

PRESS RELEASE – 20 November 2024

Complicité

Mudlarks development programme receives further funding to support artists



Complicité is delighted to announce that their idea development programme for artists, Mudlarks has received further funding from Jerwood Foundation and Garfield Weston Foundation.

This funding will go directly towards supporting the 37 artists on this programme over the next year by offering space, time and resources, and access to knowledge, insights and international connections gathered by Complicité across the company's four decades of creating work.

Dedicated to identifying and supporting outstanding artists, often at the early stage of their career, Mudlarks allows artists to develop their ideas freely, encouraging creativity without the constraints of rigid methodologies. It resists target-driven pressures and the urge to define something as soon as it is conceived. Mudlarks provides artists who share elements of Complicité's practice such as ensemble work, working across multiple disciplines, and across borders, with the tools they need to interrogate an idea and find a shape or form that truly serves the work.

The programme is made up of three interlinked strands which all have internationalism and environmental sustainability at their heart.

The Mudlarks International Residency is a week-long residency for both UK and International artists who come with an idea and are provided with a raft of resources to help them explore it: collaborators, facilitated sessions, mentors and provocation. There have been two annual residencies so far, in 2023 and 2024, at Hawkwood Centre for Future Thinking in Gloucestershire, UK. Artists have been nominated and financially supported by organisations such as the Schaubühne, Bristol Old Vic, Nottingham Playhouse and the Barbican, providing further opportunities to develop artistic networks.

The 'Supported by' strand is a bespoke year-long programme of support for artists whose ideas are further developed. Artists receive creative and producerial mentorship, access to Complicité's network and much more. Following the 'Supported by' programme, 'Developed with' can see Complicité provide financial or co-production support for the production phase of an artist's idea. Current artists on this strand include [Christina Deinsberger](#), [Dickson Mbi](#), [Paula Varjack](#) and theatre company, [Poltergeist](#).

Mudlarks Young Devisers was piloted in collaboration with the Barbican in March 2023 as a week-long training programme for young people from underrepresented backgrounds in the arts; offering training in physical, devised and collaborative theatre. The training will continue in 2024 via a programme of Masterclasses for the cohort followed by access to workshop space to progress what they have learnt into creation under the mentorship of a Complicité Associate Artist. Future aspirations are for the programme to be offered annually as a four-month long training programme.

Tim Bell, Senior Creative Producer at Complicité said: *"Mudlarks is an idea development programme with one simple function; putting brilliant ideas in front of audiences. We believe this is the best gift that we can give artists today. But first we must enable artists to go to the hinterland of their idea. Complicité is a company whose lifeblood has been a dialogue with international practice; our work is the result of countless international exchanges, conversations and collaborations. Now Mudlarks provides those opportunities to others too. In a time of increasing division, we must find more and more opportunities to listen, to understand, and to be inspired. We hope the Mudlarks programme does just that."*

Paula Varjack, an artist supported by Mudlarks said: *"Over the course of my engagement with the Mudlarks programme since February of last year, I have been encouraged with my artistic vision, brought into contact with brilliant artists in the midst of their own explorations and most importantly, I have been given trust and time with the 'not knowing' that is inherent in any creative process but rarely given space to breathe in artist development programmes. I have found their approach incredibly unique at a time when so much of the arts sector has such a product over process focus."*

Mudlarks relies on funding from trusts and foundations to continue to deliver development support to a range of extraordinary artists. [Find out more about ways you can support](#)

[LINK FOR IMAGES](#)

ENDS

For further information contact:

Shaadi Khosravi-Rad | Complicité – Creative Campaigns Producer shaadi@complicite.org

Biographies:

Complicité

Complicité is an international touring theatre company led by Artistic Director and co-founder, Simon McBurney. Complicité creates work that strengthens human interconnection, using the complicity between performer and audience that is at the heart of the theatrical experience. Complicité works across art forms, believing theatre, opera, film, radio, installation, publication and participatory arts can all be sites for the collective act of imagination.

Complicité's recent work includes: the reimagined *Mnemonic* which played at the National Theatre in 2024, *Figures in Extinction [2.0] But then you come to the humans, Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead, Figures in Extinction [1.0], Can I Live?* and *The Encounter*, as well as *The Dark is Rising*; an audio drama for BBC World Service and BBC Sounds based on Susan Cooper's cult novel.

Founded in 1983, the Company has won over 50 major theatre awards worldwide, and played in more than 40 countries.

Learning and engagement are central to Complicité's work and its award-winning creative engagement programme includes professional development, work in schools and colleges, and participatory projects with a range of communities.

The company is committed to responding to the climate and ecological emergency. It is a founding member of Culture Declares Emergency and a member of a working group of UK Touring Theatre Companies to share best sustainable practice and to develop the Theatre Green Book Touring Guidance.

Find Complicité on [Facebook](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Website](#)

Jerwood Foundation

Jerwood Foundation was established in 1977 for John Jerwood MC (1918-1991) by Alan Grieve CBE. The Foundation supports excellence and emerging talent in the arts in the UK and has to date donated over £110 million. In 2023 the Foundation merged with Jerwood Charity (Jerwood Arts) to create a single UK charity, ensuring maximum impact for beneficiaries and a sustainable future. Alan Grieve, who was Chairman of Jerwood Foundation for 30 years, was appointed Chairman Emeritus and Rupert Tyler appointed Chairman. The organisation is led by Lara Wardle, Executive Director and Trustee.

Jerwood Foundation owns the Jerwood Collection of Modern and Contemporary art, and an important part of Jerwood's philanthropic mission is delivered by the Collection through its promotion of a broader understanding, interpretation and enjoyment of art. Also included in the Jerwood group of organisations is Jerwood Space, which was Jerwood's first major

capital project when opened in 1998. Jerwood Space continues to be one of the best and most sought-after rehearsal spaces for theatre and dance in the country.

To find out more about Jerwood, visit jerwood.org

Garfield Weston Foundation

Established in 1958, the Garfield Weston Foundation is a family-founded grant-maker that gives money to support a wide variety of charities across the UK. The Foundation's funding comes from an endowment of shares in the Weston family business – a successful model that still exists today. The Weston family have a consistent aim. The more successful the family businesses, the more money the Foundation can donate.

Each year the Foundation gives away its income and donations have continued to grow. Since it was established it has donated over £1.5 billion, of which over half has been given away in the past ten years. In the most recent financial year the Foundation gave away over £100 million to nearly 1,800 charities across the UK.

To find out more about Garfield Weston Foundation, visit garfieldweston.org

JERWOOD
FOUNDATION


Garfield Weston
FOUNDATION

Mudlarks is also generously supported by The Golsoncott Foundation, John Ellerman Foundation and Noël Coward Foundation.