

The
Bike
Shed
Theatre

ISSUE 7
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bikeshedtheatre.co.uk



HELLO THERE,

Perhaps you've been here many times before, in which case progress to the next page and start selecting which shows you'll see this year.

If you've not, I'll tell you what we do. And a bit about why we bother.

We're a basement theatre, off Fore Street in Exeter. We've been going for about seven years. We present quality new theatre productions from some of the most exciting theatre makers in the country. We provide space for them to develop their ideas, with a particular focus on artists based in Devon. We often partner theatre makers with community groups and schools whilst they're with us. At weekends, we become a place to dance without being stared at. And throughout the week, we're a place where you can taste a carefully curated selection of excellent cocktails.

And why do we do it?

Because we believe that everyone should have an opportunity to see the highest quality of theatre in the country, and not just through a screen in the cinema. We believe spaces where people can be together encourage understanding. We believe newness is inherently exciting. We believe creativity is essential to addressing challenges in local and global society. We believe dancing is fun and alcohol should be savoured.

We've asked artists what they love about The Bike Shed Theatre and Exeter. Look out for their comments in these boxes throughout the brochure.

To this end, a small team of us work underground beavering away, often unseen, making connections, creating the right atmosphere.

We do this so that when you arrive, whether for the first or hundredth time, you feel relaxed, welcome, at home. Coming down here often feels like a risk, especially the first time (my initial visit required a torch). It's one worth taking. There isn't a show in our new season that I wouldn't recommend. Each is packed with originality.

So if you haven't been here before, have a flick through this brochure and if you see a show you like, you can try it for just £4. All you need to do it quote 'first visit' when you book.

I hope you enjoy it and we look forward to seeing you soon

*David and all at
The Bike Shed Theatre*

WILL THIS BE YOUR FIRST VISIT?

If you haven't seen a show at The Bike Shed Theatre before, you can give it a try for just £4. Book online bikeshedtheatre.co.uk and enter in 'firstvisit' to receive the discount. Offer applies to new customers and is for one ticket and one show only.

WHAT'S ON



FROM DEVON WITH LOVE

17 - 24 Jan
£8 and 2 for £12

A festival of original theatre from Devon's emerging and amateur performers.

ST PETER'S C of E AIDED SCHOOL CHATROOM
17 Jan, 7pm

A staged representation of a virtual conversation, *Chatroom* is a play about manipulation, cyberbullying and adolescent insecurity.

ALEX JACKSON OUT OF THE ASHES
17 Jan, 8.30pm & 18 Jan, 7pm

Based on the novel by Michael Morpurgo, *Out of the Ashes* tells the story of Becky Morely, a 13 year old girl living on a farm in Devon during the 2001 foot and mouth outbreak.

MICHELLE RIDINGS WICKED OLD SOD
18 Jan, 8.30pm & 19 Jan, 7pm

A solo performance that challenges our perceptions of social and global outcasts, madness and desire.

WESTBROOK & COMPANY PAINTBOX JANE
19 Jan, 8.30pm

A celebration of Raoul Dufy's paintings and a meditation on the nature of Art.

TIM BROMAGE THE HUNTER AND THE BLEAK
20 Jan, 7pm

Drawing inspiration from stage magic and variety performance, *The Hunter and The Bleak* is made up of poetry, anecdotes, a cappella singing and magic.

TREE SHADOW THEATRE WAVING GOODBYE
20 Jan, 8.30pm

Waving Goodbye is an emotionally charged black comedy which asks fundamental questions about existence and our relationships with each other.

ABOVE BOUNDS THE UGLY DUCKLING

21 Jan, 12am & 22nd Jan, 2pm, for ages 3 to 7 and their families.
A mother duck is sitting on her eggs. But one doesn't look like the others. What will happen when the egg hatches and what stories will hatch with it?

BRAVE BOLD DRAMA HANSEL AND GRETAL

21 Jan, 2pm & 22 Jan, 12am, suitable for all ages 4+
A re-imagining of the famous tale told with music and puppetry. Hansel and Gretel colour in their world with vivid imaginations. Because the world isn't black & white.

