

Curtain Up! Autumn 2012 - Teachers Briefing



Thursday 11th October, 7:30pm

The Alchemystorium by Gomito Productions

The Alchemystorium Cafe dispenses coffee in a highly unusual fashion; more unusual still is the supernatural service offered as an accompaniment to your cappuccino. Using silent physical comedy, puppetry and striking visuals Gomito present an orginal comic romance. Enter a curious world of absurd magic as the inhabitants of The Alchemystorium get their first taste of love.

Suitability: 12+ has some mature themes of love

More info (including trailer): <u>http://www.thegarage.org.uk/the-alchemystorium-eid50.html</u>

Group Booking Details: £5 (under 25's), 1 teacher free with group of 10

Box Office: 01603 630000

Tuesday 16th October 7:30pm (Workshops and post show Q&A available)



The Static by Thick Skin Theatre Company.

Developed with the national Theatre of Scotland, The Core at Corby Cube and presented at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2012 in association with Underbelly Productions (Neil Bettles, known for his work with Frantic Assembly)

You want to know what it's like when you do

it? Your heart beats twice as fast. Hands shake. You start sweating. Every inch of your body is tense. Then, in one cold moment, the blood stops pumping, the energy lashes out and — vwoooom! — an aeroplane falls from the sky.

Part social realism, part magical realism... a kinetic coming of age, rites of passage, adolescent love story, revenge fantasy, horror fairytale... about what happens if we unleash our darkest desires.

Featuring a striking mix of multi-media, movement and text, this visually arresting and fast-paced new play explores the ugly flipside to positive thinking - the terrifying idea that our darkest fantasies could come true.

"Most people's thoughts stay inside their head. Not mine. My thoughts travel. My thoughts do things. Don't believe me? Just watch."

Meet Sparky, a bright but volatile 15-year-old boy, who is written off at school as a disruptive I influence and a lost cause, but when he falls in love with a strange girl called Siouxsie he discovers a newfound superpower.

Suitability: 14+ contains some strong language

More information including trailer: <u>http://www.thegarage.org.uk/the-static-eid49.html</u>

Group Booking Details: £5 (under 25's), 1 teacher free with group of 10

Box Office: 01603 630000

ThickSkin – Teacher review by Warren Cathrine

The Static is a coming-of-age love story about what happens when our darkest dreams come true, presented in an 'in-yer-face' style, employing the use of physicality, choreographed movement and multi-media to tell the story. It uses a range of narrative devices, Brechtian techniques and multi-rolling to keep the script moving along at a frenetic pace. The influence of cinema is evident, as is that of their previous collaborations with Frantic Assembly. Ideal for 'Theatre Review and Appreciation' generating a range of discussions around the theatrical devices employed to generate meaning. There is some use of bad language, but is suitable for a 14+ audience.

Thursday 25th October 7:30pm (Post show Q&A can be arranged)



Bones written by Jane Upton, performed by Fifth Word Theatre Company (Sell out show at Edinburgh Festival 2011)

Award winning company Fifth Word is a critically acclaimed theatre company that produces innovative, exciting and accessible theatre touring to national and international arts venues and festivals. Their artistic vision places an emphasis on

new writing and the use of multimedia technologies on stage.

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"She doesn't feel like my mum. She doesn't do stuff mums do. She gets leathered and smacked up and tries to shag my mates"

Nineteen-year-old Mark is living a life he never signed up to. Heavy with the weight of caring for his broken mum and her baby, and pining for a past of Panda Pops, eggy bread and Brian Clough, Mark knows he has to do something drastic to change things forever – but will he make a chilling choice that will change things forever?

An achingly honest portrayal of a boy struggling to find his place in a world that doesn't want him, Bones will break your heart, spit you out and then make you wonder why you cared in the first place.

A seamless integration of live performance, projection design and show control technology anchor, underscore and shape this piece resulting in exciting theatre for a twenty-first century audience. The play delivers a sustained emotional intensity while, simultaneously, offering passages of genuine humour.

