



XTRAX

XTRAX SHORTS

Presentations about new work available for touring in
2017

Saturday, 25 June – Sunday, 26 June

Festival Central Marquee

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XTRAX Shorts 2016

Welcome to XTRAX Shorts, one of the most popular elements of our showcase programme.

XTRAX Shorts is designed to give artists an opportunity to present new ideas in a concise format and in a supportive environment, and to give showcase delegates a sneak preview of projects that are hoping to reach production or tour in the next season.

This model has proven success and many of the companies who presented work in recent years at XTRAX shorts have gained bookings or commissions as a result.

This year we are pleased to present work from a range of new and established companies, representing work of many scales and genres. Most of the presentations are from UK companies but we are pleased to be able to include a selection of new projects from artists from Germany, Ireland and Portugal.

The following pages will introduce you to all of the artists presenting at XTRAX Shorts this year so we hope you will keep this booklet for future reference.

Thank you to all the artists who are sharing ideas with us, and to Bettina Linstrum, our Chair for XTRAX Shorts this year. We are grateful to Arts Council England for supporting this programme through Grants for the Arts.

We hope you will find the presentations of interest and we look forward to hearing your feedback.

The XTRAX Team

XTRAX SHORTS PRESENTING ARTISTS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 25 JUNE 2016

10:00-10:30 Coffee and Networking

10:30-12:00 XTRAX Shorts: Companies pitching about new projects which will tour in 2017. Chaired by Bettina Linstrum, Director of ArtsAgenda

Running order:

Acrojou - *Vessel*

Mr. Wilson's Second Liners, in collaboration with Walk the Plank -
Voodoo Rising

Mervyn Millar, Carl Robertshaw, Trigger Stuff & Black Skull Creative -
Flying Dragon

Impossible - *Heads*

RoguePlay - *Snakes and Ladders*

Frolicked - *Seeing Red*

Fanzini Productions - *Circus Jukebox*

Cia Maleta - *Boa Noite*

Theater Titanick – *Alice on the Run*

UK-Korea Street Arts Research project 2016

Korea Street Arts Center introduces the Korean delegates visiting the showcase and introduces the search for creative ideas and partners for UK-Korea collaborative projects in 2017-18.

12:00-13:00 Meet the delegates and Networking: all delegates are invited to briefly introduce themselves. We invite you to join us for a tea and coffee whilst you meet other delegates and colleagues before the programme starts.

From 13:00 Festival Programme - Various Locations



Acrojou

Jeni Barnard
Artistic Director
Studio Z2 08Z, Creek Creative,
1 Abbey Street, Faversham, Kent, ME13 7BE, UK
M: +44 (0)774 768 8385
E: jeni@acrojou.com
W: www.acrojou.com

Acrojou create highly visual circus and theatre performances for outdoor events worldwide. With backgrounds in circus, design, theatre, dance and engineering, the company combine disciplines, seeking narrative at the meeting point of bodies, structures and materials.

The company's mission is to create ambitious performance with integrity: work that is accessible, challenging, and crafted for presentation outdoors, where people can access it for free in their local spaces.

Acrojou's work has been seen live by hundreds of thousands of people across seventeen countries. They are considered to be one of the UK's leading circus and street arts companies.

Performance crafted from circus, story, and soul.

Vessel

Vessel is the second part of Acrojou's current two-part project.

Part 1, *All at Sea*, premiered in April and is touring widely through 2016. *All at Sea* is supported by Arts Council England and Kent County Council, and co-commissioned by Applause, The Gulbenkian and The Stables for IF: Milton Keynes International Festival 2016.

All at Sea is an installation combining sound, theatre and design, set in a boat which rows gently through the audience. In limbo between life and death, a lone boatman traverses a vast ocean of memories and past hopes, accompanied by his own personal storm: a fully functioning rain-cloud caught on the mast of his vessel.

The piece involves interactive sound, with hopes and memories of audience members mixed into the soundscape prior to each performance, allowing the show to continuously evolve in a reflection of its audience as it tours.

Vessel sees the character we meet in *All at Sea* still alone and adrift on his boat, the narrative performance fully exploring his journey through limbo and grief towards peace. *Vessel* will be a highly physical evening performance combining Chinese pole acrobatics, dance, and illusion with physical theatre. Exploring universal questions around loss, morality and how to best make use of the phenomenon we call life, *Vessel* combines hope, dark humour, striking design, and the visual poetry for which Acrojou is recognised.

