



XTRAX

XTRAX SHORTS

Presentations about new work available for touring from
2018

Saturday, 24 June & Sunday, 25 June 2017

Festival Central Marquee

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XTRAX Shorts 2017

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 supportive environment. The Shorts programme will also give showcase delegates a sneak preview of outdoor projects that are hoping to reach production or tour during the next season.

The model has a successful track-record and many of the companies that have presented work in recent years as part of XTRAX Shorts, have gained bookings or commissions as a result. Some of these past projects are being presented this weekend as part of GDIF, further demonstrating the value of this platform.

This year, we are pleased to present work from a range of new and established companies, of various scales and genres, as well as projects from deaf and disabled artists. Most of the presentations are from UK companies, but we are pleased to be able to include a selection of new projects from Spain and Portugal.

The following pages in this booklet will introduce you to all the artists presenting at XTRAX shorts 2017, as well as those that we were unable to invite this time. This demonstrates the sheer volume of projects out there that are in development. We hope this booklet will be a useful reference for your work, long after the showcase has ended.

Thank you to all the artists who are sharing ideas with us, and to Daryl Beeton and Nicola Miles-Wildin; our hosts for XTRAX Shorts this year. We are grateful to Arts Council England for supporting this programme through Grants for the Arts.

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

The XTRAX Team

XTRAX SHORTS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 24 JUNE 2017

10:00 - 10:30 Coffee and Networking

10:30 - 12:00 XTRAX Shorts: Companies pitching about new projects which will tour from 2018. Hosted by Daryl Beeton and Nicola Miles-Wildin.

Running order:

Companyia Ignífuga (Spain) – *A House is Not a Home*

Emergency Exit Arts (EEA) (UK) – *Dr. Kronovator's Fire Laboratory*

Julieta Aurora Santos (Portugal) – *Ferida*

Jony Easterby (UK) – *Tree & Wood*

All or Nothing Aerial Dance Theatre (UK) – *Ticking of the Clock (TOTC)*

Pif-Paf Theatre (UK) – *Celestial Sound Cloud*

Whalley Range All Stars (WRAS) (UK) – *Best of All Possible Worlds*

Mischief La Bas (UK) – *Nursery Crymes*

13:00 - 21:00 Greenwich Fair programme – Various locations

13:00 - 14:00 **Delegate-only presentation of select shows**

Museum of the Moon by Luke Jerram (UK); *Pakman* by Post Uit Hessdalen (BE); *The Insidian* by Captain Boomer (BE); *VR Playground* by Thrill Laboratory (UK) Greenwich Park

Companyia Ignífuga

Eduard Autonell

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Companyia Ignífuga was born in 2014 as a means of sharing a common vision around contemporary creation. Rather than abandoning the literary aspect of theatre such as having characters or a narrative conflict, Companyia Ignífuga wants to go beyond pure narrative by adding a political and critical element to their work (without being dogmatic). They want to find modernity without being *modern*. They want the audience to experience emotionally and not just intellectually. The company has been awarded and programmed by the main theatre festivals in Catalonia: FiraTàrrrega (*A House is Not a Home*, 2015), Temporada Alta (*Kohlhaas, a Playful Discussion About Revolution*, 2016), Grec Festival in Barcelona (*Kohlhaas, a Playful Discussion About Revolution*, 2016 and *Utopia*, 2017).

A House is Not a Home

Presented by Eduard Autonell (Producer)

A House is Not a Home is an outdoor piece based on the play *Interior* by Maurice Maeterlinck (one of the most important figures of the symbolist movement). The plot is simple: two people observe from the yard the interior of a house; they have to share some bad news with the residents, but the image they see is of apparent happiness, making it harder to communicate. *A House Is Not a Home* is performed in an exterior public space and the audience members are given headphones. They will find a small, isolated house and will be able to spy on its inhabitants. This visual action is accompanied by a soundtrack which will turn the spectator into an active witness, showing us that a single word can disrupt the order of events and transform a peaceful home into an inhospitable place. A multidisciplinary show where music, text, lighting, movement and the outdoor work together to create a touching experience.

Emergency Exit Arts (EEA)

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Emergency Exit Arts (EEA) creates unforgettable events and participatory experiences using visual performance, processions, puppetry, music, digital art and pyrotechnics. The company has a national and international reputation for surprising site-specific work, community celebrations, creative activism and arts in public spaces. We work with a large team of creative specialists, giving us the ability to deliver on every aspect of a project; artistic direction, design, construction, performance, facilitation, community engagement, production and event management.

Dr. Kronovator's Fire Laboratory

Presented by Deb Mullins (Artistic Director)

Dr. Kronovator's Fire Laboratory is a visual performance piece that gives an audience the option to get close, feel the heat and interact with ingenious fire effects or the chance to just stand back and enjoy a vista of fire. A stunning environment is created for people to wander through. It offers personal moments, places to sit and watch, shared experiences and a chance to explore and discover. At the centre of the Fire Laboratory is the eponymous Dr. Kronovator and his assistant who invite audience members to experience experimental reactions to fire, water, steam and chemicals. The Fire Laboratory runs for three hours, with the option of further consecutive nights. The event can be ticketed to control numbers depending on the space. The Lab can hold between 200-250 people at any one time with each of the six to seven interactive activities holding around 30 people at a time. With holding time around 30-40 minutes, we estimate that around 1000 people could see the event up close over a three-hour period. These installations are more closely controlled to be able to manage the audience's proximity to the larger fire effects. The site will be awash with flame and will include a soundscape that contributes to the atmosphere around the site. The Lab has been developed in collaboration with Lightfires (Paul Bryce) and EEA's Gordon Allum. Physical performance has been devised by Tiago Fonseca and Joe Fleming. We plan to develop more 'experiments' before our first booking for the Bournemouth Arts by the Sea Festival in October. Available for booking from Autumn 2017.

