



# XTRAX / FREEDOM FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL SHOWCASE 2019

28 August – 1 September, Hull, UK

## XTRAX SHORTS

Presentations about new work available for touring from 2020

**Saturday 31 August | 10.00 – 12.00**  
**Showcase Hub, 66–68 Humber Street**

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## **Welcome to the XTRAX / Freedom Festival International Showcase 2019**

28 August – 1 September

We are delighted to be working with Freedom Festival to present a selection of artists' pitches from some of the UK's most innovative and creative companies.

From traditional street theatre shows to large-scale spectacle and innovative digital pieces created for the public space, the work offers a small taster of the outdoor arts being created in the UK.

We hope you will enjoy these presentations and encourage you to engage with the artists here presented to find out more about their new creations.

We are grateful to Arts Council England for its ongoing financial and strategic support of our Platform 4:UK activity and we look forward to meeting you during the showcase.

The XTRAX team.

### **The XTRAX team at the XTRAX / Freedom Festival International Showcase:**

Jack **Bright** – Admin and Marketing Assistant

Elena **Cavallero** – Project Manager, Digital Development

Maggie **Clarke** – Director

Irene **Segura** – International Relations and Talent Development

### **The XTRAX team:**

Matthew **Belfield** – Communications Manager

Adam **Cooper** – Finance & Administration Officer

Annika **Edge** – General Manager

Hannah **Hartley** – Project Manager

Jonathan **McGrath** – Project Manager

David **Morgan** – Programme Manager

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# MURMURATION ARTS – NIGHTLIGHTS

Marion Duggan – Artistic Director

Brighton, UK

T: +44 7736 834 057

E: marion@murmurationarts.co.uk

W: murmurationarts.co.uk

Twitter: @murmurationArts

Facebook: @murmurationArts

Instagram: @murmurationArts



**Murmuration Arts** is a participatory arts organisation, focusing on participatory projects that adopt a co-creation approach; creating collaboratively with communities. Our work connects and builds community via outdoor arts, street theatre, site-responsive performance, participatory dance, music, reminiscence sessions, intergenerational workshops, cooking together, sharing stories, oral history and craft activities. Our creative process includes in-depth research with communities, focusing on building and maintaining relationships. Each project we work on aims to create a unique shared experience, connecting communities, giving people a voice and platform on which to tell their stories. Our team collaborated together for over 14 years as Ragroof.

## *“Nightlights”*

Presented by Marion Duggan (Artistic Director)

Five nightlights appear over town casting spotlights on unheard voices of baby caregivers. We're invited to join the lullaby, to be soothed in this durational piece. We hear local parents' song, see a choir, watch a dance, invited to share a song.

We will research the history of lullabies and record interviews with parents-to-be and new parents, asking about the experience of parenthood and recording the songs they sing to their children.

Audiences will be given a map of the night lights they can visit, positioned within a mile of each other.

Light 1 – a local choir of parents sing

Light 2 – sound recordings of parents singing to their children

Light 3 – a female performer dances, interpreting the physicality of the new parent

Light 4 – a solo singer appears out of the blue to sing acapella lullabies, from a balcony over a busy street

Light 5 – the invitation to audience members is to step into the night light and sing a song they sing to their child or a song they were sung as a child.

Installations: a glowing, large child's 'mobile' of stars rotating around the performer it lights; a glowing moon lamp bathing the solo dancer-choreographer in pale moonlight as she moves.

Creative Team – Lucy Bradridge – Costume / Set; Caroline Arnold – Lighting; Laura Wright – Vocal Director; Marion Duggan – Project Director.

# LUKE JERRAM – *OF EARTH & SKY*

Kate Ward – Producer

Bristol, UK

T: +44 7884 230 535

E: [kateward@mail.com](mailto:kateward@mail.com)

W: [lukejerram.com](http://lukejerram.com)

Twitter: @lukejerram



**Luke Jerram's** multidisciplinary practice involves the creation of sculptures, installations and live arts projects. Jerram has created a number of extraordinary art projects over the last 18 years which have excited and inspired people around the globe.

Jerram is known worldwide for his large-scale public engagement artworks. One of his most recent works *The Museum of the Moon* was co-commissioned by WithoutWalls and was developed through an Insitu residency in Lieux Publics in, Marseille. The artwork has since toured the WithoutWalls network and across the world. To date the artwork has been experienced by more than 4 million people, presented over 100 times in 30 different countries worldwide.

