Rosetta Life

May 2026 Newletter

This year Rosetta Life is celebrating 25 years of pioneering and implementing innovation in arts and health.

At the heart of our work is the belief that creativity offers us the imagination to dream new futures: arts and health programmes can find solutions for our health and social crises, offering friendship and community, where there is isolation, hope where there is depression and anxiety, mobility, agency, voice and meaning.

Learn from Us

This year Rosetta Life is touring a new work, *Learn from Us*, to nine new regions to upscale Brain Odysseys. With funding from a large touring grant from Arts Council of England we have co-created a new show with people living with brain injury. This studio show, *Learn from Us*, tells the story of people whose lives have been changed by brain injury but not damaged. ***"I am a better person" declared James, while Jen says "I am stronger now"***. They offer us ways to live



through the trauma of our times and share with us the journeys they have been through.
Photo credits: Luke Waddington. Image shows Jen Chandler and Elvi Rose Christiansen Head at the opening performance of the Learn from Us tour at the Stanwix Theatre, Carlisle

Original music by *Jules Maxwell*
Animation and projections by *Magali Charrier*
Devised by the company.

Touring dates for Learn From Us:

- 24th April Stanwix Theatre, Carlisle
- 10th June Woodville Hall, Gravesend
- 30th June Derry Playhouse, Derry
- 8th July Guildhall, Gloucester
- 20th October, South Street Arts, Reading
- 11th November Bridge Hall, Barnstaple, Devon
- 1st December, The Souce, University of East London, London

Further bookings to be confirmed for venues in Stoke On Trent, Oxford and London for November 2026.

Creative Health Development for Stroke and Brain Odysseys Nationwide

For more information about the creative health programme and its potential do get in touch with Susie Tate, Creative Health Development Producer at Rosetta Life: Susie.tate@rosettalife.org

An essential part of the tour is the creative health development programme. In each region we will hold co-production meetings in the form of “long tables” and offer presentations and taster workshops in clinical and community settings.

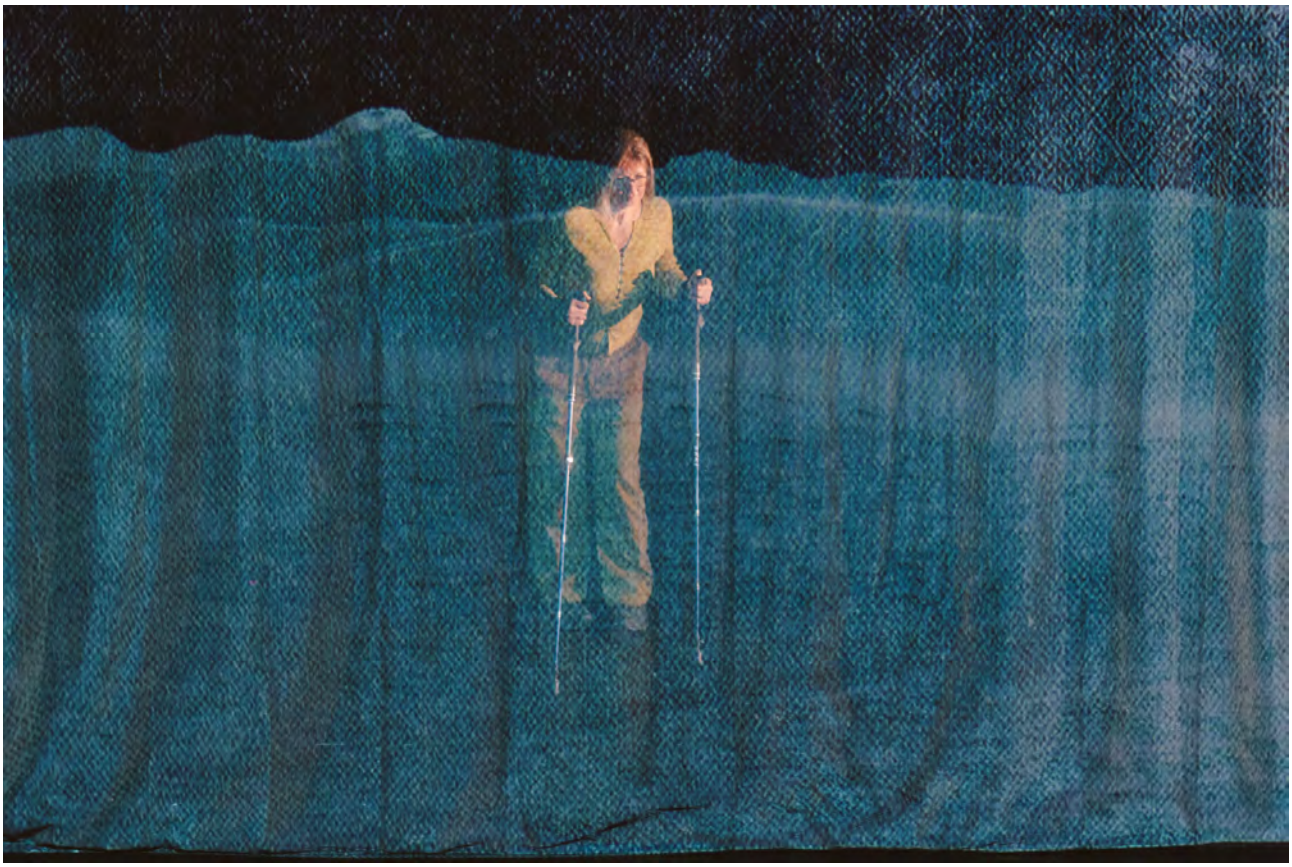


Photo credits: Luke Waddington. Image shows Jen Chandler at the opening performance of the Learn from Us tour at the Stanwix Theatre, Carlisle