JAMES ELSTON nEGGative SPACE
23 Jan, 7pm & 24 Jan, 8.30pm

Feeling lost in this world can be difficult, but John is seeking answers. What makes us human? How do you define love? What's the best way to cook an egg?

JAMES LUCKRAFT-LAW THE GROWNUP'S GUIDE TO GROWING UP
23 Jan, 8.30pm, 24th, 7pm

A comedy about growing up whilst looking back. A nostalgic look at our past, pop culture and society. A mix of sketches, stand up, physical theatre and birthday cake.

A & E PRODUCTIONS ZIPS
25 Jan, 7pm & 26th, 8.30pm

Zips is a poetic and honest negotiation of friendship, sexuality and how much someone can really be there for you without you hoping for more.

RUNNING DOG THEATRE WANNA DANCE WITH SOMEBODY!
25 Jan, 8.30pm & 26th, 7pm

A new show about social anxiety, about coping mechanisms - about big ideas and how they impact on small things. About taking chances. And about dancing.

FREYA BARDELL TWENTY SOMETHING
27 Jan, 7pm & 28th, 8.30pm

A comic look at a millennial trying to come to terms with adulthood. Freya had an idea of what she might be or have achieved by her twenties. Freya has not succeeded. But there may still be hope...

KILL THE CAT THE BEGINNERS GUIDE TO NAVIGATION
27 Jan, 8.30pm & 28 Jan, 7pm

A witty exploration of one woman's struggle against maps, bank holiday traffic and extravagant cheese jamborees.



THEATRE ALIBI FISH EYE

By Daniel Jamieson

1 - 11 Feb, 7.30pm, age 14+

Matinees with post-show discussions: 2, 7, 9 Feb, 1.30pm

BSL interpreted on 3 Feb, 7.30pm

£12 (£10)

£10 (£8) for Members

Pam's already got a low opinion of her neighbours. So when someone pinches her Elizabethan sideboard, it's all-out war: she becomes a one-woman MI6, ramping up her operation from curtain twitching to spy cameras hidden in hand-knitted novelties. But what Pam unearths is what she already suspects; that everyone around her is a thief, a pervert or a terrorist.

A sharp sideways look at what former Liberty Director Shami Chakrabarti describes as the issue of our times; how the relentless monitoring, collecting and hacking of every inch of our lives has run completely out of control.

'Theatre Alibi have a reputation as terrific storytellers.'

THE GUARDIAN



JACK DEAN GRANDAD AND THE MACHINE

14 - 18 Feb, 7.30pm, age 18+

£12 (£10)

£10 (£8) for Members

2 for 1 on Tuesday

Having delighted audiences last summer, Jack Dean returns with this steampunk fairy tale for older kids and grown ups.

A hundred-year-old mechanical monster emerges from the waves. Everyday objects turn on their makers and the empire is plunged into chaos. No one knows why. No one can stop it. Except maybe Grandad. He always was good with a spanner.

That's why Imogen and her father head north to find him. Their journey becomes an epic quest across England that leads to the heart of a dark family secret.

Mixing vivid storytelling with an original score, *Grandad and the Machine* takes you on a journey to overcome tyranny whilst also having a rollicking good time.

'Artists like Jack Dean make us excited about what they'll do next.'

THE GUARDIAN

'The whole building is an experiment in making small-scale, independent and sometimes downright weird theatre into a great night out.'

WHAT'S ON

TOM BRENNAN THE EPISODE

21-25 Feb, 7.30pm, age 12+
£12 (£10)
£10 (£8) for Members
2 for 1 on Tuesday

An intimate new play about fashion, power and cataclysmic disaster.

It's the final season of a popular reality TV show. Your make up is on, the lights are bright and the camera is rolling... So don't forget to smize. In a world where image reigns and beauty is queen, failure is only a runway away.

As part of The Wardrobe Ensemble, Tom Brennan is co-creator of a number of award-winning shows including *1972: The Future of Sex* which received brilliant reviews and quickly sold out.

'The theatrical equivalent of popping candy: blissful, colourful, multi-sensory magic.'