## *“Of Earth & Sky”* Presented by Kate Ward (Producer)

In this new artwork, evocative text and incredible landscapes combine to create an artwork visible from miles around, particularly as people journey into and across towns and cities. Local people will create short lines of text and poetry about their town or city for display within the landscape, alongside more well-known literary works. The experience of reading the poetry, fusing with the view of the landscape, creates a new way of seeing what's there, and celebrates equally the urban and the rural, local creativity and cultural identity.

A residency in October 2019 will explore the work's potential for domestic and international audiences whether overseas or in the UK. This will ensure the piece resounds with the communities in which it is placed, exploring language, commonalities and difference.

The artwork and level of public engagement is flexible, scalable and can be tailored to local contexts and themes. It will encourage the public and visitors to each festival to reflect upon the city, the region and their place within it. The public engagement can be broad and open or focus on a specific topic, such as the natural environment. It is expected that engagement is delivered by local partners in each location it is presented.

Poetry will be visible from the train, roads, waterways and coastlines on the way into towns, ports and cities, creating a gateway artwork. Text written in large wooden or metal structures would weave through town and city centres, with correspondingly vast audience numbers, whilst others may be discovered in hidden landscapes, taking the reader from the beaten track, creating more private and contemplative spaces. Visible from a train window, the first line of a poem might be placed in a field, the next line in the subsequent field.

The project is scalable, depending on budget there could be 5 - 20 locations in each city, so making a trail for people to go and see all the artwork.

## BUREAU OF SILLY IDEAS – *GARDEN OF CURIOUS AMUSEMENTS*

Edmund Harcourt – Producer

Reading, UK

**T:** +44 7968 439 810

**E:** ed@hogarthproductions.co.uk

**W:** bureauofsillyideas.com

**Twitter:** @SillyBureau

**Facebook:** @bureauofsillyideas



The **Bureau of Silly Ideas** has been transforming public spaces and challenging what ‘art’ is through silliness and interrogation for over 15 years. The majority of their work is delivered to audiences across the UK (and internationally) for free in spaces where people happen to be.

Their productions are carefully devised to create experiences that are both, entertaining and thought provoking. They believe in providing alternative platforms to enable audiences to engage with society and question the world around them. Their creative territories also include museums and heritage sites, galleries, shopping centres, high streets, back streets, parks, theme parks, festivals, stations and airports.

### *“Garden of Curious Amusements”* Presented by Edmund Harcourt (Producer)

The *Garden of Curious Amusements* is an interactive, participatory experience that takes approximately an hour, for people of all ages. Produced by Hogarth Productions, and created by Roger Hartley and the Bureau of Silly Ideas team, the installation involves a number of large interactive machines and marble runs covering approximately 20m x 10m. Supported by Arts Council & Market Place CPP, the work has been fully tested with an audience in 2018. Audiences take a marble on a journey through earth, air, fire and water to infuse it with inspiration. During the experience, they will meet a number of scientific experts who help to inspire them.

The project includes presenting work in community spaces in the build up to the main event as well as working with local actors and performers. We use the celebrated neutrality of the UN to generate new thought processes in people who do not believe or understand they have access to art. This work places suspension of disbelief in the everyday and uses well-honed crafts of performance, design, and story to give people marbles they can hold onto and use to make the world a better place. It is also helping world leaders that have lost their marbles.

## ENTER EDEM – *UN DIA*

Emma Fay Dawes – Artistic Director  
Leicester, UK

**T:** +44 7875 533 976

**E:** hello@enteredem.co.uk

**W:** enteredem.co.uk

**Twitter:** @EnterEdem

**Facebook:** @EnterEdem

**Instagram:** @enteredemofficial



**Enter Edem** are a collective of artists who create cross artform shows and interactive experiences. Their vision is to inspire audiences from all socio-economic and diverse backgrounds, bringing them into a world of unconventional curiosity and inspiration.

Their latest work *Un Dia* is an outdoor fun family puppetry show telling a heart-warming story about a curious and imaginative boy Phillipe and his Grandfather William. These unlikely heroes take audiences on a fantastical tale, full of adventure and unexpected delights!

### *“Un Dia”*

Presented by Charlotte Jarvis (Artist)

Funded by Arts Council England for its R&D period July–Nov 2019, this small scale show (for audiences of 50–200 depending on location) is choreographed by Sioda Adams and mentored by John Varrach and Sue Pycroft; James Kerr, Charlotte Jarvis and Tim Baker make up a creative team that includes James of musicians and puppeteers, with artistic direction from Emma Fay.

