



Audience Manifesto



Welcome to the Audience Manifesto, created for the Royal Exchange Theatre over two years by 2,150 audience members.

Over this period we have been developing You, The Audience- a giant conversation with theatre audiences, designed to help us to rethink our ideas of 'audience' - who they are, as individuals and as a community, how we engage and collaborate and how this might be key to influencing the future of the Royal Exchange. You, the Audience is about us listening and learning and, as we learn, it's about us growing and changing.

We've collected audience stories, listened to what audiences feel theatre is for, and created Theatre Cafe, a conversation group led by the public. 100 audience members aged 9 to 73 took part in a sleep over in the theatre, and 2,150 individuals have created this Audience Manifesto.

As the next step, we will be inviting audiences- at least 50% of whom will not have engaged with the exchange before- to work with us to develop our response to this manifesto, challenge us, if you like, to fulfil our passionate drive to be a theatre that is genuinely socially engaged, inclusive, connected, and in meaningful exchange with the people of Greater Manchester.

Amanda Dalton, Director of Engagement, Manchester 2017

I am a walking artist from Manchester. My practice involves drawing whilst walking, never stopping to steady my pad nor waiting for something to draw. I am artist in residence for The Royal Exchange Theatre's 'You, the Audience' programme. The drawings in this booklet were produced, in part, whilst walking amongst diverse communities, at home and abroad.

Oliver East, Artist, olivereast.com

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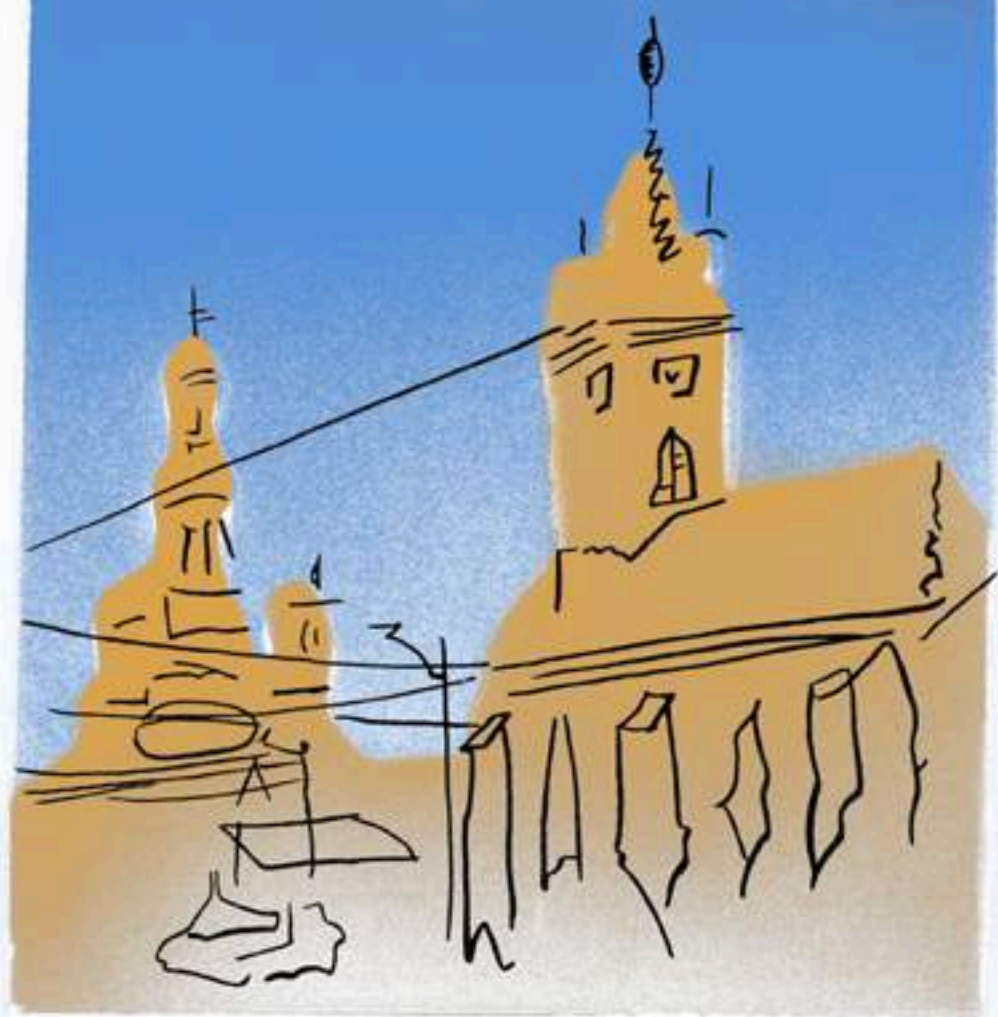
To find out more visit: royalexchange.co.uk or contact Amanda on amanda.dalton@royalexchange.co.uk Tel. 0161 615 6720



