

A close-up photograph of a hand applying green glaze to a ceramic bowl. The hand is positioned at the top right, with fingers coated in the green substance. The bowl is light-colored with some glaze already applied. The background is blurred. The image is framed by a yellow triangle pointing downwards and a pink circle on the left side.

# WALSALL MAKER FEST

**SATURDAY 7 SEPTEMBER**

**Across Walsall Town Centre  
11am - 5pm | Free Event**

## Introduction

Walsall MakerFest 2024 presents the fantastic work being created in Walsall by people from all over the world. Supported by the Cultural Development Fund: Round Three, a Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) fund administered by Arts Council England, the festival will transform Walsall town centre into a vibrant hub of performance activity, framing the Makers' Market by linking The Guildhall, The Crossing and Saddlers Centre to Gallery Square. Enjoy live music, diverse dance performances, story-making, fashion shows and pop-up shops with immersive workshops. The Makers' Market will host artists, crafters, and food artisans alongside a dedicated Street Food Zone. The festival will showcase creativity, innovation and community spirit.

Come and join us in making this a landmark event for the borough.



## Foreword

*"I am delighted to present the first Walsall MakerFest on behalf of Walsall Council and our network of partners and associates.*

*Building on our legacy as the 'Town of 100 Trades', Walsall MakerFest is an opportunity to bring people together in the heart of Walsall Town Centre to celebrate the wealth of talent and creativity from across our borough and the wider region.*

*This landmark event will bring our town centre to life in the most vibrant, exciting and creative of ways, and I hope lots of people are able to come along and enjoy everything that's on offer.*

*Our We Are Walsall 2040 vision is to make Walsall an exciting place where people are proud to live and communities in all neighbourhoods have the same life chances. Walsall MakerFest is one of the many stepping stones that will help us to achieve our long-term vision, so I'm really proud & excited to see it come to life.*

*Thank you to everyone that has made this festival possible. Enjoy!"*



**Councillor Adrian Andrew,**  
Associate Leader of Walsall Council



# MAKERS' MARKET

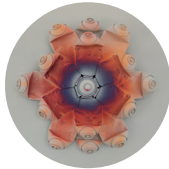
*Featuring makers, artists, crafters, designers & food artisans from Walsall and the surrounding area.*

11.30am - 5.00pm

Park Street



Heavenly Bakes



Neoliberalizard



Paper Pawtraits



Patree Herbs  
& Wellness



You Are Lovely



Randomly Unique



Clarissa La Hiffe -  
Artist



Goodlouse



eethok



Baked By Mady



Gordon Sanderson  
art for all



pepperbabydesigns



Fordography



Amelia Fox Art



White Cat Ceramics



Ruthy Radcliffe Designs



In2Colour Arts & Crafts



Buffy's Oriental Arts



Angel Of Cakes



COW Home LTD



H\_Arsty\_X



Serious Scents



Urban Duck Ltd



Ditsy Kitty Designs



Creative Factory Students Stall



Stegobean Studio/  
Shadow Phoenix  
Illustration

Zoë Moreton Art (Timberwulf & Co -  
Trading as Zoë Moreton Art)

GIA

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Purgatory Apparel

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Tripta Badhan Design

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Aldridge Shed

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Walsall College - Creative Industries

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Haseebah Prints

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Caldmore Community Garden

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Daya Illustrations

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Walsall College

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# WORKSHOPS & DEMONSTRATIONS

## Birmingham City University's School of Jewellery

has been at the heart of Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter for 130 years. They will offer have-a-go workshops throughout the day with colleagues from the Fashion & Textiles department.



12.00pm - 5.00pm

Saddlers Shopping Centre, Unit 46. Drop-in

## The Walsall College Fashion Show

will showcase the designs of talented National Diploma Level 3 and Higher National Diploma students. Witness their creativity and craftsmanship as they present collections that reflect their passion for fashion.