Julieta Aurora Santos

Julieta Aurora Santos

Artistic Director

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Portugal



A *ferida* is a shadowy, occult, latent, muzzled place. A continuous throbbing under the skin, an unhealed scar, a deep well in the mirror. Memory, being a fragmented space, contains a wound that does not seem to heal, memories that haunt us like ghosts who beg us, screaming, to let them emerge and welcome them as part of our lives so that we are able to carry on. We must bring our fragility to the light of day, identify what consumes and limits us. Aiming for the cure as an act of love to ourselves and to others. By healing memory and releasing its destructive charge, and facing the fears that lead us to immobility, we will re-encounter our ability to exist according to our very being and our deepest conscience. After the first public presentation at Imaginarius – International Street Theatre Festival (Portugal) last May, the project continues in progress until September to the premiere at FiraTàrrega, Spain.

Ferida

Presented by Julieta Aurora Santos (Artistic Director)

Commissioned by Imaginarius Festival (Portugal) and Fira Tàrrega (Spain)

Ferida (which means 'wound' in Portuguese and Catalan) is a multidisciplinary performance based on memory. Taking this as the starting point for a dialogue between two neighbouring countries, this is a creation by Portuguese and Catalan artists (a dancer, a performer, an acrobat, a director, a composer, a clown and a local choir) under the artistic coordination of Julieta Aurora Santos. The team got together for a three-day laboratory in Tàrrega (Catalonia, Spain) with the goal of approaching the theme proposed by the commissioning festivals, finding a common narrative and designing the creative methodology, in a process to be conducted and coordinated remotely. During this first meeting, the dialogue flowed spontaneously and with sensitivity, creating a close, emotional and rare link between all involved. Some personal, intimate wounds emerged, memories conjured by questions about who the participants were as individuals as well as artists. The wounds appeared as an appropriation of the concept that was established as a starting point. They emerged later as a title, sensitive matter and symbolic space: house, island, isolation, well, silence, circle, forbidden place, oblivion, farce, illness, weight, death and liberation. All these themes were then transformed into an outdoor and multidisciplinary piece where each participants' narrative crosses to create a single body.

Jony Easterby

Jony Easterby

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Jony Easterby is an Artist, Producer, and Director with an arts practice spanning 30 years. The central focus to this has been exploring the boundaries and connections between raw elemental materials, sound technology, composition, landscape, and architecture. This has manifested in landscape design, installation, sound and performances through a considerable number of commissions and permanent work installations throughout the UK and abroad. More recently Jony has focused on the direction and production of major, large-scale, collaborative, outdoor landscape-arts events such as *Sounding the River* for MAC Birmingham's 50th Anniversary in 2015, and *For-the-Birds* touring Wales and New Zealand in 2016, and Brighton Festival 2017.

Tree & Wood

Presented by Jony Easterby (Artist, Producer, Director)

Tree & Wood, is a new interactive performance by the artist and producer Jony Easterby, working alongside a variety of Welsh based and international artists, musicians, performers and foresters. These include Nathaniel Mann and Lisa Knapp alongside a dynamic group of musicians and foresters. In development for touring in 2018/19, the work will explore our relationship to the trees and forests through a personal and historical narrative, exploring our shifting, sometimes contradictory relationship from a cultural, ecological, arboricultural and agricultural perspective. The new work will encompass physical performance, sound and light installation, and songs both old and new. Set in the forest at dusk, with the immediate tangible experience of trees – smell, touch, sounds, it will invite participants of all ages to take a journey into the heart of the forest, wrapped in darkness and branches to explore our relationship over time with the trees and woods we depend on for our survival both past and present.

See the R&D work at - www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y6UfP7Zvy54

All or Nothing Aerial Dance Theatre

Jennifer Paterson

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All or Nothing are Scotland's leading aerial dance company, creating, performing, teaching and pioneering aerial arts. The company's creative work blends breath-taking aerial acrobatics with dance, theatre and contemporary circus. From large-scale outdoor spectacle to small-scale theatre, touring festivals and one-off events - flying through the trees in *Enchanted Forest*, dancing down the roof of Glasgow's iconic Science Centre, to touring *Sprawl*, a dance theatre duet for all ages. Teaching, training and participation are vital to the company's work, running classes for all ages and abilities, performance projects, workshops and one-off professional programmes.

Ticking of the Clock (TOTC)

Presented by Jennifer Paterson (Artistic Director)

Ticking of the Clock (TOTC) is a large-scale outdoor crane show, telling the story of a female protagonist racing against time. Outdoor aerial spectacle combined with dance and theatre, and a professional and community cast. Drawing on images and themes of time, clocks, the inner workings of cogs and wheels, the race against time will see memories and events unfold across a 20m long set, with a crane sitting on top of the playing area. The creative team is led by Jennifer Paterson, associate director Brigid McCarthy, designer Becky Minto, composer Jim Sutherland, lighting Kate Bonney and writer Stef Smith. Over the next 18 months:

- The company will work in four areas of Scotland
- Partners: Beacon Arts Centre, Horsecross Arts, Macrobert, Theatre Modo, NEAT in Aberdeenshire.
- Introducing different groups to aerial work, developing the community cast element, how that can be taken on tour beyond Scotland.
- TOTC will be performed in those four areas in 2018 with the four groups coming together for each one.

Pif-Paf Theatre

Pete Gunson

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Eleanor Hooper is a co-artistic director for the acclaimed **Pif-Paf Theatre** and led on conception, design and development of this project. Pif-Paf are known for top-flight inventions, technical wizardry and an ability to move between art forms keeping a strong soul to their work and an excellent facility for reaching new audiences. Eleanor has over 13 years' experience successfully managing and delivering larger scale projects for up to 3000 audience and participants as well as small-scale projects. Eleanor is currently directing *SEED* for 2017, developing a Christmas show *Robyn Hood* for 2018 and 2019 and co-directing the company.

