



**LEEDS
ARTS RESEARCH
CENTRE**

THE DESIRE PATHS

DR ALEXANDER

KELLY

OUTPUT INFORMATION

Title:
The Desire Paths

Output Type:
I – Performance

Venues:
Sheffield Theatres; The Great Exhibition of the North
(Newcastle upon Tyne); HOME: Slough

Year of first performance:
2016

Output allocation:
Performance



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION STATEMENT

Dr Kelly's practice research focuses on how mechanisms can be devised for autobiography and task-based performance to facilitate conversations with, and contributions from, audiences and participants. Accordingly, for this output Kelly devised a simple, autobiographical narrative invitation for members of the public from which audience contributions then built a site-specific, multi-authored catalogue of memories, hopes and dreams.

The Desire Paths (October 2016 – August 2019) uses the collaborative drawing of a map as its mechanism to invite audience contributions. The performers draw a large-scale map of the centre of the town or city the performance is being made in on the stone of a town square, or onto a temporary floor of an indoor public space, but omit all street names. Visiting members of the public are then invited to rename each street after a hope, dream or ambition that they have for the future – and the new name is drawn onto the map. The map acts as a prompt through which performers can engage directly with audiences and a means to gather stories from people about themselves and their town. These stories are then retold by the performers for film or as live performances.

Site-specific, The Desire Paths is remade with each partner venue and has been commissioned by Sheffield Theatres (funded by Sheffield Year of Making 2016); The Great Exhibition of the North 2017 in collaboration with Northern Stage and the School of Experimental Architecture; and HOME: Slough (funded by Farnham Maltings' New Popular scheme). Katy Potter, director of the New Popular fund wrote that The Desire Paths: "provoked us to consider how our New Popular initiative can be particularly impactful in smaller and medium sized towns exploring how towns shape the way we live but are often overlooked by powerful metropolitan and rural interests."



The Desire Paths: Sheffield
(2016)

Created and Performed in
Sheffield by

Hannah Butterfield

Nicki Hobday

Alexander Kelly

Gillian Lees

Stacey Sampson

Rachael Walton

Bethany Wells



The Desire Paths: Newcastle and Gateshead

(2018)

Performed in Newcastle/Gateshead by:

Holly Gallagher

Alexander Kelly

Gillian Lees

Luca Rutherford



THE DESIRE PATHS: Slough
(2019)

Performed by:
Nisha Anil
Zishan Afsar
Nadia Emam
Nicki Hobday
Alexander Kelly
Gillian Lees



The Desire Paths: Bedford
(2021)

Performed by:

Zishan Afsar

Nisha Anil

Marta Beccatini

Sara-Jayne Berrill

Alexander Kelly

Gillian Lees

Adie Mueller



The Desire Paths: York
(2021)

Performed by:

Nisha Anil

Megan Bailey

Tom Brader

Alexander Kelly

Holly Gallagher

Esther Irving

Gillian Lees

Keywords:

Performance

Autobiography

Participation

Links:

<https://thirdangel.co.uk/shows-projects/the-desire-paths>

Email:

A.Kelly@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

WWW.LEEDSBECKETT.AC.UK/LARC

**LEEDS
ARTS RESEARCH
CENTRE**



**LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY**