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National Disability  
Arts Collection  
& Archive

## **Julie McNamara**

Theatre director, playwright, producer and actor

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Julie McNamara is the Artistic Director of Vital Xposure. Foremost a theatre practitioner, she is also a producer, playwright, musician, poet and arts development worker. Driven by a passion for social justice and raising the profile of Disability Arts, McNamara's work seeks out forgotten voices in the margins of our communities.

Julie McNamara co-created the Disability Film Festival in 1998 during her role at London Disability Arts Forum (LDAF), which ran for several years.

McNamara is part of the 'Survivors Movement'; producing multimedia work founded on people's direct experience of the mental health system. Much of this work is being collected by NDACA, including several collections of 'Survivors Poetry' which many participants of the Disability Arts Movement contributed to.

McNamara has had poetry published in several anthologies by Survivors' Press, Bloodaxe Books, London Irish Women's Centre and Karnac Books. Her first collection, 'Chaos Calls' was published in 2012 by Vital Xposure. Spanning three decades of Julie's life the poetry rings out with humour and pathos in measured chunks, illustrating her passion for social justice, touching on the lives of those who have touched hers.

An advocate within Disability Arts, McNamara is constantly seeking out imaginative solutions to open out her work to new audiences and is dedicated to succession training; bringing in new voices from younger disabled artists and nurturing neglected talent among older artists new to the Disability Arts & Rights Movements.

## **Disability Arts Movements highlights**

The Disability Film Festival was produced by the London Disability Arts Forum (LDAF) and ran from the late 1990s until the early 2000s.

## **Further reading**

You can find a selection of 'Survivor's Poetry' on the Disability Arts Online archived website: [www.disabilityartsonline.org.uk](http://www.disabilityartsonline.org.uk)