



**Application for Funding from Hampshire Action Teams**

**Organisation Details**

<b>Name of Organisation</b>	Winchester Devised Theatre Group
<b>Type of Organisation</b> (Please tick or double click to check the appropriate box)	Community/Voluntary Group * <input type="checkbox"/> Company limited by guarantee <input type="checkbox"/> District/Borough Council <input type="checkbox"/> Parish/Town Council <input type="checkbox"/> Registered Charity <input type="checkbox"/> School/College <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe below):
<b>Contact Name</b>	Virginia de Ledesma (director of project)
<b>Contact Details</b>	<b>Address: 2a lent Hill Court, the Valley Stanmore, Winchester, SO22 4QW</b>
	<b>Telephone: 07872 612856</b>
	<b>Email Address: v.deled@btinternet.com</b>

**Funding Details**

<b>Which HAT are you requesting funding from</b>	East Central
<b>Amount of Funding Requested</b> (Please state if all or part of the funding will be spent on staffing costs)	£6,500 –fee for director of project for 6 month project
<b>Joint Funding</b> (Please list any other funding secured for the project from other organisations)	Winchester city Council -£600 ( offered by Marilyn Michalowicz, Winchester City Council’s Arts Development Officer for an accompanist for 12 singing workshops for homeless people @ £50 per hour, and is on condition that £6,500 for the director’s fee is secured from HAT funding) Hants County Council -£1,600 ( offered from Mike Wickenden of Hampshire County Council’s Culture, Communities and Rural affairs dept on condition that £6,500 for the director’s fee is secured from HAT funding)

**Details of the Bid / Project**

# **Winchester Devised Theatre Group project Proposal for stage two : Development phase**

The following proposal is for the second stage of a three part **Research and Development project**, the first stage of which (**research phase**<sup>1</sup>) has already taken place during February-May 2010, funded by Winchester city Council and Hants County Council.

## **Stage 2 of the project : the development process**

A six-month project to promote understanding of homelessness by developing a piece of devised theatre which allows homeless people to speak for themselves. The project provides an opportunity for homeless people to tell their own story through theatre, bridging the existing gap between homeless people and their issues, and an understanding of them by society, the government and the organisations who provide resources for homeless people such as Winchester Churches Nightshelter group.

## **Aims and objectives of the development phase**

- To develop the performance skills and confidence of homeless people.
- To document and record the stories of homeless people
- To make it possible for homeless people to tell their own story through a theatre presentation of originality, authenticity and excellence at the end of the six month period. The production will be the result of a collaboration with the University of

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<sup>1</sup> **The research period** of this project ( Jan 25<sup>th</sup> – May 10<sup>th</sup>) has begun to uncover some understanding of homelessness. It was undertaken by someone who is homeless herself, and could therefore gain the confidence of the participants of the project by speaking to them on an equal level, of share issues. Some of the issues that have emerged over the last three months are:

- **Social exclusion**  
Homeless people rarely talk about their life experiences. Their issues are deeply private, and they often choose to be invisible and unheard. Consequently, there is a lack of understanding of why people become homeless, which results in the process of marginalisation. The homeless are often ignored by society because so little is known about the causes of homelessness, so a cycle of misunderstanding is generated, partly by the homeless themselves.
- **Opting out /Ownership**  
An example of an issue that was important and which cropped up continually during the research was opting out : *'are we losing out by opting/sleeping out, or gaining the ownership of our lives?'*. Some of the participants felt that opting out was a positive choice: *'who is to say'*, the argument emerged, *'whether material wealth is a burden that deprives a person of real freedom, and that those who opt out arguably have more freedom and more ownership of their lives?'*. What we would like to consider in the development phase is why three people, who were offered a place in Nightshelter, last winter when the temperature was minus five, chose to sleep on the streets, for example.
- **Family breakdown**  
Another theme that emerged as a link in the chain of circumstances which lead to homelessness, is family breakdown. For example, in the situation where a child is abused by a family member or someone known by the family, (one in three girls, before they reach the age of 18, are abused by a member of their own family or someone *known* to their family). If the girl reveals the identity of her abuser, the family may choose to close rank behind the abuser, and reject her. Many girls do not own up to the abuse for this reason but the ones who do may end up homeless if other circumstances make them vulnerable, and the family is not there to help.

Many other reasons for becoming homeless became the subject of discussion during the research period : divorce, financial problems, redundancy, and substance addictions.

Winchester's Drama department, based on a story and characters devised by homeless people themselves, called '*The Photographer*'<sup>2</sup>.

### ***How we aim to do it: Time Frame for the development phase***

#### ***July-October 2010***

Weekly sessions at **Winchester Churches Nightshelter**<sup>3</sup> will continue to develop the story of '*the Photographer*', whose characters will be devised by the participants. Users of other organisations who provide shelter and resources for the homeless, for example **The Trinity Centre**, will be invited to attend the sessions and to be involved in the production. We will also be developing on performance skills such as singing, acting and writing. Workshops have been offered from Wet Picnic with professional actors, and Virginia de Ledesma is a trained singing teacher. It is also proposed that we work with performance artists from the University's Faculty of Devised and Street Theatre courses, as well as Wet Picnic.

