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Supporting

Writers

and Writing

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artfulscribe.co.uk

ArtfulScribe is a writer development agency championing writers and **writing through meaningful connections** with individuals, communities, businesses and organisations. We help others shape and share experiences, both real and imagined, through written and spoken word, **by providing workshops, publication, performance and placement opportunities.**

Vision and Mission:

- 1. Raise the profile of writers and writing:** innovate, educate and celebrate through Live Literature and written/spoken word events.
- 2. Empower marginalised voices in the community** through projects that foster greater understanding of specific groups and celebrate differences.
- 3. Build new audiences:** create events and showcases that challenge expectations and champion new writing in both conventional and non-art-specific spaces.
- 4. Nurture talent** with investment in young people aged 25 and under through library programmes, school slams, young writer groups and bespoke projects.
- 5. Develop emerging and continuing writers** to sustain portfolio career paths through residencies and Career and Professional Development opportunities.
- 6. Embed creative writing and storytelling** at the heart of communities, businesses and organisations.
- 7. Encourage collaborative partnerships** that make best use of networks, resources and experiences.
- 8. Cultivate environments that support inclusivity and diversity** throughout the workplace.

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Welcome

Words Change Lives

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It's a humbling place to begin with a recognition of the remarkable power of words and the impact they can have on people's lives. As director of ArtfulScribe I've been fortunate enough to see the transformative effect writing and performance has on those who take part in these activities, from improving confidence and skills to empowering new creative voices.

So much can be done through support and encouragement, from empowering those voices that might not otherwise be heard, to shining a light on the road up ahead for writers who are looking to develop their craft through workshops, training, performance, publication and placement opportunities.

Writing is for everybody. It doesn't discriminate over age, race or gender. It just requires the confidence to pick up a pen, to string together a sequence of words and willingness amongst the brave to be vulnerable and share this creativity with other people. Through writing, friendships are forged, communities form and together we can make meaningful difference from our encounters with others.

I'm immensely proud of the work **ArtfulScribe** has accomplished over the years, thanks to the dedication and commitment of our delivery team who give new voices a chance to be heard, nurturing talent and signposting avenues for development for those who wish to take their writing further. I'm incredibly thankful for the support and encouragement we receive from a wide range of partners who share our passion to celebrate writers and writing at a local and national level, finding new audiences for established professionals and those stepping out into the word for the first time.

Matthew West

Director





From our administrative base in the port of Southampton we are perfectly placed at the hub of a multicultural society.

Our recruitment policy reflects the global reach of writing in

English and our facilitators are selected to celebrate a wealth of story-telling traditions from around the world.

We actively engage with and welcome opportunities to learn more about this human experience from diverse points of view and work with writers and performers who challenge preconceived notions of normality, celebrating the differences that make us unique.

From hosting symposiums on accessibility and needs for D/deaf, disabled and those facing other barriers to engagement, to delivering workshops that focus on translating and sharing creative writing in different languages, we are constantly striving towards inclusive environments that equally value all participants.



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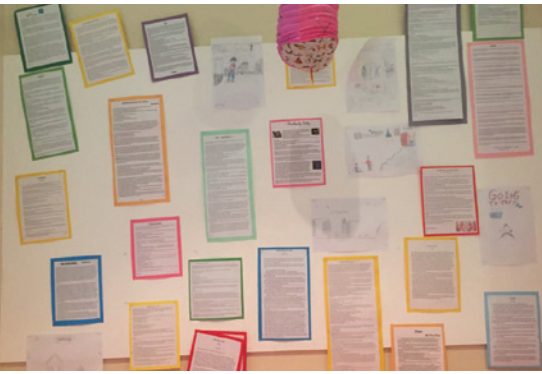
Learning helps us grow as individuals and helps us live enriched and purposeful lives. At ArtfulScribe we are always learning, both at an organisational level and through our everyday encounters with different writers and forms of writing.

We work across age-groups, from primary years to those in life's later stages, teaching elements of craft and creating a supportive environment that encourages sharing, gently pushing beyond comfort zones and opening new doors of development through personal practice.

