



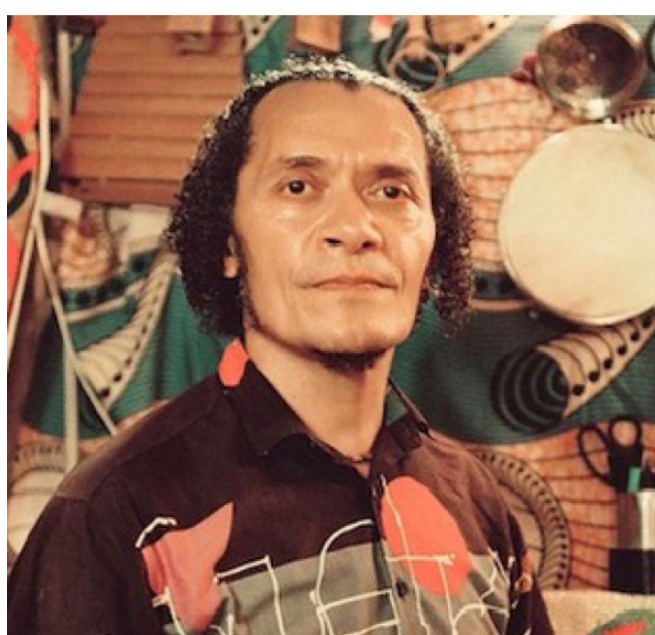
International composer Rzgar Hama Rauf who will be headlining the Festival on Saturday 5 March from Kurdistan, Iraq. He has been working for 17 years in the field of developing and learning music for children and all ages. He plays many musical instruments including flute, lute, saz instrument, piano, violin, duduk balaban and banjo.



TV presenter, author and President of the RSPB Miranda Krestovnikoff will be headlining the Main Stage on Saturday 5 March. In the last 20 years she has presented television and radio stories around the world, on environmental issues, travel, wreck diving, fine foods, metal detecting, classical music, local history and marine conservation, but my real passion is exploring the wildlife I see around me from day to day.



Martim is a visual artist and lived abroad for some years in the UK and Brazil, where he co-founded MADAME TEATRO, an interdisciplinary arts platform. He is now based in Lisbon where he has his studio.



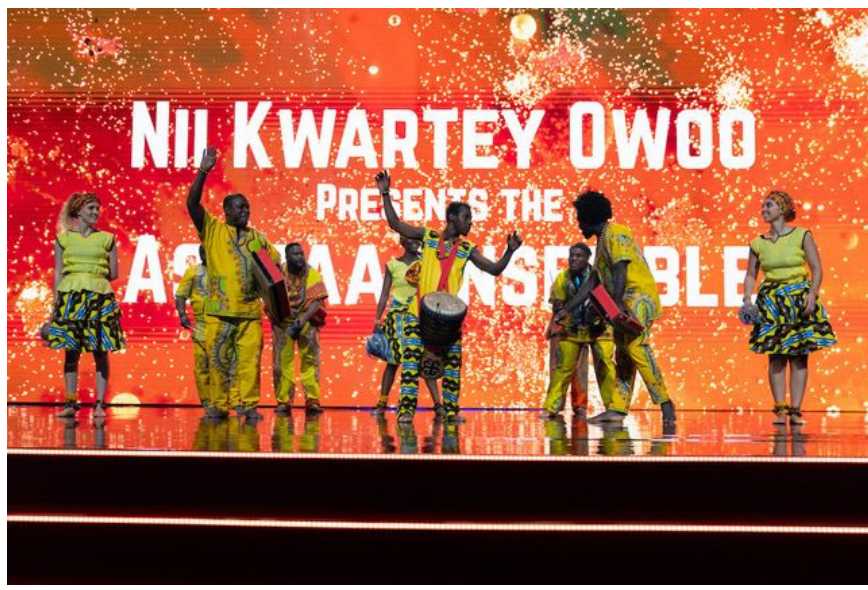
David Stickman Higgins is an experienced musician, spoken word poet, actor and storyteller. His work explores issues about human rights, positive truths of Afro Caribbean identity and global identity.