★★★★★ THREE WEEKS (ON *1972: THE FUTURE OF SEX*)

'Walking down the steps into this little theatre and cocktail filled cave feels like coming home.'



LAUGH OUT LOUD FESTIVAL

LOL

LAUGH OUT LOUD

EXETER'S COMEDY FESTIVAL



27 FEB - 5 MAR

Prices from £8

Book multiple shows to save across the festival*

- 2 SHOWS SAVE £1
- 3 SHOWS SAVE £3
- 4 SHOWS SAVE £6
- 5 SHOWS SAVE £10

A chance to see award-winning comedy in the intimate atmosphere of The Bike Shed Theatre and at other venues across the city.

Highlights include new shows from Josie Long, Stuart Laws, Adam Hess, Rose Matafeo and Gareth Richards.

For full listings visit bikeshedtheatre.co.uk.

'The Bike Shed Theatre is absolutely perfect for comedy and the venue is amongst the friendliest we know.'

*Subject to availability



JOSIE LONG



ROSE MATEFEO



STUART LAWS



ADAM HESS



GARETH RICHARDS



JONNY AND THE BAPTISTS

EAT THE POOR

7 - 11 Mar, 7.30pm

£12 (£10)

£10 (£8) for Members

2 for 1 on Tuesday

Three quarters of MPs are millionaires. A third of the country lives below the poverty line. Whatever your politics, Jonny & the Baptists think it's worth talking about.

Returning to The Bike Shed Theatre for the third time, masters of musical satire, Jonny & The Baptists present a riotous epic about friendship, inequality and betrayal.

Setting out to explore the gap between rich and poor, Jonny & the Baptists' lives turn upside down when Jonny betrays Paddy for financial gain. As Jonny enjoys the highlife with Andrew Lloyd Webber and Jerry Hall, Paddy falls into homelessness and despair.

'Over five years the venue has been there every step as we've grown as artists, grown our audiences, grown confidence in being ambitious and making better work.'

'Spirited comedy... broad, daft and punchy.'

★★★★ THE GUARDIAN

'Wickedly amusing.'

★★★★ THE TIMES

'The political edge of 80's alternative comedy – a pop-soul voice to win X Factor.'

STEWART LEE, OBSERVER



SWANS AND SOCIALISM:

JONNY & THE BAPTISTS ON THE MAKING OF *EAT THE POOR*

For us, each show tends to come out of whatever we're talking about at the time. *Eat The Poor* began in 2016, against a background of news about inequality, food banks, homelessness and benefit cuts. We wanted to know more, to think about how the country had got here and what we could do about it. We also knew it had to be funny – but you figure you'll find the comedy along the way.

The breakthrough came during a week-long residency at The Bike Shed Theatre. By then we'd already travelled the country visiting homeless charities, councillors, academics, and even the Ludlow Conservative Society (that doesn't come up much – there really isn't anything interesting to say about them – but, you know, balance). We had a lot of material, but no idea how to start the show.

Where we were staying in Exeter, to get to the venue you had to walk along the river. We were performing every night and staying for drinks at the The Bike Shed Theatre's dangerously tempting bar, then

getting up, finding the nearest cup of coffee (usually at The Coffee Cellar) and stumbling back next morning. For the bleary-eyed wanderer, *The Quay* is basically a terrifying gauntlet patrolled by the most malicious animals known to man – urban swans.

The squawking, the feathers, the vicious beaks that can break your arm off – there's even an actual breed of Swans called Trumpeters. If you're looking for a way to communicate the full terror of rising inequality that threatens to collapse everything we care about in our society, and the desire for bloody socialist revolution – well, look no further. The show's opening number was born with a nightmare vision of revolutionary swans taking over a world too socially divided to resist them. From there, it basically writes itself...

A year on, the show's had a brilliant reception and we're touring the UK for three months in spring 2017. In the meantime, we've a few rewrites to do. The Swans will stay – of course – but we like to keep things up to date and that's especially tricky at the moment. (If you've also tried writing a topical comedy show in the last twelve months, you'll know the year has taken away as much as it's given.)