We also provide training for people looking to expand their industry knowledge through helpful workshops on topics like self-publishing, self-promotion, working as a writer in schools and educational settings, and by inviting guest facilitators to share skills and experiences gathered over years of professional practice.

Please get in touch via the website at artfulscribe.co.uk for the latest information on forthcoming workshops and to find out more about what's going on.





We believe it's important to show children how creative writing takes place in society beyond, as well as within, the school gates. We reach children through mixed faith and mixed nationality workshops held in public settings as well as by visiting schools, helping children delight in word play through language-based games, nurturing a love of literature that can last a lifetime.

'We're still quoting verse around the school today – everyone was inspired in some way by your workshops. Staff really benefited by seeing how you motivated the children with quick, active ice-breakers and starting points and challenges to help in the creation of new writing.'

Carole Pugh

Merdon Junior School, Hampshire

*'The workshops engaged with 150 children and their families who came from all backgrounds and cultures reflecting the multi-cultural status of the city. The workshops raised the profile of **Summer Reading Challenge** and enhanced the experience for the children who took part.'*

Allison Kirby

Reading and Resources

Development Officer

Central Library, Southampton



Young Writers: **Mayflower Theatre** and **Lighthouse, Poole**

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Our work with young people includes building links and signposting towards creative writing opportunities elsewhere in the community. We host regular workshops for young people aged 11-14 and 15-18 in Hampshire and Dorset on Saturday mornings during term time. An Under 25's evening group is scheduled to start in 2019.

'ArtfulScribe is an Associate Company at Mayflower Theatre and joins the theatre's vision to create closer relationships between audiences and artists who create and perform on Mayflower Theatre's stage. Our partnership with ArtfulScribe has strengthened Mayflower Theatre's Engage programme, reaching out to the local community and supporting education, which has been a key part of the development of the theatre over the past five years. Our Mayflower Young Writers groups continue to go from strength to strength and offer a unique opportunity for local young people to develop their writing skills, have fun, and meet like-minded people.'

Sara Scott

Head of Creative Learning – Mayflower Theatre



'It was such a great, interactive day and the pupils gained a fantastic insight into writing and developing poems. They loved the games, too, which led to it being a fun team-building day.'

Colette Mitchell

The Free Reach School

Rickmansworth

As a teenager it isn't always easy to see the relevance of school-based writing to everyday life. Our schools' work approaches young people on their terms, exploring links between lyrics, rhythm and rhyme from musical genres including Rap and Hip-Hop as a way of encouraging conversation about poetry and spoken word, leading to new writing for performance that raises confidence and allows young creative talent to shine.

'I needed to contact you after the poetry slam last night in Romsey. It certainly isn't the sort of thing I usually find myself at, but I can honestly say it was the most impressive thing I have attended in all my years of attending school events with my children. More than that, I came out of the evening a slightly different person than when I went in – a change for the good, unexpected at the age of 47, more so when that change has been affected by 13 and 14 year-old children. Just amazing.'

Audience member

Wessex Schools Slam 2018

*'I am writing to thank you for organising this year's **Wessex Schools Poetry Slam** following the huge success of the school-based workshops. The effect on our students has been substantial. Their confidence to speak and perform has skyrocketed. Pupil engagement in **Spoken Word** has spread from the slam epicentre, inspiring young people right across the school.'*

James Wyatt

Teacher of English and Drama

Noadswood School, Hampshire



Through supporting gender-specific events including International Women's Scream (2012) and various International Women's Day dates, we identified a need to provide a safe and supportive environment where women could gather to share writing experiences. Led by Bath Novel of the Year 2014 winner, Joanna Barnard, the group meet on the first Thursday and third Saturday of each month, at the Art House Café and Southampton Central Library accordingly.

'As a direct result of taking part in SO: Write Women I have performed my poems at West Quay Shopping Centre, Nuffield Southampton Theatre's 'Experiment' night, and Riverfest. The experience from these events helped give me the confidence to take part in a Touch Network event as an Inspirational Speaker.'