In 2017, *All at Sea*, a 30-minute row-about, will be available as a precursor to *Vessel*, which will be a 30-40 minute evening performance for outdoor presentation.



Mr. Wilson's Second Liners, in collaboration with Walk the Plank

Ellie Turner | Will Lenton
Executive Producer | Band Leader
Walk the Plank,
72 Broad Street, Salford, M6 5BZ, UK
T: +44 (0)161 736 8964
E: ellie@walktheplank.co.uk
W: www.walktheplank.co.uk

Formed by Will Lenton in 2013, as a Gone in 20 Minutes outdoor arts commission, **Mr. Wilson's Second Liners** recondition the music of 1990's rave culture, presenting it via the theatrical medium of New Orleans Second-lining. By interpreting public spaces as our club-land, we incite empowering free parties that engage and surprise audiences in a myriad of contexts.

The band has extensively toured, performing at events such as Chaoyang International Spring Carnival, Beijing; Bestival, Hull Freedom Festival, Manchester Jazz Festival and Stockton International Riverside Festival.

In 2016, we have 75 confirmed bookings including Waddesdon Manor Feast Festival & Festival No. 6.

Voodoo Rising

Voodoo Rising is a new multidisciplinary outdoor performance which incorporates live music, movement, and pyrotechnics. It will be developed by Mr. Wilson's Second Liners in collaboration with **Walk the Plank** in 2016 for festival performances before being re-rehearsed and developed into a spectacle piece for more extensive touring in 2017.

Over summer 2016, Mr. Wilson's Second Liners will experiment with integrating pyro-performance, new movement, and musical elements into planned festival performances, working alongside Walk the Plank, Sonya Moorhead (Mr. Wilson's Creative Producer and Artistic Director for *Voodoo Rising*), musicians Graham Massey, Julie Gordon and movement specialist Jeannefer Jean-Charles.

This new piece of work, conceived by the band's creative producer, will allow the team to capitalise on the recent research trip to New Orleans and authentically develop the band's processional performances, creating a more resonant and memorable experience for audiences at these large-scale events.

It will also provide a vehicle for the band leader and creative producer to work alongside an experienced NPO (Walk the Plank) to develop and deliver the project.

Walk the Plank will lead on the development of a fiery stage: a stage structure animated with gas flames and other special effects.

Performances will be documented in order to develop a promotional pack in preparation for 2017 and international marketing opportunities, e.g. Tarrega Showcase and XTRAX Showcase at GDIF 2017. We will also develop participatory workshops.



Mervyn Millar, Carl Robertshaw, Trigger Stuff & Black Skull Creative

Angie Bual

Director of Trigger Stuff

217 Luckwell Road, Bristol, BS3 3HD, UK

M: +44 (0)754 201 6845

E: angie@triggerstuff.co.uk

W: www.triggerstuff.co.uk

Mervyn Millar, Carl Robertshaw, Trigger Stuff & Black Skull Creative are collaborating for the first time to create a three-day immersive experience, following the unexpected hatch and flight of a large-scale dragon puppet which will eventually take off in a display of pyrotechnics.

Flying Dragon

Flying Dragon is currently in the research and development phase, funded by Arts Council England. We are consulting with palaeontologist Dr. Mark Witten. By studying extinct and existing flying creatures and fossil evidence, we will stimulate an authentic muscle/mass ratio for flight.

We are using the dragon as a metaphor to explore cultural tensions between the West, and the media's portrayal of the rising power in the East. We will use the fact that myths and legends about dragons have sprung up in cultures all over the world and we will work with various community groups to bring these together for the final performance. Our production team Black Skull have experience from working on the 2012 Olympic Opening Ceremony of the cascade approach whereby the performers work closely with participants.

The audience will grow and gather over a period of up to three days. The action culminates in its escape and flight, which we will achieve by using a hidden helium body. Its flight will be celebratory, evoking ideas around the notions of borders and international freedom.

We are making a smaller (3m wide) prototype of the puppet which we will test and showcase along with a storyboard on Friday 8 July at Somerset House to a small invited audience. We are in conversation with promoters about launching and touring the full version of the project.