The worst thing about preparing to tour *Eat The Poor* is that, sadly, the subject matter is just as relevant as it was over a year ago. The best thing is getting to come and open the run for a full week at the The Bike Shed Theatre, back where it all started – though this time we'll be finding an alternative route to the venue that's entirely swan-free. We can't handle the flashbacks.



DEBORAH PEARSON
HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

Dramaturgy by Daniel Kitson
 14 - 15 Mar, 7.30pm, £12/£10

Using film and live performance, *History History History* is a tender yet humorous show about the shifting nature of truth.

Deborah Pearson is a Herald Angel-winning artist who founded The Forest Fringe and is currently resident artist at Somerset House Studios.

In this performance, she explores the connect and disconnect between the personal and the political while projecting a Hungarian film that was meant to be premiered on the day the Budapest Uprising started. As she loosely translates this 1956 football comedy, it gives way to the stories of a writer who lost his name, an actor who lost his voice, and a country that lost its revolution.

AT EXETER PHOENIX

'Its potent blend of uplifting possibility and heartrending pathos make for an enchanting 90 minute show.'

★★★★★ FIX MAGAZINE

'An absolute joy.'

THE SCOTSMAN



CURIOUS MONKEY IN ASSOCIATION WITH NORTHERN STAGE
LEAVING

by Paddy Campbell, Directed by Amy Golding,
 Designed by Katherina Redeva,
 Music/Sound by Roma Yagnik
 15 - 18 Mar, £12 (£10)
 2 for 1 on Tuesday
 £10 (£8) for Members

Leaving home for the first time is a step into the dark. If you're leaving the care system, the reality hits even harder.

Leaving is a new play by Paddy Campbell (writer of *Wet House*, one of The Guardian's Top Ten plays 2013) and created with Amy Golding who was recently at The Bike Shed Theatre with *Preggers*.

It tells the real stories of care leavers and their experiences at the pivotal moment when they leave care. It also gives voice to those working

'The Bike Shed Theatre is an ideal space in which to explore the relationship between the performer and the audience.'

within the system from staff in children's homes to MPs and policy makers.

Using the young people's own words, an ensemble cast and an award-winning creative team will test the boundaries of verbatim theatre to bring these real voices to the stage.

Leaving will create an immediate, immersive experience, full of laughter, tears and sheer determination. It will change the way you think about young people in care - their struggles and their joys.

FLYING VISITS



JAMES ACASTER THE TRELOGY

RECOGNISE 14 Mar, REPRESENT 15 Mar, RESET 16 Mar, 9pm
£16 or £40 for all three.

Undercover cops. Jury duty. Witness protection. Comedy. All this and more as James Acaster brings each of his three Edinburgh Comedy Award winning shows to Exeter.

'He really is rewriting the comedy rulebook.'
TIME OUT

KATE DIMBLEBY

BIRDSONGS

19 Mar, 2.30pm & 7.30pm, £12 (£10), Members £10 (£8)

For years Kate Dimbleby has made shows about other people's voices and stories - Bessie Smith, Peggy Lee, Dory Previn. But Kate has always had another nagging voice in her head - why is she not singing it?

MODERN CAUTIONARY TALES FOR CHILDREN

MURRAY LACHLAN YOUNG

9 Apr, 2.30pm, 6+, £8 (£5), Members £6 (£5)

'He knows exactly what your average 6-10-year-old is interested in - toilets, poo and death....A literary event, a stand-up show, a cosy chat - this is all these things, and more.'

The Scotsman

AN EVENING WITH MURRAY LACHLAN YOUNG

9 Apr, 7.30pm, £12 (£10), Members £10 (£8)

An evening of satirical soliloquy, rock-n-roll reverie and devastating-ditty from BBC6 music's resident poet Murray Lachlan Young.

VISCERA

IN TENTS AND PURPOSES

24 Apr, 7.30pm, £12 (£10), Members £10 (£8)

Following their sell-out run at the Edinburgh Fringe, Roxy Dunn and Alys Metcalf tell a comic, time-hopping story, exploring whether our lives are predetermined or shaped by our choices.