#### ***October- December 2010***

At the end of three months devising the story and characters at **WCNS**, a draft script will be produced for the University to use in producing a piece of theatre. The project can be offered to the second and third year drama student as part of their BA courses, in time for the start of the first semester in October. University will take the draft script and rework it with as many of the homeless participants as want to get involved in the final production.

#### ***Stage 3: The final production***

The final production will be produced by agreement with the University, using their own resources, theatre and students, as well as the participants from the Nightshelter sessions if they wish to be involved. The production could be as simple as a read through of the final script with the public invited at a venue to be agreed (for example the University's own performance Gym, or the Discovery Centre), or a fully-staged production with costumes. The play is designed for production December 2010, directly after the end of the project, but the timing for this might depend on the availability of the University's facilities. The HAT will be

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<sup>2</sup> *The photographer* is the story of a woman who is successful in the eyes of society. She has everything she wants materially; she has married a successful man and has produced two ambitious children. However she finds herself approaching middle age in a loveless marriage, frustrated creatively. Imprisoned by her own life, and by society's expectations of her she takes to drink to numb the pain. In the course of her work she agrees to photograph some homeless people, and gets to know them and all about their lives. The freedom and the ownership of their lives transforms her life and she embarks on a journey to reclaim it on her own terms.

The story allows for a script to be written within a set time frame of six months. During this time the characters will be devised, and (as much as possible) played by homeless people themselves, fulfilling the project objective of allowing homeless people to tell their own story through theatre. The homeless people will be understudied by students from the drama department at the University of Winchester.

<sup>3</sup> ***Weekly meetings at Winchester Churches Nightshelter.***

Over the last 18 weeks, the sessions, held both at Emmaus Hampshire, at their Bar end Industrial Estate premises, and Winchester Churches Nightshelter at Jewry street, have involved roughly 65 homeless people, including the Emmaus companions who have helped administrate and organise the sessions. The number of people who attended the sessions each week varied as they were constantly being moved on or re located. Some sessions were attended by as many as 20 and some by as few as 5. Over the last five months, the weekly session on Fridays has drawn a core group of homeless people who now come regularly to discuss creative projects they would like to do and how to do them. We aim to build on this core group at Nightshelter and to encourage others to join them to discuss their lives, their involvement in the production, and how they see the characters in the story.

invited to this event, to offer them the opportunity to meet the other partners in the project such as the University Drama students and tutors, Winchester Churches Nightshelter, and any of the homeless participants who have been involved either in devising or performing in the final production.

### ***Key players for the development phase***

#### ***The Rough Diamond group***

Over the research phase of the project a core group of people affected by homelessness has emerged. They are keen to form their own group to further their aims as artists, and support each other, as well as encourage others affected by homelessness in pursuing work in their own areas, as well as to take the work the project has produced forward (perhaps by planning another production, or to expand on the work that has been achieved).

#### ***Virginia de Ledesma FRSM***

Virginia has directed the Handless Maiden project, devising opera for opera singers with disabilities (Greenwich, 2007), and theatre for young offenders (Rap opera, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, 2008) and is the director of Winchester Devised Theatre Group. In February this year she passed her FRSM (Fellow of the Royal schools of Music) and is a qualified teacher of singing and performance. Her role in the development stage of this project will be to make the recordings along side a University student . She will also be running weekly sessions with the participants at Nightshelter, developing their performance skills. Recently she had her own experience of being homeless.

#### ***Stephen Hall: Lecturer and Programme Leader at University of Winchester (Drama faculty)***

Stephen will be providing human and technical resources for the project, advice and mentorship, as well as the ***Black Box Theatre*** at the University as a rehearsal and performance space. Steve is in the process of applying to the Jerwood foundation for a Grant to facilitate the University's involvement in the project.

#### ***Winchester Churches Nightshelter Group***

WCNS will be the venue for ongoing weekly meetings with all the participants of the project. Michele Price, manager at Nightshelter, has provided a supportive environment.

#### ***Wet picnic theatre company***

Directed by Matt Feerick, Wet Picnic at an international reputation for producing theatre of excellence, and are willing to work alongside the Rough Diamond project to produce a presentation at the end of the six-month development phase. They work with devised visual and physical theatre.