Impossible

Chris Squire
Director
The Watershed
22 Bridge Street, Slaithwaite,
Huddersfield, HD7 5JN, UK
T: +44 (0)148 484 8070
E: arts@impossible.org.uk
W: www.impossible.org.uk

Impossible creates a diverse range of digital installations that capture the imagination; digital and visual mix with participatory and interactivity to create intriguing and innovative arts events that engage people from all backgrounds.

Much of Impossible's work is done outside of traditional arts establishments, producing projects for the domestic neighbourhood, community, civic, education, retail and work environments; creating extraordinary experiences in everyday locations.

Heads

As dusk falls, three large translucent heads appear. Looking a bit like the giant Easter Island heads, each one will move, blink and seem almost alive as they are magically animated by projections. They show the faces of any audience members who use our quick self portrait camera – so absolutely everyone can add their likeness and become part of the artwork.

But then as we watch, the heads begin to speak, to tell tales and even sing short fragments of songs as we put words in your mouth – all fully lip-synched.

See yourself speak words you never said...



RoguePlay Theatre

Nell Bailey
Operations Manager
Unit 8, Minerva Works
158 Fazeley Street, Digbeth
Birmingham, B5 5RT, UK
T: +44 (0)121 643 0022
E: nell@rogueplay.co.uk
W: www.rogueplay.co.uk

RoguePlay is Birmingham's highly physical theatre company, producing work nationally and internationally. Using stunning Aerial Circus, Acrobatics, Poetry and Dance we capture stories by playing with the marriage between art-forms. Our workshops challenge young people, are disability accessible and our Creation Centre is safe and affordable.

Kim Charnock, the Artistic Director, and Lorna Meehan, the Creative Director have worked together for seven years. Kim is a skilled Physical Theatre practitioner with expertise in static trapeze and aerial silk. She runs the West Midlands Creation Centre. Lorna Meehan is a Physical Theatre performer and acclaimed Performance Poet with vast theatrical experience.

Snakes and Ladders

Snakes and Ladders is a co-directorship between RoguePlay Theatre and Gravity & Levity, with research and development support from the Generating Company in France.

The piece takes place on a specifically designed 7m cubed rig structure placed in a suitable outdoor space in city centres, parks or courtyards. Based on the traditional game of Snakes & Ladders, players can pass over other players, send their co-players tumbling down snakes to start again and cheat their way up by climbing ladders. The piece encompasses dance harness, aerial rope, parkour, physical theatre and performance poetry, and explores the balance of relationships, our need for co-operation and working together to achieve the impossible. It encourages risk taking, cohesiveness and trusting your neighbour.

We will create a new twist on the piece to make it relevant to the space and local communities. RoguePlay is currently in Bergerac researching and devising the show. Much of the planning has already been done; mentoring from Gravity and Levity will consolidate the creative ideas into a fully rounded, workable piece.

The company of 5 performers will be supported by professional riggers who will build the piece. For the presentation, live elements of the presentation will not need the full rig; we can fit in with the venues space or rigging points. Video footage and images of rehearsals will be integrated into the presentation together with Kim's presentation of the making of *Snakes and Ladders*.



Frolicked

Beka Haigh

Director

4 Todmorden Road,

Gale, Littleborough

Greater Manchester, OL15 9ER, UK

M: +44 (0)794 757 8181

E: admin@frolicked.co.uk

W: www.frolicked.co.uk

Frolicked is an outdoor puppetry theatre company specialising in creating puppet-orientated experiences for unusual locations. Our beautifully self-crafted characters are engaging, have a mischievous sense of humour and captivate people of all ages, as part of a variety of performances and games that are interactive, intimate and a little bit magical.

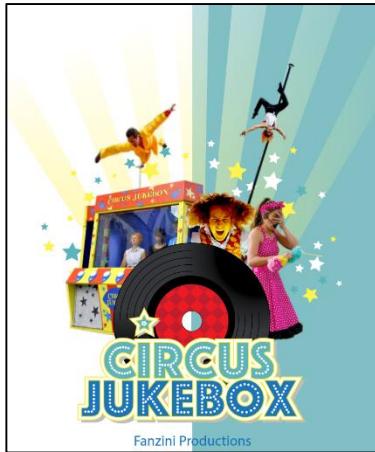
Seeing Red

Seeing Red takes the traditional tale of Red Riding Hood and twists it into a modern retelling, full of red-related surprises, dark humour and a mob of original puppet characters, then crams it all into one furry suitcase.

