THE OLD ELECTRIC

Blackpool • Estd 2020

January - July 2025

Community.
Creativity.
Culture.

theoldelectric.co.uk

Introduction from Melanie,
our Artistic Director

Here's to 2025! As we step into another year of creative offerings, we are immensely grateful to the communities and organisations who have connected with our unique range of quality creative activities, aimed at local residents, since we first opened in 2020. Your feedback means the world to us, and we love seeing you share your experiences with your networks – thank you for your ongoing support!

In this brochure, we've outlined our activities into three core areas:

Productions
Artist Development
Participation

(We hope the color coding makes it easier to find what you need.)

We know many people seek welcoming, accessible spaces for events. Whether you need a place to meet, train, celebrate, rehearse, perform, or create, we offer spaces and support packages to fit your needs.
To check availability, schedule a tour, or discuss rates and capacities, visit the "Visit Us / Spaces & Hires" section of our website or email us.

Information in this brochure is correct at time of going to print but please check our website for most up to date details.

Sign up for our monthly emails and follow our social media channels to stay in the loop.

Newsletter Sign Up

Register at
www.theoldelectric.co.uk
and you'll never miss a thing!

Social Media

theoldelectric.co.uk

/theoldelectric

@theoldelectric

@theoldelectric

Th'ESPs Production Memoirs of a Blackpool Mermaid

Friday 4 July at 7pm + Saturday 5 July at 2pm + 7pm | £8 | 14+

Join us for another multi-sensory feast of powerful storytelling brought to you by Blackpool's only original theatre producing company.

Inspired by our hometown, this play weaves threads of forgotten folklore with true accounts from our local history; shining a light on our town's rich heritage and inviting audiences to explore whether anything really changes...?

Scratch Nights

Fri 24 Jan, Fri 11 Apr, Sun 1 Jun + Fri 11 Jul
7pm | £3 | 16+

What is Scratch? A term used to describe an opportunity for artists to test and explore new work in front of an audience. A single Scratch event at TheOE might feature a variety of different artists including writers, actors, singers or cabaret artists who want to share their brand new material or work-in-progress ideas with a supportive audience.

We build a safe, welcoming environment so that everyone in attendance is complicit in shaping new theatre activity in the future; you will be asked for your kind and considered feedback to help performers develop their work in the future and start an ongoing creative conversation between artists and audiences.

We are committed to supporting artists to push boundaries and to consider work that has social connections to the town and/or diverse communities of Blackpool. If you're an artist wanting to perform, please see page 10 for full details or on our Artist Hub / Opportunities section of our website for the application process.

Toilet Paper Diaries

Friday 31 January | 7pm | £8 | 14+

At nine years old Eloise is a happy child and promising ballerina with no doubt she is going to grow up to be a star. Then her periods start and completely derail her life turning it into a bloody mess. She's thrown face first into a war against gaslighting doctors. They refuse to listen or believe her but she's determined she will keep getting louder until someone hears. Eloise talks openly and bluntly about all things menstruation and menopause. A heartbreaking and hilarious tale which anyone with endometriosis or another condition which has led to medical gaslighting will instantly recognise. Toilet Paper Diaries is created with access at the heart of the show and includes embedded creative captions, audio description and BSL interpretation.

Broken Boys

Friday 14 February | 7pm | £8 | 16+

Broken Boys follows five lads, each grappling with mental health challenges, grief, or trauma, who are given free rein of a classroom during a one-hour free period. This is part of a school initiative designed to create a safe space for open conversation.

Affectionately dubbed 'The Sad Sack Group,' the boys—true to form—do everything but talk, bringing to life the chaotic humor and poignant reality of a young man's WhatsApp group on stage.

Static

Friday 14 March | 7pm | £8 | 14+

Static is a dark musical comedy, which explores one woman's experience of acceptance surrounding disability. The piece is semi-biographical and tells the story of Ruby; a neuro diverse performer and her journey through the entertainment world. Arriving in the family caravan following the death of her father and charged with sorting through the bits and pieces of her life, this is the story of one woman coming to terms with her past, and ultimately finding her voice.