Creative Health Development:

NHS Dartford and Gravesham are supporting the artist development of a new artist in residence at Darent Vale Hospital. Gloucester have commissioned a new Odysseys programme for people living with neurological illnesses that we are delivering in partnership with ArtShape and in April we launch a new performance programme for people living with Parkinsons.

In South Warwickshire we are delivering a range of workshops for Castell Froma, a 90 bedded neurological nursing care home, and the brain injury units of South Warwickshire NHS Trust.

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The Impossible Possible: Abbeydale Sports and Community Arts Centre, Gloucester

The impossible dreamt possible
Will sails become wings?
Can the boat fly?
The impossible made possible
20 arms to juggle
The tasks of each day



Poem written collaboratively by the group

Image shows art work created by the group at Abbeydale Sports and Community Arts Centre in Gloucester.

In collaboration with ArtShape, Rosetta Life worked with musician Sarah Collins, visual artist, Charlotte Hawke, emerging artists Eve and Beth to engage people living with neurological illnesses with music, art, songmaking, dance and performance. The final work was shared with family, friends and the nursing staff who referred people to the programme on the 7th of May at Abbeydale Sports and Community Centre. Everyone acknowledged that the transformation lay in growth of confidence and self-esteem and in the significance of the community we built together. We are hoping to build the community and continue working together to raise the awareness of how the arts support us to live well with illness.





Images show prints made by members of the group. Facilitated by artist, Charlotte Hawke

Arts for Impact Campaign

We are delighted to announce the success of our Arts for Impact Campaign to expand our reach across London for our performance programme for stroke and brain injury. We have raised funds to launch a new partnership with Headway East London and deliver a new performance programme this Autumn culminating in a double bill with our touring show, Learn from Us at The Source, University of East London on Tuesday the 1st of December 2026.





Place4Hope: Climate Justice through Cultural Co-Design

Our global community of young leaders who co-create cultural programmes for climate justice worked together in 2025 to co-create an immersive opera including a cycle of seven songs exploring the impact of heat on our mental health. The songs explore the impact of increased heat on wildfires and the impact of fire as a result of poverty, war and conflict, the impact of rising temperatures on heat on soil erosion and food production, while the final songs explore where we can find hope out of the current crisis.

The new 360 immersive film premiered at Real Ideas, Plymouth on the 30th April before touring internationally at climate justice events led by the international youth leadership team.



Image shows Filmmaking for the immersive opera from Al Farah Choir of Joy, Damascus, Syria

Case Study

Enkhnomin Batdorj: Mongolia
“I believe cinema and storytelling can help people emotionally connect with environmental issues in ways statistics alone cannot. In Mongolia, we are already facing environmental challenges such as wildfires and climate change, yet many young people still feel disconnected from these issues in their daily lives.

As a young filmmaker from Mongolia, I want to bring together environmental youth leaders, Mongol Ecology Center alumni, and young people interested in filmmaking and storytelling together to create honest conversations within the community and encourage young people to reflect on the role they can play in protecting the environment and take action to conserve it.”



A Walk in the Forest

For the past four weeks we have been working with 2nd year undergraduate students The Place as part of the community commissions programme that is designed to enhance the portfolio of industry experience for young dancers. Our performance of A Walk in the Forest at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery took place at 11 o'clock on Saturday 23 May.

Here is the vimeo link of our performance https://vimeo.com/1196266092

Our research has explored how we bring the sensory world of the forest to the hospital ward: what are the movement stories behind the dappled light of sunlight through the leaves, the grandeur of height and the canopy of trees, the resilience and intelligence of the trees, the connections of roots and mycelium, the sound of the river, the bird songs - of the songthrush, the wren, the skylark and the blackbird - , the movement of the wind, the warmth of the forest floor, the sense of relaxation and calm?

Supported by immersive sound design from Simon East, we have been working with simple movement scores to co-create a participatory performance for people in recovery from the trauma of brain injury.




I HAD A
STROKE



A Walk in the Forest

A participatory performance workshop delivered by Odysseys, the company of people living with brain injury and dance students from The Place, London's leading centre for contemporary dance.



Saturday 23 May
11:00AM - 12:00 noon

The Gym, National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, WC1

Please do help us support people living with brain illness and injury and wider programmes by donating online. Find Out More at www.rosettalife.org

For more information please contact Lucinda Jarrett: Lucinda.jarrett@rosettalife.org