Celestial Sound Cloud

Presented by Eleanor Hooper (Co-Artistic Director, Pif-Paf Theatre)

Celestial Sound Cloud is an interactive digital, sound and light sculpture inspired by cosmic clouds and nebulas - clouds of dust and gases in which stars are formed. It is 6m x 3m wide, hung above the audience and formed of a swooping metal frame with five linked pods housing motion sensors and Arduinos firing coordinated light sequences in a system of fibre optics and LEDs and separate elements of beautiful vocal chords as the audience move beneath. The project was born from Eleanor's recent work at LISPA and our relationship with Interactive Architecture course at The Bartlett School of Architecture. The piece provokes the audience as strangers to come together and learn to interact with the sculpture and one another by singing, moving and dancing underneath creating their own visual experience and soundscape. The show was originally commissioned in 2016 by Kendal Calling. At the debut, we saw audience acting as we hoped, filtering in and out of the space creating new groups, moods ebbing and flowing and a creating a sense of beauty, discovery and the creation of a special space. We wish to develop the structure for daytime use adding reflective and diffractive crystals and mirrors and spend more time with technologist Kyle Hirani developing the sensitivity and spectacle of the light/sound response and find ways to capture light differently.

Whalley Range All Stars (WRAS)

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The Whalley Range All Stars (WRAS) is 35 years old this year. They have toured to 25 countries over five continents and won critical, artistic and popular acclaim for their vivid imaginative work. The shows are highly visual, feature original music, and explore the different relationships between artist and audience that performing outdoors allows.

Best of All Possible Worlds

Presented by Edward Taylor (Co-Artistic Director)

Best of all Possible Worlds is an adaptation of Voltaire's *Candide*. The idea was brought to us by Bradley Hemmings who wanted to create an object theatre version from a disability awareness point of view. We've never done an adaptation of an existing text before, but the picaresque nature of the story where the characters are buffeted around by outside forces chimes with a lot of recent work we've done. We very quickly arrived at a table-top version where puppeteers make life very difficult for their puppets/objects. The table will be of the large, bespoke variety to enable theatrical transformations to take place. We'd start with the characters being physically prised out of Voltaire's book and placed in a world that is unfamiliar and new. The themes that are swirling around in the story are also very contemporary. Our indoor show *Cake* received a lot of praise from teachers at a Deaf School who found the completely visual approach to storytelling perfect for their pupils. So, we are looking to work with deaf artists to create and perform the show. We would direct and design the show. Bradley Hemmings has offered to act as an advisor and has suggested artists who we could work with. We're looking at theatricalising the signing so it could function as a visual element as well as convey information. The dialogue will be at an absolute minimum so signing may well function as sound effects. We would also have a musical soundtrack so that the show can function for as many people as possible.

Mischief La Bas

Kathryn Boyle

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Established in 1992, **Mischief La-Bas** deliver surprise, humour and imaginative engagement in their outdoor performances. Their mission to '*gently warp the underlay of the fabric of society*' has been developed over twenty years by successfully producing strange but accessible work in a multitude of environments, almost invariably in public places.

Nursery Crymes

Presented by Louise Allan (Project Manager) and Kathryn Boyle (Assistant Producer)

Nursery Crymes will be a site specific, night time, promenade performance taking place over two nights in November 2017 in and around the lanes, alleyways and shop windows of Glasgow. The show explores the underlying dark themes in children's rhymes and stories; and questions the authoritarian indoctrination inherent in traditional rhymes for the young and the acceptable nature of morality lessons from our past. *Nursery Crymes* is a Mischief La-Bas site-sensitive performance installation, in which audiences will be led through a series of distinct spaces exploring the juxtaposition of traditional children's stories and the darker more criminal elements within them. Artists will create works that explore these themes through installation, sound, performance, projection and film. Mischief La Bas performers will both animate and lead the audience through the route and between the artworks. The audience will be encouraged to join in and play.

XTRAX SHORTS PRESENTING ARTISTS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY 25 JUNE 2017

10:00 -10:30	Coffee and Networking
10:30-12:00	<p>XTRAX Shorts: Companies pitching about new projects which will tour from 2018. Chaired by Daryl Beeton and Nicola Miles-Wildin</p> <p>Running order:</p> <p>Acrojou (UK) – <i>Vagabond Matter</i></p> <p>theMiddletonCorpus (UK) - <i>CLOUD</i></p> <p>Gisele Edwards (UK) – <i>Divertimento for Rope & Strings</i></p> <p>Ockham’s Razor (UK) – <i>Threads</i></p> <p>RoguePlay (UK) – <i>Taking Flight</i></p> <p>Wet Picnic (UK) – <i>The Ball & The Aperitif</i></p> <p>Travelling Light Circus (UK) – <i>The Playground of Illusions</i></p> <p>dotComedy (UK) – <i>The Small Wonder Tour</i></p>
12:00 – 19:00	Greenwich Fair programme – Various locations
12:00 – 19:00	<p>Out in the Streets – GDIF’s very own Pride programme marking the 50th anniversary of the decriminalisation of homosexuality in England and Wales.</p> <p>Featuring: <i>2 B Scene S.L</i> - Osadia; <i>Beautiful Thing</i> - Robby Graham & GDIF; <i>Don’t Stop Me Now & Hairy Poppins</i> - Tom Ball; <i>Ida Barr’s Lost Pubs</i> - Christopher Green; London Gay Big Band; <i>The Love Locks</i> - Ben Oakley Gallery; <i>Podium</i> - Scottee; <i>Polyester Fiesta!</i> - Sequin Skirt Productions; Puppet Paramour - Boogaloo Stu; <i>Steli</i> - Stalker Teatro in collaboration with the Educational Department Castello di Rivoli - Contemporary Art Museum; <i>Strong Lady</i> - Strong Lady Productions</p>

Acrojou

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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 one of the UK's leading circus and street arts companies. Performance crafted from circus, story, and soul.

