



www.dreadnoughtsouthwest.org.uk

Dreadnought South West is an Exeter based arts and heritage charity. Focusing on the telling and celebrating of the stories of women and girls. Established in 2012 to undertake a first major project in 2013 across the South West, we toured a theatre show 'Oxygen' that told the previously unknown story of suffragists who walked all the way from Land's End to Hyde Park, as part of the great 1913 women's suffrage pilgrimage. Demanding their right to vote. We stopped in the places the women stopped. 'Oxygen' was written by playwright Natalie McGrath and directed by Josie Sutcliffe.

To compliment this theatre tour, through working with communities and places that we visited, 45 attached arts and heritage projects emerged celebrating the story of these women. They were specific to people and place along the route.

6,500 people engaged or were part of an audience or project for this activity in 2013.

Oxygen, 2013

"Beautiful and uplifting." The Stage

"Loved the urgency and vitality of Dreadnought South West and Oxygen the play – an achievement that goes far, far beyond a night at the theatre."

"Brilliantly written, cleverly directed and exquisitely acted, a fitting theatrical tribute to an amazing piece of our history."

"Oxygen is an uplifting and touching reminder of what we have achieved so far and of how far we still have to go."

In 2016 we became a registered charity. Our Purpose is:

'To advance the education of the public, and in particular but not exclusively women and girls, in the role of women in society from both an historical and modern day perspective, in particular by using the medium of the arts.'



Our Rebellious Sounds programme of work has seen Dreadnought SW run a range of workshops over the past few years, including writing, fe-manifesto workshops led by artists, speaking out and singing. We have toured to libraries to find out about women and their activism, hosted a diversity platform in Exeter, and we annually have a stall now as part of Exeter Respect Festival.

We also developed our new theatre show as part of a roadshow style event, with early script copy being given performed readings to audiences who then fed back to us. This was a great way of inviting the public into how we develop a new play. We then responded to this feedback to move the content of the play, then known as 'The Orchard', forward.

Our annual event to celebrate the voices and stories of women and girls is a collaboration with Exeter's Community Radio Phonic FM, called Occupy the Airwaves.

Starting in 2016 as a pilot project where around 30 women got involved to produce 6 hours of radio on International Women's Day (8th March), was such a welcome event that we sought funding for it in 2017. This led to a 16 hour show from 8am until midnight, once again on Phonic. This time over 70 women and girls were involved in some way, and Dreadnought SW was able to provide free radio and podcast training thanks to support from Arts Council England and Exeter City Council and Fawcett Devon supported the venture as well.

Dreadnought SW is also developing the first archive of stories of women's activism from across the South West Region. Please get in touch if you think you have a story to contribute. We want this to be a resource for the future.

2018 sees the commemoration of the very first votes for some women in the UK. Dreadnought SW has been developing a new theatre show to tour to mark this centenary, called 'The Cause' (formerly known as 'The Orchard'). It is an imagined meeting between the two great women suffrage leaders; Millicent Fawcett and Emmeline Pankhurst.

Dreadnought's Co-Directors are Josie Sutcliffe and Natalie McGrath.

We have a Board of Trustees of seven extraordinary women.

Dreadnought South West is based in Exeter, but works across the South West region.

FB Dreadnought South West / Twitter @DreadnoughtSW

If you would like to join our mailing list, please do have a look at our website. If you would like to get involved or volunteer with us in some way, then please email us on: info@dreadnoughtsw@gmail.com

Dreadnought SW in the past has been funded by Arts Council England, Fawcett Devon, Elmgrant Trust, Exeter City Council.



Dreadnought South West - Registered Charity No: 1170038