

UNLIMITED...

Embargoed Release:
Thursday 26 March 2015, 11am

Unlimited Launches New Commissioning Round with Nine Highly Ambitious and Diverse New Works



UNLIMITED today announced nine new commissions spanning a wide range of disciplines by some of the most talented and ambitious disabled artists from all over the UK.

A dark comedy about life and death, a sound installation exploring homeless culture, a story about the rise and fall of British capitalism and being lifted by 20,000 helium filled party balloons are among Unlimited's most adventurous commissions yet.

Funded by Arts Council England, Creative Scotland, Spirit of 2012 and Arts Council of Wales, and delivered by Shape Arts and Artsadmin, Unlimited will provide over £500,000 as well as mentoring support to the nine artists whose commissions were unveiled at Chapter Arts Centre in Cardiff and [simultaneously online](#).

The awarded works were chosen by 11 panellists including high profile disabled artists and individuals from British Council, Southbank Centre and Tramway. The panel was chaired by Ruth Gould, Artistic Director for DaDaFest.

On announcing the new awards, **Jo Verrent, Senior Producer, Unlimited** said: *"This round of work will be astonishing. The selection process was extraordinarily difficult with so many high quality, incredible applications - we could have spent four times the amount."*

The commissions are diverse in every way possible - art form, ambition, take on the world - just showing that disabled artists and disability-led companies truly can't be categorised into just one box. Watch out!"

Awarded artist **Aaron Williamson** said: *"Unlimited recognises that artists thrive when trusted to be ambitious, and this project would not even have been imagined, let alone made possible, without Unlimited's integrated approach to artist development. We are extremely proud to be included in Unlimited's programme of critically rigorous, innovative, and uncompromising disabled-led work"*

The new commissions are:

Assisted Suicide the Musical - Liz Carr (England)

Assisted Suicide the Musical will be a theatrical extravaganza that takes a joyously irreverent, hilarious and musical look at being assisted to die. Whilst the majority of the UK population believe it's a humane choice to legalise assisted suicide for terminally ill / disabled people, Liz, and many other disabled people, disagree.

Producer: David Duchin

Cherophobia - Noëmi Lakmaier (England)

Cherophobia is a durational 48-hour living-installation by Artist Noëmi Lakmaier working in collaboration with world-renowned rope suspension expert Michael Wüst. It is a live attempt to lift the artist's tied and immobilized body off the ground by the force of approximately 20,000 helium filled party balloons.

Producer: Rachel Anderson

Cosy - Kaite O'Reilly (Wales)

This sophisticated dark comedy is an inclusive production exploring universal ethical issues of life, death, and our relationship to the medical profession, powered by a disability perspective. This ambitious project aims to examine the final taboo with wit and full emotional and intellectual engagement.

Director: Phillip Zarrilli

Producer: Michael Salmon

Demonstrating the World - Aaron Williamson (England)

Demonstrating the World is a new outdoor public performance intervention that interrogates the notion of the 'alien' or 'other' through an absurdly elaborate live reinterpretation of mundane YouTube 'how-to' videos. The performance will be delivered to live audiences from a customised box truck containing a unique fold-away domestic interior.

Producer: Edd Hobbs

The Doorways Project - Bekki Perriman (England)

The Doorways Project is a touring, site responsive sound installation, exploring homeless culture through personal stories told by society's most silenced people. Inspired by the artist's own experience of life on the streets, the project uses a direct and unsentimental approach to investigating the personal, social and political dimensions of homelessness, considering public attitudes to disability and the role of art in making the invisible present.

Producer: Shiri Shalmy

Grandad and the Machine - Jack Dean (England)

Grandad and the Machine is a literature piece inspired by Ted Hughes' *The Iron Man*, looking at the rise and fall of British capitalism through the lens of an accessible modern fairy tale. The story will take place in an alternate present where the British Empire never died.

Producer: LittleMighty

Him - Sheila Hill (England)

Lying somewhere between theatre and visual art, actor Tim Barlow reflects back on life, and the natures of stillness, and ageing with his words interwoven with periods of silence, and live original music. There will also be a parallel exhibition of photographs by Hugo Glendinning and a documentary about the making of the work by Caglar Kimyoncu.

