

Accredited and non-accredited courses in:

Pre-employment training
Drama
Music
Video-making
Creative writing

Designed for use within the
criminal justice system



A creative approach

Accessible and Engaging Activities

Measurable Outcomes

Experienced Delivery Teams

Complete Project Management

These courses have been developed through the generous support of
the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund



Escape Artists
Registered Charity No. 1086004
Company Limited by Guarantee No. 4041776

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"The whole team of Escape Artists is professional, supportive and a joy to work with. I stayed with the team for the whole course and completely enjoyed myself. I look forward to working with you again in the future."

FE Team Leader, HMYOI Portland

The Escape Artists Story

Escape Artists began in HMP Wayland, Norfolk, UK in the early '90s. The group was established by life prisoners who in 1991 recruited theatre director Matthew Taylor to come and work with them.

Together they produced *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* by Dario Fo, *Waiting for Godot* by Samuel Beckett, and many other plays including *Loot* by Joe Orton and *The Homecoming* by Harold Pinter, who is now one of the company's patrons. The group's work was regularly featured on television and in the press and was praised by academics in the UK and abroad.

On ending his work at the prison Matthew Taylor set up **Escape Artists**, in partnership with two ex-prisoners, with the aim of preventing people from going to prison by involving them in theatre, establishing the company with its inaugural production, Harold Pinter's *The Dumb Waiter* in 1996.

Since then the company has broadened its horizons, although at heart it is still driven by the same vital concerns: a belief that anyone, no matter what they have done, can change and develop through involvement in the arts. Now **Escape Artists** runs arts based workshops in hospitals, prisons, Young Offender Institutions and the community; we work with filmmakers, theatre practitioners, dancers and musicians touring shows to professional theatres and the secure estate in this country and in Europe.



"Ever tried. Ever failed. No matter. Try again.

Fail again. Fail better."

Samuel Beckett

The Wider Context

The Home Office and Departments of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), Education (DfES) and Health (DOH), as well as the Arts Council and many independent trusts and foundations, all believe that **the arts** significantly contribute to wider social issues and can achieve greater **inclusion**, community cohesion and regeneration.

The arts have the capacity to positively transform the lives of individuals, communities and regions by offering innovative solutions, building bridges, articulating differences, promoting lifelong learning and dismantling boundaries. It is encouraging, therefore, to find the continuing development of **arts-related Government initiatives** within the areas of regeneration, education, the criminal justice system, employment and health.

The Government has identified three key actions which can counteract the problems leading to social exclusion: **Preventing those at risk from becoming excluded; Reintegrating those who have been excluded; & Ensuring that service standards become more inclusive.**

For instance an initiative such as PLUS, which is jointly funded by DfES, YJB and the Arts Council England, aims to tackle one of the key risk factors associated with offending behaviour - low educational attainment.

The work of **Escape Artists** is **rooted in the arts** and **embraces and integrates these key actions** across its education, training and community activities. We strive to **improve access** to the arts, to foster and **enhance** the personal creativity of our clients and to provide a bridge from the margins to the mainstream. We use the arts as a tool for **personal development** and strongly believe they can facilitate the acquisition of transferable skills, social skills, self esteem and confidence.

Who We Serve

Contractors

Organisations seeking bespoke
arts and pre-employment
training programmes

Artists

Individuals requiring
support services
for their work
at the social margins

Actors
Writers
Dancers
Directors
Musicians
Designers
Composers
Technicians
Visual Artists
Choreographers
Video & Film Makers



Youth Inclusion Support Panel
Shelters for Homeless People
Young Offender Institutions
Youth Offending Teams
Mental Health Hospitals
Pupil Referral Units
Arts Organisations
Probation Services
Council Services
Secure Units
Arts Venues
Hospices
Prisons

Identifies the needs
of individuals and
organisations

Stakeholders

Individuals &
Organisations
interested in
supporting
& developing
Socially
Inclusive
arts

Clients

People from
the social
Margins
who can
benefit
from our
services

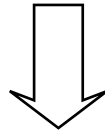
Matches those needs with
the appropriate services

Creates the context
for sustainable
development

Mental Health Service Users
Long-term Unemployed
People in Hospice Care
Secure Unit Residents
Young People at Risk
Serving Prisoners
Young Offenders
Homeless People

Trusts &
Foundations
Students
Audiences
Businesses
Arts Council
Researchers
Public Sector
PLUS Strategy
Prison Services
Health Services
Education Services
Youth Justice Board
Government Agencies

What are the Needs? for contractors



Contractors need to
work with **specialist
agencies with** a thorough
understanding **of the sector**

who can provide:

Bespoke Programmes

Creative thinking

Accessible & engaging activities

Measurable Outcomes

Accredited Courses

Quality Assurance

Security

Complete Project Management

Experienced service providers

Project Evaluation

Our Response:

The Toolkit

for contractors

You recognise that the arts can be a powerfully enabling tool with which to motivate and engage your clients in a wide range of enriching educational activities.