Guy Fawkes Mother

Friday 21 March | 7pm | £8 | 14+

1612, King James of Scotland sits safely on the throne of England and the Gunpowder Treason Plotters have long since been executed. Everyone in the Kingdom celebrates November 5th. The day that remembers how King and Parliament narrowly escaped the infamous plot of 1605. Everyone celebrates by lighting bonfires, ringing bells and listening to special sermons. Except one woman. What did Guy Fawkes' mother feel?

BLACKPOOL SCHOOL OF ARTS
CREATIVE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

BSOA perform The Guy Who Didn't Like Musicals

Wed 26 + Thu 27 March | 7pm | £12 | 14+

Everything in Hatchetfield seemed normal until people began singing... Then, they began dancing... And now, a musical pandemic is sweeping the entire city. It's up to Paul (an average guy who doesn't like musicals) and his friends to stop this musical apocalypse and fight for humanity's future. The Guy Who Didn't Like Musicals is a horrifying new comedy musical premiering in Los Angeles from StarKid Productions, the creators of A Very Potter Musical and Holy Musical, B@man! Performances developed by BA Hons Acting and Cert HE Immersive Performance Practice students.

Buckled

Friday 28 March | 7pm | £8 | 14+

Ruby doesn't think she has a problem. Maggie's almost six months into recovery. Then there's Callum..... Family, friendship and booze. Drinking to remember. And drinking to forget

Written and directed by Helen Jeffery, this piece asks the question: How do you navigate sobriety in a world which revolves around drink?

Havisham

Friday 4 April | 7pm | £8 | 14+

This is the story that Dickens left out....

Who was the woman being behind Dickens' most monstrous female creation? What condemned the hopeful young Miss Havisham to her cruel and fractured fate? Experience her heartbreak as we delve into her childhood trauma and follow her on an intricate journey to a world where she finds herself 'the leading lady in a drama she can't comprehend.' The gaslighting is subtle, the coercive control slick. Can Miss Havisham escape her twisted karma?

Room

Saturday 5 April | 2pm | £8 | 14+

Join Virginia Woolf in a lively evening of wit as she shapes her groundbreaking ideas. Award-winning actor Alexander delivers a "beautiful portrayal" (British Theatre Guide) with "outstanding" 5-star reviews. ROOM is a witty homage to one of feminism's brightest minds, hailed as "an exquisite performance" and "a feast for the senses." Indulge in Woolf's brilliance in A Room of Her Own.

Unconventional Attitudes (Work-in-Progress)

Friday 2 May | 7pm | £5 | 14+

Winner of the Buxton Fringe Festival Spoken Word Award (2012) and nominated for the New Writing Award, Unconventional Attitudes weaves together the stories of four Greek Goddesses and the life of Lady Emma Hamilton, the scandalous, controversial woman who charmed society, became the most famous model of her age and was embroiled in a passionate affair with Lord Nelson. This new production is performed by Liz Wilkinson (Myths, Dead Dog in a Suitcase)

Steel

Friday 9 May | 7pm | £8 | 14+

Two lads. Twelve hours. One million pounds.

When James discovers he is heir to a single mile of the British railway system, the lads are forced on a town-wide treasure hunt where annihilated aunties, Snakebite-drenched drag queens and a zombie Princess Diana lay in wait. But who rightfully owns the mile of steel? Why is Kamran in such a strop? And what really happens in the pub down by the docks?

Afloat

Friday 16 May | 7pm | £8 | 15+

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be born into a country where your safety was at risk? Afloat is a theatre for social change performance, following the journey of two English citizens seeking asylum in a fictional place, fighting for their lives as the dream to make Britain Great turns into a living nightmare. Afloat brings to the stage powerful real-life stories of asylum seekers, inviting the audience to step into their shoes and confront the daily struggles and challenges faced with every step. By experiencing their journey firsthand, we aim to foster a deeper sense of empathy and compassion for those navigating the asylum process.