Vagabond Matter

Presented by Anna Shlonsky (Company Administrator & Tour Booking Manager)

Vagabond Matter's core themes revolve around the idea of Umwelt - 'the world as it is experienced by a particular organism'. As human beings, we exist in a specific perspective, a reality defined by our five calibrated senses. With *Vagabond Matter*, we want to step outside this middle world and create an altered perspective: a sense of awe at unseen worlds that surround us. Under our feet, inside our own bodies, and above our heads. The micro to the macro. We are extremely interested in the overlap between the essence of circus, a relationship between the body and the physical world around us, and the application of scientific research. Through *Vagabond Matter*, we are exploring ways in which to work with the application of scientific research and ideas to support our creation.

Whilst there is a range of work in many art forms created at the interface between art and science we're excited about the particular vision for how the two can meet: the power of outdoor performance, and the impact it could have combined with science, to restore a sense of wonder for audiences.

theMiddletonCorpus

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Before dancing, Anthony Middleton was an international level acrobatic gymnast. He then went on to train at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance (Leeds), and then performed with companies such as BalletBoyz, Cas Public (CAN) and Motionhouse. In 2013 Anthony began creating his own work with **theMiddletonCorpus**, exploring the combination of acrobatic gymnastics and dance, to create his own unique performance language and aesthetic, created for performance in unconventional spaces and outdoors. His work has been presented, to wide-ranging audiences, at both national and international festivals including GDIF, Wilderness and Abundance (SWE).

CLOUD

Presented by Anthony Middleton (Artistic Director)

CLOUD is an acrobatic dance performance, to be created by Anthony Middleton in Spring 2018. The show explores the concept of freedom and human aspiration, how we dream when we look at the clouds. Six performers drift through the audience, toward the specialised set for the work, a 14m x 3m transparent runway, elevated 4m in the air. The performers pass through mesmerising acrobatic human towers and dance that effortlessly glides along the runway. The audience observes from afar or even from underneath the platform itself. The piece will dynamically shift between gentle drifting clouds through to raging storm, where the performers will tumble from the stage like falling rain.

Performances currently planned with MAGNA, York Theatre Royal, Hull Dance and GDIF.

Gisele Edwards

Violaine Bailleul

Producer

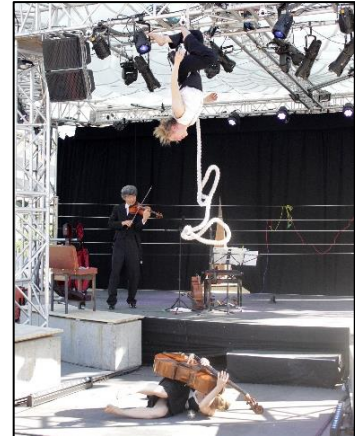
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Gisele Edwards is an experienced award-winning performer and aerialist of 15 years. She trained at the National Centre for Circus Arts (NCCA), Central School of Speech and Drama and Lecoq in Paris. She is a winner of the Festival of Firsts (Royal Opera House) and recipient of the Jerwood Prize for Circus. She was a co-founder of SHUNT and has worked with Trevor Nunn, Simon McBurney (Theatre de Complicite), Lucy Bailey, Scarabeus, at Anthony Gormley's Studio, with the London Symphony Orchestra and the Millennium Dome show among others. Her musical collaborations with classical musicians, initiated over seven years ago, are the springboard for this new production.

Divertimento for Rope & Strings

Presented by Gisele Edwards (Artistic Director) and Violaine Bailleul (Producer)

Divertimento for Rope & Strings is a playful and unexpected performance collaboration between prize winning aerial artist Gisele Edwards and two eminent classical musicians. It looks at how we experience music three-dimensionally, not simply aurally but viscerally, physically and spatially. Playing with themes of body, movement and space, it considers how simple bodies can, through movement, give rise to something as ethereal as music. The company performed an abridged showcase of the work as part of Tête-à-Tête Opera's Cubitt Sessions in August 2016, which received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the audience. The following partners have supported the initial development of this piece: University of Winchester, Riotous Company, Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, The Point Eastleigh, National Centre for Circus Arts.

"Gisele has produced work that is both formally sophisticated and can appeal to a wide audience. This particular project addresses challenges to conventional collaborations between movement and music specialists and is of great interest to this organisation and the research phase in 2015 resulted in a very successful sharing of the work at our production development studio."

– **Brian Brady (Head of Theatre), Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance**

Ockham's Razor

Alison King

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Ockham's Razor specialises in creating physical theatre on new pieces of circus equipment. With each show, we design ambitious structures and use these as a catalyst for creation. Rather than painting the circus performer as superhuman, we create shows from the vulnerability, trust and reliance that exists between people performing highly physical, challenging and risk-taking work. We draw upon the relationships, conflicts and emotions naturally inherent in circus to create visually striking and moving theatre. In 12 years of touring critically acclaimed shows to theatres and festivals throughout the UK, Europe and Australia we have established a reputation for innovative, arresting and accessible work.

Threads

Presented by Tina Koch (Artistic Director, Ockham's Razor)

Threads is a medium-scale show with three physical performers, one live musician, twelve intricate layers of clothing and a giant see-saw. For our first ever production for the outdoors, we are designing a giant half-circular see-saw structure. It will be light and flexible and self-supporting making it easy to tour and suitable for a diverse number of spaces. Its movements will be entirely controlled by the performers body-weight. Choreographed on and around a multifaceted set, the show will feature Ockham's Razor's signature blend of circus skills, humour and breath-taking moments of risk. Taking Pamela Ehrens' quote from *The Understory* as inspiration, *Threads* will look at what happens if we dare to truly meet someone, how we have armoured ourselves emotionally, hiding beneath our layers and what happens if we strip them down.

