



Funded by the Arts Council

Fidget Feet present an online and in-person event:

“Empowering Artists to be Leaders”

Wednesday 30th June 14:30 – 17:30

For artists, arts workers, stakeholders, and public

For free tickets visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/empowering-artists-to-be-leaders-tickets-155620116959>

Fidget Feet artists launch their 5-year strategic plan 2022-26

This event launches and celebrates Fidget Feet’s first ever Strategic Plan for 2022-26. This work was made possible by funding from the Arts Council’s Capacity Building Support Scheme.

One week before the event we will email you our Strategic Plan so you can read it before the event if you wish.

Part 1

Chantal McCormick and Fidget Feet artists, with Susanne Danig of Danig Performing Arts Service and acting Chair of Fidget Feet Maria Fleming, will talk about the process of writing a Strategic Plan. This plan was created by Creative Director Chantal McCormick with consultant Susanne Danig, seven core Fidget Feet artists, the board, and staff.

“What do you think of when you hear strategic plan or when you are asked to write a personal work plan of 1 to 3 to 5 years!! If you’re like me (Chantal McCormick) “oh god we do not have the time for this”, or “I am an artist, just let me make the work”, “what are you supposed to do anyway, it is a waste of time”, “how can we afford it”, “what is it for, it is all pie in the sky, who is it for, who can help me”, etc etc.”

Whatever your inner conversation may be, this talk is for you. Chantal and the other artists would like to share with you how the process was, what the learnings are. We all agreed that Fidget Feet is a family and we are an artists-lead performance company, so if we going to do a Strategic Plan then we’ll do it as artists. We used this process to empower us, and now share this learning to help other artists to be leaders in their own artistic journey when creating important documents.

Part 2

In the second half of the event you will get to hear from four international creative leaders that Chantal interviewed as part of her research in writing the Strategic Plan. All five leaders started their journeys as artists and are now wearing many different hats, and are all extremely inspiring. We have invited Mark Robinson to facilitate this part of the event to really open up a juicy conversation on artists and leadership.

After each session you will have an opportunity to write questions in the chat.

Schedule

14:30 – 14:40 -

Chantal McCormick introductions, and explaining why she wanted to run this launch in this way. Thanks to the Arts Council's Capacity Building Award that funded this plan and event. Introduces the FF artists, process of the strategic plan and shows a short film.

14:40-14:50 - Susanne Danig – to describe her role and who she is.

14:50 - 15:20 - Susanne Danig facilitates Chantal, the FF artists, and Maria Fleming the acting Chair of the board to present their strategic plan.

15:20 – 15:35 - Q&A to FF

15:35-15:40 - Break

15:40 – 15:50 - Mark Robinson introduces himself & discusses his book *Thinking Practice*.

15:50- 16:10

Five-minute introductions from:

- Amelia Rudolph Bandaloop
- Louise Richards Motionhouse
- Andrew Loretto Hat Fair Theatre
- Mark O'Brien Abbey Theatre

16:10 – 17:00 - Mark Robinson to facilitate interviews with four *Creative Leaders*.

17:00 – 17:25 - Q&A to Creative leaders Susanne to facilitate

17:25 – 17:30 - Susanne Danig to conclude the event.

Biographies



Mark Robinson is a writer, researcher, facilitator, strategist, coach, editor, and never bored. He was born and brought up in Preston, Lancashire and has lived for more than 26 years in the parish of Preston-on-Tees in Eaglescliffe, Stockton-on-Tees.

Mark founded Thinking Practice when he left Arts Council England in 2010. Since 2010 he has worked with more than 100 organisations.

Mark was Executive Director of Arts Council England, North East, from 2005-2010, having joined the management team of Northern Arts in 2000. He is also a widely published poet and critic, and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.



Amelia Rudolph is a choreographer, dancer/athlete, teacher and community leader. She founded BANDALOOP in 1991, bringing together dance, climbing and varied off-the-ground movement into site-reactive performances on cliffs, urban structures and in theaters. Her choreography has explored dance in theaters and on buildings and cliffs all over the US and in 21 countries.

Since 2000 she has been named an Irvine Fellow and awarded funding and commissions from over 15 funds. Bandaloop is a multi-year grant recipient for organizational support from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.



Louise Richards is the driving force behind Motionhouse's trailblazing journey and global success. Her vision shapes the company's activity and strategic direction. Her skill for recognising opportunities for the company has enabled Motionhouse to set rather than follow trends, initiating the expansion of its repertoire to include outdoor work to appeal to a range of festival and other audiences, and producing many of the acclaimed large-scale productions that have made the company a well-respected player in the UK and across the globe. She is instrumental in developing the many partnerships that Motionhouse enjoys and is the producer of the company's extensive programme.

Originally a dancer and choreographer, Louise remains closely involved with the performing company and creative process. A recognised leader in her sector, Louise is regularly invited to attend and speak at seminars and conferences. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.



Originally from Belfast, **Andrew Loretto** is an internationally experienced director, writer, dramaturg and producer for outdoor, indoor and site responsive performance and theatre. Currently Director of Hat Fair, Winchester. Previously director of Right Up Our Street.

Doncaster's CPP programme, including establishing the DNweekeND festival. Recent directing projects include; No Horizon; Ikebana; The Great Big Donco; The Wakefield Mysteries; Dramaturg for Company Chameleon; and Fidget Feet's brand new show 'A Handful of Dreams'.



From Bray, **Mark O'Brien** studied at UCD, graduating with a Master's degree in English Literature. He has had over 25 years' experience in the theatre and wider culture sectors, as a leader, facilitator, actor, sound designer, administrator, & director.

Mark is currently Director of axis arts centre Ballymun. He has developed axis over the last 10 years into an organization and space of local and international renown, that creates, facilitates and produces new and significant work, across theatre, arts development and engagement contexts. As the new Executive Director of the Abbey Theatre, he will lead on engagement with the local, and international communities.



Susanne Danig is the owner of Danig Performing Arts Service and the residency centre BIRCA at Bornholm. Previously director of the Danish ITI Centre, President of the International Festival Forum/IT and manager for several Danish theatres as well as producer for two Danish festivals: Asteroid Festival and Waves Festival as well as the Nordic Performing Arts Days 14. Susanne has international expertise in creating festivals and in developing arts institutions, and has also been a consultant at the Danish Arts Foundation.

She has been a member of IETM for many years. Susanne has a degree in Comparative Literature and Modern Culture Studies from University of Copenhagen. She has studied at Shippenburgs University in USA and at Sorbonne in France, and has a diploma in Leadership.



Chantal McCormick is a choreographer, teacher, facilitator & international advocate for Aerial Arts, Chantal trained as a dancer & choreographer at the London School of Contemporary Dance. 1999-2008 toured with established dance & circus companies in the UK, Trinidad, Europe & Australia. For 23 years she directs, choreographs, and performs, indoors and outdoors, nationally and internationally as Executive Creative Director of Fidget Feet Aerial Dance Theatre, Ireland's leading and the first Aerial Dance Company. She was one of the founding members of ISACS, for 10 years worked creatively with Galway Community Circus, she is Festival Director of the Irish Aerial Dance Festival, founder and director Irish Aerial Creation Centre & resident company at IWAMD University of Limerick.

