



aTown explores a book

This information pack is a work in progress: in development by the current mentee cohort

Mentee Information Pack



About the Mentoring Programme

The ATownExploresABook literary festival was established in 2017 and is organised and run by ExploreTheArch theatre company. Based in St Leonards on Sea, each year a heritage book is explored by artists, schools and local businesses

resulting in a multi-site festival of community creative responses.

The Festival Mentoring Scheme supports 16–28 yr olds with a barrier to employment seeking a freelance career in the creative industry.



◀ Left: The ATEAB festival book for 2022 is *The Diddakoi* by Rumer Godden

Right: Mentee Esme Fisher and mentor Erica Smith discuss zine design in front of an ExploreTheArch stage set. ▶

Below: During lockdown mentors and mentees met weekly for a 40 minute catch-up on Zoom. ▼



How many hours / how flexible is the mentoring scheme?

The hours allocated depend on the funding received from Arts Council England. It is usually somewhere between 20-30 hours, and can be adjusted to fit around college, university and working hours.

How long has the mentoring scheme been going on?

The ATownExploresABook mentoring scheme started in 2021 after founder Gail Borrow wanted to help young people in the local area enter the creative field.

How many mentors and mentees are there?

This can change throughout the year as mentors and mentees come in and out depending on availability and funding, but usually around 6 mentees and at least 3 mentors.



What opportunities can arise?

Working for an established literary festival offers invaluable experience in a number of disciplines in the creative field, as you follow the development of ideas from concept to production. This allows for many opportunities to organise festival events and exhibitions, improve and learn new skills, network for future projects, and to collaborate with artists and organisations.

Do you need prior experience?

Experience and creative industry skills are always appreciated but no prior experience is needed! Just an interest and enthusiasm for the festival!

How much artistic freedom is there?

As much or as little as you want! An integral part of the mentoring scheme is what the mentees bring to the festival, whether it's through ideas, style, skill, knowledge or enthusiasm.



What would you like to achieve?

It's important as you enter the mentoring scheme that you have a clear idea of what you want to achieve.

Whether you have a specific interest or are unsure of what direction you want to go in and want to try a range of different roles. This allows mentees to develop their established skills as well as try out positions they may not have considered before whilst being fully supported by the whole festival team.

Each mentee has thought about things they would like to improve on and learn ranging from developing and planning an event to specific work with different softwares.



I want to learn to delegate and collaborate on projects. And to try and let go of control of things.

-Esme



I want to learn to minute take, and be part of a team creating short stories or comic collaboration in illustrator, photoshop and animation.

-Tatenda

Joining The Mentee Scheme

If this sounds like an opportunity you would like to be included in, please email us at explorers@explorethearch.com with your response to these questions.

What are my current skills?

What skills would I like to develop?

What new skills would I like to learn?



Follow our journey on our social media pages

See our website for projects, exhibitions and more information on the Mentors and Mentees