2.00pm

4.00pm

Saddlers Shopping Centre, Unit 54 & 56, opposite station entrance

**Walsall Creative Factory** will provide participatory activities and family fun, along with pavement painters Sally & Emily Hares.

12.00pm - 5.00pm

Lower Hall Lane

## Street Theatre - Lollipop Ladies

These larger-than-life lollipop ladies will amuse and delight with their antics & interactions in this comic character walkabout show.

12.00pm - 5.00pm

Across Walsall town centre



## Get involved!

**Little Shop of Musicals**, hosted by the **RicNic Foundry**, invites you to immerse yourself in performance theatre. For one day only, local youth theatres, amateur companies and individual performers give you the opportunity to get involved in various workshops.

Performances with workshops throughout the day.

12.00pm

1.30pm

3.00pm

Saddlers Shopping Centre, Unit 41.

## Making Movies - Musicals Workshop

Younger performers can become Disney princesses or Revolting Children creating work inspired by Hollywood in a Movie Musicals session (e.g Matilda, Annie, Disney) - recommended age under 13.



12.45pm

## Making History - Musicals Workshop

From the six wives of Henry VIII to Alexander Hamilton to the welcoming citizens of Gander, Newfoundland, come and explore the musicals based on key moments in history.

2.15pm

## Musical Theatre Open Mic

Got a musical number that you've always wanted to perform? Come along to our open mic event and have your moment in the spotlight!

3.00pm



### **Rippon's Science Junkyard From Outer Space to Inner Space –**

experience life as an astronaut by climbing into a space suit, then explore the world within through the amazing electron microscope – see how a fly doesn't have one eye but 1,500!

**12.00pm - 5.00pm**

Urban Hax, Meanwhile, Saddlers Shopping Centre, Unit 43

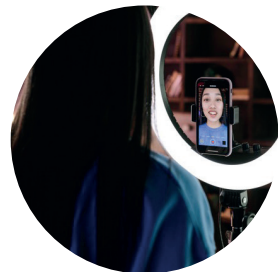
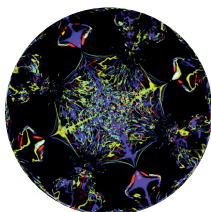
### **Nick Chamberlain SoundMuse: The Sound of Nature and the Nature of Sound**

Explore the connections between science, art and sound. Recreate experiments on unusual handmade instruments: 'Sing' sand into patterns on an Eidophone, 'draw' music with a harmonograph or use a loud speaker to 'tune' water into mesmerising symmetrical forms.

**1.30pm - 3.00pm**

**3.30pm - 5.00pm**

Saddlers Shopping Centre, Unit 46



### **Walsall Makes - Content Creators**

Learn how to create content in these drop-in sessions which will give you a taste of what it takes to be an online creator. Presented by **Rebel Creatives** and **Creative Black Country**.

**12.00pm - 5.00pm**

Saddlers Shopping Centre, Unit 52

### **The Urban Hax Meanwhile space**

in the Saddlers Centre is where the magic happens! For MakerFest they'll be showing what is possible when science, technology, engineering and art collide through the use of 3D scanners, 3D printers, laser cutters, electronics and...inspiration.

**12.00pm - 5.00pm**

Saddlers Shopping Centre, Unit 43

**Millissa Morris** joins the Black Diamonds Creations SFX workshop for an exciting dive into the world of special effects! Learn hands-on techniques for creating realistic wounds, ageing effects, and fantastical transformations using makeup, prosthetics, and simple materials.

**12.00pm - 5.00pm**

Urban Hax, Meanwhile, Saddlers Shopping Centre, Unit 43

# EVENT MAP



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# LET'S DANCE



Our dance stage in Gallery Square, hosted by Wolverhampton singer-songwriter Shay Ramsey who has appeared on *Britain's Got Talent*, *Songs of Praise* and was a semi-finalist on *The Voice* in 2023.

**Walsall Academy of Dance** will perform *Mountain* and *Wish*, 2 performances created for the 2024 competition season.

11.00am

**JDF Performing Arts College** students will perform a piece developed during their induction week especially for MakerFest.