JOHN HINTON

ENSONGLOPEDIA OF SCIENCE

7 May, 7.30pm, £12 (£10), Members £10 (£8)

A song about science for every letter of the alphabet. Expect atoms, Big Bangs, cells, X-rays, Y-chromosomes, zoology...

VIV GORDON

I AM JOAN

8 May, 7.30pm, £12 (£10), Members £10 (£8)

A hopeful comedy about a woman in recovery from trauma finding empowerment by connecting with various inspiring Joans. Think *Dynasty* meets Joan of Arc.

WHAT'S ON



NIGEL AND LOUISE

21 Mar - 1 Apr, 7.30pm

£12 (£10)

£10 (£8) for Members

2 for 1 on Tuesday

Nigel Barrett and Louise Mari, of boundary breaking cult performance collective Shunt, are excited to return to the The Bike Shed Theatre for a two week residency in March, presenting a collection of their most recent work.

Nigel and Louise have been working with children in North Devon and Exeter to create a new production as part of Beaford Arts and The Bike Shed Theatre's joint Devon residency.

Details will be announced on our website. Sign up to our mailing list at bikeshedtheatre.co.uk to be the first to find out about the events.

'The smell of brick and damp. the always 4am quality of the light. You feel like you're in a film about an exciting handmade arts space in New York or Madrid or Berlin with the beautiful people.'

WINNERS OF THE OXFORD SAMUEL BECKETT THEATRE TRUST AWARD 2015

WINNERS OF THE FRINGEREVIEW OUTSTANDING THEATRE AWARD

'Work of this calibre is worth shouting about.'

THE STAGE

'Their work is hard to define but impossible to forget'.

CITY BLOG



BREACH THEATRE TANK

4 - 15 Apr, 7.30pm, age 14+
£12 (£10)
£10 (£8) for Members
2 for 1 on Tuesday

Developed as part of a residency at The Bike Shed Theatre whilst performing *The Beanfield*, Breach Theatre's *Tank* went onto receive critical acclaim and a Fringe First Award in 2016.

In 1965, an American scientist lived with a dolphin for ten weeks to try and teach him to speak English – part of a NASA-funded research project into human-animal communication. Condemned by the wider scientific community as an elaborate circus trick, Margaret's lessons with Peter remain a controversial episode in the space race between the two Cold War superpowers.

'We're really excited to perform in the space where we explored so many things that made the show what it is.'

Inspired by the Dolphin House experiments, Breach's Fringe First Award-winning *Tank* rips this history apart to explore the difficulties of bridging cultural divides, the politics behind the stories we tell, and what happens when you inject a dolphin with LSD.

'Cleverly pitched, often comic.'
★★★★ THE GUARDIAN

'Wow, is all I can say.'
★★★★ THE TIMES

'Funny, dark, and strangely dreamy'
★★★★ TIME OUT.



BREACH THEATRE ON MAKING *TANK* WRITTEN BY ELLICE STEVENS (CO-DIRECTOR AND PERFORMER)

The idea for *Tank* was conceived in January 2015. Billy (co-director of *Tank*) and I, had watched the BBC documentary *The Girl Who Talked to Dolphins*, and it was the first time we'd ever heard of the Dolphin House. It documented the human-animal communication experiments which were led by John C Lilly in America during the 1960s, and which resulted in 1965 with Margaret, a female researcher, and Peter, a male dolphin, living together for ten weeks in isolation on the first floor of a flooded laboratory as she attempted to teach him English. We were immediately obsessed with the story.

We thought it was bizarre, curious and emotional. But, more than that, it seemed like an incredibly rich metaphor – we discovered it in a time where migrants were being dehumanised, the media were promoting fear against entire religions, and Donald Trump first suggested the building of a wall. We'd stumbled across this amazing story of this woman who wanted to teach, enrich and 'civilise' this 'other', and in doing

so ignored what was already there. That violence, which we felt we were seeing everywhere, was what really pulled us in and convinced us this was a story important for now.