**I want theatre to challenge
me, to challenge all of us**



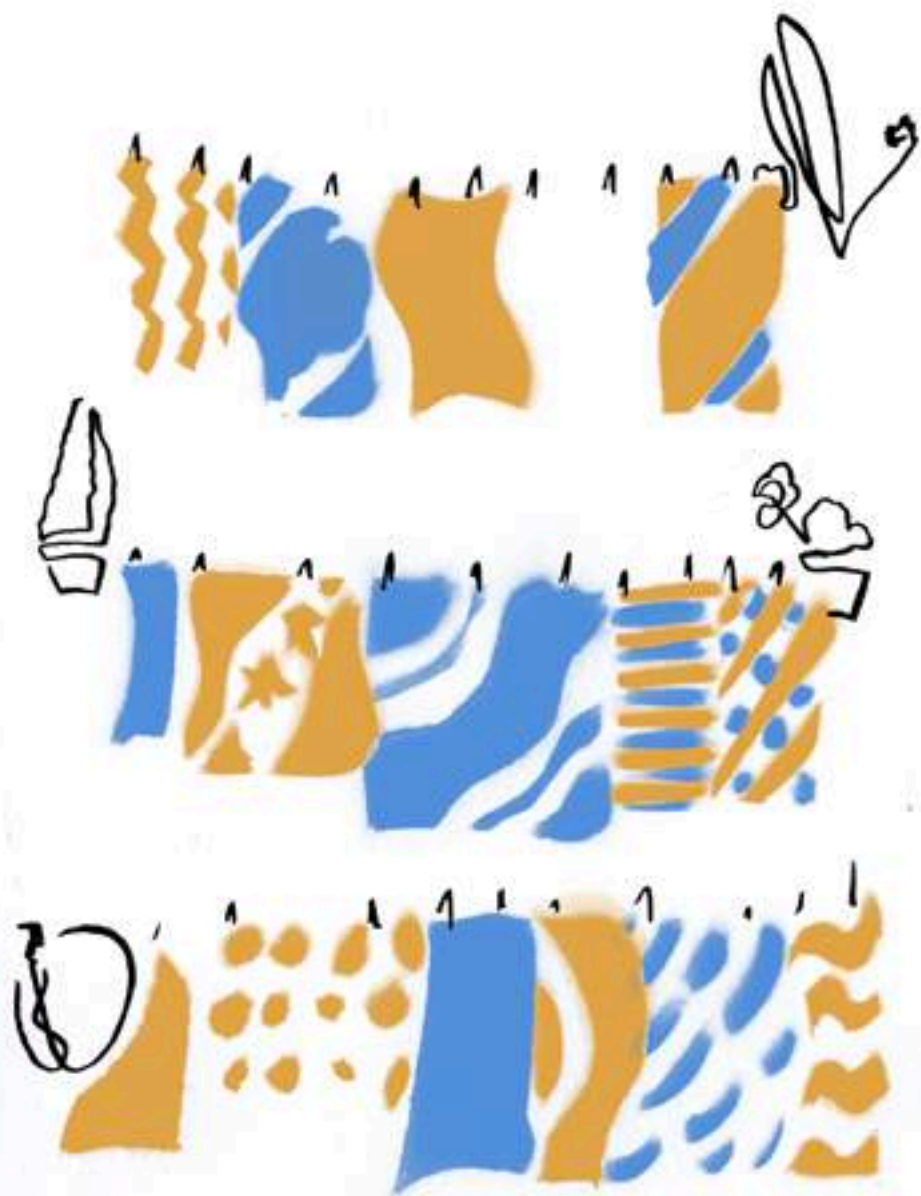
**I want a theatre where
absolutely everyone
feels welcome**