11.10am

**Ignite** will present a new piece of dance especially for MakerFest.

11.25am



**Bethel Lighthouse Centre (BLC)** provides a space for young people in Walsall. In partnership with Walsall MakerFest, BLC held a one-day Dance Masterclass led by choreographer Shaun Cope. The resulting piece of work will be presented at the festival.

11.25am



**D2 Studio** are a Dudley based dance company who will be presenting a new piece of contemporary urban street dance.

11.40am

**Heritage** is a Walsall-based Bulgarian folk-dancing group. Through four pieces of dance performed throughout the day, this intergenerational troop will introduce you to the rich culture and regional dance traditions of Bulgaria.

11.50am

12.10pm

12.55pm

1.10pm

## Me Dance Youth Graduates

will perform three pieces entitled *Misplaced*, *Grasping the Dream* and *Roses of Rage*.

11.55am

1.15pm

**Walsall Studio School** will be working with renowned international choreographer Shaun Cope, in a dance bootcamp leading to the creation of 2 imaginative and entertaining pieces of dance and a flash mob will take place at 12.35pm and a performance on stage at 12.45pm.

12.45pm

**Linden Youth Company** will perform *FEAR*, an exploration of the body's response to stress or trauma. The piece champions how, through connection, breath and empathy, we can calm the nervous system and be more in control of our reaction to our surroundings and peers.

1.00pm

3.35pm



**Ultimate Bhangra:** a Walsall-born Bhangra group showcasing a celebration of tradition and community. Two teams of dancers will entertain in a lively programme of Bhangra Dance that will make you want to join in!

1.30pm

1.40pm

2.15pm

**Linden Dance Company** perform *UNBOXED*, an emotive work in which the performers engage with two giant wooden cubes.

1.50pm

3.45pm

**Me Dance Company's** *The Junction* is a celebration of Spaghetti Junction and the community that surrounds it.

2.25pm

4.35pm

**Autin Dance Theatre's** *Out of the Deep Blue* - Outdoor physical theatre featuring a 13-foot tall puppet. The piece tells the story of Eko, a sea giant who rises from the deep ocean to encounter a courageous little girl called Violet. Also promenading through the town at **11.50am, 12.15pm & 2.25pm.**

2.50pm

**“Break Da Kode” (BDK)** is a dance collective from the West Midlands, specialising in break dancing, hip hop & lite feet.

3.20pm

4.05pm



### **Sonia Sabri Company's**

*The Elephant and the Drummer*  
Elnaz the elephant longs to dance but feels too big and heavy to join in. Can her friend Dholli help her overcome her self-doubt and find her own joyful rhythm? A fun and empowering dance performance exploring body-positivity and self-acceptance.

4.15pm

### **Sonia Sabri Company's**

**Kathakaars** share the diversity of South Asian dance with contemporary British audiences. Performing regularly across the UK, their repertoire includes Kathak, South Asian folk dances such as Afghani, Marathi and Balochi.

4.35pm



# LIVE MUSIC AT THE CROSSING AT ST PAUL'S

Compere: **Asifa Lahore** is a performer and drag queen. She has been featured on stage, TV shows, in journals and countless publications across the world, including *Vogue India*.

12.40pm - 12.50pm

**The 2Ds**, opening the show with their infectious performance of old school Motown and Northern Soul hits.

12.50pm - 1.20pm

**Elle-J Walters** is a Birmingham-based songwriter. Touring nationally and internationally, she has supported artists like Shalamar, The Real Thing and Hot Chocolate.

1.25pm - 1.55pm

**Millicent Chapanda**, a Walsall-based Zimbabwean Shona cultural artist, traditional mbira player, percussionist and singer.

2.00pm - 2.30pm



**Janel Antoneshia** is a Black Country based Jamaican singer known for her distinctive voice and seamless blend of nu soul and reggae.