Workshop Participant



'If you've never been to one of the workshops before, here's what you can expect:

We use guided free writing exercises to help unlock our creativity. What does this mean, exactly? Well, each workshop has a theme and we use all kinds of prompts – a photograph, an unusual (or indeed seemingly mundane) object, a word or phrase, or a time or place – to get us started, writing for a fixed amount of time wherever our imaginations choose to take us. We then hear from those who want to share what they've written, though there is absolutely no pressure to do this if you're feeling a bit shy! Often we then develop the theme further.'

Joanna Barnard



*'The last six months of **SO: Write Women** meetings have been an incredible experience for me. Joanna has made a supportive atmosphere that feels safe to be creative. I look forward to every meeting and it has given me the courage to admit that I am (she whispers) a writer.'*

Workshop Participant



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Career & Professional Development Progressive Pathways

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'ArtfulScribe provides an invaluable resource for literature, identifying and supporting writers to develop sustainable portfolio careers, combining writing with workshop leadership and training opportunities.'

James Gough

Director – Southampton Cultural Development Trust



'Yesterday, 3 years ago, I had my very first gig as a supporting poet. The audience was poet-full and because they were now watching me – instead of me having watched them over the previous year – it felt like an initiation ceremony. That day really meant something and changed my ideas about who I was.'

Damian O'Vitch

Poet from Hampshire

Whether you're a student taking the next step in your journey as a writer, a performer looking for a stage for new work, or an experienced writer who wants to gain practical experience and skills to earn a living through writing-related activities, **ArtfulScribe** can help realise your potential.

You don't have to lose your voice to find it again through a creative writing workshop.

We offer a wide range of writing experiences aimed at both new and continuing writers, encouraging people to engage with new styles of writing from *Writing about Theatre*, or *Writing about Dance* through to more traditional workshops exploring all aspects of craft.

If you're interested in writing for stage, screen, radio, performance or page we can help writers find courses that are relevant and delivered by workshop facilitators who have years of experience guiding participants to create new work or refine an existing practice.

'I would have had no interest in poetry at all without losing my voice and going on that first workshop – it's just superb, and talking about and sharing poetry is all kinds of fun. I'm very glad to be writing now. It's excellent.'

Lisa Thorne

Workshop Participant

Please sign up to our newsletter or check the events page at artfulscribe.co.uk to stay up-to-date with opportunities throughout the region.





My ArtfulScribe Experience

Bridget Hart – Intern 2013/14

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As a mature student, I went into my degree with five years of junior office work experience. I wanted to apply those skills to building up a career in something that I also had passion for.

I was coming to the end of my first year of running the **Poetry Society** at University of Southampton. After asking to help with **ArtfulScribe** I became quickly integrated in the foundations of the first project, **Archimedes Screw**.

I learnt about the **Arts Council England** and the importance of evaluation and feedback sheets. I started editing **Voice FM** interviews into blog entries which introduced (and challenged) me to new ways of writing. I found myself at workshops and showcases, becoming a familiar figure within the community which has not only helped my professional confidence but also my ability to network and communicate with new contacts.

I have been introduced to new poetry, spoken word shows, techniques and enterprises that have contributed to my decision to further my career in spoken word, both personally and professionally. As I have been exposed to the significant and sometimes overlooked aspects of event organisation, **ArtfulScribe** has gradually given me greater roles in these processes. I am now at a level where I can confidently organise an event, considering the smaller and larger details as well as being prepared for any setbacks that may occur.



As well as hands-on experience with events, workshops and administration, **ArtfulScribe** has helped me to extend my poetic skills across to new experiences and projects. I have been able to transfer my skills from **Archimedes Screw workshops** to my personal writing, becoming an **Archimedes Screw Champion, Ejector Seat 2013 Slam champion** and a festival performer. I have met influential poets, writers and organisers who have shared their knowledge and experiences.

I started compering **Archimedes Screw Showcases** and shadowing professional poets at Masterclasses. Compering the showcases was a big learning curve for me and with each one I got a little better. It's difficult, at first, to gauge your audience and to not be overwhelmed. It is you that has to bring the energy, to get

the crowd excited and warmed up for the entertainment ahead. It is important to keep consistent too. I learnt quickly to make notes before each event, including short introductions for local poets and the headline act and information on future events.

