

October 2004

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND APPOINTMENT

Dr Tom Shakespeare has been appointed as Chair of Arts Council England, North East and National Council Member. His four-year term will begin on 1 October 2004.

Tom Shakespeare has been Director of Outreach at the Policy, Ethics and Life Sciences Research Institute, University of Newcastle upon Tyne since 2001. He acts as a researcher, author and lecturer in science, specifically in genetics and disability.

Tom Shakespeare speaking on his appointment said: "I am delighted to take up this role, at such an exciting time for the arts, regionally and nationally."

In the arts, he has been a writer, performer and documentary filmmaker, devising new work for a dance company, running a theatre training workshop and presenting TV documentaries for the BBC and Channel 4. He was Founding Chair of Northern Disability Arts Forum and Founding Chair of children's musical theatre company Monster Productions. Tom was a former Board member and Vice Chair of Northern Arts and member of the British Council's Arts Advisory Committee.

Tessa Jowell MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport said : "I am delighted to welcome Dr Shakespeare to the Arts Council. He has wide-ranging experience in arts development and has played a key role in the disability movement. He brings with him a specialist knowledge and expertise that make him a powerful advocate for the arts. "

Background

Arts Council England is the major national development agency for the arts in England, responsible for the allocation of funding from Government and the National Lottery.

National Council Members receive no remuneration. Chairs of the regional Arts Councils receive £5, 880 per annum.

This appointment has been made in accordance with the OCPA Code of Practice. Appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process.