



Founded in 2012 by Helen Galliano and Dimitri Launder, [Arbonauts](#) is a multi-disciplinary company with an experimental and collaborative core that creates bold, site-specific performance merging theatre, dance and installation.

We are creating a new work for East Beach in Shoeburyness, called **SILT**, that will be a key performance piece in the landscape for [Estuary 2021](#) - the large-scale arts festival that takes place across 83 miles of South Essex and North Kent coastline in the Spring of 2021.

All our work to date is made in collaboration with others - and this work is no different. We are looking to meet and work with open water swimmers from the local region to perform in SILT. We are particularly interested to hear from swimmers who may have an interest in or experience of physical performance of any kind e.g. dance, theatre or music, although this is by no means essential. We are really open to hearing from everyone, so even if you've only been swimming in the estuary a few times, but you would like to do more of it, get in touch.

This is a brilliant opportunity to help create and be part of a unique and exciting site-specific performance within the renowned *Estuary 2021* programme and to work in the estuary itself, performing for a live audience in June 2021. You will work with a professional creative company, and meet local people from the area with an interest in the estuary.

Please note that SILT will take place in a shallow tidal paddling pool, so you will not be swimming as such, but you will be moving in the water / on the mudflats / on the pool wall, depending on the tide. You should be aware of the physical stamina needed to rehearse and perform outdoors in various weather conditions, and in cold water. Most importantly, you should be willing to embrace the unusual!

Commitment - The timeline for workshops and rehearsals is still being decided. We will be holding 1 introductory drop-in meeting on Zoom in December 2020, with on-site (and possibly online, depending on Covid-19 restrictions) workshops and rehearsals beginning in March 2021, with performances taking place on the 5 and 6 June 2021. The estimated overall commitment will be between 8 and 15 sessions between March and June 2021, including performances and rehearsals. These sessions will be Covid-compliant depending on the regulations in place at that time. For now, please register your interest in the project by [filling in the online form](#).

We have included more information about us - and more detail on SILT and *Estuary 2021* below.

SILT for *Estuary 2021*

SILT is our latest outdoor site-specific performance, commissioned by Metal for [Estuary 2021](#) and supported by Arts Council England and the DCMS via Creative Estuary and Estuary 2021.

Estuary 2021 is the second edition of the large-scale arts festival that celebrates the lives, landscapes and histories of the spectacular Thames Estuary. It takes place over 23 days in the Spring of 2021 (22 May – 13 June 2021) presenting specially commissioned artworks, discussion and events that respond to powerful themes resonant to the 83 miles of the estuary and its South Essex and North Kent coastlines.

SILT is a performance with a strong dystopian thread, looking at issues of rising sea levels and how humans might evolve beyond an impending climate disaster. SILT is being created for a tidal paddling pool at East Beach in Shoeburyness, near Southend on Sea. We are working with the sound artist Lee Berwick on a bold soundscape using recorded sounds from along the estuary that will be run live during the performances. SILT will be performed by a group of community performers made up of open water swimmers from the local area, alongside students from East 15 Acting School, part of the University of Essex.

Arbonauts create bold site-specific performance, challenging the meeting point between theatre, dance and installation. Founded in 2012 by Helen Galliano and Dimitri Launder, Arbonauts is a multi-disciplinary company with an experimental and collaborative core.

Our sell-out London productions include Biped's Monitor (2012 & 2013) presented at dusk in Nunhead Cemetery and The Desire Machine (2015), a 360° performance installation created 10m under the Thames at the Brunel Museum (shortlisted for an Off West End Theatre Award 2016).

In 2016, Inside Out Dorset commissioned us to create The Soaring Sky, a walk-through performance of birdsong along a coastal path, sung live by 25 local singers and attended by over 800 people. We worked with costume design students from Arts University Bournemouth over 8 months and toured to Latitude Festival in 2017, working with 30 community singers.

Our partners and supporters indicate the breadth of our creative ambition, including: Arts Council England, British Council, British Land, Ideas Tap, Latitude Festival, London International Mime Festival, London Mayor's Fund, Metal, Nunhead Festival, Shoreditch Town Hall & Southwark Council. Since 2013 we have been featured in: The Times, London Live TV, Time Out, Metro, Independent, The Guardian, Huffington Post, Run Riot & A Younger Theatre.

"Perfect for those seeking unconventional theatrical experiences." A Younger Theatre

“Immersive experience experts Arbonauts are back with another mind-bending mixture of art, theatre, music and low-lighting.” Time Out



Our experience - We have extensive experience of working with community performers, from ages 15 to 80 - including students from secondary schools, sixth form colleges and universities as well as community choirs. Comments from previous participants include:

“Congratulations on putting together such a special project for everyone who was part of it as well as those who came to see it. I really enjoyed myself - and really appreciated the opportunity of being involved. Thank you!”

“An absolutely beautiful experience, so happy to have been part of it!! You all should be incredibly proud.”

“It was really great to work with Arbonauts! You are all such lovely, enthusiastic, inspiring people and I was happy to be a part of it. Will be excited to see what your future projects will be.”

“Thank you so much for inviting us to be part of the choir, it was an amazing opportunity and being part of the show in that fabulous location was such a great experience.”

“It was a fantastic, unusual and a visually magical piece of art to be involved in.”

Register and more information

To register your interest please complete [this online form](#).

If you have any questions please email Helen Galliano on helen@arbonauts.org

<https://www.estuaryfestival.com/>

<http://www.metalculture.com/>

www.arbonauts.org