



ARTIST, PRODUCER + EVENT MANAGER

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ABOUT

I am an artist, musician, producer and event manager, working in the art, music, festival, events and performing arts industries. Like many creatives, due to the devastating effect COVID has had on my work, I've had to put many of my professional projects on pause.

Usually, I run Aespia Festival (a 24-hour celebration of art, music, theatre and escapism) and Aespia School of Art (a touring alternative art school).

To satiate my imperishable hunger for producing and managing creative events that focus on community, connection and playful expression, I organised some COVID-appropriate, outdoor live music, storytelling, poetry and art celebrations, under my latest project, Rooted Revelry.

I'm thrilled London is opening up again, and I'm readier than ever to programme quality live experiences for people after such a sudden and gruelling drought.

PAST

I studied Fine Art at Edinburgh College of Art, specialising in Painting and Performance Art. For my degree show, I performed live for 10 consecutive days inside an installation I built, and invited spectators to become participants by painting my body and bedroom.

After graduating, I moved back to London and set up a live arts and music events company that makes art more accessible and more appealing to a

wider audience, by challenging the too often rigid and restrictive common gallery experience.





Edinburgh College of Art, 2013

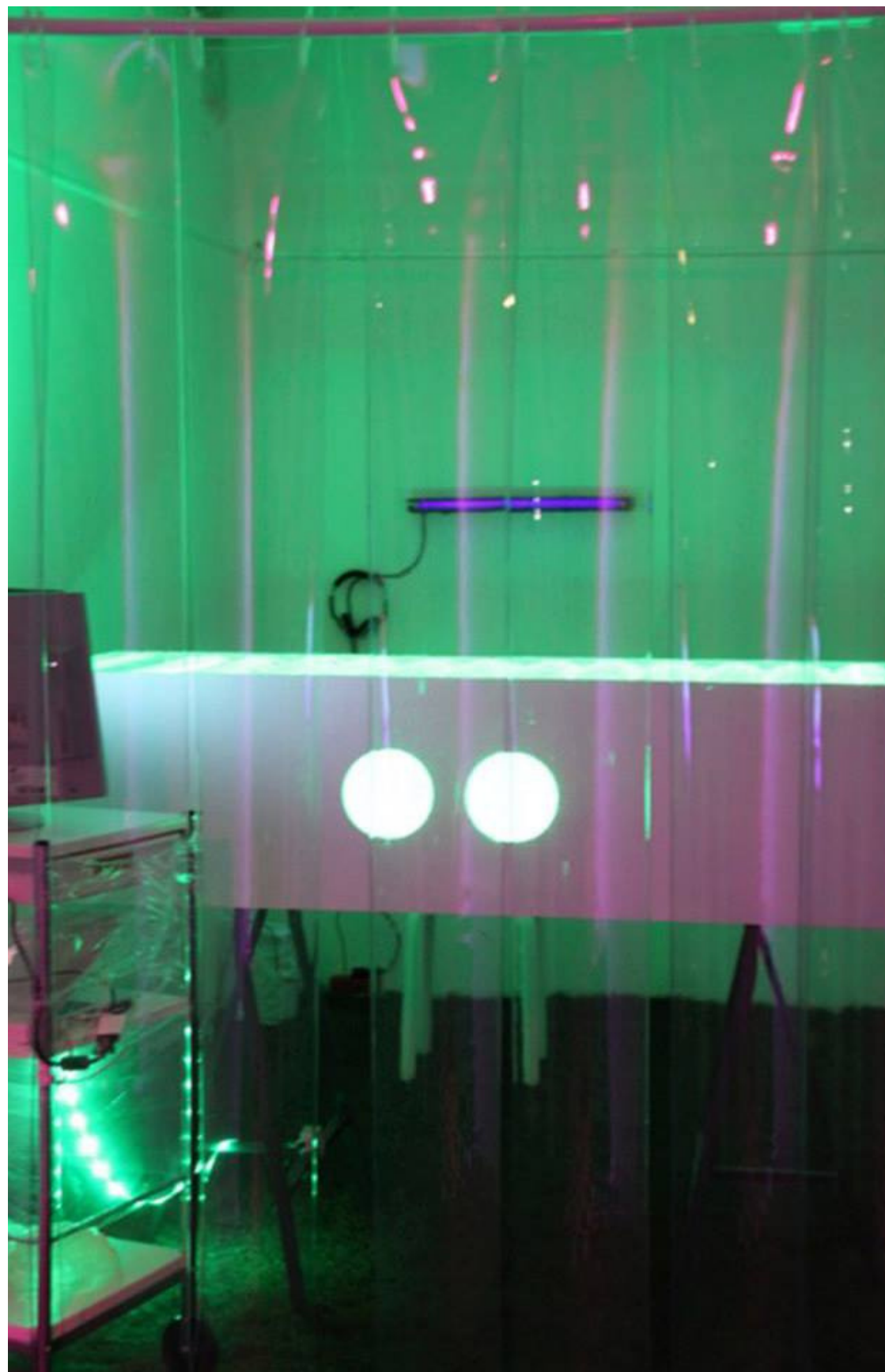


Edinburgh College of Art, 2013

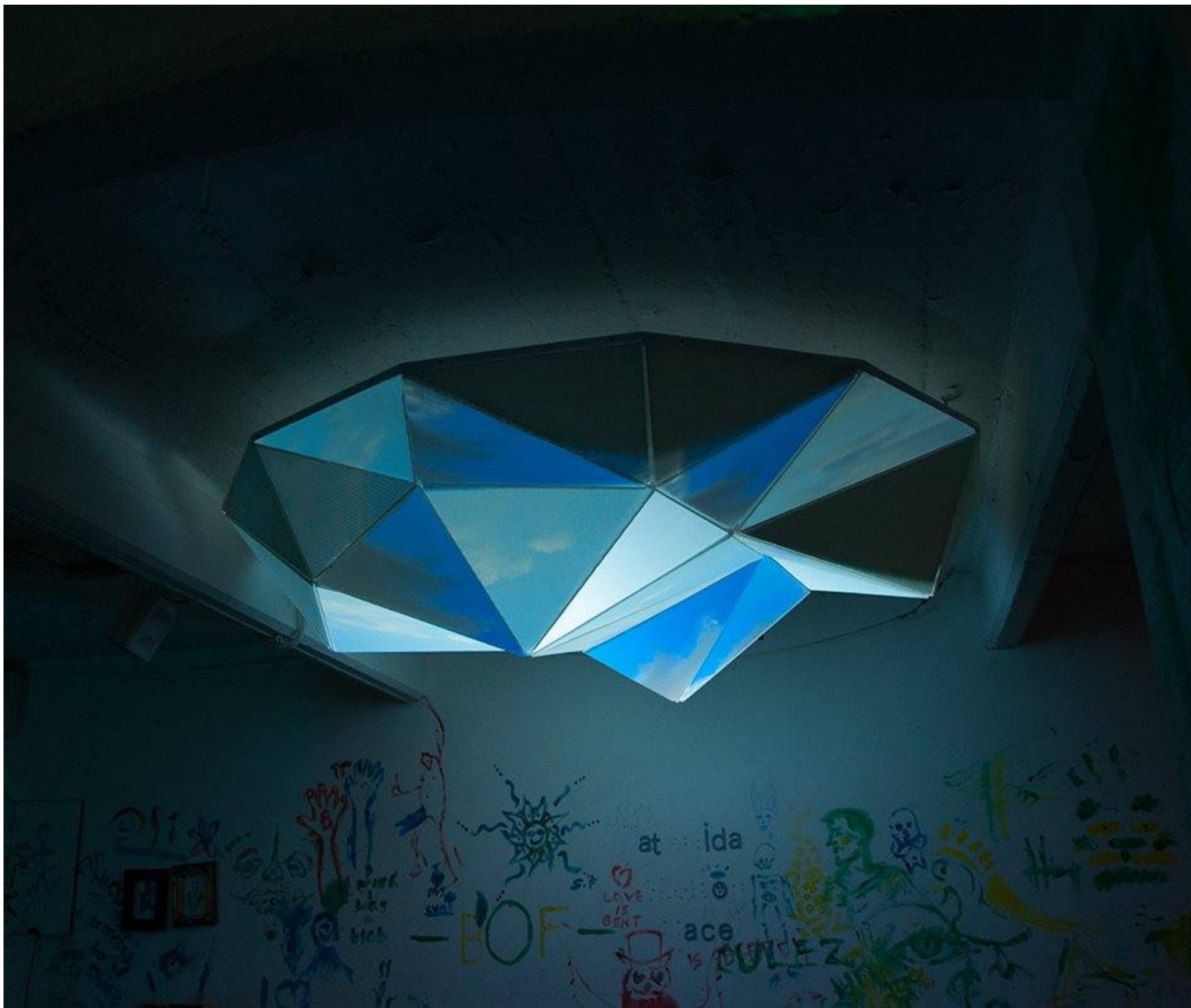
I produced art parties in hidden basement venues in East London that showcased art with attitude by local emerging talent, and recent graduates from renowned art schools, such as Central Saint Martins, UAL and Goldsmiths: painters, performance artists, sculptors, video artists, light artists and more.