Nominated for best solo performance

The Stage Awards For Acting Excellence

'One of the most gripping Solo Shows on the fringe' The Stage

Suitability: 16+ contains strong language, sex and drugs references. Company particularly want to engage students.

More information including trailer: http://www.thegarage.org.uk/bones-eid51.html

Group Booking Details: £5 (under 25's), 1 teacher free with group of 10

Box Office: 01603 630000

Tuesday 6th November 7:30pm, Post show Q&A available



Paper Tom by handheld arts

"This is a fresh new company with many talents and clearly big ideas."0 British Theatre Guide

"an extraordinary and memorable piece of storytelling" Fringe Guru *****

Paper Tom tells the stories of two soldiers, a First World War soldier and a contemporary soldier returning from Afghanistan, who find themselves unable to return 'home'. Based upon research conducted over a two-year period,

including verbatim accounts from UK soldiers and veterans dating from World War Curtain Up Programme 2012 – Confidential P a g e | **3** One through to current conflicts, this production explores what happens to soldiers and their family and friends once the adrenaline of active service has faded.

The production encourages discussion on mental healthcare provisions, community support for soldiers and Military aftercare. It also has a wider reach dealing with issues around trauma and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, as well as more general themes of community and family relationships

This production is an excellent example of a topical play, written following extensive R&D. The company secured funding to spend an intensive week with the veterans' charity Talking2Minds hearing first-hand accounts from serving soldiers and veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and their attempts to deal with the psychological impacts of war. Their raw and powerful stories, combined with other research on WWI veterans, led the company to compare conditions such as Shell shock with PTSD and to ask how much has changed since WWI in terms of approaches to mental healthcare for combat troops and the provisions in place to help veterans adjust to civilian life. The process of the play development would be interesting to students and a post show Q&A can be arranged.

Suitability: 12+ some strong language

More information: http://www.thegarage.org.uk/paper-tom-eid52.html

Group Booking Details: £5 (under 25's), 1 teacher free with group of 10

Box Office: 01603 630000

Friday 16th November 7:30pm



8m3 Chez Moi Circus and Ni Omnibus

A juggler finds himself alone in his caravan, in front of an old television set. In this shrunken space he takes the audience on a journey through his life as an artist. With humour and poetry objects come alive. But will everything really happen as it's supposed to?

This is an international, silent

performance with no text, supported by European funding and Arts Council England to tour nationally in the UK.

More information: <u>http://www.thegarage.org.uk/8m3chez-moi-circus-and-ni-omnibus-eid48.html</u>

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Group Booking Details: £5 (under 25's), 1 teacher free with group of 10

Box Office: 01603 630000

Thursday 22nd November 1:30pm

SuperJohn by Firehouse Creative production



Seen through the eyes of two children, John, a child with Leukemia, and his saviour sister Star, SuperJohn mixes fantasy and reality to explore how a child uses imagination in overcoming adversity. SuperJohn combines visual and text based storytelling; both literal and poetic in nature. Children and adults will be drawn in by the adventures the protagonists have, and be compelled by the real life events that the fantasy parallels.

Suitability: 6+ This performance is set in a hospital and through metaphor, explores long term illness and its effects on families and children

More information: http://www.thegarage.org.uk/superjohn-eid54.html

Group Booking Details: £5 (under 25's), 1 teacher free with group of 10

Box Office: 01603 630000

Superjohn – Teacher review by Warren Cathrine

Superjohn is a good example of devised theatre for a particular audience, in this case children and families dealing with illness. It employs a range of theatrical devices to take their audience on a fantastical journey with a metaphorical meaning. The multiple characters are larger than life and are played by the strong cast of four performers. The script reflects the use of language employed by the target audience. Colourful costumes and props create a magical feel to the piece, which engages its audience through direct address and audience participation. Ideal for an opener to a discussion about illness and its effect on families for younger students, and as an example of devised theatre for target audiences and/or theatre for children, for older students.