"In the spring and summer, I watched my plants flower, but it was, perhaps, in winter that I loved them best, when their skeletons were exposed. Then I felt they had more to say to me, were not simply dressing themselves for the crowds. Stripped of their leaves, their identities showed forth stark, essential."

— Pamela Ehrens, *The Understory*

RoguePlay Theatre

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RoguePlay is a highly physical theatre company, creating narrative theatre using aerial, ground-based circus, dance, physical theatre and acrobatics. Producing work for both indoor and outdoor, RoguePlay develops touring productions, commissioned pieces, and small to medium-scale resident shows. RoguePlay has an impressive seven-year history of national touring shows and commissions, working with companies such as NoFit State Circus, Panasonic, Gravity & Levity and Channel 4. RoguePlay also runs Birmingham's Aerial and Physical Theatre Festival, TILT, as well as the fully accessible West Midlands Creation Centre.

Taking Flight

Presented by Kim Charnock (Artistic Director)

Taking Flight is a 30-minute medium-scale family friendly piece of outdoor aerial theatre aimed at visually impaired and disabled audiences. Encompassing aerial silks and rope, counterweighting and physical theatre, *Taking Flight* follows the journey of two friends, who in turn follow a bird across land and sea. Their engagement with the environment sees the bird get into difficulty that the friends must rectify, commenting on environmental issues on both a personal and global scale.

Taking Flight is fully encompassed by an aural soundscape of spoken word and original music that is equally as engaging as the visual spectacle and allowing all audience members to experience an aural level of engagement. Set inside a huge bird's nest, blind and visually impaired members will be invited to sit inside the nest to enjoy the show. The nest is a tactile experience of feathers and bird's eggs. There can be two performances per day followed by inclusive and fully accessible participatory workshops for the public. Developing the piece with an intrinsic aural focus, ensures that all audience members, regardless of disability, gain an exciting and encompassing experience of circus theatre, without separation.

Wet Picnic

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Wet Picnic create high-quality work with a strong visual style. Outdoors, indoors, nationally and internationally. We take playful endeavours everywhere you can imagine and produce theatre that resonates with our audiences across the globe. We work collaboratively and allow our process to guide our creation in developing engaging performance that is visual, visceral, pleasurable, thoughtful and often rather cheeky! We create shared experiences that transport our audiences, sometimes literally!

The Ball & The Aperitif

Presented by Judy Barrington-Smuts (Associate Artistic Director)

The audience is invited to attend Lord Monte and Lady Moneta Gredus' annual Family Ball, and, before this, Lord Gredus' annual feed. *The Ball*, a mid-large-scale evening show, in which audience are placed around three sides of a giant checked dance floor which transforms into a giant human chess board, bringing an elegant ballroom to life in the middle of public spaces. The one-hour show then takes place on the dance floor, with moving chandelier-lit tables, large-scale eccentric choreography and physical storytelling. The piece draws on influences such as Peter Greenaway, Matthew Bourne and the Addams Family. The show culminates in the whole audience being invited to join us for a party, where the host festival can choose whether a live band, DJ or audience selected dance takes place. For audiences, up to 2,500.

The Aperitif, set around a smaller part of the chequered dance floor (8m x 8m), that transforms into the Gredus' home. The audience is thrust into an imagined world through binaural sound. With instructions provided via headphones, they are invited to join Lord Gredus for a taste of the high life, building into choreography involving the entire audience and an explosive ending. For audiences of up to 210.

Travelling Light Circus

Andy Benfield
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Travelling Light Circus is a creative arts company from Manchester who loves to see people smile and laugh and most of all, to go “WOW!” Our work is characterised by imaginative ingenuity that marries art with technology to make magical moments for audiences of all ages. Interactivity is at the heart of our success – we like to bring out the inner child with original and playful creations that leave people with lasting memories of something awesome that they have created for themselves.

The Playground of Illusions

Presented by Andy Benfield (Creative Director)

The Playground of Illusions is a collection of images and human-powered interactives that play tricks with the eye or ear – clever curiosities that ignite the imagination and inspire the mind. Each illusion is self-sufficient and works brilliantly on its own; together they make an unforgettable, fascinating experience that is educational, motivational and (most importantly) awesome FUN! One interactive is already made, our video kaleidoscope that we call *Into Infinity* (see <http://bit.ly/intoinf>). We plan to build some wonderful new pieces that will share the same innate sense of playfulness, whether that play comes from riding a bike or pushing buttons, turning wheels or stepping into the unknown of a blacked-out cubicle. Some illusions salute the past – the public can become a Pepper’s Ghost, and there’ll be lots of *op art* examples. Others herald a bold future – strange 3D-printed shapes that are both circle and triangle at the same time, or walkways that appear to warp space. Not all the tricks are visual; to hear one of the auditory illusions, please visit <http://bit.ly/glissa>

The Playground of Illusions is designed for outdoor spaces where people can spend a high amount of dwell time with the ‘toys’; playing with them and watching their children, friends, strangers play.

dotComedy

Richard Stamp

Artist | Director | Performer

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dotComedy for the past 20 years have created over 30 productions from large-scale to small-scale. From installations to circle shows, to hidden performance including *Get Lost /dotMaze*, *Lost on Earth*, *M.i.S Information Tent*, *The Car Boot Sale*, *The Chain*, *Autograph Hunters*, *Newsdesk* and *The Half Naked Chef*, touring in UK, Europe, Middle East, Oceania and America, the company wishes to bring laughter, a sense of another worldliness within ours, create stunning visual and aural work. Original characters play the fool in places we inhabit.