Producer: tbc

TV Classics Part 1 - Cameron Morgan (Scotland)

TV Classics Part 1 is an exhibition and public art work. Morgan will spend six months in Project Ability's studio making work which honours the past ten decades of television history. Fascinated and extremely knowledgeable about popular culture, Morgan's specialist subject is 70s and 80s television, films and music, an interest shared by people with learning disabilities, the world over.

Producer: Elisabeth Gibson

The Way You Look at Me Tonight (working title) - Claire Cunningham (Scotland)

The Way You Look at Me Tonight is a dance, a song, a story, a sculpture, a play, a fight, a journey to be sung, spoken, seen, felt, heard, read, viewed, approved (or disproved!) by Claire Cunningham and US/Berlin choreographer/performer Jess Curtis, in collaboration with renowned philosopher of perception Dr. Alva Noë.

Producer: Nadja Dias

Information, images, interviews contact:

James Monteith (Shape) on 020 7424 7349 / james@shapearts.org.uk

Ends.

Notes to Editors

Unlimited is an arts commissioning programme offering talented disabled artists funds and mentoring support to develop, produce and show ambitious work. The aim of Unlimited is to embed work by disabled artists within the UK cultural sector, reach new audiences and shift perceptions of disabled people. Unlimited is a £3m three-year programme delivered in partnership by Shape Arts and Artsadmin, with funding from Arts Council England, Creative Scotland, Arts Council Wales and Spirit of 2012.

Unlimited includes an aligned programme called Unlimited Impact which focuses on supporting young people, geographic reach and ensuring legacy.

www.weareunlimited.org.uk

Shape Arts is a disability-led arts organisation working to improve access to culture for disabled people by developing opportunities for disabled artists, training cultural institutions to be more open to disabled people, and running participatory arts and development programmes. www.shapearts.org.uk

Artsadmin is an arts lab for the 21st Century, supporting the creation of new performance, site-specific and interdisciplinary work by the most talented and innovative artists through mentoring, development and producing support. www.artsadmin.co.uk

Arts Council England champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2010 and 2015, we will invest £1.9 billion of public money from government and an estimated £1.1 billion from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. www.artscouncil.org.uk

Creative Scotland is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland on behalf of everyone who lives, works or visits here. We enable people and organisations to work in and experience the arts, screen and creative industries in Scotland by helping others to develop great ideas and bring them to life. We distribute funding provided by the Scottish Government and the National Lottery. For further information about Creative Scotland please visit www.creativescotland.com, [@creativescots](https://twitter.com/creativescots) and www.facebook.com/CreativeScotland

Spirit of 2012 is an independent trust established with a £47m endowment from the Big Lottery Fund. Our vision is inspired by the London 2012 events that went beyond sport and reached out to communities across the UK.

Spirit invests in happiness; empowering people to get out, be involved and feel better. We're working to ensure that the spirit and opportunities from the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics is felt everywhere. By connecting events to communities across the country, we ensure our investment is of local, regional and national benefit. We tackle isolation and disadvantage by supporting those providing opportunities in sport, physical activity, culture and the arts, volunteering and social action.

We believe that by enabling people to participate in a wide variety of activities, we can improve wellbeing, challenge perceptions of disability and lead to greater social cohesion. We invest nationally and locally to build on the energy, creativity and positive spirit we saw during the London 2012 Games, where people felt better because they were helping others, celebrating local and national success and joining together in a public cause.

[@so2012trust](https://twitter.com/so2012trust) www.spiritof2012trust.org.uk

Arts Council of Wales is an independent charity, established by [Royal Charter](#) in 1994. Its members are appointed by the Welsh Government's Deputy Minister for Culture, Sports and Tourism. Its principal sponsor is the [Welsh Government](#). It also distributes funding from the [National Lottery](#) and raises additional money from a variety of public and private sector sources. It's the country's funding and development organisation for the arts. Working together with the Welsh Government, it's able to show how the arts are helping to meet the Government's policy ambitions. Its vision is of a creative Wales where the arts are central to the life of the nation. www.artscouncilofwales.org.uk

Image: Noëmi Lakmaier