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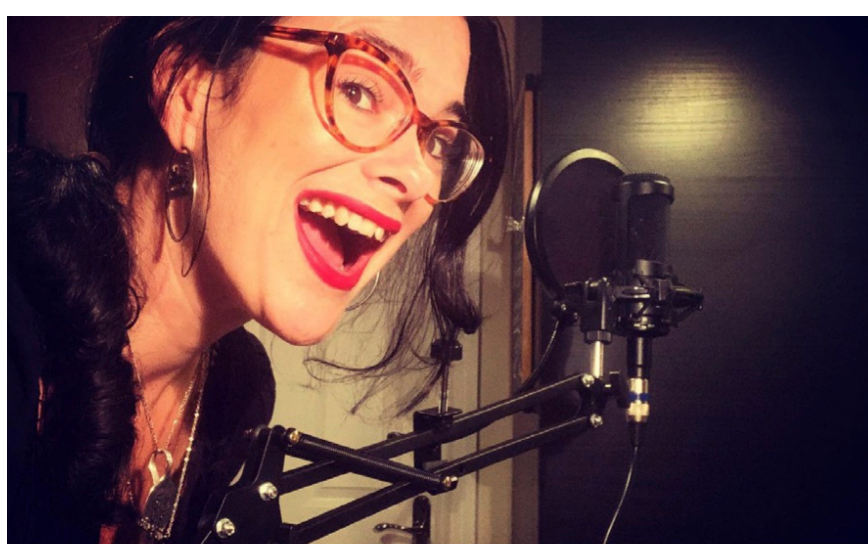
Asasaa Ensemble are headlining UNITY Festival on Sunday afternoon. They combine traditional dance and music with contemporary performance, founded by Artistic Director & Choreographer Nii Kwartey Owoo.



Drag Castle are one of our headliners on Sunday. They are a drag artist super group in Newcastle Upon Tyne consisting of inspiring and creative drag artists currently taking the city by storm. Their main aim is to use political comedy within their shows to inspire the audience in a meaningful and playful way.



Originally from Accra, Ghana, Nii Kwartey Owoo is now based in the UK and draws on his Ga heritage, including spiritual beliefs, storytelling and symbolism, creating original choreography that blends tradition with current global dance styles. Nii grew up in a traditional royal household and was given the title Custodian of Culture by his elders at the age of 12; he incorporates this knowledge of West African culture and music in his current works.



Bethany Elen Coyle is a Community Musician; music practitioner, performer, composer and creative producer based in the North East. Her diverse work involves the use of music and the creative arts as tools for community engagement, education, expression and empowerment.

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North East Wilds is a not-for-profit organisation aiming to get people of all ages spending more time outdoors and immersed in nature to improve their mental health and wellbeing. We run long-term woodland wellbeing programmes, gardening and food growing projects that are evidence-based and community-led.



Emile is a member of the Skimstone Arts Young Artist Collective, and is bringing his brilliant origami skills to UNITY Festival 2022



Catherine Hodson is an artist and screenprinter based at Northern Print. Cath has been working with groups including Changing Lives to make pladge flags for UNITY Festival 2022





Steve Drayton is a BBC Radio Newcastle producer and all-round entertainer. He's joining us again to present Skimstone Radio and Stories with Steve across the weekend



Shahor Omar, a videographer and reporter from Kirkek Iraq, now living in the North East. Shahor has worked with John-Paul and Phillip to make our Boxed In film for UNITY Festival 2022.



Ako Ismail is a photojournalist and reporter from Iraqi Kurdistan, now living in the North East. Ako has worked with Byker residents to share their special places for our Byker to Ouseburn trail

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Jack Drum Arts is a sustainable, locally-based social enterprise providing cultural opportunities for communities in County Durham and the wider region through a range of workshops, courses, theatre, music-making and outdoor events.



Reality Boots is a band formed From Skimstone Arts Young Artist Collective, expressing life challenges through creativity and music.



Kids Kabin contributes to the regeneration of areas of economic disadvantage by providing facilities, and fun, creative educational activities, for young people to discover their talents and enhance their skills and sense of self.



Standing Upright Project develops musicianship, arts based leadership skills and strives to overcome performance anxieties using the self determination theory (SDT) as an approach across a digital platform to shape 12-24 year olds into more confident practitioners who have a sense of belonging, self worth and a common goal to peer support each other.



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