Alongside your existing arts provision there is often the need for additional support. But...

Where can you find the resources, the trained personnel, the right programme to fit your particular needs?

Who is going to manage the day-to-day administration - sourcing and employing appropriate artists, handling security issues such as CRB clearances, Child Protection, Risk Assessment?

Where can you get accredited courses covering a range of fields from pre-employment training to drama delivered by trained experts with a thorough knowledge of your needs?

Who is going to evaluate the project efficiently and independently so that you can be assured of being presented with a clear picture of measurable outcomes?

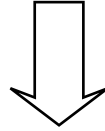
How can you be assured that your clients are accessing a practical and inspiring programme which addresses their social and educational needs in a safe, controlled learning environment?

And if these services are successfully delivered, where can you go from there? How can you ensure that your clients are able to continue to develop their skills and abilities in the future?

Escape Artists provides the tools you need to efficiently create a stimulating programme, designed to meet your needs and the needs of your clients.



What are the Needs? for clients



Clients need **fresh perspectives**
brought to them by people who can provide
practical alternatives
to real problems :

Access to a wide range of arts experiences

Access to key skills

Channels for positive self expression

Confidence building activities

Positive environments & role models

Pathways to lifelong learning

Nationally recognised training

Professional and pastoral support

on release

Our Response:

The Bridge

for clients

Our core aim as an organisation is to build a bridge for our clients which provides them with a route from the margins to the mainstream.

Ultimately, this means that people with the skills and motivation to cross the bridge can go on to gain sustainable employment in our own organisation or elsewhere within the cultural sector.

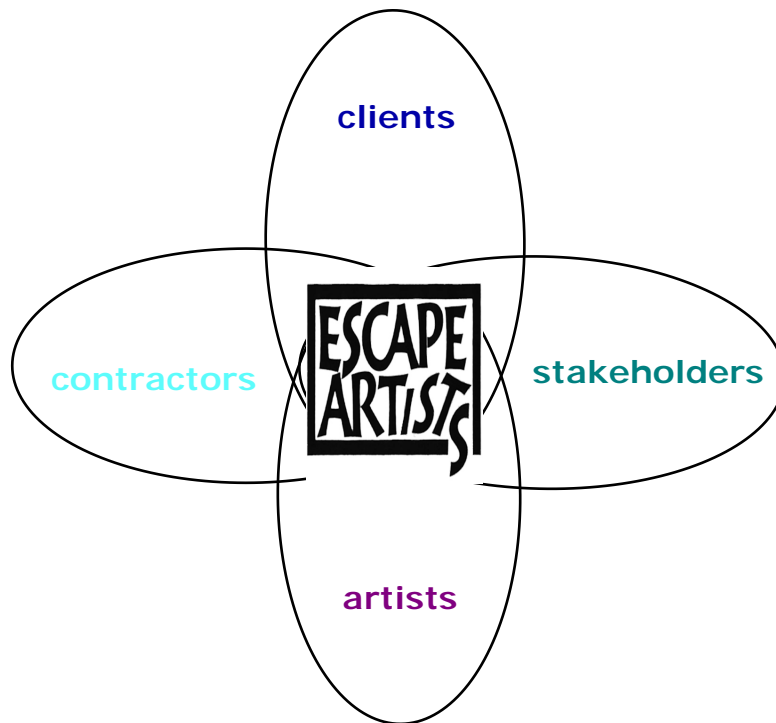
It also allows those within the mainstream to learn more about and understand the perspectives of others with very different life experiences.

However, we realise that successfully crossing our bridge is just one possible outcome in a journey that may present countless other opportunities or setbacks.

That's why we are striving to create an integrated way of working that provides structured support at all points on our bridge, so that those clients not willing or able to cross can access other routes to personal and professional development.