After sold out events and an electric response from participants, I was determined to push the concept further, which led me to producing my first festival, held in a secret woodland location an hour from London.





Aespia presents: LOST CHAPTER I @ Hoxton Basement, 2014



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I ran Aespia Festival for three consecutive years between 2015 - 2017, before taking a break to focus on touring Aespia School of Art around UK and European festivals from 2018 - present.

Aespia School of Art has travelled from the Isle of Wight (for Bestival), to the Rhodope Mountains in Bulgaria (for Meadows in the Mountains); other festivals we've produced takeovers at include Latitude, Camp Bestival and Pangaea.

We inhabited the woods at Bestival

between 2016 - 2018, sharing a taste of Aespia magic with their audience.

During those three years, we produced music stages, art installations, and live music, theatre, dance and performance art.

We hosted inclusive and playful creative workshops, with a focus on connection, communication and releasing everyone's inner artist.



Aespia Festival, 2018



Aespia Festival, 2018



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Aespia Festival, 2018

My most valued recognition for running Aespia so far has been winning the '**New Festival on the Block**' award from the Association of Independent Festivals in 2018.

I was nominated for the same award in 2017, alongside some fantastic independent festivals. Attending the awards ceremony allowed me to meet likeminded producers, independent companies, and creatives I'm still collaborating with today.

Although I'm forever blown away by the dedication from my beloved team, and

witnessing the faces of engaged and ecstatic participants, winning the award added depth and determination to what I do, which I'm eternally grateful for.



RECENT WORK

Sadly, all Aespia projects have had to be postponed between 2020 - present, due to COVID.

In the meantime, I've been focusing on my self-employed work as a graphic and website designer, working on TV and Film Sets, and producing smaller scale, outdoor events:

→ Rooted Revelry x WOM presents:
Burns Night (Producer & Event

Manager) // January 2022

An intimate, cosy evening of Scottish Folklore, Poetry & Singing to celebrate Burns Night and explore Scotland's epic beauty, from the depths of murky Lochs to the peaks of jagged Highland Mountains.

→ *Feature Film, Ascendant Films*
(Assistant Art Director) // September - November 2021

I was the Assistant Art Director for a Feature

Film set in Oxford, produced by Ascendant Films. Reporting to the Production Designer and Art Director, and managing the Art Department Assistants, I was responsible for a myriad of tasks, including: set design and dressing; props buying and making; sourcing and hiring subcontractors; graphic design and on-set continuity. This was a very hands-on, team-focused, fast-paced, solution-finding role.

→ *Channel 4 Comedy Series, Roughcut IV (Props Dresser) // August - September 2021*

I was a Props Dresser on the Art Department for a brand new, coming-of-age, LGBTQIA+ Channel 4 comedy series. I was responsible

for: dressing the sets; making and dressing the props; graphic design and on-set continuity. This was a very hands-on, team-focused, fast-paced, solution-finding role.

→ *Rooted Revelry presents:
Summer Soirée (Producer & Event Manager) // July 2021*

Guests were whisked away to the woods for a dusk-til-dawn, lovingly curated celebration of creativity, community and connection, in the form of a 1-day festival. The storytelling, performance poetry and live music was all complemented by a delicious feast, artwork by local artists and DJs playing under the moon's magnificent light.



Rooted Revelry, 2021



Rooted Revelry, 2021

PREVIOUS WORK

→ *Aespia Festival & Aespia School of Art (Director) || 2013 - Present*

For almost a decade, I've been directing the vision of Aespia; producing festivals and events; managing a team of artists, musicians, performers, volunteers, build and decor crew, health and safety staff, food traders and bar crew, stewards, subcontractors and workshop facilitators; programming the full line ups; collaborating with other like-minded, independent arts and music festivals; and establishing and nurturing relationships with

venues with a similar vision.



→ *Insync Events (Event Assistant & Graphic Designer) // May 2019 - March 2020*

I worked for Insync on their core events team, assisting them with their regular corporate events series for Google, YouTube and Spotify, including Spotify's London Christmas party.

As it was such a small team, my responsibilities were broad and involved assisting the Events Manager and Creative Director with all tasks during the planning stages, live event, and aftermath.

I was also the in-house Graphic Designer, which involved designing invitations, newsletters, logos, and all proposal packs.

While I usually work on, and for, independent projects and companies, I do find corporate events exhilarating, and revel in the seemingly limitless freedom of big budgets, that allow for a very different style of ambitious, creative thinking, and booking a glittering line up of incredible music acts.