I loved compering and I hope I get to do it again soon; there's nothing quite like the buzz that tingles out of your finger tips and gets a crowd alive.

Since leaving **ArtfulScribe**, Bridget has become editor at **Burning Eye books**.





My ArtfulScribe Experience Hollie Ward – Intern 2016/18

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My first ArtfulScribe project was Hammer & Tongue, a national poetry slam that was being brought to Southampton for the first time. From co-hosting to marketing and ticketing, I had sight of every stage of planning the event, which was incidentally my first taste of events management.

I became heavily involved with the **SO:Write** project initially covering the Assistant Facilitator role for **SO: Write** Women's weekly sessions. From here I became Assistant Facilitator for **Mayflower Young Writers**, a role I held for nearly two years.

Thanks to this amazing opportunity, I worked with groups of exceptional young people, all of whom come with bags of talent to share. I was lucky to be given opportunity to lead the 11-14 year old age

groups' session each week, which helped me learn about teaching and workshop delivery for young people in a way that observing never could. I helped introduce live briefs into the children's work, including an Anthology project, as well as collaborations with **Mayflower Youth Theatre**. I encouraged young writers to try performance and saw two of our students absolutely soar when entering local poetry slams – one of who became a regional finalist.

Other projects I worked on included the Nuffield Southampton Theatres' **Summer Youth Project** in 2018, where we brought together a group of young people and created an all-new play in two weeks. I collaborated with Southampton Libraries' **Writer in Residence** and Mayflower Theatre on an outreach project themed to **Wicked: The Musical**. Nazneen and I planned the project together, bringing our joint experiences to create this wonderful, vibrant lesson for selected schools in Hampshire and Dorset. Pieces produced from these sessions were displayed at Mayflower Theatre during the run of **Wicked** in October 2018.

I found myself helping out on a wide range of activities, including workshops, showcases, case studies and inter-school poetry slams. I became recognised as part of the local writing scene and received bookings to perform my own work. From community projects such as Riverfest, to co-hosting and performing at the **Hammer & Tongue National Finals**, I performed everywhere and anywhere I could. I was writing all of the time, and my confidence was growing all of the time. When I started out, I could barely read without my voice shaking, and by the end of my time with **ArtfulScribe** I'd performed at The Royal Albert Hall! There's not many stages that can scare you after that.

The biggest learning curve for me was documentation. I learned to keep records of everything I did, from planning a session or project, to blogging about everything we did. My whole attitude to blogging changed, from working on opinion-based journals to providing a detailed documental account with facts and figures. I started to understand how important attendance and engagement was for projects such as these, and how key feedback is as a way of maintaining or increasing those numbers. Without documenting each session, there was nothing to link that feedback to. The records and evaluations of these projects were also hugely significant when reporting back to **Arts Council England** or applying for future projects' funding.

Since beginning my work with **ArtfulScribe**, I also learnt an incredible amount about myself. Thanks to all of the events and festivals I helped to organise and market, I landed a Graduate Internship as an Events Assistant at Solent University - a role I wouldn't have ever dreamed of applying for before. Thanks to my time with **ArtfulScribe**, I had that skillset ready and came to the role with bags of experience. I could confidently collaborate with other minds and organisations, as well as plan and deliver an event. I've seen plenty of events exceed all expectation, and I've worked plenty that didn't go to plan, but because of the wide range of experience I gained through **ArtfulScribe** I am always prepared to deal with the unexpected.



Embracing New Technologies

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While the tools for writing can be as simple as a pen or pencil and a piece of paper, the potential outcomes for writing encompass a broad range of possibilities. Our work pushes conventional boundaries through collaboration across art forms challenging conceptions of what writing is and what writing can be.

We've worked with partners to create soundscapes in schools, mixing location-specific sounds with recorded speech from texts generated in workshop settings, curated poetry-film competitions and screenings and projected the winning films on storefronts in town centres.