An old woman, struggling to pull a fur-covered trunk, stops and promptly disappears behind it, setting off a chain of events that unravel into a skewed version of the classic tale. An illustrated rib-cage-looking woodland emerges from the folds of the case's fur and Red meets the wolf, formed from the innards and outers of the trunk itself. Red's Grandmother, and eventually Red herself, are consumed by the wolf, but as they contemplate their fate in his stomach (over a red-card-only game of poker), a flash of motivation leads the two women to 'see red' and fight to escape. Finally, one puppeteer becomes an axe-wielding, red-cloaked figure and dismembers the wolf in a tendon-snapping, blood-squirting frenzy!

Seeing Red will prove that anyone can be as furious as the Big Bad Wolf...

Frolicked would like to create a modern, puppet-filled version of Little Red Riding Hood that can be carried in just one suitcase. With a dash of dark humour and a touch of feminism, our retelling will challenge an audience to rethink the tale they were told as children. All of the puppets, scenery and props will emerge in some way from the case itself. The show will be suitable for families with children aged 10 and above and will feature original illustrations and a particularly bloody finale. The show will be flexible enough to be performed anywhere, and will be technically self-sufficient.



Fanzini Productions

Con Horgan
Director
39 Cloondara
Oakpark Tralee Co Kerry, Ireland
T: +353 (0) 87 997 8146
E: info@fanzini.ie
W: www.fanzini.ie

Fanzini Productions is an Irish-based circus company creating and touring quality, accessible circus, street, and theatre shows. The company also founded and produces the annual National Circus Festival of Ireland. It is an Arts Council of Ireland supported company and has been critically acclaimed by the Irish Times amongst other sources.

Circus Jukebox

Circus Jukebox is a five-person circus show, where the audience choose the circus they want, just like you would choose music from a jukebox. The show was awarded a Project Award from the Arts Council of Ireland and creation began in April 2015.

Circus Jukebox is the brainchild of Con Horgan of the fabulous Fanzini Productions and was unboxed at Spraoi, the biggest street festival in Ireland, in 2015. Inspired by the Jukebox, that glitzy relic of Americana, with live performers in place of golden oldies, the audience takes their pick from some of Ireland's greatest circus stars. Including but not limited to; Con Horgan of Fanzini, Guillaume Cousson, aka the deadly Ninja Riuchi; Hillas Smith, aka Mr. H Circus; Kim Mc Cafferty, aka Coconut Circus; Michaela Heyer, aka Funky Fi – Mistress of the Chinese Pole; and Henrik Gard from Circomara Circus.

This show is radically different. There is no pre-set running order. Every *Circus Jukebox* show is unique and directed each time by the choices of the audience. *Circus jukebox* has a cutting edge contemporary circus style. It fits any size festival, indoor or out. It's made of wood and fun, so it won't break if it gets wet. The show is a medium-sized show, with an audience capacity of up to 1000.

This is a predominately non-verbal show, but there is some text. The text is available in English, French and Spanish. The art forms involved are acrobatics, clown, audience interaction, Chinese Pole, dance, and manipulation.

We will present the show as part of the Out There Festival in September. We value this relationship with Sea Change Arts, as we are new to the UK outdoor arts scene.



Cie Maleta

Alex Allison

Performer | Creator

25 Cedarwood Row, Shantalla,
Galway, Ireland

T: +353 (0) 87 929 9532

E: alexisinsideout@hotmail.com

W: www.facebook.com/ciemaleta

Cie Maleta is an Irish based contemporary circus company that uses juggling and manipulation at the base of its creations, with a strong interest in very human and borderless themes. The company attempts to explore these throughout its creations.

Alex Allison (Ireland), and Davi Hora (Brazil) use juggling and manipulation as a base to construct a language in which they can explore and question aspects of what makes us feel human.