Frankie Monroe - Dead Good Bastard Comedy Show

Friday 30 May | 7pm | £8 | 18+

BBC New Comedy, and Edinburgh Newcomer Winner Frankie Monroe is back for another hour of laughs, tricks and mucky bitter. Join the owner of the Misty Moon (a working mens club in rotherham that is also a portal to hell) as he does his biggest show yet! Part of Blackpool's Comedy Festival 2025

'*The sort of breakthrough you come to the Fringe to see*' - Times

Woman | Women

Friday 6 June | 7pm | £8 | 13+

Woman | Women is a physical show that takes an academic deep dive into the fast-paced nature of lesbian relationships. Featuring a new duet in every performance, Gander ambitiously questions links between pace, compatibility, attachment, and scarcity mindsets in lesbians and how those components impact the relationship a lesbian has with herself.

I Hired A Hitman On Myself

Friday 13 June | 7pm | £8 | 16+

'I Hired A Hitman On Myself' follows a person going through the same repetitive days week on week. Their mother passing and their dad not wanting to speak to them only makes life worse. They attend therapy, paid for by their dad, which lets them tell their thoughts and share their views on their life. They realise how bad their life has gotten and how much they need to excite it. When an opportunity arrives that allows them to do just that...

Add To Basket

Friday 20 June | 7pm | £8 | 14+

Inspired by and interwoven with real-life stories from community workshops, Add to Basket is a comedy that questions the environmental & social rise of fast fashion, the complexities of spending, and the emotional attachment we have with our clothing that is wrapped up in our memories and individual identity.

BIG STRONG MAN

Friday 27 June | 7pm | £8 | 16+

BIG STRONG MAN is a raucous, interactive comedy featuring song, dance, improvisation, boyband parodies, lip syncs, ladders, karaoke and a bear. Join four northern lads for a night of Poundland level extravagance, as they bring their fast-paced, quick witted and physical comic style to an unforgettable alt-comedy night out.

Disability Awareness Training

Tuesday 7 January at 6-8pm
Saturday 11 January at 10am-12noon
Free | 18+

This in-person training by Disability First CIO, an independent disability charity in Blackpool, offers insights into conditions affecting participation in creative sessions and guidance on accessible approaches. Limited to 12 spots per session.

Acting + Audition Techniques

Saturday 18 January | 11am-2pm | Free | 16+

Join Alex Loveless, Senior Lecturer in Performing Arts at the University of West London, for a dynamic workshop on auditioning and the foundations of acting. Ideal for aspiring actors considering university or drama school, this session will explore relaxation, creativity, and audition techniques

Scratch Night

Fri 24 Jan, Fri 11 Apr, Sun 1 Jun + Fri 11 Jul
7pm | 16+

Do you have work-in-progress that you'd like to share in front of a supportive audience? A seed of an idea that you'd benefit from getting feedback and responses to? Join our Scratch Nights! Email info@theoldelectric.co.uk with a 100-word description and an image for social media. Slots confirmed by return email. Free for current/previous performers, plus 4 comps per artist.

Creative Network Breakfast Meet

Thursdays 6 Feb, 3 Apr + 5 Jun
9-10.30am | Free | 18+

A bi-monthly online and in-person networking event for creative professionals in Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre to connect, share ideas, build partnerships, and foster open, transparent programming in the area. Decent coffee and light breakfast items will be available to buy at these events from 2025

Arts Council England Relationship Advisor 1:1 Meets

Thursdays 6 Feb, 3 Apr + 5 Jun 10.45am - 3.15pm
Free | 18+

Leverage ongoing ACE support with a speed-dating style slot with an ACE Relationship Manager to discuss your DYCP or Project Grant ideas. Prepare your questions in advance for maximum benefit. Sessions need to be booked in advance; please visit our website for full details.

