

# SANDWELL CULTURAL FORUM

## March 2025 Newsletter

### Spectra's Community Company



Meeting on **Wednesday mornings** in Bearwood  
For adults with learning disabilities  
£5 per session



Working together to create shows, films and performances  
by exploring music, movement, acting and visual arts

For more information, or to discuss how we can support access  
to these sessions, please email [hayley@wearespectra.co.uk](mailto:hayley@wearespectra.co.uk)

Funded by  
UK Government

Supported using public funding by  
ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND

## Join in!

Spectra's Community Company is open for new members! This group for adults with learning disabilities meets on Wednesday mornings in Bearwood. The Community Company is at the heart of what Spectra does, and works together to create shows, films and performances by exploring music, movement, acting and visual arts. The cost is £5 per session. Please share with anyone you think may be interested.

For more information, or to discuss how we can support access to these sessions please email [hayley@wearespectra.co.uk](mailto:hayley@wearespectra.co.uk).

[Explore here the previous projects and performances by the Community Company.](#)

## THIS MONTH'S FEATURED MEMBER IS... BLACK COUNTRY TOURING

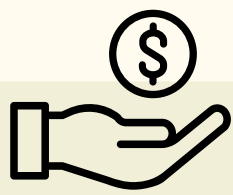
BCT bring the best theatre, dance and cinema to the heart of communities in the Black Country and tell local stories by creating original productions. They work into places where the local community can get to see it – these might be a school, community centre or the local art gallery.

[They're recruiting for an Artistic Director!](#)  
[For more information visit their website here.](#)





## FUNDING NEWS



Congratulations to Creative Black Country, Black Country Touring and Multistory for their successful Place Partnership Bid to Arts Council.

They have been awarded £640K for the three-year project THREE FIFTEEN, a 3 year comprehensive programme to bring about creative and cultural step change in 3 towns in Sandwell -Tipton, Smethwick and Wednesbury.

## Next meeting date:

Tuesday 29th April 2025,

1.00-3.00pm

Bromwich Hall

Bromwich Hall, Hall Green Road, WEST BROMWICH,  
West Midlands, B71 2EA



**“Create with the heart; build with the mind.” – Criss Jami**



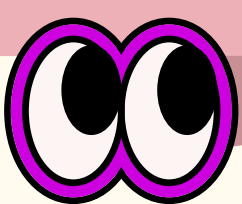
## CALL OUT FOR FREELANCE ARTISTS!

### Women & Theatre | Getting to know Freelancers (no deadline)

W&T want to broaden their connections with Freelance Facilitators based in Birmingham, and the surrounding areas, for our projects from 2025. We are looking for Facilitators that have an artistic practice and have experience in working in community, hospitals, and with young people.

The call out is open to all, we are particularly keen to hear from freelance artists who are underrepresented in the industry including those from the Global Majority, the LGBTQ+ community, people who identify as deaf, disabled or neurodiverse and those who are working class.

Please note this is a general call out to widen our knowledge of local freelance artists, and not an application for a current role. Send through your name, CV, or any link to your work to [info@womenandtheatre.co.uk](mailto:info@womenandtheatre.co.uk)



Join the Sandwell Cultural Forum

# NOW

**Do you know someone who wants to join the Sandwell Forum?**

**Email Stacey via:**

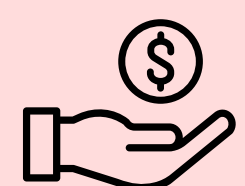
**[stacey\\_bagdi@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:stacey_bagdi@sandwell.gov.uk)**



## Funding News!

Sandwell Council's archives service is celebrating receiving £49,055 of funding as part of The National Archives 'Archives Revealed' grant programme to catalogue the Chance Brothers Ltd. collection.

[Read more here](#)





## Feature Events Listing



Click on the text below to find out more about the events and to book

### Sandwell Museums:

#### Haden Hill House

- AIM. Adults in Museums - Spring Posie Floral Workshop. Wednesday 19 March 10.30am

#### Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery

- Wednesbury World Of Craft. Exhibition and Workshops. Saturday 29 March and Sunday 30 March 11am – 3pm

#### Oak House Museum

- Craft Club - Every Wednesday 10:00-12.30pm

#### Bromwich Hall

- Creative Memories with Age UK: Every Wednesday 11am – 2pm, starting February 5

#### Galton Valley Pumping Station

- Galton Valley Pumping station is opened by our volunteers on the 3rd Saturday of the month from April to October 11am-3pm.
- [Events for March will be their website and Facebook](#) <-click here

### Sandwell Libraries:

- [Latest brochure here!](#) <-click here
- [Lots coming up, book via Ticketsource](#) <-click here

### Black Country Touring

- [AWOL by Rob Gee - Wednesbury Library, Thursday 27th March at 7:30pm](#)

### Outside Left

- [The Outsideleft Night Out with acoustic blues band The Swaps, Saturday March 15th @ 1000Trades on the Park in Bearwood. Free live music. Free admission. 8-11pm](#)

### Spectra

- Opening of The Commons and Gallery Launch.

