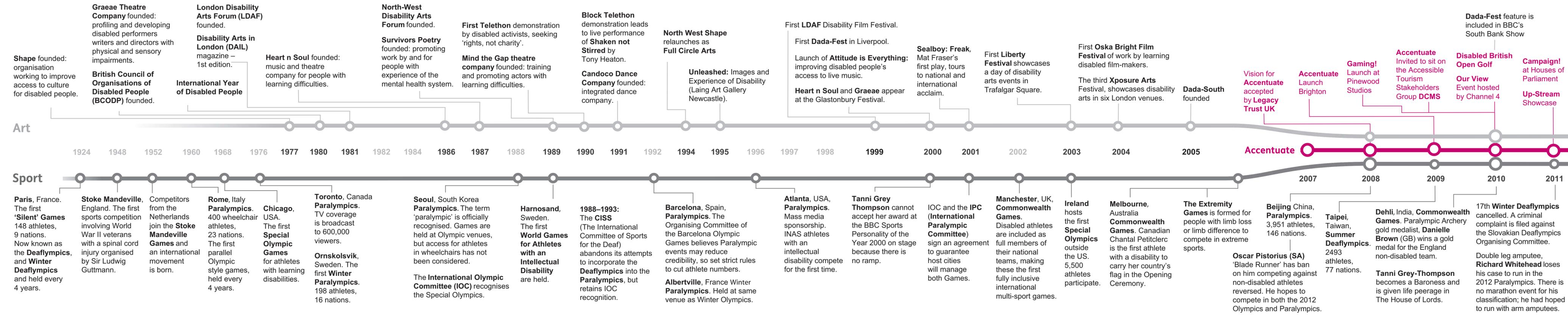


Art & Sport Timeline




"Simply one of the biggest factors is I love what I do... the sportsman in me makes me want to be the best at it! There is also nothing better than performing. It doesn't matter if I am on stage or in front of a camera. The rush you get from performing for people is... just awesome."

Dan Edge, Pro Wrestler

Dan is the UK's only disabled Professional Wrestler. He has wrestled in the UK and USA and is a former World Tag Team Champion. Dan also works as an actor and model.



"I'm driven by an obsession with telling stories, especially those not heard, experiences not shown. The rich fruity ragbag – and quite frankly contradictory – tales of disabled people do not truly register in the mainstream in all their difference and glory. I'm driven too by my personal love of language, of subversion."

Penny Pepper, Writer and Performer

Penny has been published extensively and showcased at the Edinburgh Fringe and National Theatre, and was a finalist at DadaFest International.



"Sometimes people are surprised that I play sport; and even more surprised that I compete at a high level. It's as if they have an image of a disabled person – and every disabled person is the same as another. Disabled people aren't surprised at all unless they are young and sometimes think that they can't join in. Non-disabled people are surprised, but in a good way. Their response is normally 'wow, that's so cool!'"

Lucie Bouron, Table Tennis Player

Lucie recently played in the BTTAD National Championships. She began her sporting career at Stoke Mandeville through the WheelPower Primary Camps, National Junior Games and Junior Camps.



"Passion, inspiration, commitment, hard work, focus and ambition drive me. As a dancer, I've been rejected at auditions because of my deafness and not been able to get an agent because they don't know how to deal with me. With determination and hard work, I've been lucky to perform in dance companies and worked with fantastic choreographers."

Mark Smith, Dancer and Choreographer

Mark is the founder and Artistic Director of dance company Deaf Men Dancing. Previous work includes co-choreographing Shoes at Sadler's Wells.



"Rowing is a sport where if you strive to be the best you can be then you will be able to work with some of the best people in their profession ... I love the feeling of moving the boat through the water and it is exhilarating rowing with precise technique."

Helene Raynsford, Rower

Helene is the current Paralympic Champion for Women's Arms Only Single Scull She was the winner of the first ever Paralympic Rowing Gold Medal in Beijing in 2008.



"Success for me is if I have done something I am proud of, or something that felt scary but I did it anyway, so some kind of personal achievement. From the outside, relating to public profile, this is more tricky. I've no interest in getting famous or being fashionable in the art world, but slowly trying to build up some kind of reputation through my work is important to me."

Sally Booth, Visual Artist

Sally regularly exhibits across the UK and abroad and was selected by the Royal College of Art for a touring exhibition in Japan. Recently she was artist in residence for Creative Landscapes in Hastings and St Leonards.



"I have always loved football – especially playing it more than watching. I joined Manchester City's disability team in 2009 when I was 34. It has changed my life. Man City's team is a mixture of physical and learning disabilities and I've never met such a diverse group of disabled people. We are like a band of brothers. The main thing for me is having fun... and beating the opposition."

Gordon Hart, Footballer

Gordon Hart has been the goalie for Manchester City's disabled football team since 2009. He is also an Assistant Producer at the BBC and has worked many programs including 'A Question of Sport'.



"There's more of a level playing field in officiating – it is knowledge based and everyone's sitting down. When I was younger and I told people I swam – they often thought it was for therapy, not sport. Now, when I am in my officials' uniform, it is a statement in itself. It prevents any need for discussion."

Dinah Simmons, Basketball Official

Dinah is an English Basketball Level 3 qualified Table Official. As a teenager, she participated at National level in disabled competition swimming and shooting.

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