

Demelza: Queen of the Tin Mines

Overview / Vision

House of Damnation CIC is pleased to be launching 'Demelza: Queen of the Tin Mines' a Cornwall-based, community-led mobile performing arts and culture hub, taking our ethos of 'education through entertainment' to the most rural and isolated locations throughout the Duchy.



A combination of rural geography, poor transport links, and the concentration of the arts in cities and coastal hubs has left many rural communities disconnected from the vibrancy, self-expression and solidarity enjoyed by those with access to the arts.

As a double-decker executive coach reborn as a fully equipped mobile arts venue, Demelza aims to change that by taking the stage, the exhibition, the gallery and the library on the road.

From St. Just to St. Mellion, Kilkhampton to Kynance Cove, Demelza will bring the power of performance, the joy of creativity, the wonder of reading and the curiosity of exhibitions to places where such experiences are hindered by often insurmountable travel needs.

This is more than just a community bus. Demelza will be a vehicle of change, connecting parishes, performers and people who deserve to feel seen, celebrated and part of something bigger, with audiences that want those experiences, but have so far not been able to access them.

Through this consultation, we're inviting you – residents, community members and allies to have a say in how Demelza is designed: what should she be able to do? Where should she be able to go? Who should be able to use her?



About us

House of Damnation CIC is a Cornwall-based, community-led drag and performing arts organisation creating bold, inclusive cultural experiences across the Duchy. We bring live performance, creative workshops, and shared community events to places where access to arts and culture is limited; particularly in rural and underserved communities. Rooted in Cornwall and shaped by the people who live here, our work is guided by a simple belief: creativity should not be confined to cities or large venues. From cabaret

and drag to storytelling and creative education, we design projects that travel, adapt, and respond to local need.

Demelza: Queen of the Tin Mines grows directly out of this work; taking our experience of touring performance, community engagement, and inclusive practice and developing it into a permanent, mobile cultural asset for Cornwall.

Concept & Planned Features

Demelza: Queen of the Tin Mines will be a double-decker executive coach transformed into a fully mobile arts and community venue - the first of its kind in Cornwall, or indeed the UK. Designed with flexibility, accessibility, and impact in mind, she will embody the bold, unapologetic spirit of House of Damnation CIC while offering a practical and sustainable touring asset for the region.

The features described below reflect our current thinking and will be refined through the consultation process.

A stage on wheels - Demelza's lower deck will function as a modular performance and activity space. The interior can be reconfigured depending on use — from seated layouts for community travel, to open-plan arrangements for workshops, talks, or exhibitions. Seating and fittings will be removable, allowing the space to adapt quickly between different functions. From her underfloor luggage compartment, a deployable stage will unfold; transforming the nearside of the vehicle into a pop-up performance area. With integrated lighting and sound connectivity, this will enable Demelza to operate as a standalone venue at events, schools, and rural community hubs.

Immersive atmosphere - A soundscape and PA system will be fitted throughout, supporting music, narration, and storytelling while the bus is in motion or at rest. Inside, dynamic lighting will shift mood and tone: dimmable, programmable, and discreetly concealed to create a soft, inclusive ambience. Acoustic insulation will help audiences focus on the activity or performance without distraction from outside noise.

When Demelza arrives, she will announce herself: subtle, concealed RGB exterior lighting will bring the vehicle to life in a programmable display, adaptable for different events and causes, from Pride celebrations to moments of remembrance.

Sustainability and inclusion - Demelza will be fully wheelchair-accessible on the lower deck, with aspirations to explore upper-deck access through innovative design. Facilities onboard will be single occupancy (gender-neutral) as standard. Where possible, onboard systems will draw from renewable energy sources, including solar panels and battery storage to support lighting and AV power.

Her exterior and interior design will reflect the House of Damnation identity: red, black, grey, and white woven through details ranging from paintwork to upholstery. Even small touches, a logo on a seatback, a subtle lighting detail, will signal quality, care, and creativity.

Digital and sensory experience - Demelza will also connect digitally through an online companion platform, accessible via QR codes and mobile devices. This may include tour updates, behind-the-scenes stories, and interactive resources, with future possibilities such as digital exhibitions, live-streamed performances, or educational materials for schools.

To enhance immersion, the interior design will pay attention to texture and scent: warm, welcoming, clean, and rich; helping the space feel as far removed from a bus as possible, and as close to a mobile theatre as imagination allows.

