

# InsideOut

DORSET

## ACCESSIBILITY AT INSIDE OUT DORSET 2023

Activate are committed to making Inside Out Dorset accessible, and to championing change in the arts through our approach to access and inclusion.

We understand disability through the Social Model and we believe that it is our collective responsibility – with our partners and collaborators – to make our work and our spaces accessible as we possibly can.

We aim to do this by removing and/or reducing barriers to participation for d/Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent people, and by ensuring that everyone - no matter their age, ability, gender identity, sexuality, or cultural background - can engage meaningfully with our festival program if they wish to.

In everything we do, we have just two rules:

Anything's possible. And everyone's invited.

We will be offering several access options for different programme items and information will be added as we get closer to the festival. Call Activate on 01305 260954 or [email us](#) to discuss how you can access the festival.

### SITE ACCESS GUIDE

Our aim is to make sure you have all the information you need to enjoy Inside Out Dorset and that you feel welcome whether you use a mobility aid, assistance animal, or you are bringing a companion.

Each site has its own specific access guide, available at the [Inside Out Dorset website](#). In the Site Access Guides you will find the following details:

- Site location details

- Nearby accessible parking options and drop-off points

- The closest accessible public transport stops

- The approximate distance covered by a participant to complete the experience

- The location of accessible bathrooms

- Site specific performance information

In August, we will be providing filmed site guides available via our website

We recommend also visiting [Dorset Council's website](#) for the most up-to-date information on public transport to your event of choice.

## **PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY**

### **ASSISTED ACCESS**

This indicates assistance from a Companion may be necessary for wheelchair users to navigate the space. Please [email us](#) for more information.

Inside Out Dorset volunteers will guide audiences on the following access routes:

BSL and/or Speech Free performances

Audio Described performances

### **ACCESSIBLE BATHROOMS**

All our sites have access to accessible bathrooms, either provided by us or situated nearby. We will also have a Changing Places Toilet at every site. Please check the detailed site access information for when these will be available.

### **ACCESSIBLE VIEWING AREAS**

A priority area for disabled audiences will be marked with a sign or flag. Space for wheelchair users and various seating options will be available at each performance site.

### **TACTILE TOURS**

Tactile tours are available to people who are blind or have low vision to equitably access and enjoy our events. They can also benefit people with Autism, multisensory or learning disabilities, and are offered at a time during the event period, or prior to a performance.

Attendees can journey through different physical spaces to understand dimension, layout and scale, interact with different objects such as props and costumes to feel shape, texture and weight and have the opportunity to meet with different artists or people discussing and sharing their work.

Tactile tours are available for the following events: Clay Connection, Sisyphus, Gap of 42, Time to Loop, The Air Between Us (Poole on 17 September) Collectief Walden, De Chair et d'Os, Akademi (Bere Regis on 23 September).

### **WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE**

Inside Out Dorset mostly takes place in public spaces, and all our sites are wheelchair accessible. There is level access to each performance location. Surfaces are a mix of hard-standing and grass areas. Please refer to the specific Site Access Guide and visual story for more information about the location you are planning to visit.

## **SENSORY ACCESS**

### **QUIET SPACES**

Quiet spaces are intended to be used as a de-stressing, recovery space for sensory overwhelm. They will be comfortable and away from the event itself. Our events take place in

public spaces, but we have identified nearby areas away from festival activity that can be used as a quiet space for anyone who needs it.

Moors Valley – The Lookout

Wimborne – Crown Mead Park

Poole – Hunger Hill Green

Bere Regis – Elder Road Open Space

Weymouth – Weymouth Beach

Ask any one of our stewards or at the front of house point and they can direct you to the quiet area.

## RELAXED HOUR

Relaxed Hours are designed for people who prefer or need their environments to be more accommodating of sensory processing differences. This include people who have autism and/or ADHD, but is not limited to any specific group. More relaxed art experiences can benefit a whole range of audiences. We encourage all curious people to make use of these sessions.

We encourage people to bring what they need to be comfortable, such as headphones/headsets, blankets or pillows, sunglasses, and digital or stim devices.

What will be different? The sound will be lower, there will be appropriately briefed staff on site, and there will be an identified quiet space nearby. Documents detailing the experience, content advice, and guidelines to follow will be made available closer to the festival.

A Relaxed Hour is available at Moors Valley on Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 September between 10am and 11am (please be aware Moors Valley Park holds a park run 9-10am on weekends, which may increase visitor numbers at this time)

## CHILLED PERFORMANCES

We pride our performances on being open and accessible to all, and being outdoors and family friendly they often draw in diverse audiences. A chilled performance takes a more casual approach to noise and movement in the performance space, but the performance itself is unchanged.

The traditional rules that go along with attending a performance, such as being quiet, staying in your seat or staying awake for that matter, are changed. If you come to an Inside Out Dorset event, you can come and go freely and noise or movements in the audience are no problem.

## VISUAL STORIES

Inside Out Dorset, working with A Relaxed Company, will provide short descriptions of particular situations and events, which explain what to expect in that situation and why. This will become available in August on the [Inside Out Dorset Website](#).

## COMMUNICATION SERVICES

### AUDIO DESCRIPTION

Audio description (AD) is the auditory narration of visual aspects of live events, theatre performances, exhibitions, tours and media such as film and video. AD is prepared and

delivered by qualified audio describers through headsets which are given to audience members. AD is a tool that enhances access for people who are blind or have low vision and can benefit people with Autism, multisensory or learning disabilities.

Audio Description is available for the following events: Company Satchok, Duo Kaos, Chris Iris, Rodney Bell & Chloe Loftus, The Clay Connection (all performing in Poole on 17 September); Akademi, Collectief Walden, De Chair et d'Os (all Bere Regis on 23 September). Link to website for times and locations.

Please meet at the Front of House checkpoint to start the tour 30 minutes before each show. Please don't hesitate to [email us](#) for more information.

## BSL INTERPRETATION

Inside Out Dorset is providing BSL interpretation for specific events across the festival program.

BSL interpretation is available for the following events: Collectief Walden, De Chair et d'Os, Archie's Apple Storytime, talks (all taking place at Bere Regis on 23 September).

Check the [Inside Out Dorset Website](#) and onsite at our Front of House point during the festival for more information.

We look forward to seeing you at the festival!

Any questions please don't hesitate to contact us on the details below.

## CONTACT DETAILS

Visit the [Inside Out Dorset Website](#) for the latest information, call us on 01305 260954 or [email us](#) to discuss how you can access the festival.

# InsideOut

## DORSET

**activate**  
performing arts



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