Artist Social

Fridays 28 Feb + 18 July | 6.30-8.30pm | Free | 18+

A chance to meet up and network with other creatives in a safe space; to share ideas, make new connections, seek out collaborators and partners. Refreshments and light snacks will be available and there will be a creative activity to take part in at each event.

Queer Artist Shadowing

Monday 7 - Friday 11 April | 10am-4pm | Free | 18+

A unique chance for two queer artists to shadow TomYumSim for three sessions on 'Trainwreck,' their new immersive experience-in-the-making. This bold project explores capitalism in the Arts and uses AI through live performance and interactive digital experiments. Inspired by legendary flops like Glasgow's infamous 'Willy's Chocolate Experience,' 'Trainwreck' digs into the messy gap between hype and reality. Full application details on the website.

Comedy Writing Workshop

Sunday 1 June | 4-7pm | Free | 18+

Ever fancied doing a bit of stand up? This session is part of Blackpool's Comedy Festival 2025, and an excellent opportunity to work with professional comedians to develop your own unique stand up material and then to perform it in a safe, supportive environment to gain feedback.

Weekly Participation Sessions Starting dates
Monday 13 January for 5-weeks (Except Th'ESPs)
Monday 24 February for 7-weeks
Monday 28 April for 4-weeks (No improv sessions half term)
Monday 2 June for 4-weeks

Life Drawing

Mondays starting 13 January for 5 weeks
6-8pm | £40-70 per course | 18+

Drawing is an act of profound truth—develop your skills by exploring the human condition! Work from observation with a live nude model alongside a supportive group of artists. Receive tailored guidance as you learn to look, notice, measure, and capture your experience on paper, translating it into a unique work of art. Gain new creative perspectives on the human condition!

Improvisation + Other Drama Games

Tuesdays starting 14 January for 5 weeks
6.30-8pm | Free | 18+

Want to improve your acting skills? Join these fun, free sessions where you'll play a variety of games to stretch your imagination and respond to dramatic prompts in creative ways. Improvisation is key to flexible acting, so as we practice and have fun, you'll gain confidence and develop your performance skills! Led by Liz Wilkinson.

Band Jam, Singing + Songwriting

Wednesdsys starting 15 January for 5 weeks
6.30-8pm | Free | 18+

The Blackpool Bandeoke Choir workshops, led by local musician Lucy Ray, invite beginner and improver musicians to play group-chosen songs, enhancing instrumental skills, musical knowledge, and improvisation. Sessions also include original songs and a forum for sharing. Instruments are provided, but feel free to bring your own!

Clubbercise

Wednesdays starting 15 January for 5 weeks
6.30-8pm | £15-25 per course | 18+

Experience a fun, easy-to-follow dance workout set to club anthems from the 90s to today's hits. Bring your energy, glow sticks are provided to amp up the party atmosphere and keep the vibe lively. Whether you're a seasoned dancer or just looking to have some fun, this session will get you moving and grooving with friends. Come ready to sweat, smile, and let loose!

Th'ESPs Community Theatre Company

Thursdays starting 9 January for 5 weeks
6.30-8.30pm | Free | 18+

Interested in being a part of Blackpool's most dynamic, ensemble-driven, artist led theatre company? The opportunity to take part in our Th'ESPs summer production starts on 9 January 2025. Anyone interested should be able to commit to attending rehearsals every week until July.

Non-working Mens Club

Thursday 9 + 23 Jan, 13 + 27 Feb, 13 + 27 Mar, 10 + 24 Apr, 8 + 22 May, 12 + 26 Jun + 24 Jul

9.30-11am | Free | 18+

Non-Working Men's Club continues offering a safe bi-monthly space for men to converge to; share, discuss and engage in meaningful conversations. Over the last year we have explored poetry for International Men's Day, creatively considered what it is to be a 'male role model' and explored what makes us laugh.

