



## IN THE LOOP!

This newsletter brings you the latest Playhouse news, developments and offerings. A bi-weekly update to help keep you In The Loop until we can welcome you back into the building.

## LIGHT IT IN RED



On Tuesday 11th August we joined venues across the North East and UK lighting our theatre in red to highlight the ongoing challenges of the pandemic on our industry. Since closing our doors in March hundreds of those in the entertainment and arts industries are continuing the battle through difficult times. Light It In Red raises awareness for all those who work in live events and calls on the Government for support.

We stand in solidarity with our fellow venues, staff and freelancers who make the live events we love happen. Below you can see images of The Maltings at Berwick, Newcastle Theatre Royal and Northern Stage at Newcastle.



---

## INDUSTRY UPDATE

---

The latest news is, except for specific areas where local restrictions are in place, socially distanced indoor performances complying with Government guidelines can commence from 15<sup>th</sup> August. There was a delay to the return of professional performing arts moving towards step four of the Government's roadmap. The delay came two weeks ago, after concerns about a slight increase in the number of people in England testing positive. Unfortunately, the singing and the playing of brass and wind instruments in groups or in front of an audience is still currently limited to professionals only.

We will observe and continue with our plans for a safe re-opening later in the year along with other Northumberland venues. In the meantime, we shall continue to progress with variations to the original building works which will take the main auditorium and studio out of use. These building variations would have been impossible to plan around the busy Playhouse programme and these improvements will benefit everyone when we re-open.

Social distancing and mask wearing may not be the biggest hurdles facing cinemas who have recently opened as many independent cinemas report that distributors are being less than helpful over providing attractive programmes that might rebuild the cinema going habit. Holding back major release film titles is unhelpful however the recent news of *Mulan* bypassing cinemas altogether, now to be streamed on demand on Disney+ will not help build confidence or cinema audiences. We shall continue to monitor the big title release dates with interest and bring you news about the Independent film sector in the next newsletter.

---

## GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT EXHIBITION

---

Our current Online Open Exhibition draws to a close on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August so make sure you check it out if you haven't already.

Next up in the Gallery is our online **GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT EXHIBITION** which runs from 18<sup>th</sup> August – 28<sup>th</sup> September highlighting the work of Amber Brown and Almudena Rocca.

**Amber Brown** is a Northumbrian photographer, printmaker and aspiring curator from Amble. She graduated in 2020 with a First Class BA (hons) in Photography from Edinburgh College of Art and is studying a MA in Art Museum and Gallery Studies at Newcastle University. Amber's work explores notions of place, home and belonging over continuous periods of time through cultural, political and personal narratives. Her practice is rooted in many slow, ritualistic processes which largely fall under the umbrella of printmaking and large format photography, a medium which she is dedicated to. She utilises labour-intensive techniques to investigate the post-industrial landscape, ideas of Northernness and how archives can interact with the contemporary. Her work is currently supported by The Analogue Photography Grant from The Richard and Siobhan Coward Foundation.

'It must be somewhere here' is a year-long survey of the Northern deep coal-mining landscape. As the granddaughter of two miners, it acts as both a geographical study and inquiry into ancestry. A departure to colour depicts former colliery sites which have been visually affected by the chemical aftermath of

deep coal-mining. Unnaturally high levels of manganese in still-draining mine-water stains rocks orange, and the erosion of cliff formations reveals materials from a colliery landfill. Amber Brown record various places of memorial and colliery remains. Through 'slow' large format photography, and the photopolymer gravure, she creates works in which time cannot be specified, where the process is elongated as much as possible, commenting on manual labour, materiality and the ritual of returning home to walk in the empty industrial lands where man once laid his hand.