Production partners include Curve Leicester, Leicester City Council Parks and Brighton Open Air Theatre, supporting with creation residencies and work in progress sharings Aug–Oct 2019. Co-commissioners include The University of Leicester public engagement Health Matters campaign, funding wraparound accessible workshops that explore community values and cross-generational relationships (Oct 2019) through sensory touch tours, with a focus for engagement where English is not a first language, elderly, SEN and PMLD participants.

With generational divides, media distraction, consumerism and social issues such as homelessness as part of our society, *Un Dia* explores ideas of connection and value, combating a culture of fear through storytelling using clowning, puppetry and live music.

The show is being developed for both daytime and dusk performances, offering potential programming to light night and evening outdoor performances.

## RAMSHACKLICIOUS – CLUB GEEK

Jack Stoddart – Artistic Director  
Bath, UK  
T: +44 7765 668 674  
E: ramshacklicious@gmail.com  
W: ramshacklicious.com  
Twitter: @Ramshacklicious  
Facebook: @Ramshacklicious



**Ramshacklicious** specialise in using traditional theatre forms to create high quality, contemporary theatrical experiences for the outdoors.

They aim to create work that is accessible and yet subversive, presenting performances that are surprisingly complex and skilled in integrating live music, sound design, physical theatre, clown, puppetry, pyrotechnics and innovative design. Creating shows that take unsuspecting audiences on anarchic journeys into the unexpected!

### “Club Geek”

Presented by Jack Stoddart (Artistic Director)

*Club Geek* is a piece of outsider theatre, drawing influence from traditional freak & peep shows, re-imagined dragged kicking and screaming into the present.

Inspired by societies living & breathing freak show (in the flesh/on the internet/TV). Delving into the human condition & fragility of life to explore themes of control/nonconformity, public/private personas & misconstrued perceptions to tell the stories behind the extreme public facades, societies place in this and what the not too distant future might hold!

Presented in a multifunctional structure, layered with hidden surprises! Part installation (peep show), part inside, subversive performance experience.

Aesthetically existing within a visually surreal reality. Stylistically in the realm of the grotesque clown, wrapped up in tones of tragedy played with subtlety, lightness & a whole lot of heart.

Combining a non-verbal clown ensemble, varying scales of puppetry, automata, mechanical set design, live/looped music/sound design, an immersive 3D ambisonic surround sound environment and participatory elements.

We're currently exploring the initial concepts of this project/building a team of collaborators including designers – Dik Downey (Pickled image) & Will Datson (Creator of our burger van/battle church).

R&D activities will take place in 2019/2020 – With a pilot tour of the outside installation element happening in 2020. Followed by the development of the inside, subversive performance experience (In co-production with Bath Spa's theatre production and acting departments). With a full launch of the project in 2021.

## FULL TILT – NEXUS

Rowan Fae – Artistic Director  
Bristol, UK

T: +44 7853 836 007

E: contactrowan@gmail.com

W: fulltiltaerial.com

Twitter: @FullTiltAerial FB: @fulltiltaerial



**Full Tilt** company is founded to nurture the intersection of circus, dance, and theatre. Focus is placed on collaborative, interdisciplinary projects and special interest shown in the fields of Immersive technology and digital art. We seek to navigate the limitations of digital realms in regard to the direct sensual involvement of the interactive participant. The ambition is towards the creation of impactful, immersive and transformative experiences for all audiences.

Full Tilt has extensive production experience managing mid and large-scale projects, working with multiple teams to produce in challenging settings. Over 2017-18 Full Tilt conceived, managed & produced *Substratum* – an award-winning spectacular hybrid of digital arts, dance performance, and contemporary electronic music. A live outdoor performance designed for large audiences in urban settings. *Substratum* takes advantage of technology to amplify the potential of space and deliver a dynamic site-specific experience.

### “Nexus”

Presented by Rowan Fae (Artistic Director)

*Nexus* is a dance theatre performance choosing to bring positivity into the world, a wake-up call to feel a deeper sense of fulfilment, creating momentum for constructive collaborations and stimulating positive change. We can truly imagine something better by channelling a child-like sense of awe about the world and *Nexus* seeks to nurture the child-like sense of wonder that we are all born with.