Save the date! On the morning of the 8th April 2025, Spectra is holding an opening for The Commons alongside the launch of The People's Gallery at Midland Metropolitan University Hospital.

Come and explore the community co-designed garden space, take part in playful consultation activities and meet some of the Spectra team over light refreshments. Then head inside for the gallery launch, featuring artwork co-created with Spectra's community partners.

More details to be announced soon via Spectra's social media (@SpectraArtsCompany)

**CALL OUT FOR EVENTS IN SANDWELL!**

**If you have an event in Sandwell, PLEASE add it to Visit Sandwell by clicking here!**

**We want more Sandwell events on Visit Sandwell - if you need any help with adding events, please contact Stacey!**





## Feature Events Listing



Click on the text below to find out more about the events and to book

### Midlands Metropolitan University Hospital

The Art of Care is a series of talks and conversations for artists and creatives, hosted by New Art West Midlands (NAWM) and DASH in partnership with Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust.

The Art of Care will explore how art can address themes connected to the hospital setting and shape future arts programming at The People's Gallery at Midlands Metropolitan University Hospital.

The programme will take place between February and March 2025, both online and in-person at Midlands Metropolitan University Hospital (MMUH), Grove Lane, Smethwick, B66 2QT

#### Session 1 | Welcome & Introduction

- In-person: Tuesday, 11 February, 10–12 PM
- Online recording: Shared Tuesday, 25 February

#### Session 2 | What to Do, What to Do

- Live Online: Tuesday, 11 March, 2–3 PM

#### Session 3 | How to Do It

- In-person: Tuesday, 4 March, 10–12 PM
- Live Online: Tuesday, 18 March, 2–3 PM

[Book here](#)





**SANDWELL  
COLLEGE  
YEAR ONE ACTORS**

**The One Hour Shakespeare Project**

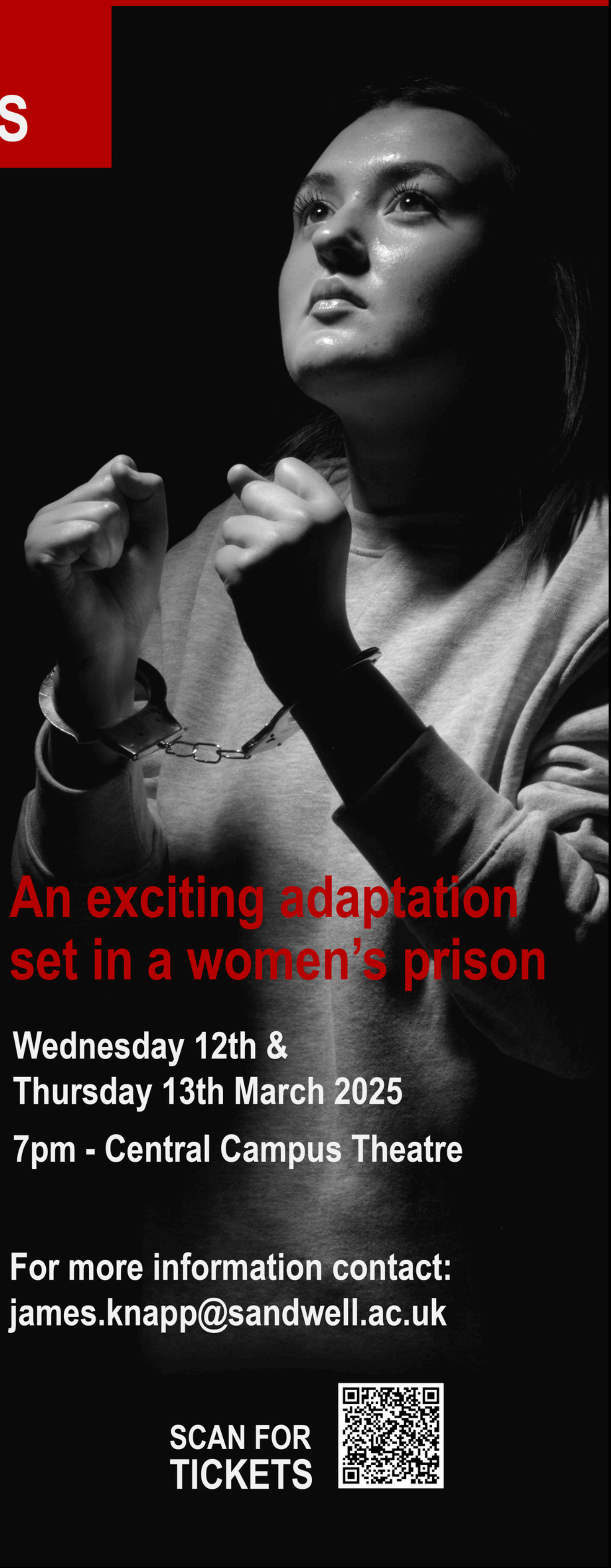
# **MAACBETH**

**An exciting adaptation  
set in a women's prison**

**Wednesday 12th &  
Thursday 13th March 2025  
7pm - Central Campus Theatre**

**For more information contact:  
[james.knapp@sandwell.ac.uk](mailto:james.knapp@sandwell.ac.uk)**

**SCAN FOR  
TICKETS**





# BREAKIN' FOUNDATIONS

**BLACK COUNTRY**

**BREAKIN' WORKSHOPS**

Breakin' Foundations break down the basics, teaching breakin' and other hip hop dance styles for beginners & intermediates.