The Small Wonder Tour

Presented by Richard Stamp (Artist, Director and Performer)

The Small Wonder Tour is a site-specific performance ideal for everywhere and anywhere. The Tour is conducted with a comic Attenborough-esque manner, inspired by *Gulliver's Travels* (Johnathon Swift). We discover the existence of a microscopic world living within our own towns and cities. This is created with tiny models and sound. *The Small Wonder Tour* first performed in Belfast this May for the Festival of Fools. The Tours can be made during daytime or at night. The audience is provided with magnifying sheets to enhance the minute life forms they will encounter. The Tour ends with the discovery of something giant i.e. a giant matchstick or footprint and is of a 30-minute duration. An audience of 20 max., x 3 tours a day. The audience is encouraged to photograph and film the Tour. Also, the Tour can be offered as a workshop.

One performer, one tech. Very easy to tour, show in a suitcase.

Other Projects in Development for 2018

Amer & Africa Circ Cia (Spain) – Envà

ENVÀ aims to highlight certain social behaviours that go above human logic because of social rules accepted over the years. It develops a reflection with the audience, creating close characters with a bit of humour.

Alina Ventura, Manager, E: info@lamaleta.cat, W: www.amerafricacirc.wixsite.com/amer-africa-english

Arron Sparks (UK) – Heathen

Heathen will be an abstract ceremony, created by a juggling atheist. Seeking to explore where object manipulation might fit into rural folk tradition, we imagine what juggling would feel like, were it steeped in ritual and religion.

Lauren Hendry, Producer, E: lauren@theproductions Shed.com, W: www.aronsparks.com

BeautifulMess Theatre CIC (UK) – FOXED!

In *Foxed*, BeautifulMess will work with audience members as 'immediate chorus', using structured games & improvisations to direct the fox's journey towards one of three outcomes. Can our Fox wrangler playfully coax the crowds into planning? What will they choose to do?

Katitara Francis, Artistic Director, E: info@beautifulmesstheatre.com, W: www.beautifulmesstheatre.com

The Bicycle Ballet Company (UK) – Blazing Saddles

Blazing Saddles is a promenade performance with bicycles, performed by a professional cast or with local participants. The show explores the history of women & cycling & fashion, linking into efforts to encourage women to be more physically active, and the centenary of women's suffrage in 1918.

Karen Poley, Creative Producer, E: karen@bicycleballet.co.uk, W: www.bicycleballet.co.uk

Bread & Goose (UK) – Return

Return is a site and community specific theatre project working with the military spouse communities at Beachley and St. Athan to explore their experiences and stories of what it is like to be a military spouse and to spend a lifetime "waiting". We want this to be a celebration of the women and to empower them with new skills and confidence.

Alison Neighbour, Lead Artist, E: alison@breadandgoose.co.uk, W: www.breadandgoose.co.uk

Cardbordia (Latvia) – Cardbordia Laboratory and First Cardboard City

Imagine you could step out of your normal life and become a character in your own story. How would you make it? Whether you would like to be an artist or performer, *Cardbordia* gives you the tools to build a community or participate in a totally unique creative experiment.

Sergey Korsakov, Tyrant, E: papertown@gmail.com, W: www.cardbordia.info

Cia La Trocola (Spain) – Emportats

Emportats is a show where coordination, precision and energy exceed established limits and in which indifference is not among the possibilities. *Emportats* is the result of an arduous work where the important thing is the process, in which its protagonists detach themselves of everything to show us what they carry inside.

Andrea Pérez, Artist, Producer & Creator, E: info@latrocola.com, W: www.latrocola.com

Cia Mar Gomez (Spain) – Fin de la Cita

Fin de la Cita centres around an upper-class couple whose love story ends tragically resulting in their greedy egos that destroy themselves and each other. This is a non-text piece where the music, performance and the use of film-inspired gags result in an easily recognisable comic cinematographic language, accessible to all audiences.

Marta Riera, Manager & Producer, E: info@ciamargomez.com, W: www.ciamargomez.com

Cirquet Confetti (Spain) – Miss Umbrella

Miss Umbrella is an eccentric character that mixes elements of old street performances with elements of the modern circus. The performance is about spinning and balancing umbrellas, and music with an antique roller organ. It is a bright and colourful, participatory performance suitable for all audiences.

Anna Alavedra, Director, E: info@cirquetconfetti.com, **W:** www.cirquetconfetti.com

Citrus Arts (UK) – Shipwrecks

Shipwrecks is a medium-scale show for outdoor environments which will see aerial circus, dance and physical theatre performers animating a half buried, decaying vessel on the shores of the near future. International treaties agree to appoint a commander to return the wrecked vessel, along with the living and lost souls on board.

Zoe Munn, Producer, E: zoe@citrusarts.co.uk, **W:** www.citrusarts.co.uk

Cocoloco (UK) – Strange but Familiar: A Dog's Life

Strange but Familiar: A Dog's Life is a site-responsive promenade piece which provides a vibrant portrait of a town from a dog's perspective. Narrated by a 'human dog', the walk will provoke thoughts on changing dog populations, the celebratory spirit of the past and present, as well as the notion of friendship, belonging and love.

Helen Statman, Co-Artistic Director, E: helen@cocoloco.co.uk, **W:** www.cocoloco.co.uk

Copperdollar (UK) – The Voyage of La Sibylle

The Voyage of La Sibylle is a roaming art installation on wheels with storytelling and clowning at its heart, giving the audience a chance to interact with two peculiar carny folks from the 1930s who are wandering around in the 21st Century. Their enormous pile of suitcases opens to reveal illusionary art and stories behind their magical journey.

Kt Simpson, Artistic Director & Producer, E: kt@copperdollar.co.uk, **W:** www.copperdollar.co.uk

Dripping Tap Theatre (UK) – Webster & Jones: A Pocket Guide to Wales

Webster & Jones is an exciting, bi-lingual adventure story set in the Victorian era. It follows the antics of Mr. Webster; English gentleman and world-famous explorer, and his humble guide and companion Mr. Jones; salt of the earth, Welsh sheep farmer. Together they embark on the greatest of adventures; to conquer Mount Snowed On!