Three colourful friends explore themes of accumulation and play while ascending a performance on a 9m x 9m standing trussing system fitted with a PVC canvas screen. *Nexus* fuses street and contemporary dance styles and is performed to a bespoke score that straddles the classical and electronic music genres. The aim of this work is to gain insight into elements that are interconnected by an entire nexus of inner relations, triggering new routes of collaboration between vertical dance and contemporary music. Composer David Ridley and Full Tilt will work to develop a dynamic compositional interaction between score and movement. Our innovation in genre with classical-electronica is to combine synthesised and modulated sounds with classical instruments in contemporary composition. This work will be developed as a trio of dancers accompanied by a fully mastered, professionally recorded soundtrack of the full composition for PA playback.

*Nexus* received research and development support from ACE. A work in progress was presented over Glastonbury Festival 2019. Following this 1st phase, we wish to present *Nexus* for the outdoor touring market, bringing with us a structure for staging. We have had extensive design meetings and key partners and mentors in place to implement this. The structure itself could also serve to stage an adapted version of *Substratum* with animated light projections. Allowing us potential for a range of collaborations with arts providers. Musical Composition will be developed in such a way that we are able to insert live elements for 'expanded' versions. The project is an opportunity to catalyse a cross-artform collaboration with potential to reach and inspire a range of audiences & participants.

## TIT FOR TAT – *BOOKS!*

Ryan Murphy – Artistic Director

Bristol, UK

T: +44 7984 579 220

E: Ryan.Murphy.The@gmail.com

W: ryanmurphycircus.com

Facebook: @titfortatcircustheatre



**Tit for Tat** brings the spectacular joys of circus and the richness of theatre into one frothing pot of performance – usually through fiasco, farce, eccentric characters, absurdism and feats of dexterity. We believe in celebrating the ordinary. Taking everyday items, objectives and scenarios and exploring every nook and cranny until we make them extra-ordinary. We believe in finding the most exciting and, more often than not, the most difficult way of getting from A to B. Even when undertaking simple tasks such as making a cup of tea, painting a wall, or changing a lightbulb.

### *“Books!”*

Presented by Ryan Murphy (Artistic Director)

*Books!* will be our second full-length show, bringing our theatrical juggling method to a rich world of storytelling and maniacal barely-contained magic. With flames, fountains, noises and beasts nearly escaping from their pages; our characters try desperately to share their love for stories without also becoming consumed by them.

We are working with an international team of artists – from England, France, and Slovenia – with backgrounds in juggling, acrobatics, lecoq based theatre, puppetry and dance. Our creative team includes sound engineering by Ross Flight and production mentorship from Wet Picnic Director, Matthew Feerick. With networks across England, France and Spain we will create an international touring show for 2020; celebrating eccentricity and accessible entertainment.

We have a commissioned showing at Bristol’s Circus City Festival in November. We have conducted two weeks of research & development (supported by Arts Council England) and are currently applying for further funding for the show’s full creation.

*Books!* will be one step larger than our previous show *The Most Dangerous Cup Of Tea In The World*. It will be a mid-scale piece that relishes in absurdism and celebrates the extremes of human nature; laying down the groundwork for our increasingly ambitious future projects.

## WIRED AERIAL THEATRE – *WAVE (WORKING TITLE)*

Wendy Hesketh-Ogilvie – Artistic Director

Liverpool, UK

**T:** +44 151 207 7568

**E:** wendy@wiredaerialtheatre.com

**W:** wiredaerialtheatre.com

**Twitter:** @wiredaerial

**FB:** @wiredaerialtheatre



**Wired** is an aerial dance company based in Liverpool. We create and tour inventive aerial theatre productions with the use of flyable set pieces, provide aerial consultancy services and education opportunities. We are the creators of Bungee Assisted Dance & Bungee Workout™

We developed “As The World Tipped” 9 years ago and remains the most successful large scale show ever supported by WoW; performed over 60 times around the world and still touring.

Wired has been working with Bregenz Festspielhaus (Austria) for 3 years. 2019-20 in its most ambitious role with Artistic Director Wendy as Rigoletto’s Movement & Stunt Director. Collaborations include work with Liam Steel, Regents Park Open Air Theatre or Birmingham Rep Theatre.

### “*WAVE (Working Title)*”

Presented by Wendy Hesketh-Ogilvie (Artistic Director)

*WAVE* is a large-scale show about the significance of oceans and the global impact their health has on our existence. Spanning issues from microscopic plankton as the first step in our food chain, to refugees and plastics. A multimedia show involving film, New Media, Visual arts, dance and theatre all taking place in an original (20X10X15m) structure evoking a section of a gigantic wave designed by Jamie Ogilvie.