In 2019, in partnership with **Audacious Arts** and **Light Up Poole**, our outreach work with primary school children in Dorset led to a connection with 'Nightwriter Nyx', a programmable robot from the Netherlands, created by **Gijs van Bon**, that reproduced the children's text in luminous script, absorbed by an estimated audience of 45k.

'ArtfulScribe and Light Up Poole collaborate to create fascinating projects with global reach. Our poetry workshops developed literacy skills in over 330 children and our film poetry project engaged people from 12 different countries including Brazil, USA, Puerto Rico, Spain, France and Germany. Our projects fuse arts and emerging technologies, presenting our work in unusual spaces by innovative means.'

Libby Battaglia

Creative Director, Light Up Poole



Showcases offer an opportunity for writers to be inspired by visiting artists, for developing audiences by showing a range of outcomes leading from Creative Writing activities, and for project participants to share outcomes through support slots and open mic.

ArtfulScribe curates live literature events that help raise the profile of writers and writing in the south. In 2013-14 we worked in partnership with **Apples and Snakes** to deliver the **'Archimedes Screw'**, a series of events headlined by national and international poets and performers including an open mic element where an audience vote selected local writers to be awarded with paid gigs as part of a career and professional development scheme. Since then, we've programmed theatre shows and live literature performances in medieval buildings, parks, museums, libraries, cafés and more traditional festival and theatre spaces.

In 2018 we curated **SO:To Speak**, a 3 day festival including a seminar on accessibility, a showcase of local writers who worked on the **SO:Write project**, three small press showcases featuring writers from *Penned in the Margins*, *Nine Arches Press*, and *Burning Eye Books* and Antosh Wojcik's headline show, *'How To Keep Time: A Drum Solo for Dementia'* with support from Sarah Hesketh, author of *'The Hard Word Box'*.

The festival culminated in a publication launch featuring our **Writers in Residence** from **Mayflower Theatre, John Hansard Gallery** and **Southampton Libraries** alongside writers from our regular **Women's Writing** groups and **Young Writers** groups.



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ArtfulScribe champions young voices, igniting careers by investing in training opportunities and recruiting new writers we believe have the power to inspire others to gain new perspectives of the world.

Working in partnership with universities and youth agencies, **ArtfulScribe** supports young people to gain vital work placement and job-shadowing experiences. Our facilitators are trained to deliver **Arts Awards**, helping others to develop leadership and organisational skills, from event management to learning about digital marketing, social media and writing for commercial publication.

Keen to empower young voices in the community, in 2019 we recruited Tabitha Hayward, a writer under the age of 25, to lead our weekly term-time **Lighthouse Young Writers** groups in Poole, with support from **Arts University Bournemouth** second year Creative Writing student, Lucy Pearce.

Arts and culture develop skills for the future, using skills that only humans can bring; empathy, creativity and enterprise. Arts and cultural education nurtures these skills and prepares young people for new creative professions of the future.

My ArtfulScribe Experience

Dae Fletcher

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I've been writing almost as long as I can remember – I used to sit in the old over-sized desk chair and type pages of 8-year-old fantasy, mostly stories or songs, but I first remember being drawn to poetry when we did a school project on it in Year 4.



I'm often inspired to write by the situations at hand or by a desire to better understand my feelings about a topic or person. A lot of my writing is incredibly personal, focusing on my own experiences and identities, delving into topics such as gender, disability and relationships.

I performed at **Brighton Trans-Pride** in 2016. The whole event was so welcoming and wonderful. It was incredible to get to be around and to perform to so many people in my community – it was probably one of the best experiences I have ever had.

I was never actually meant to be in the **Wessex Schools Slam**. I begged the librarian to let me take part. When I got up on the night, I was so nervous. No-one else had ever heard the poem I was going to perform, and it was an incredibly frank and personal piece about my experiences under the influence of an eating disorder. Performing it was such a release, finally opening up about something I'd never been able to speak about before. I spent most of the rest of the evening in a wave of adrenalin and the win didn't really sink in until the next day. It was incredible.