Nikki Hill, Director, E: drippingtaptheatre@gmail.com, **W:** www.facebook.com/drippingtaptheatre

Ensemble Dance (UK) - Still in the City: Dawn

Still in the City: Dawn is an immersive contemporary dance and live music performance. Three dancers and three musicians occupy the space, they begin in stillness, at dawn, as the sun rises. The audience sits, stands and walks slowly through the performers.

Hayley Matthews, Artistic Director, E: hayleyjmatthews@hotmail.co.uk, **W:** www.rolfingdance.com

Fantasy High Street (UK) – The What if Machine

The What If Machine is an outdoor, interactive performance. Part time-machine and part chat show, we will whisk audiences 30-years into the future to take a glimpse at their yet-to-be-lived incredible lives. Perhaps they received an Oscar or their journey up Kilimanjaro wasn't quite what they expected – our hosts want to know!

Lydia Fraser-Ward, Creative Director, E: Lydia@fantasyhighstreet.org.uk, **W:** www.fantasyhighstreet.org.uk

Frolicked (UK) – 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, setting off a chain of events that unravel into a skewed version of the classic tale.

Beka Haigh, Director, E: admin@frolicked.co.uk, **W:** www.frolicked.co.uk

Glass House Dance (UK) – US

Us is a surreal and comic performance that seeks to bridge the gap between contemporary dance and traditional street theatre. It is a re-telling of the classic boy-meets-girl which is accessible, though challenges audiences with unexpected twists. Expect laughter and audience participation.

Sarah Lewis, Co-Director, E: glasshousedance@outlook.com, **W:** www.glasshousedance.co.uk

Impas Dansa (Spain) – Untitled

Untitled is a small contemporary dance and live music performance which follows two dancers moved by the rhythm of two drummers. No melodies that highlight dance as just a matter of beauty. We all depend on others to realise who we are. The plural before the singular. We are singular once we are next to others.

Anna Mitjà, Manager & Filmmaker, E: info@impasdansa.com, **W:** www.impasdansa.com

Insectotropics (Spain) – Bouazizi

Bouazizi is a multimedia performance which revolves around the manipulation of power, reflecting a reality in which we are all a part of a web, but that nobody seems to recognise themselves as a spider. It is based on the story of Mohammed Bouazizi, a Tunisian man who was the spark for the Arab Spring revolution when he set himself on fire.

Maria Thorson, Manager & Producer, E: insectotropics@gmail.com, **W:** www.insectotropics.com

Jordi L. Vidal (Belgium) – Aaarrhh!!!

Aaarrhh!!! is a multidisciplinary show combining theatre, contemporary dance, puppetry, live music and visual arts. It explores a wide range of emotions surrounding death which is more than just sadness.

Jordi L. Vidal, Director & Choreographer, E: jordilvidal@yahoo.fr, **W:** www.jordilvidal.net

Jordi Vidal (Belgium) – La Rencontre

La Rencontre is an original, visual and dynamic show that combines acrobatics, dance and physical theatre. Love, friendship, rivalry, jealousy, seduction, support are the themes of the show, under the topic of diversity through encounters in everyday life.

Jordi L. Vidal, Director & Choreographer, E: jordilvidal@yahoo.fr, **W:** www.jordilvidal.net

Joseph Lau (UK) – Viva

Viva illustrates honest exchanges between people, through the expressive body using place and site. Currently in redevelopment, it hopes to explore how these themes could interact in unusual spaces, with artists from different cultural backgrounds to reflect how diversity can connect universal ideas of friendship and communality.

Joseph Lau, Independent Artist, E: jau.artist@msn.com, **W:** www.jauartist.com

Kitch n Sync (UK) – Ecstatic Cinematic

Ecstatic Cinematic is a 'drive-in movie' experience like no other which calls all film fanatics and blockbuster boffins to participate in the creation of new movie shorts. It is an interactive, family friendly, comedy dance performance and walkabout experience for all to enjoy!

Kim Noble, Co-Director, E: kitschsynccollective@gmail.com, **W:** kitschsync.co.uk

Les Commandos Percu (France) – Silence!

Silence! is a large-scale, night time, outdoor show which lasts around 45 minutes. The show features a mixture of percussion, movement, aesthetic of shapes, art of sudden shifts, fireworks and proximity with the audience. It is made up of two parts, a short procession and a finale on a fixed set.

Lisa Trouilhet, Project Manager, E: contact@commandospercu.com, **W:** www.commandospercu.com

Lost in Translation Circus (UK) – D’Emblee

D’Emblee reflects on real life journeys of people working and living together, exploring close but problematic relationships. It illustrates the boundaries between people and what can happen when those boundaries intersect, blend or are invaded. The show uses spectacular Korean cradle, acrobatics and movement to move the story.

Sascha Goslin, Tour Producer, E: sascha@litcircus.com, **W:** www.litcircus.com

Michela Hayer (UK) – To Let Myself Go

To Let Myself Go is an outdoor Chinese pole piece incorporating movement and physical theatre as well as circus skills. It's a small scale nonverbal performance suitable for outdoors.

Michela Heyer, Performer, E: sheepysnoopy@gmail.com, **W:** www.funkyfi.com

Miss High Leg Kick (UK) – Miss High Leg Kick’s Red Carpet

Miss High Leg Kick’s Red Carpet is an audience interactive show which features a long red carpet surrounded by a rope that is the centrepiece of a narrow street. The audience is on either side of the carpet or prompted to walk down it themselves. It is a fun and edgy piece which blurs boundaries between artist and audience.