**I want theatre to be a
safe place for difficult
conversations**



**I want theatres that
everyday people can
afford to go to**



I want theatre to demonstrate more ethnic diversity on and off the stage



I want theatre to be a place for children



I want theatre to know it belongs to the public and to reflect this in everything it does



I want a theatre that knows everyone can make theatre



I want a theatre that understands theatre can happen anywhere and should happen everywhere



I want a theatre that gets into communities and listens



I want a theatre that recognises that the audience is part of the performance



**I want theatre to connect
more with ordinary people**



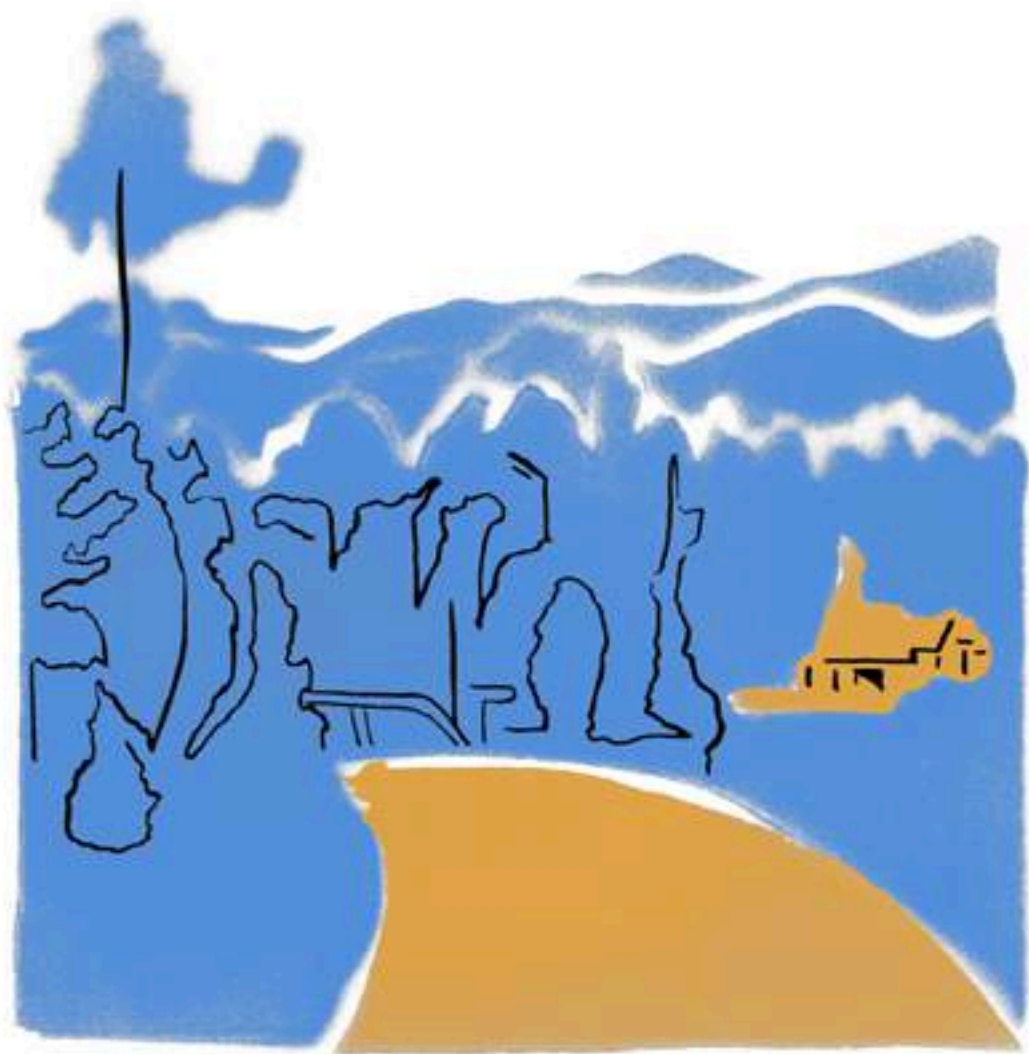
**I want theatre to speak for
people whose voices
wouldn't be heard otherwise**



**I want theatre to be
demanding and entertaining
at the same time**



**I want theatre to allow
me to walk a mile in
someone else's shoes**



**I want to be transported
into different lives and worlds**



I want theatre to be a place to relax



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