I'm now studying a Creative Writing course and that was the actual reason why I picked my college. I've never regretted that decision. I don't know where I'd be if I hadn't won the slam. It really acted as a springboard, leading to other gigs and events. I've come so far since, not just in my writing. My confidence in myself has grown, as well as my ability to relate and interact with others, no matter how different we may seem at first glance.

ArtfulScribe provided me with so many fantastic opportunities. They help to bring young people into the literary world from outside of school. It's so important. They give young people new tools to express themselves in a creative and supportive environment, without the huge emphasis on needing to be 'right' that exists in schools.



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My ArtfulScribe Experience

Dinos Aristidou



Dinos Aristidou is a Brighton-based writer, theatre maker, artist educator and consultant with an international CV through placements at the Civil Rights Theatre Festival at Atlanta, USA, the Western International School of Shanghai Academy, and the Phnom Penh International School.



At a national level, Dinos has produced work for the **Birmingham Royal National Ballet**, the **National Trust**, and the **Royal National College for the Blind**. In 2017 Dinos was appointed as **Writer in Residence at Mayflower Theatre** as part of the **SO:Write** project, a two-year literature development programme led by **ArtfulScribe** through funding from **Arts Council England** and support from local partners.

“I’ve had an amazing year and felt very at home [...] working in a non-commissioning space where I had opportunity to engage as an observer. Never in a million years could I have predicted that I would have been inspired in such a metaphoric way, blending family history, national identity and residency observations to create a new text that would enable me to use the Odysseus story as a backbone to telling my own tale.”

Dinos Aristidou

Writer, theatre maker, artist educator
and consultant

During the course of his residency, Dinos worked on a number of projects, including *‘The Gift of Writing’*, an outreach initiative drawing together elements of kindness and compassion through hand-written messages given to theatre audiences and members of the public.

Dinos was commissioned by **Mayflower Theatre** to produce *‘Love Letters’* a text set to film celebrating the theatre’s 90th anniversary, and documented a year in the life of the theatre through blog entries, school visits, and festivals, helping new audiences to connect with words in unexpected ways.

As a final piece to celebrate the residency, Dinos produced *‘From the Deck’*, a collection of writings drawing on connections between

Southampton’s nautical history, Dinos’ family history, the Greek epic, Odysseus, and *‘behind the scenes’* activities that take place in the theatre’s community. This culminated in a pack of playing cards where each suite of cards represented a theme, the narrative of which could be read in multiple ways.

During the course of the residency, Dinos gave out **433** Gifts of Writing to Mayflower Theatre visitors, and connected with **20,700** people. Through all marketing and communication channels the residency engaged **162,000** people through direct contact and radio/print broadcasting of the project.



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My ArtfulScribe Experience Stewart Taylor

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I'd always written spasmodically as the mood took me from when I was a teenager, but I started more seriously with poetry in 2011. I was probably content to stick with funny, clever doggerel pieces in the early days, but experimenting in workshops, such as the series ran by ArtfulScribe in 2012/13, gave me the confidence to write in other forms and styles.

The workshops also formed a community of writers with whom to share ideas and get feedback, and created material which fed and inspired work for the Archimedes Screw slams that ran at the same time.

I was drawn to the slams by the prospect of testing the quality of my work in front of an audience, and the professional gig with **Apples & Snakes** on offer if I was successful. Getting involved in one project usually led to involvement in another, and I went on to do other slams, most notably with **Hammer & Tongue** in Oxford (before there was a base in Southampton).



I have also regularly performed as part of the **SO:To Speak** and **Ejector Seat/Rejector Slip** festivals, and I took part in the **Anti-Slam** in 2016, initially as part of a local heat organised by **ArtfulScribe** and then at the national final, which I somehow managed to win. I really enjoy presenting work through another persona and won the **SO:To Speak slam** in 2017 in the guise of Geoffrey Shorelove. I have also had my poetry published as part of the **One To Six** anthology for **John Hansard Gallery** and have won a place on the **Hip Yak Poetry Shack Summer School** in May.