Francesca Baglione, Director & Performer, E: misshighlegkick@gmail.com, **W:** www.misshighlegkick.com

Mr & Mrs Clark (UK) – Electioneering

Mr & Mrs Clark explores the body postures, facial expressions and hand gestures of those politicians promising to hand back control and make their countries great again. It aims to ridicule the media training that all public figures apply to their appearances in a fun, physically challenging and engaging manner.

Gareth Clark, Director, E: G.clark627@btinternet.com, **W:** www.mrandmrsclark.co.uk

Mucab Dans (Spain) – Movelights

Movelights is an itinerant street show, for all audiences, where the movement, rhythm and percussion generate light, in real-time, lighting dancers and musicians at every step. For this production, we are working with the percussion band Brincadeira.

Joan Laporta, Executive Producer, E: joan@bacum.info, **W:** www.bacum.info

Neighbourhood Watch Stilts International (UK) – Rule of Hoof

Rule of Hoof is an itinerant intervention comedy satire with *a sting in the tail* based on Swift’s Houyhnhnms and Yahoo’s idea of animal-human role reversal. The interpretation suggests alternative animal and human relations, featuring Lord Tarquin, an elegantly attired horse in a regal carriage pulled by humans and his entourage.

Paul Miskin, Artistic Partner, E: nwsidemon@nwsidemon.co.uk, **W:** www.nwsidemon.co.uk

PanGottic (UK) – Fluke

Fluke will expose what happens when a circus trick goes wrong or is unpredictable, building narratives around this to delve into the notion of risk versus reward, and pushing the boundaries of how much risk an audience can bear or be willing to create.

Cat Boot, Producer, E: cat@pangottic.com, **W:** www.pangottic.com

Protein Dance (UK) – [In]visible Dancing

[In]visible Dancing starts life as random incidental behaviour and grows in both performers and choreographic complexity across its twice-daily presentation. Protein’s dancers are joined by a cast of local apprentices and a range of community groups and the piece is accompanied by a band of local musicians.

Melanie Precious, Creative Producer, E: melanie@proteindance.co.uk, **W:** www.proteindance.co.uk

Puppets with Guts (UK) – #RampagingRhinos

#RampagingRhinos is the biggest cardboard rhinoceros in the world! Participants create their own rhino mask from a pre-cut cardboard mask and decorate it with rhino wrinkles- during a drop-in mask making workshop.

Ivan Thorley, Artistic Director, E: mail@puppetswithguts.com, **W:** www.puppetswithguts.com

Serious Mischief Theatre Company (UK) – Foolish Ninjas!

Foolish Ninjas! is a walkabout show where two ninjas and their disobedient ninja musician take to the streets to complete their ninja training. Armed with feather duster katana (swords) and the element of surprise, the clan will highlight how seemingly malignant forces can sometimes transform into hilarity and mischief.

Jake England-Johns, Artistic Director, E: info@seriousmischieftheatre.com, **W:** www.seriousmischieftheatre.com

Surge (UK) – Beautiful Bones

Beautiful Bones is about death, the inescapable and final act of being alive. It attempts to pay honour to human passing with irreverence and black humour - that greets death as a kind friend to be made welcome, not ignored.

Karen Veitch, Producer, E: karen@surge.scot, **W:** www.surge.scot

Taking Flight Theatre Company (UK) – Scenes from a Suitcase

Scenes from a Suitcase is developed through 3 short pieces with a pool of 10 disabled performers. Audience members open one of their battered suitcases, revealing the spoils of the earlier days of glamour. The performers try to recreate their former glory to comic effect through audience interaction.

Beth House, Creative Producer, E: beth@takingflighttheatre.co.uk, **W:** www.takingflighttheatre.co.uk

The Amateurs Company (UK) – A Little Prince

A Little Prince is a modern adaptation of Ivan Andrade's tale. With an international creative team, this outdoor musical presents a thoughtful and magical insight into the original novel, addressing its many layers of thought and emotion with a modern, subtle and poetic show.

Ivan Andrade, Director, E: ivan@theamateurscompany.com, **W:** www.theamateurscompany.com

The Gramophones Theatre Company (UK) – Tarzanna

Tarzanna is a theatrical and visual spectacle for the whole family. The main themes of the show are creative outdoor play, looking after the planet and connecting with each other and surrounding nature. The narrative follows a young girl Anna as she struggles with her relationship with her busy mum, both are distracted by media and technology.

Ria Ashcroft, Co-Artistic Director, E: gramophonestheatre@gmail.com, **W:** www.gramophonestheatre.com

The Honk Project (UK) – The Dancing Day Trippers

The Dancing Day Trippers is a colourful and vivacious show involving a state-of-the-art moped and sidecar, with two loveable vintage enthusiasts, named Doris and Alby. The production involves 'drive-about' elements, where the characters interact with audiences, jive and play on their horns for passers-by.

Amy Howard, Artistic Director & Performer, E: info@honkproject.com, **W:** www.honkproject.com

Turn Around Dance Theatre (UK) – The Thief, the Fox & the Phoenix

The Thief, the Fox & the Phoenix features interactive dance, aerial circus, singing and live music in an exciting and educational folk inspired story. It is versatile and adaptable for different performance venues and audience types, including at festivals, in educational settings, for families in public spaces and young people with disabilities.

Grace Turner, Artistic Director, E: turnarounddancetheatre@gmail.com, **W:** www.turnarounddancetheatre.co.uk

Wet Picnic (UK) – Club Shed

Club Shed is an intimate, immersive, micro distillation of a night on the tiles, that uses dance and music to bring audiences (young and old) together for a rare moment of freedom and connection, in a year when the UK, and the world, has witnessed political and societal division on a massive scale.

Judy Barrington-Smuts, Associate Artistic Director, E: judy@wetpicnic.com, **W:** www.wetpicnic.com

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