

Diverse City



DIVERSE CITY MEDIA RELEASE

www.diversecity.org.uk

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dorset Diverse City scoops prestigious European Diversity Award 2015

Last night, at a glittering gala event held at the Natural History Museum, Dorset cultural entrepreneurs, Diverse City, rubbed shoulders with over 600 guests from all over Europe to receive a prestigious Community Project of the Year Award for their groundbreaking online resource, Diverse Futures. Sponsored by Heathrow airport, the eight award nominees represented every strand of diversity and recognised people effecting real change and advancing equality with diverse communities.

Diverse Futures is a unique research and digital project that came as a response to the lack of information available nationally to emerging disabled artists wishing to pursue a pathway into the professional performing arts. David Young, poet, performer and activist, now studying with renowned Graeae's Theatre Company's Ensemble in London, received the award saying "without Diverse Futures there would be a massive gap between participatory youth companies and professional performance opportunities. Now I am starting to get professional performance opportunities and to go where I want to in theatre. It is all thanks to Diverse Futures."

Alice Chutter, who spearheaded the unique initiative as Project Producer said "This award is a massive recognition of the rights of all artists to have an equal chance to realise their creative goals and it is an important step towards making sure our national culture is as diverse as the world we live in." Project Researcher, Emma McFarland, said "At the heart of Diverse Futures are emerging artists who face barriers to professional training in the performing arts. By sharing simple online information about the inclusive organisations and opportunities which do exist to support and nurture their talents, Diverse Futures plays a key role in promoting equality for people right across the performing arts in the UK."

Diverse Futures was created with funds from [Esmée Fairbairn Foundation](#) and [Arts Council England](#) raised in partnership with [Activate Performing Arts](#), and [Dorset County Council](#). We are now working with [Pavillion Dance South West](#) Coinvestment Fund on a partnership event for 2016. We are actively seeking new investment to develop Diverse Futures, widen its reach and improve its accessibility. For further on supporting our work contact a.chutter@diversecity.org.uk 07528575907.

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Notes to Editors

- For more information and photographs on Diverse City or Diverse Futures please contact: Youth Producer Alice Chutter a.chutter@diversecity.org.uk 07528575907
Or Executive Producer b.chapman@diversecity.org.uk 07952619763

For information on European Diversity Awards visit <http://europeandiversityawards.com/winners-2015/>

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- **Interview/Feature ideas:**
- Available for interview: Alice Chutter, Youth Producer, Claire Hodgson CEO. David Young, Emerging Artist, Jamie Beddard Lead Artist
 - **The journey of David Young: Diverse City emerging artist, poet, activist**
 - **Influence and inspiration: Diverse City Changing the performing arts one extraordinary show at a time.**
- **Diverse City Information**

Diverse City's vision is a performing arts industry that reflects the world in all its Diversity. Claire Hodgson, Chief Executive, set up the company in 2005 and she now heads up a team of cultural entrepreneurs, creative thinkers, artists and change makers. Registered in Dorset, Diverse City is location independent and practices a flexible working staff culture.

"Diverse City are quite simply taking inequality and under representation and wrestling them to the ground with bravery, creativity and sheer hard work."

Nomination for the National Diversity Awards 2014

"Diverse City is a small company with a very big voice who clearly and confidently strive to change the way society works, making sure everyone has an equal share." Partner organisation.

In September 2014 Diverse City was shortlisted for the National Diversity Awards Community Organisation of the year. In November 2014 Diverse City received the Clore Duffield Clore Leadership programme 10th Anniversary Prize. In September 2015, Diverse City won a European Diversity Award for diverse Futures, Community Project of the Year.

www.diversecity.org.uk

www.diversefutures.org.uk

www.extraordinarybodies.org.uk