

**TOBACCO
FACTORY
THEATRE**

PROTOTYPE

experiments in theatre

15 November 2009, 8pm in association with **Theatre Bristol**

Welcome. This is the ninth Prototype. The ninth! As ever, we've got a mix of great people performing here tonight. There will be five 'mini' shows plus something special in the bar during the interval. Enjoy.

Prototype: Experiments in Theatre is a Theatre Bristol and Tobacco Factory Theatre production. If you would like to find out more or wish to test your own ideas out in front of a Prototype audience, please email me at Katie@theatrebristol.net

Katie Keeler, Creative Producer | Theatre Bristol



1. THE TEMPEST

Firebird Theatre

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WHO? Firebird is a Bristol-based theatre company made up of 16 experienced disabled actors. Members of the company have been working together for nearly 20 years, but have only been working as an independent theatre company since 2006.

WHAT? During the last year Firebird Theatre has been looking at the story of *The Tempest*, its characters and their relationships. Firebird say: *We need to understand a story before we start turning it into theatre; we need to make it accessible for us and eventually, we hope, our audiences as well. We are now developing the script for our telling of the story, trying out lots of visual ideas to make it as clear and as understandable as possible for our audiences.* The first performance of *The Tempest* will take place in March 2010.

2. BLUEBIRD

Vex Dance Theatre

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WHO? Vex is a Bristol-based performance and education company formed in 2007. Vex explores the point where dance meets theatre, playing with the tension between body and text. Through highly physical and energised choreography they endeavour to make creative, engaging and unpretentious work.

Choreographed and directed by Jess McCormack and Kitty Smith
Performed by Francesca Bradshaw, Stacey Dorling, Carly Etherington and Kim Noble

WHAT? *Bluebird* is a highly physical performance based on interviews collected from immigrants and refugees. It draws inspiration from Vesna Maric's memoir *Bluebird*, an account of coming to Britain as a 16-year-old asylum seeker, after fleeing the conflict in Bosnia in 1992. The section you will see this evening

was created over 14 hours. Vex are now developing the piece, collecting stories from 10 Bristol-based immigrants and refugees about their expectations of Britain and their thoughts on Britain now.

Bluebird will appear at the TF's Brewery Theatre in July 2010.

3. THE THIRD PART

Ed Rapley

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WHO? Ed Rapley has been working as a performer since 2005, making work on his own or in collaboration with other artists. He most recently appeared in Luci Gorell Barnes's BOV/Theatre Bristol commission, *The Tragical and Disturbing Tale of Little Lupin*.

WHAT? Happiness, desire, and a car crash. This is the first showing of the very earliest ideas that will make up the third part of a trilogy Ed is working on. The second part of the trilogy, *The Middle Bit*, was developed through Prototype and is playing Bristol Old Vic next month.

15-MIN INTERVAL 15-MIN INTERVAL 15-MIN INTERVAL

With entertainment from..

4. PHAT JANET

Little Ray Puppets

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WHO? Cori Bona is a Bristol-based puppeteer, designer, maker and workshop facilitator. She has been in training and further development with the support of Green Ginger through their Toast in the Machine programme. For *Phat Janet* she is collaborating for the first time with Ian Perry, a Bristol based musician (www.myspace.com/ianperrymusic).

WHAT? Phat Janet is a soul singing cabaret performer. Originally from New Orleans, she now sings all over the world. She has seen a lot in her time and has suffered from dating some pretty awful men. She likes to entertain a crowd, but sometimes, due to her mild drinking habit, she can make for uncomfortable viewing. Janet's companion, Stanley, is one of her ex's, who still loves Janet and, despite a lot of abuse, travels with her and helps her to perform and make a living. Tonight she will perform two of her songs and rile the crowd up a bit!

5. FISHWIFE

Cori Bona & Alex Hykel

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WHO? Cori Bona & Alex Hykel are two Bristol-based puppeteers who are collaborating for the first time on a puppetry show for everyone aged 3 and up. Alex is a member of Puppets and Pandemonium theatre company. Music is by Benji Bower, who composes for film, theatre, and TV. His latest music will feature this Christmas in the TF & Travelling Light co-production *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves* (www.unforscene.co.uk).

WHAT? *Fishwife* is a modern adaptation of the Brothers Grimm story *The Fisherman and his Wife*. Cori says: It is a family-oriented show which hopes to create beautiful imagery and great shifts in scale, whilst capturing and entertaining audiences with a tale that has a poignant significance in the

world we live in. We hope to complete the production within a year and tour small theatre venues, schools, community centres around the South West.