Join Buzz and Rob for more engaging gatherings, for camaraderie, a safe place to talk, and creative tangents and adventures. Delivered in partnership with Think Forward

Digital DJing

Mondays 13 Jan, 10 Feb + 10 Mar
5.30-8pm | £80 for 3-sessions | 18+

Turn your music passion into DJ performance! Devolicious' digital DJ lessons cover everything: from building killer playlists to beat transitions and effects. Equipment provided. Learn industry-standard hardware and software while developing your unique style. Small group number, book early to avoid disappointment. Start your DJ journey today! Only 5 places available to allow for 1:1 time with the equipment.

Lunch + Lyrics

Thursday 16 Jan, 20 Feb, 20 Mar, 17 Apr, 15 May, 19 Jun | 12noon-1.30pm | £3 | 16+

Come and join us for a lunchtime karaoke session. Find your song, find the words, and find your voice. It will be a free flow affair and whoever comes are the right people, who ever gets up to sing are the right people to sing, the songs you sing are your choice and so always the right songs.
Brew included.

Write Club

Fridays 17 Jan, 7 Feb, 7 Mar, 25 Apr + 23 May | 6-8pm | £5 | 18+

A monthly in-person group aimed at anyone interested in writing for the stage. Each month we read aloud new work by members of this group or other playwrights. A peer-supported group for writers who have ideas, scenes or whole plays they have developed; a safe environment for sharing, feeding back and being first to hear about new writing initiatives. Includes soup + dipper, brew + biscuits.

Life Sculpture

Saturday 25 Jan, 22 Mar, 24 May + 19 Jul
12noon-2pm | £30 per session | 16+

By popular demand, Life Sculpture is here! Work with artist Mike Cassidy to create a unique ceramic figure, by observing a live model. You'll learn some basic joining and sculpting techniques to get you started, and then you'll have full creative freedom to make a timeless piece of sculpture (2 in fact!) that will represent something truly profound - your own observation and expression of the human condition!

Flyde Repair Cafe

Mondays 27 Jan, 24 Feb + 24 Mar
5.45-8pm | Free | All ages

Fylde Repair Cafe is a skill sharing, community project. Sewing & Knit, Furniture Fix & Repair and Grow Your Own sessions for all.

Our skilled volunteers are on hand during our free sessions to guide you through your project, giving you the confidence to embrace sustainability, gain a new skill and save your items from Landfill.
These sessions will be focussed on sewing.
We have stock of fabric and all equipment required to achieve your repair or repurpose ideas.
Sessions are family friendly but all children must be accompanied by an adult.

Pen + Ink

Thursdays 30 Jan, 27 Feb + 27 Mar
4.30-6pm | £20 for 3-sessions | 18+

Kick-start your connection to pen and ink drawing with artist John Crompton. John will offer ideas to get you started in this art form as well as support you to improve your technique. This is a friendly, supportive environment open to absolute beginners as well as more experienced artists. All materials are included.