I believe having experience producing and managing events at both ends of the spectrum has taught me balance, integrity and an approachable, authentic professionalism.

→ *Aespia presents: The Glass Theatre x Stour Space (Producer & Event Manager) // November 2019*

I produced a live art, theatre, comedy, cabaret, drag, burlesque and storytelling event at Stour Space in Hackney Wick, with artworks, creative workshops, DJs and dancing. We transformed the art gallery into a cosy-living-room-style theatre, decorated the mezzanine for our Aespia School of Art workshop space, and built a bespoke DJ booth.

It was immensely important and inspiring to showcase such a variety of live performing arts, by LGBTQIA+, Black, Indigenous, Asian, femme, gender diverse, neurodiverse, and disabled artists.

We were proud to show off Adam Frost, Len Blanco, Onyx Fatale, Mr Wesley Dykes, The Embers Collective, The Yonis and many more.





Aespia presents: The Glass Theatre @ Stour Space, 2019



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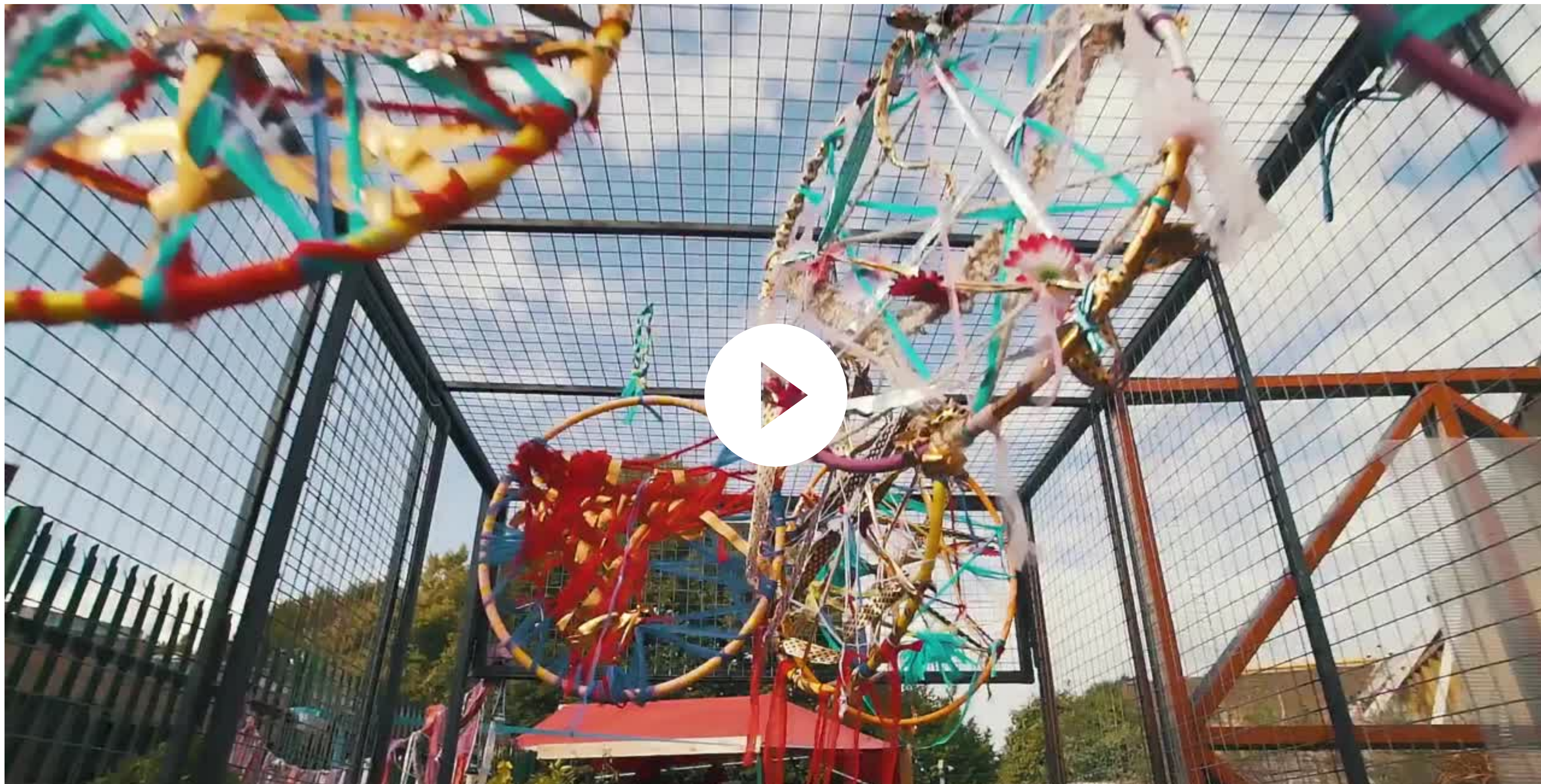
→ *Aespia: London Takeover x Grow
Tottenham (Producer & Event Manager) //
September 2019*

I produced an Aespia London Takeover 16-hour festival, celebrating live art, music, theatre and escapism at Grow Tottenham.