Wired have a strong artistic relationship with Nigel Jamieson, one of the world’s leading directors of large-scale political theatre after successfully creating *ATWT* together in 2010. Nigel will write the script and direct the show. He is renowned for creating epic sized productions for large audiences, while conveying important messages which resonate to the individual. The focus of our production is inspired by the political significance of oceans and what is washed up on our shores; covering the scientific significance of microscopic plankton, the issue of plastic pollution and the stories of the refugees forced to traverse the sea.

We have given considerable thought to our collaborators and the resources we create to accompany the show. Patrick Dineen (from *ATWT*) will be creating the sound score. Local Artist Faith Bebbington is creating a blanket structure using found plastics to be moved over audience’s heads. Catalan artists Playmodes have been approached to create interactive light and AV scapes. We are in conversations with FACT to create a ‘making of’ documentary film; research and reference material. Research students from Lancaster university will be investigating the carbon impact of our processes too.

# THE CULTURAL ASSEMBLY – UP MY STREET

Kwesi Johnson – Creative Director & Choreographer  
Essex, UK

**T:** +44 7832 267 683

**E:** kwesi@theculturalassembly.com

**W:** theculturalassembly.com

**Twitter:** @CulturalSembly



**The Cultural Assembly** (TCA) is a creative agency and the creative arm of award winning ReSpace Projects. We create ethical arts, community projects that intersect culture, innovation, digital, business in wasted and unused commercial properties. Co-Founders Kwesi Johnson (formerly NPO Kompany Malakhi) and Maya Alexander bring together over 30 years of expertise in the arts and commercial fields for example dance, theatre, business development, film, marketing and knowledge of commercial real estate. Clients and partners have included National Theatre, Colombia Tristar, Royal Opera House and Granada TV.

We aim to solve real world problems with arts and culture. UMS is a project that sits within this vision to help sustain the vibrancy of a town using cultural activity that is sustainable, ethical and investable.

## “Up My Street”

Presented by Kwesi Johnson (Creative Director)

*Up My Street* (UMS) is an augmented reality performing & visual arts trail created by The Cultural Assembly and FENYCE. It will enable the arts, culture and technology to revive neglected town centres and sustain thriving ones. The performance trail can embellish the side of buildings with animated art that can be experienced en masse, make intimate shop doorways a stage for a rap battle or mix virtual dancers and graphics with real time performers. An audience member will experience the performance through a smartphone screen or tablet and headphones, meaning 1000's of people can experience the trail each day it is active, which means the reach is limitless.

The subject is informed by themes around protectionism, the rise of the far right and the fake news that is polarising people across the UK and the world. *UMS* aims to create an immersive shared experience that connects people through the built environment, collaborative digital art, culture and placemaking.

Markers that will be created by graffiti artist Scotty from Brave Arts will define the trail route. The markers will be placed in specific locations that trigger an app that will display the contents on a smart phone/tablet. We can create markers that can be designated for local the community to contribute to the trail if a festival desires community participation. The content will be created during workshops that will take place before we set up the installation in a town/city. We are eager to work with a partner festival that is interested in including the community.

Blueprint allowed us to create the desired content using separate apps. However we want to integrate the applications by creating a tailored application that enables a seamless transition between audience and mixed reality dance, art, music and spoken word.

We are able to offer the option of a permanent installation that facilitates on-going collaborations and increased footfall.

# MIDDLE CHILD THEATRE – *LIVING HERE* (WORKING TITLE)

Paul Smith – Artistic Director | Hull, UK

**T:** +44 7791 884 554

**E:** paul@middlechildtheatre.co.uk

**W:** middlechildtheatre.co.uk

**Twitter:** @MiddleChildHull **FB:** @middlechildhull



We are an award-winning Hull-based company creating gig theatre that brings people together for a good night out with big ideas. We tell untold stories which capture the electrifying moment when the beat drops, mixing original live music with bold new writing. Our events are live and loud and we tackle universal themes through human stories, providing a good night out which is as entertaining as it is challenging. We are committed to breaking down barriers and ensuring that theatre is affordable and accessible for all.

Since our formation in 2011 we have produced 20 full-length productions and recently joined the Arts Council's National Portfolio. Our work has taken place in theatres, clubs and festivals, reaching beyond the usual theatre crowd. We are obsessed with re-energising theatre audiences. Everything we make revels in liveness and simply couldn't happen without that specific audience on that specific night.