Boa Noite

Boa Noite began when Cie Maleta was accepted to be a part of the work in progress showings at this year's Galway Theatre Festival, which took place on May 7th. For six weeks leading up to the presentation, the company carried out research and creation and presented a 40-minute work in progress showing of the project followed by an engaging feedback session with the public.

Boa Noite consists of two performers, Alex Allison and Davi Hora - two jugglers with a strong interest in movement and expression through the body. We took this as our base for the creation and began to explore how our personal research and creation methods could be used to build a conversation to explore these personal themes (without verbally discussing these themes in the context of the show and our creation).

We feel that this method of creation feels more natural, leaving decisions, reflections and interpretations to the public.

The show was presented as a theatre show, however, we have been creating it in an open and adjustable way, in which we will not be restricted to the space in which we present the work, whether it be street, theatre, day or night.



Theater Titanick

Clair Howells

Director

Hoppengarten 28

48147 Münster, Germany

T: +49 (0)251 284 1101

E: c.howells@titanick.de

W: www.titanick.de

Theater Titanick has been touring internationally for over 25 years with productions that combine storytelling with large scale open air images accompanied by music, sound collages, light and special effects to create different emotional atmospheres.

Alice on the Run

The new production *Alice on the Run* is about losing and searching for a home. Lewis Carroll's world of Alice in Wonderland is used as a metaphor to relate the story of refugees who have lost their home.

Millions of people are currently on the run in the world today; victims of war or political, religious and sexual persecution. *Alice on the Run* is inspired by Lewis Carroll's world, a cabinet of mirrors full of weird characters where Alice's journey through strange worlds and situations is a metaphor for the odyssey of those searching for a new home.

Three moving cubes and a giant chess board form the set of the production that will be performed in market places and other public spaces.

At the beginning, the modules form a house in the middle of the performing area. Suddenly it is torn apart and Alice remains alone. Her trusty friend the White Rabbit has disappeared. She uses the only remaining object - her bath tub, as a boat. She is in a strange world and her search will take her to an island, a prison, a border control and a consumer temple until finally the white and red queen meet her on the chess board for the final battle. Will she find a new home?

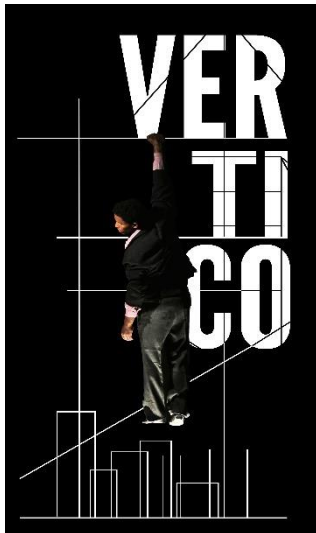
The Titanick technical inventors have started to build the set, designed by Andre Böhme from the Leipzig Art School. The actors together with Dutch director Michael Helmerhorst have commenced rehearsals in a process in which acting and large scale set and objects will combine with music, sound collages, light, and special effects to form a poetic and spectacular story that will create different emotional atmospheres. The musical score is being written by Gundolf Nandico, the company's composer.

A team of 20 artists is currently working on the production. The production is planned for an audience of 500 – 1200.

XTRAX SHORTS PRESENTING ARTISTS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY 26 JUNE 2016

10:00 -10:30	Coffee and Networking
10:30-11:30	<p>XTRAX Shorts: Companies pitching about new projects which will tour in 2017. Chaired by Bettina Linstrum, Director of ArtsAgenda</p> <p>Running order:</p> <p>Décadas de Sonho, Companhia Persona, Imaginarius & Shared Files - <i>Vertico</i> Akademi - <i>Paradiso</i> Tumble Circus - <i>Unsuitable</i> Gandini Juggling - <i>Sigma</i> Moxie Brawl - <i>El Vestido</i> New Artistic Collective: Silvia Mercuriali, Maddie McGowan, Talia Randall & Pablo Meneu- <i>Honolulu</i> Flora Herberich - <i>Light Up</i></p>
11:30-11:45	Meet the delegates and Networking
From 12:00	Festival Programme - Various Locations



Décadas de Sonho, Companhia Persona, Imaginarius & Shared Files

Bruno Costa
Creative Consultant
Município de Santa Maria da Feira
Pelouro da Cultura, Turismo, Bibliotecas e Museus
Praça da República, 135
4524-909 Santa Maria da Feira, Portugal
M: +351 (0)917 792 989
E: bruno.costa@nussola.com.pt
W: www.facebook.com/vertico.show

Through an invitation from **Imaginarius Festival**, the Portuguese companies **Décadas de Sonho** and **Companhia Persona** worked together in a new multidisciplinary outdoor show. This large scale collective creation takes advantage of a big creative team based on the differentiated skills and background from both artistic companies, the festival artistic team, the choreographer Helena Oliveira and the band **Shared Files**.