We transformed the space into three worlds: THE SHACK (part sound system, part museum, part exhibition, built from found and discarded wood, sharing video art and music from Jungle and DnB to Hip Hop and Film Score, all in the form of an art installation, which was complemented by interactive, hanging, sensory light sculptures by artist Jade Ping of Interlume Studio and a live mural painted by local artist Sarah Warner); THE CAVE (late night rave cave,

curated by Aespia resident DJs, Jnr Smooth, Keisuke and Late Nite Johnson, and London's passionate record collectors, Nicky Soft Touch, Man Like Stack and Leopold, which was complemented by a participatory light installation by Central Saint Martins graduate, Theola Sturridge); and THE GLASS THEATRE (the birth of Aespia's queer little sister, with an international line-up of performers from Melbourne, Venezuela, Edinburgh and beyond, like Andrea Spisto, Jack Sears, Lily Asch, Indianna Split, Justin Nott and many more).

In addition to the worlds, participants were treated to creative workshops, delicious vegan and veggie food by Eden of The Beanstalk, an art stall by Brighton painter Alexandra Ffion, the Aespia paint bar, and an outdoor gallery.



Aespia: London Takeover @ Grow Tottenham, 2019



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Aespia: London Takeover @ Grow Tottenham, 2019

→ *Meadows in the Mountains*
(Programmer, Manager & Workshop
Facilitator) // 2017 - 2019

For three consecutive years I've collaborated with Mummar Mountain at Meadows in the Mountains festival in Bulgaria, by hosting the stage, programming DJs and musicians, and facilitating creative workshops.

We've shared a taste of Aespia's magic with a takeover each year, bringing some of our most beloved artists, poets, storytellers, performers, musicians and DJs.

→ *Field Maneuvers (Art Department)* //
September 2018

I was delighted to be a member of the Art Department at Field Maneuvres, decorating, painting and splashing character and colour throughout the site.

It was a pleasure to be involved in another independent festival of a similar size to Aespia, and I hope to collaborate with them further.

→ *Bestival (Producer & Area Manager)* //
2016 - 2018

I produced an Aespia area, nestled in the woods at Bestival, for three consecutive years. We showcased a variety of music stages, interactive art installations, hanging sculptures, decor, performers, dancers, musicians, DJs and workshops.



Aespia School of Art @ Bestival, 2018



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→ *Camp Bestival (Producer & Area Manager) // August 2018*

After sparking up a great relationship with the Bestival founders and creative department, I produced a family friendly Aespia takeover in the woods at Camp Bestival.

Our area was bursting with vibrant decor, with an Aespia School of Art DJ booth, outdoor gallery for painting and murals, and cosy dens and seating areas for parents to watch, as their children revelled in all the creative workshops we hosted, such as Feet Painting Percussion Party, Blindfolded Sculpture + Storytelling, and Picnic Poetry, all taught by Aespia's qualified teachers, and enhanced by a live DJ set played by Jnr Smooth.



Further previous work:

→ 2018 || ARUSHA GALLERY x LONDON ART FAIR + EDINBURGH ART FAIR (ART CONSULTANT + EXHIBITION ASSISTANT)

→ JULY 2018 || NOISILY FESTIVAL (WORKSHOP FACILITATOR)

→ JULY 2018 || LATITUDE FESTIVAL (STAGE CREW & WORKSHOP FACILITATOR)

→ MARCH 2016 || AESPIA PRESENTS: LOST in BRISTOL x THE ISLAND (PRODUCER, EVENT MANAGER + ARTIST)

→ MARCH 2015 || AESPIA PRESENTS: LOST CHAPTER II x HOXTON BASEMENT (PRODUCER, EVENT MANAGER + ARTIST)

→ NOVEMBER 2014 || AESPIA PRESENTS: LOST CHAPTER I x HOXTON BASEMENT (PRODUCER, EVENT MANAGER + ARTIST)





Aespia Festival, 2018

THANK YOU FOR READING

Please feel free to get in touch, to ask questions or request references.
I hope to hear from you soon.

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Jodie Powell