## ***Forward note on the budget***

There has been a great deal of generosity and support shown towards the project in the last 18 weeks, and resources offered towards its future. The budget, therefore, reflects not just what we need directly from organisations involved in funding this project for the development stage, but the value of the project as a whole. These resources appear as ***In kind funding*** both in the income and the expenses section, and are cross referenced as such

## ***The Budget***

### ***Income***

#### ***In Kind Funding***

Rehearsal space at The University's Performance Gym 4 1 hour sessions @ £100per session ( in Kind funding)	£ 400
meeting space @ Nightshelter for 8 weeks @ £40 per week ( in Kind funding)	£ 640
Fee for Stephen Hall for managing/mentoring the University's Part in the project (in Kind funding)	£ 2,000
Fee for Matt Feerick (Wet Picnic Theatre Co) ( in Kind funding)	£ 1,000
Hire of recording equipment £100 per day for 16 weeks ( in Kind funding)	£ 1,600
Fee for recording engineer @ £100 per day for 16 days ( in Kind funding)	£ 1,600
Fee for Virginia de Ledesma (singing tuition) ( in Kind funding)	£ 800
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	£ 8040

#### ***Other Income***

funds sought from Hampshire Action Team	£ 6,500	
funds sought from Winchester CC (Mariyn Michalowicz) (agreed conditional on grant funding from HAT)	£ 600	
funds sought from Hampshire County Council ( Mike Wickenden) (agreed conditional on grant funding from HAT)	£ 1,600	
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	sub total	£ 8700
	<b>total</b>	£16,740

### ***Expenses***

Rehearsal space at the Black Box theatre

4 1 hour sessions @ £100per session ( cross reference in Kind funding)	£ 400
meeting space @ Nightshelter for 16 weeks @ £40 per week ( cross reference in Kind funding)	£ 640
Fee for Stephen Hall for managing/mentoring the University's Part in the project ( cross reference in Kind funding)	£2,000
Fee for Matt Feerick (Wet Picnic Theatre Co) ( cross reference in Kind funding)	£1,000
Hire of recording equipment £100 per day for two days a week over 16 weeks ( cross reference in Kind funding)	£1,600
Fee for recording engineer twice a week over an 8 week period @ £150 per day ( cross reference in Kind funding)	£ 1,600
Fee for V.de Ledesma (singing tuition) ( cross reference in Kind funding)	£ 800
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	£ 8040

### ***Running Costs for 8 week period***

Travel to recording session once a week @ £25 per week (this is to ensure that if any of the homeless people involved in the project move, the director can continue to record their stories)	£ 200
Stationary and postage	£ 100
Leaflets posters printing & photocopying	£ 300
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	£ 600

### ***Fees***

#### ***Fee for Virginia de Ledesma***

£250 per week as facilitator/director of the 6month week development phase of the project	£6,500
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#### ***Accompanist for singing sessions***

£50 per session for 12 sessions ( offered conditionally by WCC)	£ 600
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#### ***contingency***

( offered conditionally by HCC)	£ 1,000
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	£ 8100

**total** £16,740

<b>Title of Bid/ Project</b>	Winchester Devised Theatre Group project
<b>Summary of Bid/ Project</b>	A six-month project to promote understanding of homelessness by developing a piece of devised theatre which allows homeless people to speak for themselves. The project provides an opportunity for homeless people to tell their own story through theatre, bridging the existing gap between homeless people and their issues, and an understanding of them by society, the government and the organisations who provide resources for homeless people such as Winchester Churches Nightshelter group. The project will culminate in a performance of the devised script formed from the ideas and issues of homeless people, at a venue in Winchester in December, in collaboration with the University's Drama department,.

<b>How does the Bid meet the HATs Term of Reference?</b> 1) To tackle economic, social and health inequalities in the local area  2) To support the delivery of Hampshire's improvement priorities within the Hampshire Local Area Agreement*  3) To support local highways and transport priorities**	The bid meets the social inequality criteria of the HATS terms of reference, addressing the marginalisation experienced by homeless people in Winchester, and its causes.
<b>Timescale</b> (What is the anticipated period over which the money will be spent?)	<b>Commencement Date: July 2010</b>  <b>Completion Date: December 2010</b>
<b>Intended Outcomes</b> (How will the success of the bid/project be measured?)	The project will culminate in a performance of a piece of theatre ( <i>The Photographer</i> ) which has been devised by homeless people themselves, with the collaboration of Winchester University.
<b>Future Funding Arrangements</b> (If the project is to last more than a year how will it be funded in subsequent years? How will any outcomes achieved by the project be sustained in the longer term? If it is a capital scheme how will the equipment be maintained?)	Future performances of the devised theatre production, and the formation of permanent links between the University's drama students and individual homeless people, will ensure the project continues as a means to allow homeless people to speak for themselves through theatre and other art forms. We hope to form a company run by homeless people for homeless people to continue this work.

\* Further information on the LAA can be found at the following website - <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/localareaagreement.htm>

\*\* Any approved bids for highways/transport projects will require liaison with the Executive Member for Environment.

**Declaration**

**I declare that the information supplied in this application is true and that any funding received from Hampshire County Council will be used for the purposes described in this form. The Council reserves the right to reclaim any funding not used for the purposes stated on this form.**

**I agree to provide a report detailing the outcomes of this bid/project (a form will be sent out for completion at the relevant time).**

**Signed**  **Date**

**Position in organisation**

**Please return your completed form to:** The HAT Team, Room 105, Elizabeth II Court, Winchester, S023 8UJ, or email: [members.services@hants.gov.uk](mailto:members.services@hants.gov.uk)