Bringing it all together



Escape Artists fulfills its purpose at the meeting point of **clients, contractors, artists** and **stakeholders** - providing a service which achieves tangible educational results, developing sustainable pathways to personal growth and change through professionally managed artistic activity.

Why work with us?



We understand that before you can even consider working with an outside agency, before you can consider any services on offer, there are various things of which you need assurance, including:

+ Security

We provide:

Staff with enhanced CRB clearance.

Up-to-date policies covering:

Child Protection
Risk Assessment
Confidentiality

With over ten years of experience of working within the secure estate throughout the UK, as well as in high-security prisons in Northern Ireland, Italy and Germany **Escape Artists** is thoroughly accustomed to the risks of working with offenders and ex-offenders.

A number of our delivery staff have the YJB's Professional Certificate in Effective Practice and **Escape Artists** actively seeks to ensure all staff have access to the latest information and training for working within the Criminal Justice System.

Why work with us?



+ Complete Project Management

We provide:

The Artistic Team
Marketing materials
CRB clearances
Technical equipment
Accreditation administration
Financial management
Monitoring

Escape Artists is able to manage an entire project on your behalf, working flexibly within the requirements you set. This means we can take care of all the logistical arrangements - CRB clearances, financial and administrative support, the accreditation process - delivering projects when and where you need them.

We are a non-profit organisation with the knowledge and experience to facilitate strong partnerships, ensuring that you receive an efficient, high-quality service which can quickly adapt to match your needs and the needs of your clients.

Why work with us?



+ Educational Outcomes

We provide:

Trained Personnel
Stimulating educational materials
Tutorial support
Props and equipment
Evaluation Reports

Escape Artists offers a number of OCN-accredited courses which can be delivered as an accessible and lively component of an artistic programme.

If required, our programmes can incorporate PLUS Enrichment materials designed to raise standards of literacy and numeracy.

Or we can produce a play or a film with clients tackling an issue you would like them to address. These unaccredited activities, which are less costly than an accredited course, can offer fresh perspectives and greatly enhance personal confidence, team-working and the development of social skills.

The menu



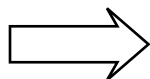
Here is a selection of our services for you to choose from : once you have made your choice, we put it together into a complete package. If there is anything you require which does not appear here, talk to us: we have the resources and experience to create specialised services, tailor-made to fit your needs.

ART-FORMS

Drama
Music
Dance

Pre-Employment Training
(based on drama techniques)

Video-making



Select the art forms that you want us to employ. We will put a specialist team together to ensure the best possible outcomes.

TIMESCALE

2-hours

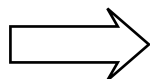
1 - 3 days

1 - 2 weeks

6 weeks

1 year rolling programme

Other



Choose a timescale that is right for you.

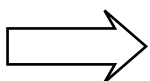
OCN ACCREDITED COURSES

Entry level 1

Entry Level 2

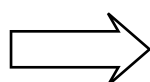
Level 1

Level 2



Decide whether you want an accredited or a non-accredited course. We need a minimum of 30 hours to deliver accredited courses. Our pre-employment training course is based on drama techniques and is available at OCN level 1 or level 2. A full list of our OCN courses is available at the end of this document.

PLUS Enrichment



PLUS enrichment materials are easily incorporated into our programmes.

The menu

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ADDRESS AN ISSUE

(Examples)

Bullying

Cultural diversity

Substance Misuse

Unemployment

Learning difficulties

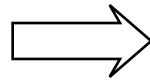
Mental health

Physical Disabilities

Parenting

Victim Awareness

Offending Behaviour



Would you like us to look at an issue within the programme? We have experienced writers and directors who can work closely with you and your clients to help raise awareness of issues that you believe need to be addressed.

HARD OUTCOMES

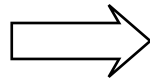
Produce a play

Make a video

Write & Record a song

Produce a short film

Public performance



We like to provide our clients with some form of tangible outcome at the end of one of our programmes. You decide whether we should help them to record a song, make a short film or put on a performance. We have the technical resources .

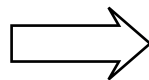
SOFT OUTCOMES

Skills development

Increase of self esteem

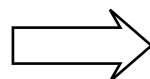
Socials skills and team work

Basic skills improvements



Our programmes foster the development of clients' personal confidence, social skills and team-working abilities - essential attributes for those seeking employment on release.