Demelza will not simply visit communities; she will transform them; turning village greens, car parks, and town squares into temporary stages for connection, culture, and celebration.

Who It's For

Demelza: Queen of the Tin Mines is for everyone, and exists to connect, inspire, and celebrate creativity in all its forms.

At her heart, Demelza champions LGBTQ+ inclusion and visibility across Cornwall, bringing joy and artistic expression to places where access to live performance, cultural education, and shared community space is limited. She helps bridge the gap between rural isolation and collective experience, reminding communities that diversity is not something that only exists elsewhere; it belongs here too.

Her purpose also extends beyond her LGBTQ+ roots. Demelza is a mobile platform for the performing arts, giving communities across Cornwall the chance to host, take part in, or simply experience live creativity in new and accessible ways. From drag and theatre to exhibitions and storytelling, she can turn car parks into cabaret spaces, village greens into galleries, and high streets into temporary hubs of expression. Demelza also supports local organisations and the wider creative economy. Galleries, museums, libraries, and community groups can use her to take work on the road, reach new audiences, and test new ideas. Local Pride committees can access a fully equipped pop-up stage without the prohibitive costs of staging and lighting, while nearby businesses may benefit from the increased vibrancy and footfall her visits bring. Demelza will always remain an asset of Cornwall — rooted in the Duchy, designed to serve its people, and carrying its creative spirit wherever she travels. In every place she visits, her purpose is the same: to make creativity accessible, community visible, and connection possible.



Why We're Consulting

Demelza is still at an early stage, and this consultation is how we shape what she becomes.

We have a clear vision for Demelza: a touring arts and inclusion space, a mobile performance venue, a classroom, and a celebration of Cornish creativity on wheels.

What we don't yet know is how different communities across Cornwall most need to use her — and that's where your voice matters.

Through this consultation, we're gathering ideas, experiences, and insights to ensure Demelza is developed **with** the people she's meant to serve, not simply delivered **to** them.

We want to understand:

- what activities or support people would most like to see on board;
- how local organisations might use, host, or partner with Demelza;
- any barriers that could prevent people from accessing her; and
- how her design and purpose can be as inclusive and impactful as possible.

Your feedback will directly influence how Demelza is designed, where she goes, and what she delivers. It will also help demonstrate to potential funders that there is both a genuine need and a strong community appetite for a project like this; one that responds to Cornwall's geography, culture, and lived realities.

This isn't just a survey; it's the beginning of a shared journey. By taking part, you'll help ensure Demelza truly belongs to the communities she serves, with opportunities to stay involved as her story continues to unfold.

Together, we can make sure that when Demelza takes to the road, she carries the voices of Cornwall with her.



How to Take Part

Your voice matters; and shaping Demelza starts here.

The community consultation for Demelza: Queen of the Tin Mines will run for two months, from **Saturday 10 Jan 2026 to Saturday 7 March 2026**. During this time, we're inviting anyone who lives, works, or creates in Cornwall to share their ideas and feedback.

You can take part by completing our short questionnaire, available online via the [House of Damnation website](#), or alternative accessible versions are available on request.

If you'd rather talk your responses through, a member of the House of Damnation team can complete the form on your behalf while you share your thoughts – please contact us to arrange this.

The survey asks about how you'd like to see Demelza used, any barriers we should be aware of, and the impact you think she could have in your community. Every response will help shape the project's design, delivery, and future direction.

When the consultation closes, we'll share a summary of what we've learned, highlighting the ideas, themes, and priorities that will guide the next stage of Demelza's journey.

Let's build her together — one story, one idea, one voice at a time.

Data & Confidentiality

House of Damnation CIC takes your privacy seriously. All responses to this consultation will be handled in line with our *Information Policy*, which complies with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Here's what that means for you:

- Participation is voluntary, and you don't need to share any personal information unless you choose to.
- All feedback will be stored securely and used only for the purposes of this consultation: to inform the design, development, and funding of Demelza: Queen of the Tin Mines.
- Information may be anonymised and summarised in reports or funding applications, but individuals will never be identified.
- Responses will be retained for up to 12 months after the consultation closes, in line with our Data Retention Schedule, before being securely deleted.
- You can ask to access, correct, or withdraw your data at any time by contacting us at hello@houseofdamnation.co.uk.

For more information about how we protect your data and your rights under UK law, you can visit our website or request a copy of our full *Information Policy*.