DELIVERED BY

O'DRISCOLL  COLLECTIVE

## LOCATIONS

- ▶ WOLVERHAMPTON
- ▶ OLDBURY

## COSTS

- ▶ PAY WHAT YOU CAN  
£2 MINIMUM

## FOR AGES

- ▶ 5 - 18

REGISTER HERE



[www.odriscolcollective.com/breakin-foundations](http://www.odriscolcollective.com/breakin-foundations)



EVERY JOURNEY BEGINS WITH A STEP





## The Many Lives of PET #1

A complicated comedy about a plastic bottle.

Poor old PET #1. Distantly related to pre historical plankton, used and cast aside every day, desperate not to be buried or cremated, now they're at the heart of an almighty row between business, governments and people who all love them and hate them at the same time. And that's before the cousins #2 – #7 come on the scene!

Stan's Cafe's brand new tabletop drama dives deep into the world of plastic.

What's all the fuss about?

What are our options?

What could the future look like?

Dates: March 29th - April 12th, Birmingham Community Tour. More information here:





# EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES EVENT



Education and networking


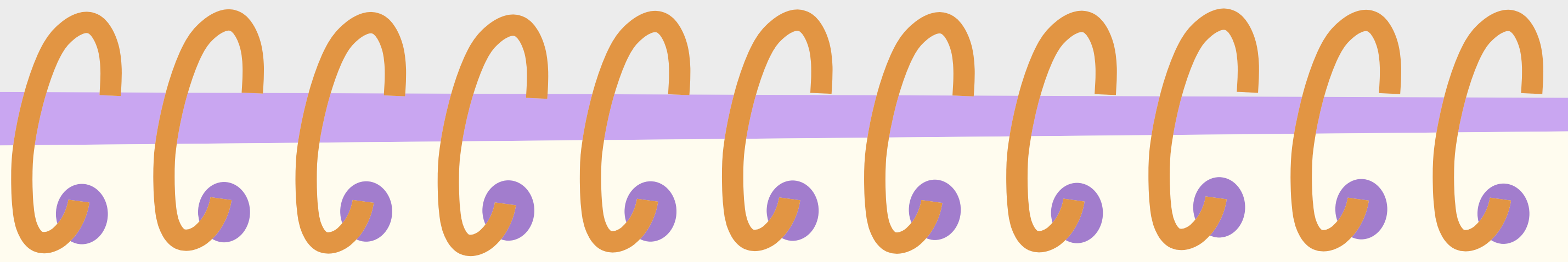
 4 March, 2025

 AT 10.00 - 02.00 PM

 Smethwick Library  
High Street, Smethwick,  
West Midlands, B66 IAA

[Book Tickets Here](#)






International Women's Day

#acceleratingchange

**Forming the lips on the Hysil glass beakers, Spon Lane**

information and image courtesy of David Encil, Author Chance Reflections. [www.chancebrothers.uk](http://www.chancebrothers.uk)



CHANCE HERITAGE TRUST

## Chance Heritage Trust Marks IWD 2025

We are celebrating International Women's Day at Chance Heritage Trust Showcasing the women who worked at the Chance Brothers Glassworks in Spon Lane ,Smethwick.

Chance Brothers Glassworks were innovators, focussing on cutting edge technologies and creative design, producing the glass for Crystal Palace for the 1851 Great Exhibition, working with John Logie Baird to produce the cathode tubes for the first TV sets.

We want to celebrate this local and global legacy by supporting creativity and would love to explore opportunities. Please contact [jane.deweijer@cht.org](mailto:jane.deweijer@cht.org) Heritage and Culture Coordinator, Chance Heritage Trust, or call 07498 145058



# Cultural Forum Members List

1. 1000 Trades
2. Anthony McFarlane (Artist)
3. Black Country Touring
4. Bear Bookshop
5. Bearwood Community Hub
6. Bearwood Promoters
7. Big Bear Music
8. Birmingham Opera
9. Blue Sheep Books
10. Birmingham Music Archive
11. Canal & River Trust
12. City of Birmingham Orchestra
13. Chance Heritage Trust
14. Curl Girl Productions
15. Creative Black Country
16. Drama AND SOME cic
17. The Art Yard
18. Powered by Can
19. Kickstarts Dance
20. Outside Left
21. Wild Lives Forest School
22. Learn with Lolonyo
23. Luke Perry (Artist)
24. ME Dance
25. Method in Motion
26. Midlands Metro Hospital
27. Multistory
28. Fantastic Journeys
29. Quennie Lim (Artist)
30. Sandwell College
31. Sarah Cole, writer
32. SCVO
33. SIPS
34. Smethwick Heritage Centre
35. Stan's Cafe
36. SWEDA
37. The Parakeet
38. The People's Orchestra
39. We are Spectra
40. West Midlands Heritage Building Trust
41. Women & Theatre

& Sandwell Council Officers