6. THE HOTEL

Nice as Pie Dance Theatre

Contact name.....Katy West
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WHO? Nice as Pie Dance Theatre is Laura Polson, Katy West and Romyne Etwaroo. The company formed early 2009 after graduating from Bath Spa University. They aim to make performance work in which the audience is equally as important as the performers and are currently experimenting with giving their work an interactive quality.

WHAT? *The Hotel* explores the idea of the 'Cinderella Complex', as described by Collette Dowling in 1981:

'WE PAY LIP SERVICE TO THE IDEA THAT A WOMAN SHOULD BE EDUCATED AND CAPABLE, BUT THERE REMAINS AN UNSPOKEN BELIEF IN OUR CULTURE THAT HAPPILY EVER AFTER COMES WITH A PRINCE.'

The company is interested in how women deal with this complex, to what extent it exists, and if people are prepared to acknowledge it. They are currently testing the content of the work and are particularly interested in exploring its potential for interactivity. Further down the line, they also seek to incorporate multi-sensory qualities in to the piece, in order to allow the audience to understand the subject matter more deeply.

7. Feedback

Katie will guide the discussion that follows the performances, which will be based around the questions that the artists/companies have for the audience.

TF+ FOR THEATRE-MAKERS

COMING SOON...

THE GENERATOR: DEVELOPING CONTENT

Part 1: Sat 21 Nov 2 - 5pm, Part 2: Sat 28 Nov 2 - 5pm

"More please! Having an open, exploratory space where we can explore how we work is incredibly helpful" Amy Creech (Once Arts and Ceremonies)

Generator is a new TFT initiative supporting Bristol's theatre-makers in their professional development. This second session offers theatre-makers the opportunity to share the processes they use to develop content when creating devised work. Concentrating on the how rather than the what, the sessions will each emphasise either physical techniques or text-based strategies and touch on methods of creative logging along the way.

To find out more about TF+ for theatre-makers, please contact Carrie on 0117 902 0345 or email theatre@tobaccofactory.com. Box Office: 0117 902 0344.

COMING SOON

We're proud to have played a part in helping a number of shows along the road to full production over almost 2 years of Prototype. Here are a few you can catch very soon...



THE MIDDLE BIT *Have you ever felt like you just can't be bothered?*

Ed Rapley

Bristol Old Vic, 3 - 5 Dec, 8pm

In this funny and thoughtful show, performer Ed Rapley attempts to overcome his own lazy demons...and fails.

**THE
Publick**

Mining its
Transport
office.



DEPARTMENT OF SMELLING PISTAKES

Transport Brewery Theatre, 12 - 28 Feb, 8.15pm

trademark vein of absurdist humour, Publick presents a new comedy set in a Russian governmental



PEDESTRIAN

Tom Wainwright

Bristol Old Vic, spring 2010 (details TBC)

A perversely comic daydream-cum-nightmare about chuggers, flashmobs and attempting - unsuccessfully - to suppress "the fear".

In spring 2010 Prototype will be celebrating its 10th anniversary (10 events that is, not 10 years...). We'll be taking that opportunity to give you a full round-up of what's happened to all the shows and companies since they aired their works-in-progress at Prototype events.

To You To Me - an invitation

Back in the summer we had an absolutely awesome response to Theatre Bristol's open invitation for anyone interested in theatre in Bristol to come together to discuss what they're up to, we can say what we're up to, and we can all discuss what we're not up to but think we ought to be. It was a brilliant evening: one made so by you: lots of engaged, friendly people having interesting conversations about theatre and eating lovely, olivey food. At the time we promised we'd make it a regular event, and true to our word, now we're doing it again.

If you're still reading this we'd like to invite you. And if you're not reading it then we'd like to invite you too. Whoever wants to come is welcome. If you're a theatre-maker, administrator, lawyer, councilor, writer, producer, artist, musician, dancer, choreographer, technician, box office staff, director, board member, bar staff, prime minister, stage manager, actor, journalist, funder, royalty, student, designer, pupil, teacher, ... The point is if you think you might be interested in a conversation about performance in Bristol then please consider yourself invited. If you know someone else who might be interested invite them.

Bristol Old Vic 6pm until 9pm (bar open from 5.30), Monday 30th November 2009

It's free, there'll be some food, the bar will be open. All that we ask is that you tell us that you're coming. Please go to <http://toyoutome.eventbrite.com> If you can't make this one the next one will be in the New Year.

Ausform Platform at The Cube Microplex Friday 4 Dec 2009, 8pm

The Ausform Platform of Performance is back! Ausform strives to promote and encourage knowledge, appreciation, practise and conversation of performance. Expect to witness a night full of puppetry, performance art films, circus, physical theatre and the extraordinaire.