We have a strong team of collaborators who have worked together for many years; however, this project is one where we would be looking to gain external support and provide training and development for our team to learn knowledge specific to making outdoor work.

## *“Living Here”*

Presented by Paul Smith (Artistic Director)

*Living Here* explores whether we have lost a sense of community and kindness in today's society. It will fuse together hip hop, live music, breakdance, storytelling and theatre to create a loud, thought-provoking and entertaining night out. The story focusses on one street in a working-class town in England; introducing a diverse group of characters to explore race, class, loneliness, isolation and poverty. *Living Here* reunites writer Luke Barnes with Middle Child; our previous collaboration was the multi-award winning production *All We Ever Wanted Was Everything*.

Music is at the heart of this piece and drives the narrative; all the actors onstage will also be the musicians and performers of the live music. The production is being made in collaboration with the Hull Beats Bus who run hip hop workshops with young people and were the subject of the documentary *Northern Soul*, created by Sean McAllister (*A Syrian Love Story*) aired on the BBC.

This production is triggered by our determination to create more ambitious work and reach new audiences. Our home city, Hull, has a population who are hugely engaged in outdoor performance and festival culture, this has grown significantly through City of Culture 2017. Following this, this production is currently centred around a Summer performance during 2020 at Stage @TheDock in Hull, a 350-seat amphitheatre which sits in the bed of the old dock by the River Hull. However, our ambitions are bold and this is not just a story for Hull; it is a universal story of how we show our humanity through community and

kindness. Our style is bold, unique and exciting. Our work has proven to tour well and appeal to large audiences. Hence, we want to make sure this work travels and provides a good night out for audiences.

## KAPOW DANCE CIRCUS THEATRE – MAYFLY

Beth Powlesland & Eithne Kane – Co-Artistic Directors

Manchester, UK

**T:** +44 7738 784 045

**E:** kapowdance@gmail.com

**W:** kapowdance.co.uk

**Twitter:** @kapowdance

**FB:** @kapowdance



**Kapow – Dance Circus Theatre** has been creating outdoor work since their foundation. Both founders, Beth Powlesland and Eithne Kane are hugely passionate about bringing artwork into the street and presenting meaningful high-quality work.

Beth and Eithne have been working in street theatre since they met in 2012 touring with Tilted Productions and have appeared as performers in notable outdoor productions such as SeaSaw (Tilted Productions), Fragile (Tilted Productions), H2H (Joli Vyann), Crazy in Love (Watch This Space Festival/Angus Mackechnie). Kapow now bring this expertise and experience to making striking, playful and moving street productions.

### *“Mayfly”*

*Eithne Kane and Beth Powlesland (Co-Artistic Directors)*

A spectacular outdoor work harnessing the power of water on a bespoke set which fires 7 choreographed jets into the air. Two women dodge, play, dance and eventually embrace the deluge. A story about female empowerment and the ephemeral nature of life.

The stage will be custom built and the arcs of water can be choreographed to music. The jets will land on the stage creating a dramatic sound and splash before pouring down towards the audience and being pumped/recycled back into the air again.

Two women enter the set - beginning the show dry there is an ever-present tension of when they will end up drenched in the water. The fountains provide numerous metaphors, representing obstacles in our lives, the ever changing landscape in which we all live, that nothing stays the same, that we can stand up, overcome and create change and that our survival is inextricably linked to our environment and the natural world.

This show will demonstrate the fierce determination and power of these two women. Show that we must adapt, change and transform and that we can all be vulnerable. We have a duty of care to one another and to our environment. Because the show happens in water and surrounded by water. We will be able to perform in any weather, rain or shine. We feel this will be invaluable on the UK touring networks. We are collaborating with water and fireworks specialists Entertainment Effects.

There will be a specially commissioned soundtrack created by Caro C a talented musician known for championing women in electronic music.

*Mayfly* - a unique fusion of water, sound and movement.

**XTRAX**

[www.xtrax.org.uk](http://www.xtrax.org.uk)

Email: [info@xtrax.org.uk](mailto:info@xtrax.org.uk)

Facebook: [@xtraxarts](https://www.facebook.com/xtraxarts)

Twitter: [@xtraxarts](https://twitter.com/xtraxarts)

51 Old Birley Street, Manchester, M15 5RF, United Kingdom

Tele: +44 (0)161 227 8383

