

Launching the guide to Enabling creativity in a restricted regime

8th June 2021
2.30 - 4pm



Over a challenging year, we have seen incredible resilience and creativity on the part of those working to provide ongoing Covid-19-safe arts provision in prisons.

Our new guide, produced by the **National Criminal Justice Arts Alliance (NCJAA)** on behalf of the Arts Forum, showcases examples of this work and includes guidance for prison staff on how to make creative activity possible throughout Covid-19 and beyond.

Today we are joined by some of the organisations featured as case studies in the guide to hear how they delivered arts activities during the pandemic, and to celebrate the efforts of the sector.

 **ROTHSCHILD FOUNDATION** This event was made possible by the Rothschild Foundation.

Agenda

- 2.30 Welcome from the NCJAA
- 2.35 Welcome from Arts Council England
- 2.40 Theatre case study: Rideout
- 2.50 Theatre case study: Odd Arts
- 3.00 Music case study: Irene Taylor Trust
- 3.10 Participant's perspective: Noble
- 3.15 Q&A
- 3.25 Discussions in breakout rooms
- 3.45 Highlights from breakout discussion
- 3.55 Closing remarks

Join the discussion online by tagging [@ArtsCJS](https://twitter.com/ArtsCJS) on Twitter.

About us

The **National Criminal Justice Arts Alliance (NCJAA)**'s mission is to ensure the arts are used within the criminal justice system as a springboard for positive change.

We represent a network of over 900 individuals and organisations across England and Wales that deliver creative interventions to support people in prison, on probation and in the community.

We support this transformative work by providing a network and a voice for all the talented and creative people who are committed to making great art with people in the criminal justice system.

You can find out more and support the arts in the criminal justice system by...

- subscribing to **our newsletter**, where we publish the latest news, events, research and opportunities from the sector
- following us on **Twitter**, **Facebook** and **LinkedIn**
- visiting our website, artsincriminaljustice.org.uk

About the speakers



Saul Hewish, Artistic Director, Rideout

Stoke-on-Trent based **Rideout (Creative Arts for Rehabilitation)** facilitates projects with marginalised

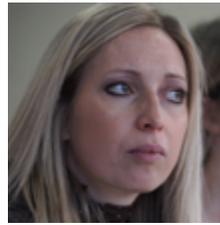
groups in and out of prison. Founded by Saul Hewish and Chris Johnston in 1999, the main focus of the company's work has been in prisons in the West Midlands where they have built a strong reputation for running high quality arts programmes that enable people in prison to reflect on their lives and consider new narratives for the future. Underlying their work is the belief that, given the right support, individuals can respond in different ways to pressures from friends, families or the environment. They do not believe that incarceration should be society's default response to crime, and so deliver arts work in the public sphere designed to prompt a dialogue about the form and function of prison.



Noble

I'm an up-and-coming artist from south London. I'd class myself as a versatile rapper as I do not stick to one type of beat. Although I do not

sing (per se!) I am able to - and do - write verses or choruses to sing at times. I have released a number of singles since 2019, as well as a free mixtape, *Bootleg'd*. I've been part of the Irene Taylor Trust's Sounding Out programme for almost two years after first working with them when I was serving a prison sentence.



Rebecca Friel, CEO, Odd Arts

Rebecca studied drama in Manchester and went on to co-found **Odd Arts** in 2004, which she continues to lead as CEO. Odd Arts uses theatre

to work with over 20,000 people per year within criminal justice, community, education and health settings. Its theatre enables people to see the world - and themselves - in a different way, specialising in community cohesion, mental health and violence reduction. Rebecca has recently participated in the US Embassy's Cultural Exchange on Countering Violent Extremism and presented Odd Arts' theatre work at the EU Chairmanship's extremism prevention in Helsinki. Rebecca has written for the *Applied Theatre Journal* as well as the *How to become a less violent society* journal. She sits on the National Criminal Justice Arts Alliance steering group.



Sara Lee, Artistic Director, Irene Taylor Trust

A chance performance at HMP Wormwood Scrubs in 1984 became the start of Sara's musical career in prisons.

She was offered the opportunity to develop all aspects of creative music in the prison, which, via a Butler Trust award in 1995, led to her being asked to form the **Irene Taylor Trust**. She has held the role of Artistic Director since 1995, developing, supporting, delivering and researching the organisation's work through its Music in Prisons, Sounding Out and Making Tracks programmes with prisoners, former prisoners and young people in contact with the criminal justice system. The Trust also has ongoing partnerships in Norway and US, supporting young musicians and teachers to deliver creative programmes in a range of criminal justice and community settings.