VERTICO

VERTICO is an urban show that links multiple artistic languages: dance, movement, acrobatics, live music, video mapping, and parkour.

One monumental scenic structure – composed by a tower of 10 meters with two more lateral smaller towers – breaks into the public space like a metaphor of a society moved for the ambition of the high-rise. The uninterrupted attempt to reach the top is transversal to all societies, myths, tribes and clans with a long term history. From the broadest social structure to the smallest collective context, the notion of hierarchy is always present, in the conscious and in the unconscious fields.

The ambition to reach the top and the fear of a vertiginous fall are always together on a ride that we could nominate as an odyssey for the highrise. The obsession to the highest top leads us to the blindest craziness and, in consequence, to the destruction of ourselves.

VERTICO expresses the idea of social elevation to a strong image of verticality represented in the different towers and different tops. **VERTICO** is euphoria, is ambition, is frustration, is chaos... and also loneliness. **VERTICO** is the awakening of the metamorphosis of the man when he starts his odyssey to the highrise.

The touring version of the show is made up of an artistic team of 12 persons (more technical staff) and 10 more performers selected from a three-day workshop with local performers with special participation during the show.



Akademi

Mira Kaushik OBE
Director
Hampstead Town Hall
213 Haverstock Hill,
London NW3 4QP, UK
T: +44 (0) 207 691 3210
E: mira@akademi.co.uk
W: www.akademi.co.uk

Akademi champions and encourages excellence in the practice of South Asian dance in contemporary Britain. Through the production of innovative South Asian dance events in unusual places, we create work for artists and engage the widest possible public with an art form that, while rooted in classical tradition, is at the cutting edge of contemporary culture and a particularly British creative force. We are a local organisation with a global perspective. We provide a range of education and community activities and are building pathways for progression in South Asian dance, both through direct provision and through influence. Our overarching purpose is to support and promote the development of South Asian dance, dancers and dance makers in London and beyond.

Paradiso: Man's Enduring Search for Perfection

Paradiso is a new 40-minute cross arts commission inspired by the final part of Dante's Divine Comedy and the astrological influences of the Navagraha's of Hindu mythology. Produced by Akademi, *Paradiso* is directed by Hilary Westlake and choreographed by Jose Agudo, with costumes by Martina Trottman.

In this outdoor daytime show, Dante, led by his beloved Beatrice through the planetary spheres to Heaven, is confronted en-route by the diverse spiritual inhabitants of the celestial world of the afterlife. They disorientate him at the same time as offering wisdom. It is a not an easy journey. *Paradiso*, performed by a cast of six dancers (combining South Asian and western contemporary disciplines) and two actors/singers, features a newly-composed music score by Bernhard Schimpelsberger, with voice by Melanie Pappenheim.

A research and development period took place in March 2016 to explore how our original vision of an extended, multi-part, piece could be presented as a singular work.

Following auditions, the creation of the show began in early May and will continue until mid-July 2016, culminating in a work-in-progress showing in the courtyard of the British Library on 22 July. *Paradiso* is designed to be a flexible show and is available for touring throughout 2016-17. We would like to have the opportunity to perform the show in a range of unusual sites in the UK and overseas. Suitable spaces include heritage gardens, pergolas, observatories, planetariums, field festivals, literature festivals, places of scientific interest and areas of outstanding national beauty.



Tumble Circus

Ken Fanning

Director

187 Ravenhill Ave, Belfast, BT6 8LE
Ireland

M: +44 (0) 7805 936 872

E: kenfanning@hotmail.com

W: www.tumblecircus.com

Tumble Circus has been working since 1998, at our core is a desire to create new and exciting work that inspires and challenges ourselves and our audiences. We have toured with indoor and outdoor shows extensively in Ireland, UK, Europe and Australia.

