helen Darby (MMU), Craig Young (MMU), Prof. Mahesh Nirmalan (Manchester Royal Infirmary), Kath Applewhite (MRI), Donna Cummings (MRI), Lumnije Mustafa (MRI), David Garbutt (University of Salford), Debbie Sharp (Artist), Jane Butler (Death Café), Debbie Jones (Death Café), Sheila McCormick (University of Salford), Sophie Eustace (Fevered Sleep).

#### **YOUNG PEOPLE**

Chris Charles (Creative Arena), Janet Batsleer (MMU), James Duggan (MMU), Steph Brocken (Peshkar), Nathan Frost (Uprising), Jemma Tanswell & Tikira Ahtou (Reform Radio), Kiesha Thompson & Chloe Courtney (Contact) and representatives from 42nd Street and Reclaim.

# **SICK! FESTIVAL TEAM**

Helen Medland CEO/Artistic Director

**Tim Harrison** Creative Director

Celia Makin-Bell Executive Director

**Conor Powers** Marketing Manager

Steve Vickers Creative Producer

**Zoe Martinez** Operations Coordinator

**Tom Robbins** Production Manager

# **VENUES**

# SICK! FESTIVAL OFFICE

Manchester Science Park, Manchester M15 6LR www.sickfestival.com Tel: 0161 696 6410

#### THE LOWRY

Pier 8, The Quays, Salford, M50 3AZ

www.thelowry.com Tel: 0843 208 6000

# THE WHITWORTH

Oxford Road, Manchester M15 6ER

www.whitworth.manchester.ac.uk Tel: 0161 275 7450

# **Z-ARTS & STUN STUDIO**

335 Stretford Road, Manchester M15 5ZA

www.z-arts.org Tel: 0161 226 1912 www.stunlive.com

www.stunlive.com Tel: 0161 232 6088

# THE MARTIN HARRIS CENTRE

The University of Manchester, Bridgeford St, Manchester M13 9PL

#### NIAMOS

Warwick St, Manchester M15 5EU

www.niamos.space Tel: 07387 369 323

#### **BRIGHT BUILDING**

Manchester Science Park, Pencroft Way, Manchester M15 6GZ www.mspl.co.uk Tel: 0161 279 6969

## THIS GRIEF THING

58 King Street, Manchester M2 4LY www.feveredsleep.co.uk/current/ this-grief-thing Tel: 020 3815 6430

## YARD THEATRE

41 Old Birley St, Manchester M15 5RF www.change.coop Tel: 0161 226 7696

# MANCHESTER MEDICAL SCHOOL

Medical School, Samuel Alexander Building, Leamington Theatre, Lime Grove, M13 9PP

# MILK AND HONEY CAFE

St Peters House, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9GH www.milkandhoneycafe.org Tel: 0161 276 0731

www.martinharriscentre.manchester.ac.uk

Tel: 0161 275 8951

# **QUICK VIEW**

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6	GRAPHIC ENCOUNTERS	KAISA LEKA, TIITU TAKALO, JAMIE SQUIRE, UNA
8	DEATH & BIRTH IN MY LIFE	MATS STAUB (SWITZERLAND)
10	THIS GRIEF THING	FEVERED SLEEP
	WEEK 1 Disability & Society	
14	LET'S TALK ABOUT DIS	CANDOCO, WITH HETAIN PATEL
16	A FAMILY OUTING - 20 YEARS ON	URSULA MARTINEZ
18	HOW DO WE CHOOSE WHICH WORDS TO USE?	UNLIMITED CONNECTS NORTH
20	THE HUB	VARIOUS ARTISTS
24	AN IRRESPONSIBLE FATHER'S GUIDE TO PARENTING	LAURENCE CLARK
26	DISABILITY & SOCIETY	VARIOUS SPEAKERS
28	RADIO LOCAL - DISABILITY & SOCIETY	HUNT & DARTON
30	STILL NO IDEA	LISA HAMMOND AND RACHAEL SPENCE
32	THE NATURE OF WHY	BRITISH PARAORCHESTRA
	WEEK 2 End of Life	
36	THE DIRECTOR	LARA THOMS
38	ISLAND	STEVEN EASTWOOD
40	DYING TOGETHER	LOTTE VAN DEN BURG (NETHERLANDS)
42	WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT DEATH	JOANNA ROSENFELD
44	DEATH, GRIEF AND END-OF-LIFE CARE	VARIOUS SPEAKERS
46	RADIO LOCAL - DEATH!	HUNT & DARTON
48	IN CONVERSATION	MATS STAUB & PROFESSOR MAHESH NIRMALAN
48	RAINBOW DEATH CAFÉ	LGBT FOUNDATION
48	BEFORE THE END	CATHERINE GRAINDORGE (BELGIUM)
	WEEK 3 Young People	
54	BABY FEVER	CONTACT YOUNG COMPANY (UK) / DEGASTEN (NL)
56	THE YEAR MY VAGINA TRIED TO KILL ME	AMY VREEKE
58	WILD LIFE FM	KIM NOBLE (UK) & POL HAYVEART / CAMPO (BEL)
60	LIVING LIBRARY -YOUNG PEOPLE: MORE THAN A SCORE	ONE-ON-ONE EXPERIENCE
62	TAKE OVER - WORKSHOPS	VARIOUS SPEAKERS
64	BODY OF KNOWLEDGE	SAMARA HERSCH (NETHERLANDS / AUSTRALIA)
66	RADIO LOCAL - YOUNG PEOPLE & MENTAL HEALTH	HUNT & DARTON
68	TAKE OVER - FINALE	VARIOUS SPEAKERS
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**<sup>\*</sup>** SEE WEBSITE





# **SICK! FESTIVAL**

Manchester Science Park Manchester M15 6LR

Tel: +44(0) 161 696 6410 Email: info@sickfestival.com





# sickfestival.com