EVALUATION



If you want an evaluation report on a programme that we deliver we will produce one.

Example of a project delivered in the Criminal Justice System



Through *New Directions*, a project funded by the Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, **Escape Artists** delivered two National Open College Network-accredited courses, in Pre-Employment Training and Performance, to four Young Offender Institutions.

For each YOI, Escape Artists put together a team of experienced practitioners with combined skills in drama, video-making, movement and training-for-work.

We selected and trained the team, taking care of the institutions' every requirement: from managing CRB clearances, insurances, Child Protection policies, to contracts, travel and accommodation - as well as providing equipment, educational materials, accreditation and evaluation to ensure that the young people had the best opportunities to succeed.

In each institution, the team were quickly able to establish a lively and positive environment in which young people were engaged and given the encouragement and support they needed to maintain focus throughout the two-week programme, enabling them to achieve concrete results.

85% of young offenders on the programme achieved the NOCN accreditation and obtained certificates.

This is just one example of our work within the Criminal Justice System.

We have also delivered arts programmes for [Youth Offending Teams](#), Connexions, Adult prisons, [The Probation Service](#), Arts development agencies, [secure hospitals](#), Arts venues, the Youth Justice Board and others.

What people said about

New Directions

"The staff and presenters were very professional and enthusiastic. The success of this programme is a reflection of their commitment."

"The students increased their self esteem and awareness. Their knowledge of employment possibilities have been enhanced (...) The acquisition of a certification has been an immense good in terms of self assurance."

Enrichment Co-Ordinator on Pre-employment Training – [HMYOI Glen Parva](#)

"The group have definitely improved their team work skills and their ability to communicate ... They seem more confident."

Learning & Skills Manager – [HMYOI Huntercombe](#)

"Excellent facilitators! Very well managed in total, well done."

Education Manager – [HMYOI Wetherby](#)

"When the students returned to education on the Monday, all you could hear was a buzz about the drama workshop, with other students asking: "When can I do one? – When can I do one?" The students from the course seemed a little sad and kept saying to their teachers: "I wish I was still on the drama course..."

FE Team Leader – [HMYOI Portland](#)

Examples of other programmes we can run

Music and Maths

Delivered as an 8 day workshop centred on the creation of a piece of music, this programme has the additional benefit of increasing participants' levels of numeracy.

Fathers in Jail

4 day workshop for fathers in custody, addressing a range of issues and providing comprehensive information about the support services available.

OCN accredited Drama Course

10 day introduction to Drama in which participants have an opportunity to create their own piece of drama, perform in front of an audience and receive a certificate in Performance Level 1 and a DVD of the project.

Music and Literacy

An intensive eight-day OCN accredited course dedicated to raising literacy levels. Delivered in part through music composition workshops in which participants are encouraged to write their own lyrics and create a new piece of music. Each participant can gain certification in Adult Literacy and will receive recordings of their work.

Our OCN programme

+

The primary aim of our programme is to promote and support the development of **creative and social skills** by providing learners with a range of opportunities to explore their creativity in a **variety of contexts** and to stimulate their social awareness, using the arts as a tool to facilitate the learning process.

A strong focus is given to **preparing and enabling learners to approach employment**, and / or further training, with confidence and to improve access to the creative industries.

The **arts** is at the core of programme delivery and is used in various mediums to achieve learning outcomes. Drama is a strong element in most courses but other artforms such as music, video and creative writing might be employed depending on the interests of the participants. **Teaching methods** are **dynamic** and **encourage direct participation** from the learners through practical exercises and hands on experience.

Traditional classroom tutorials are kept to a minimum as most teaching takes place through informal group activity.

Here are the courses we can deliver:

Speaking & Listening

Entry 1
Entry 2
Entry 3
Level One
Level Two

Reading

Entry 1
Entry 2
Entry 3
Level One
Level Two

...

Our OCN programme

+ +

Writing for Meaning

Entry 1
Entry 2
Entry 3
Level One
Level Two

Creative Arts

Entry
Level One

Performance

Level One
Level Two

Pre-Employment Training

Level One
Level Two

Vocational Preparation

Level One
Level Two

Group and Teamwork

Level One
Level Two

Challenging Prejudice & Discrimination

Level One
Level Two