CASUS, an Australian based contemporary circus company, and Tumble Circus, a Belfast based comedy circus company, came together in November 2015 for 3 weeks and created a new work together.

Unsuitable

Displaced migrant clown acrobats bash each other. A six person ground based acrobatic clown piece exploring the unfairness of the situation of marginalised people. How desperate people turn to desperate measures and the effect that has on them and us.

The show is about a bunch of circus performers engaged in the pursuit of circus devilment but confined to a world of pain and intolerance. *Unsuitable* has a cast of 6 internationally renowned circus artists from Ireland, Sweden, Samoa and Australia. The show has acrobats, aerialists, jugglers, and clowns. There are solo acts and groups acts. There are moments of physical poetry. There are astounding feats of circus ability. There are questions about gender, about race, about identity, and there will be a comedy. People will laugh, people will think and people will be amazed.



Gandini Juggling

Rae Boswell

Executive Producer

Unit 6, Bowling Green Walk,
London, N1 6AL, UK

T: +44 (0)207 739 3112

E: rae@gandinijuggling.com

W: www.gandinijuggling.com

Gandini Juggling produces a striking and varied range of performances that are notable for the technical proficiency of the juggling and for the fusion with a range of other disciplines, including music, dance, theatre, fine art, high fashion, and opera. This year the company's outdoor works include a new production - *Sigma* which celebrates the classical South Indian dance form, Bharatanatyam and they continue to tour *8 Songs*, *Smashed*, and *Glow* to the outdoor market.

We are very excited to be collaborating with dazzling Bharatanatyam dancer Seeta Patel, creating a spectacular new cross art-form production.

Sigma

This beautiful new show celebrates the dialogue between the worlds of juggling, percussion, and dance.

Performed by a virtuosic cast including the award winning choreographer Seeta Patel, the piece showcases exuberant rhythms, patterns, and colours, at the heart of which is a unique interpretation of the classical South Indian dance form, Bharatanatyam.

Using a mirrored set this reflective and dynamic show is a cleverly crafted dance production at the heart of which is a mesmerising flirtation between rich and tangible art forms.

Akin to our previous street theatre success (*8 Songs* and *Smashed*) the show will layer meanings within the physical language of performance, entering into a dialogue with the viewer, transcending cultural barriers and stimulating imaginations.



Moxie Brawl

Sarah Blanc

Director

1a Avondale Road, Walthamstow,
London, E17 8 JG, UK

M: +44 (0)787 715 6817

E: hello@sarahblanc.com

W: sarahblanc.com/moxiebrawl

Moxie Brawl is a fresh, all female inclusive dance theatre company that makes work for the outdoors, indoors and places where dance shouldn't be. Winners of the 2013 GI20 Jury Prize, their winning piece *Sit Back* has toured to over 24 festivals and continues to tour in 2016.

Moxie Brawl has received project funding and support from GFTA , Trinity Laban, artsdepot, The Place, Watermans and CityMoves, amongst others, creating works for outdoors (*Sit Back*- touring 2014/15, over 40 performances), indoors (*Windibops*- family show touring 2016), and for late night, *Sweaty Rooms* (Jason- solo, Edinburgh Fringe 2015).

El Vestido

El Vestido is a small-scale, family friendly, outdoor piece which Moxie Brawl is currently developing. A flamenco inspired contemporary dance trio, *El Vestido* brings three beautiful vintage flamenco dresses to life. Animating the dresses in the style of Chinese dragon puppetry, the three characters Anna Maria, Anna Bella and Anna Rosa, transform from three playful monster-like creatures to three beautiful strong flamenco dancers who battle it out for the attention of the audience. We use dance, dress puppetry, and audience interaction to tell our story, playing on the relationship of two strong soloists.

The piece was first devised as a duet with performers Annie Hanauer, an ex-Candoco dancer, and Aurelie Poles. The movement is beautifully mesmerising, powerful and expressive and designed to draw audiences in if they happen upon the performance at any moment throughout the piece.