Schedule *Performances, Events + Monthly Sessions*

● Productions ● Participations ● Artist Development

January			
Tue 7	Disability Training ●	6-8pm	Free
Sat 11	Disability Training ●	10am-12pm	Free
Mon 13	Digital DJing (3 X Sessions) ●	5.30-8pm	£80
Thu 16	Lunch + Lyrics ●	12noon-1.30pm	£3
Fri 17	Write Club ●	6-8pm	£5
Sat 18	Acting + Audition Techniques ●	11am-2pm	Free
Fri 24	Scratch Night ●	7pm	£3
Sat 25	Life Sculpture ●	12noon-2pm	£30
Mon 27	Fylde Repair Cafe ●	5.45-8pm	Free
Thu 30	Pen + Ink (3 X Sessions) ●	4.30-6pm	£20
Fri 31	Toilet Paper Diaries ●	7pm	£8
February			
Thu 6	Creative Network Breakfast ●	9-10.30am	Free
Thu 6	Arts Council England Adviser 1:1 Meets ●	10.45am-3.15pm	Free
Fri 7	Write Club ●	6-8pm	£5
Mon 10	Digital DJing (3 X Sessions) ●	5.30-8pm	£80
Fri 14	Broken Boys ●	7pm	£8
Thu 20	Lunch + Lyrics ●	12noon-1.30pm	£3
Mon 24	Fylde Repair Cafe ●	5.45-8pm	Free
Thu 27	Pen + Ink (3 X Sessions) ●	4.30-6pm	£20
Fri 28	Artist Social: Love What You Do ●	16.30-8.30pm	Free
March			
Fri 7	Write Club ●	6-8pm	£5
Mon 10	Digital DJing (3 X Sessions) ●	5.30-8pm	£80
Fri 14	Static ●	7pm	£8
Thu 20	Lunch + Lyrics ●	12noon-1.30pm	£3
Fri 21	Guy Fawkes Mother ●	7pm	£8
Sat 22	Life Sculpture ●	12noon-2pm	£30
Mon 24	Fylde Repair Cafe ●	5.45-8pm	Free
Wed 26	BSOA perform The Guy Who Didn't Like Musicals ●	7pm	£12
Thu 27	Pen + Ink (3 X Sessions) ●	4.30-6pm	£20
Thu 27	BSOA perform The Guy Who Didn't Like Musicals ●	7pm	£12
Fri 28	Buckled ●	7pm	£8
April			
Thu 3	Creative Network Breakfast ●	9-10.30am	Free
Thu 3	Arts Council England Adviser 1:1 Meets ●	10.45am-3.15pm	Free
Fri 4	Havisham ●	7pm	£8
Sat 5	Room ●	2pm	£8
Mon 7 - Fri 11	Queer Artist Shadowing Opps ●	10am-4pm	Free
Fri 11	Scratch Night ●	7pm	£3
Thu 17	Lunch + Lyrics ●	12noon-1.30pm	£3
Fri 25	Write Club ●	6-8pm	£5
May			
Fri 2	Unconventional Attitudes (Work-in-Progress) ●	7pm	£5
Fri 9	Steel ●	7pm	£8
Thu 15	Lunch + Lyrics ●	12noon-1.30pm	£3
Fri 16	Afloat ●	7pm	£8
Fri 23	Write Club ●	6-8pm	£5
Sat 24	Life Sculpture ●	12noon-2pm	£30
Fri 30	Frankie Monroe ●	7pm	£8
June			
Sun 1	Comedy Writing Workshop ●	4-7pm	Free
Sun 1	Scratch Night ●	7pm	£3
Thu 5	Creative Network Breakfast ●	9-10.30am	Free
Thu 5	Arts Council England Adviser 1:1 Meets ●	10.45am-3.15pm	Free
Fri 6	Woman | Women ●	7pm	£8
Fri 13	I Hired A Hit Man On Myself ●	7pm	£8
Thu 19	Lunch + Lyrics ●	12noon-1.30pm	£3
Fri 20	Add to Basket ●	7pm	£8
Fri 27	BIG STRONG MAN ●	7pm	£8
July			
Fri 4	Th'ESPs: Memoirs of a Blackpool Mermaid ●	7pm	£8
Sat 5	Th'ESPs: Memoirs of a Blackpool Mermaid ●	2pm + 7pm	£8
Fri 11	Scratch Night ●	7pm	£3
Fri 18	Artist Social: Conscious Disco Celebration ●	6.30-8.30pm	Free
Sat 19	Life Sculpture ●	12noon-2pm	£30

Weekly Sessions - Please check page listings for full details.

Monday		
Life Drawing	6-8pm	18+
Tuesday		
Improvisation + Other Drama Games	6.30-8pm	18+
Wednesday		
Band Jam, Singing + Songwriting	6.30-8pm	18+
Clubbercise	6.30-8pm	18+
Thursday		
Non-working Men's Club (Bi-weekly)	9.30-11am	18+
Community Theatre Rehearsals (Th'ESPs)	6.30-8.30pm	18+

Check our website + social media channels
for up to date schedule and times.

Front cover photo: Corey Wong • Branding and season guide: thegreatfield.co.uk

COMMUNITY FUND