I have since developed a solo show, **Spillage**, with theatre-maker Anna Carr and the support of **ArtfulScribe**. The show began as a poem about someone spilling coffee and their efforts to remedy the situation as a metaphor for trying to control the uncontrollable. After writing that first poem I went to an **ArtfulScribe**-organised workshop about creating a show, led by writer/director Nick Field. It's been a really stimulating and stretching experience, and has enabled me to combine my spoken word work with theatre. Prior

to getting into spoken word, I worked as a drama teacher and actor and did a course in playwriting at the Nuffield Theatre, so working on a solo show really feels like a marking point of the distance I have come.

ArtfulScribe has provided a focus for my development as a spoken word artist, enabling me to feel part of a wider community of writers who are there to support each other. It has offered innumerable opportunities and challenges and I think my work would be a lot poorer without its influence. I think I have got better at structuring poems and trying to imagine how it might be for someone else to hear a poem for the first time.

I think this is what comes of working in a mutually supportive group, and I think I'm more confident as a writer than I was. Organisations like **ArtfulScribe** offer the chance for aspiring writers to build confidence and experiment, to form links with other writers and most importantly to create forums where work can be shared. Surely writing is an act of communication rather than a demonstration of skill, and **ArtfulScribe** facilitates this.



My ArtfulScribe Experience

Nazneen Ahmed

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I was really an emerging writer at the time that the call for the Writer in Residence came out. As someone who hasn't been published, I would never have applied but I'd just been selected for the Penguin Random House WriteNow scheme and I was, and am, really passionate about libraries as a writer for children. Libraries have been a sanctuary to me and the base of the residency, Southampton Central Library, is the library I visit with my son.

I also felt that there was more that could be done there. I had an idea that they needed a crafting group, so as an embroiderer I felt there was something I could contribute, so those were the things that appealed and the reason why I applied.

My first project was to run some story-time sessions for preschoolers over the summer of 2017 and then I ran a writing group and an embroidery group for 6 months. I also did a drop-in day-long workshop on migration and creative

writing and embroidery at the University of Southampton as part of their **Hands On Humanities** day, and I also got quite a few opportunities that weren't exactly part of the residency but sort of connected to it, working in schools and working with Mayflower Theatre right towards the end. But I also shadowed the **Mayflower Young Writers** facilitators right at the beginning of the residency and then ended up running my own sessions with them for one week in the residency as well.



I think it was an incredibly supportive environment for an emerging writer, and I gained so much. Before the residency I'd never run a creative writing session, and I was incredibly daunted by the prospect of doing that; I had a huge sense of imposter syndrome, because I felt like I wasn't published, so how could I tell other people how to write? But the other writing facilitators who are attached to **ArtfulScribe** have been incredibly generous with their time, and their advice. I've really learned how to run sessions, for children from the age of 3 upwards to adults over the residency, and now I am able to offer a lot of different kinds of sessions in terms of writing and artistic sessions as a freelancer.

I also feel like I gained a lot in terms of profile; being able to tell people in the city that I was a Writer in Residence at the library was incredibly empowering and also very interesting to people, and I gained a lot in terms of networks and creative networks in the city.

For a long time I've been quite on the fringes of participating in a lot of creative organisations and networks, but then I really found that people were really interested in what I do, and I was given a host of other connected opportunities over the year just by being able to say I was a Writer in Residence at the libraries.



I think it was a bit of a risk to take on a writer who wasn't yet published, but it was an amazing investment in me. There was so much value in giving at least one residency to a local writer, because it's enabled me to grow personally and in terms of local communities. For example, my writing group gets to continue because I'm still based here, and I was able to gain follow-on funding, which has been great.

ArtfulScribe's SO:Write project has created this amazing buzz in the city, and there's a growing sense of confidence amongst the city's writers. It's not just me that's beginning to apply for Arts

Council funding, there are lots of writers looking at what they can do in a different way because of the project, because of what it showed was possible if you have a bit of vision and dedication and perseverance, so it's really changed the literary scene in the city.





Publication

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ArtfulScribe publishes new writers and writing through a variety of platforms, including poetry chapbooks, anthologies and traditional publication. As well as print, we support writers to publish reviews, interviews, and blogs online that can lead to paid commissions.



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