Originally commissioned by 18Hours Events for Journey's Dance Festival at the De La Warr Pavillion in Bexhill-On-Sea on 31st August 2015, it is currently 14 minutes long and a duet. We want to develop the piece into a half hour show with three dancers. We will do this by spending time in the studio collaborating with, costume and set designer Azalia Francis to develop the full potential of the puppets/dresses, a puppeteer with experience of working with Chinese dragon puppets to explore the dresses movement potential. We are currently in talks with a couple of artists: Anwar Russell, dramaturg to work on the ark of the show and develop the play between the two dancers. Candoco Dance Company will co-produce the work, giving valuable feedback and help with the administration of the tour and Samuel Morrison, sound designer will work with us on the sound.



New Artistic Collective: Silvia Mercuriali, Maddie McGowan, Talia Randall & Pablo Meneu

Molly Nicholson

Producer

Roundhouse Theatre, Chalk Farm Road,
London, NW1 8EH, UK

M: +44 (0) 7970 351 054

E: mollynicholson@gmail.com

As a collective, we are made up of independent artists; director **Silvia Mercuriali**, circus artist **Maddie McGowan**, spoken word artist **Talia Randall**, lead rigger, artistic collaborator and performer **Pablo Meneu** and circus producer **Molly Nicholson**.

We work collaboratively believing in the importance of cross art-form collaboration to build dynamic work.

Together we created our first piece *Expectation* in 2014. *Expectation* was one girl's journey in looking for the perfect woman. It was commissioned by the Roundhouse Theatre as a 20-minute cross art-form production in their studio space as part of Circusfest 2014.

"Impossible not to have any moment of it ring true" *Exeunt Magazine*

"About as immersive as circus gets" *The Upcoming*

"An enjoyable, open and honest performance piece" *Camden Review*

Honolulu

An outdoor show set on a double decker bus, *Honolulu* combines spoken word, aerial and immersive instruction based theatre to create a unique experience where audience members play an active role in the unravelling of the event.

Inspired by the concept of non-places where people are in transit and anonymous - free to choose whichever identity they want for a little while, the show deals with the way we present ourselves to others and how we are perceived by others.

Lead by Silvia Mercuriali (Il Pixel Rosso), *Honolulu* is an immersive instruction based piece where the audiences are the focus. Audience members find themselves playing a fictional version of themselves constantly changing their identity and relationship with the rest of the passengers.



Flora Herberich

Flora Herberich
Creative Producer
286 Latimer Road,
London, W10 6QW, UK
M: +44 (0) 7903 960 997
E: flora@canvas-london.org.uk

Flora Herberich is a creative producer and project manager working predominantly in circus and outdoor performance. Over the last few years, she has worked on a range of mid-scale performance projects touring throughout the UK and Europe. Her background as an ex-circus performer has provided her with a lot of knowledge and an understanding of the technicalities involved. She also feels passionate about involving people and communities who would not normally engage with the arts and taking work to non-art spaces.

Light Up

Light Up is a producer-led engagement and outdoor performance project combining circus, parkour, spoken word and large scale projection, working with targeted participants in areas of least engagement alongside a range of professional artists. It was initiated by the Roundhouse and Flora Herberich and was staged during CircusFest 2016.

Light Up involved participants (young people) from Queen's Crescent Estate in Camden, a large housing estate with high levels of deprivation and young people at risk from social exclusion. The Roundhouse had been working in partnership with Queen's Crescent Community Association for about 9 months, delivering free running workshops as part of their general youth provision; they were also keen to include an off-site outdoor performance project in their festival, which is otherwise largely indoor.

Flora came on board to develop the project as a creative producer, to choose and manage the artists and oversee the delivery of the event. She raised funding towards the costs from G4TA which was supplemented from the Roundhouse's engagement as well as festival budget. Thematically they explored themes of home, family, and friendship and wanted to celebrate the energy and spirit of the young people and used their spoken word poetry as inspiration for scenes and visuals.

The artists involved were – Circus/Parkour: Kaveh Rahnema (acrobatic director with mentoring from Lina Johansson), Ed Stephen, AJ James, Mike Corr, Arthur Parsons, Floria da Silva, Silvia Pavone
Spoken Word: MC Angel
Projection: SDNA

In the final performances, 13 young people actively took part and we gathered an audience of around 250/300 people for each performance. This could play to larger audiences depending on the venue.

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