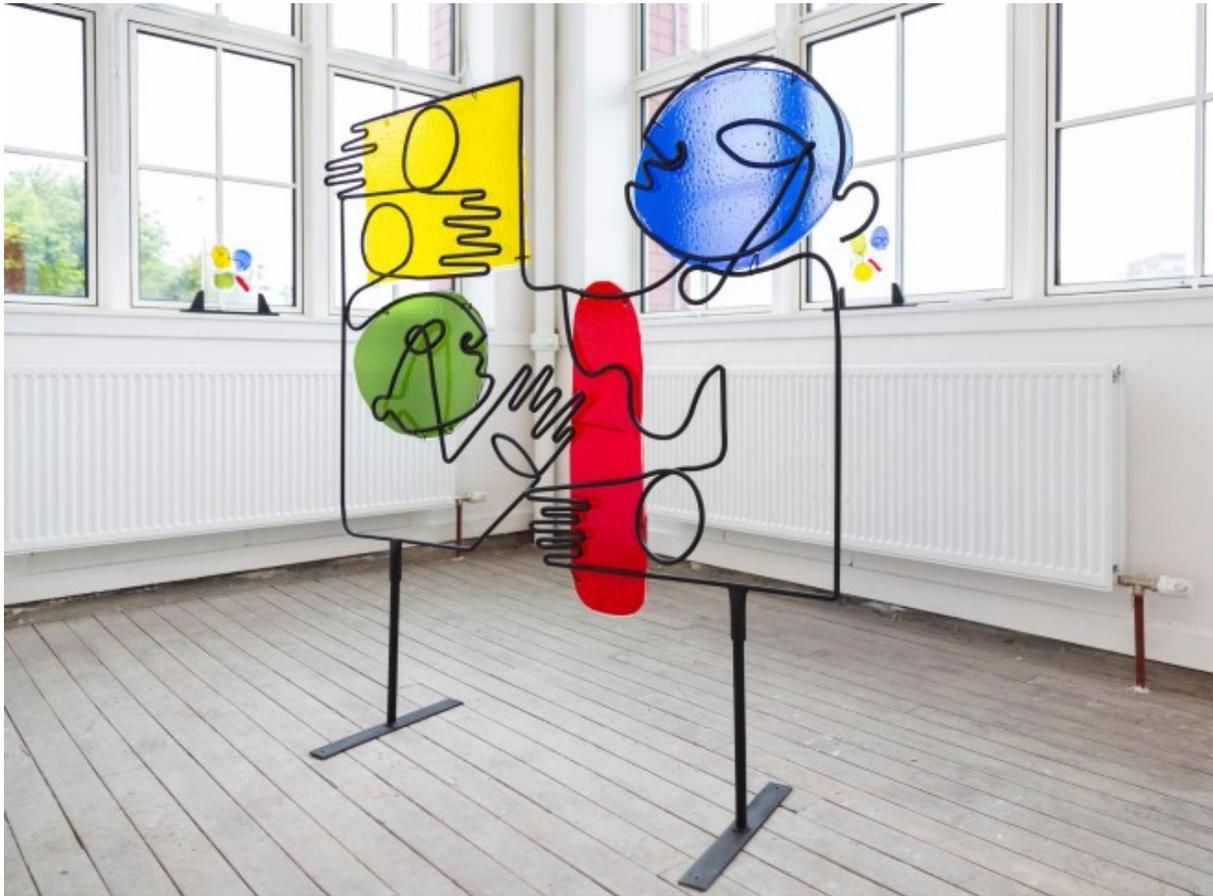
**Almudena Rocca** is a multi-disciplinary artist who graduated last year in Fine Art from the Glasgow School of Art. In the last few years she has been developing her skills using a variety of materials including metal, glass, clay, wood, digital photography, pen and pencil. Often her designs will start with a continuous line drawing and then develop into a piece of 3D work.

Inspiration comes from a very personal interest in mental ill health, politics, feminism and the role of women in art in today's society.

Having worked in a number of socially engaging art projects where practice is based on the principles of collective working, diversity and inclusion Almudena has come to realise that this is the environment in which she wishes to develop her work. An environment where sharing and collaboration of an arts practice contributes to mental ill health recovery and emotional good health and well-being.

Having already designed and sold a number of illustrations that are now exhibited in a space used to support young women living with anorexia and bulimia. Almudena is currently working with a number of

businesses both here and in America that create clothing that carry positive messages of mental wellbeing. Her designs have been used on sweatshirts, T-shirts and caps. In the future she hopes to develop her own brand of clothing with her illustrations and designs.



---

## THIS WEEKS WATCHLIST

---



After the popularity of our earlier watchlists from our film programmer Jonny (pictured left), here is another selection of great films currently streaming online on Netflix, Amazon Prime, All4 and BBC iPlayer for you to explore over the next two weeks.

This weeks watchlist features the BFG. Based on the beloved story from Roald Dahl. The BFG tells the tale of Sophie, a young girl, and a benevolent giant known as the BFG, who set out on an adventure to capture the evil, man-eating giants who have been invading the human world. Packed full of thrills, fun and magic, the BFG is the perfect family treat!

[Click here to view this weeks Watchlist.](#)

---

## LIBRARY SERVICES

---



The Library is now operating a Select and Collect service whilst procedures are put in place to make the library safe for you to use when they reopen. This means you can select the type of books or author you'd like to read, then arrange to collect them via an [online form](#) or by ringing 01670 622156.

There is still a great range of library services for you to access online, from ebooks and e audiobooks to family history resources. This year's Summer Reading Challenge for children is also online! You can explore these services at [mylibrary.co.uk](http://mylibrary.co.uk)

You can find any updates on library services via the library website and social media:

Website: [mylibrary.co.uk](http://mylibrary.co.uk)

Facebook: [Northumberland Libraries](#)

Twitter: [@NlandLibs](#)

Instagram: [@NlandLibs](#)

The library look forward to welcoming you back!

---

## CULTURE NORTHUMBERLAND

---



Culture Northumberland supports the cultural sector to have a platform, a joined up and inclusive voice. Culture and creativity are essential catalysts for positive change. Culture Northumberland are a conduit to support the needs and ambitions on the sector to enable growth and sustainability by connecting, amplifying and advocating Northumberland's culture and creativity.

If you would like to hear more about Culture Northumberland you can sign up to their quarterly newsletter [here](#).

You can also take a look at their website and keep updated via their social media channels:

Website: [www.culturenorthumberland.co.uk](http://www.culturenorthumberland.co.uk)

Facebook: [@CultureNorthumberland](https://www.facebook.com/CultureNorthumberland)

Twitter: [@CultureNland](https://twitter.com/CultureNland)

Thank you for reading In The Loop



Alnwick Playhouse  
Bondgate Without  
Alnwick  
Northumberland  
NE66 1PQ

Tel: 01665 660550  
[www.alnwickplayhouse.co.uk](http://www.alnwickplayhouse.co.uk)

Not following us  
yet?



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



  
**Northumberland**  
County Council

---

Alnwick District Playhouse Trust Limited  
registered in England and Wales Number  
2567793

Charity Number: 1020404

[Privacy Policy](#)