2.35pm - 3.05pm

**Asifa Lahore** is a multilingual voice for intersectional rights, and a Gaysian superstar! Come spice up your life with her stunning cabaret performance.

3.10pm - 3.40pm

**Rhythms Del Toro**, a 7-piece international collective delivering popular classics in an explosive Latin style.

4.00pm - 5.00pm



**People Sing** is an early evening of choir and song in the beautiful church on the hill. Join us to celebrate with people singing from across the borough. Choirs performing include St Matthew's Community Choir, Blue Lights & Voices Entwined.

5.00pm - 7.00pm

St Matthew's Church

# GLOBAL STORYTELLING VILLAGE

The Global Storytelling Village at The Bridge and led by RicNic, invites you to join in with all aspects of storytelling and story-making.

## RicNic Youth Storytellers

Hear performances from RicNic Youth Storytellers' participants and get creative in drop-in workshops.

12.00pm

**Walsall Writers' Circle** is for anyone who writes or wants to write. Members of the Circle come from a wide range of experiences and backgrounds, from beginners to published writers; all abilities are equally welcome to join us for an afternoon of sharing stories.

12.15pm

**David Calcutt**, Walsall-based freelance playwright and storyteller influenced by myth and folk tale.

12.45pm

## The Punjabi Women's Writing Group

(PWWG) is a poetry group dedicated to and run by Punjabi Women, producing work rooted in the experiences of the South Asian women.

1.15pm - 1.40pm

**Dr. Kuli Kohli** is a published poet and Wolverhampton's Poet Laureate 2022-2024. An advocate for Indian people, Punjabis and disabled women, she runs PWWG and was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Letters by the University of Wolverhampton in 2022.

1.40pm - 2.00pm



As a young poet **Mafoya** loves words: writing, singing, reading, and making poetry with them.



2.00pm - 2.15pm

**Georgina and the Dragon**, produced and directed by Laura Liptrot, features students from the Performing Arts Department at Walsall College and BOA in Birmingham. The play explores female empowerment through a reimagining of the classic myth of George and the Dragon.

3.00pm

Drop-in workshops hosted by **RicNic** running throughout the day

12.00pm - 4.00pm

**Puppet Making with Liz Blades** - Create your own rod puppet and turn it into the lead character in your own story.



**Around The World - Creative Writing Installation** - Write or draw your own short story on our luggage labels, inspired by journeys, travel and place. Pin your story to our world map and make your contribution to our festival story library.

**Tent Decorating** - Help us to decorate a global culture themed tent to tour the borough in 2025. Stencil, draw, stamp or write your designs onto our canvas tents.

## Let's Fly Kites

An afternoon of fun, flying kites at Walsall Arboretum, led by **Fahim Zazai**. Bring your own, or if you have been able to attend one of our workshops, bring the kite you made so we can fly them together.

**Sunday 8 September**

2.00pm - 5.00pm

Walsall Arboretum



## What happens next...?

After the festival, Walsall's cultural journey continues with a series of satellite activities extending through to Summer 2026. These events will be the legacy of MakerFest through the ongoing celebration of local creativity, featuring creative cafes, fringe events, projection mapping, makers, photography symposiums as well as an exhibition at The New Art Gallery Walsall in August 2025. There will also be workshops and performances across the borough. Walsall's cultural landscape is changing, providing new opportunities for artistic expression and spaces for our creative communities to channel the momentum of MakerFest 2024.

## Partners



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**



Funded by  
UK Government

## Delivery Partners



**BIRMINGHAM CITY**  
College of Jewellery,  
Fashion and Textiles



Event supported by

**BLACK COUNTRY TOURING**  
touring.org.uk



**TASTE 4 LIFE COMMUNITY CIC**  
SOCIALLY ENTERPRISING PROJECTS

## Associates



## Supporters



andy kruczek  
photography





**Live Music • Dance • Makers' Market**  
**Street Food Zone • Workshops • Storytelling**  
**Fashion show • Pop up shops**

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