So, the following February, we applied for an Emerging Companies residency at the Lyric Hammersmith in London, and were able to use their rehearsal space for an initial week's research and development. We pulled out a lot of the themes we were interested in which informed the following 18 months of making the show, including Americana, language, culture and violence. Working with an ensemble of four, we developed these ideas and figured out all the things this show could be. Alongside the work on *Tank*, we were making our company's first show *The Beanfield*, and after taking that to the Edinburgh Fringe in 2015, we managed to secure a national tour the following spring. During this tour we performed at The Bike Shed Theatre, but were also fortunate enough to further develop *Tank* with their support through a residency during the run.

It's really funny thinking back to the time we spent in Exeter now – going over and over different ways of trying to represent a dolphin on the stage. I can remember all the conversations we had in the room and I can see how they've made it into the final show, or at the very least where those explorations have informed what the show now is. I remember it being bumpy, feeling like we were going down dead ends, and then feeling exhilarated when it felt we were really hitting on something – it's hugely exciting to come back now to the space where we were figuring it all out, to perform what we made.

WHAT'S ON



KID CARPET AND VIC LLEWELYN THE CASTLE BUILDER

18-22 Apr and 25 -29 Apr, 7.30pm, age 12+
£12 (£10)
£10 (£8) for Members

The Castle Builder is an emotional and hard rocking journey into the hearts and souls that exist on the outer limits of creativity and building regulations.

It tells the true story of an inmate in a Norwegian psychiatric institute who, over 5 years, built a castle on a remote headland.

The show spirals outwards from personal accounts into tales of other outsider artists who've been inspired to build gigantic extraordinary structures, alone, in secret, and without artistic validation from the real world.

Vic Llewellyn and Kid Carpet re-imagine these stories and tell them with visceral live music, dancing, projection & heartfelt storytelling.

Supported by Bristol Old Vic Ferment



KID CARPET SUPER MEGA ROCKIN' ROCK SHOW

22, 23, 29 Apr, 2.30pm, suitable for ages 3 to 103
£8 (£5)
£6 (£5) for Members

Kid Carpet invites you to rock out!

Kid Carpet will guide you through everything you need to know to be able to rock out big time. Even if it's your first gig! Join in with stories, games and songs whilst playing ping pong, catching a lost sandwich in space and taking part in a grand dance contest.

The best bits from Kid Carpet's anarchic family shows have been remixed to create the gig of the century. This lively and interactive show contains a unique mix of live music, performance, comedy, animation and ping pong balls. Classic tracks from Kid Carpet include: *Gorilla*, *Poo in the Forest* and *Golden Eagle*.

'The Mighty Boosh for kids.'

STRIKE A LIGHT FESTIVAL

WHAT'S ON



CHRISTOPHER HARRISSON

THE NORTH! THE NORTH!

2-6 May, 7.30pm
£12 (£10)
£10 (£8) for Members
2 for 1 on Tuesday

A dark contemporary myth about England featuring highly physical storytelling, film and animation by the former director of our Associate Company, Rhum and Clay (*64 Squares*, *A Strange Wild Song*, *Shutterland*).

"In 1985, a fissure formed at England's centre and split the north from the south. A giant tear through the landscape, a real gap, descending into an abyss of bottomless depth. And in the north, cut off, things began to stir. Beneath the moors and the rivers, in the valleys and by the sea."

'The relaxed atmosphere of the venue, the immediacy of its space, and the critical, supportive engagement of its audiences and team is the perfect environment for finding the finished show.'

It begins with a phone call and some shocking news. A young man, seeking vengeance for the wrongs of the past, begins a quest that will lead him on an extraordinary, surreal journey back to where it all began: the dark and bloody heart of the North. It's a tale of dancing alone in clubs at 3am, the bad things that happen to us, and the stories we make up in response.

WHAT'S ON



RIDICULUSMUS

GIVE ME YOUR LOVE

9 - 13 May, 7.30pm, ages 14+
 £12 (£10)
 £10 (£8) for Members
 2 for 1 on Tuesday

Theatre legends Jon Haynes and David Woods of Ridiculusmus are back with a funny, fragile and profound fable based on groundbreaking medical research and real-life war testimonies.

Ex-soldier and budding rock star Zach has withdrawn into a cardboard box in a kitchen in West Wales. His friend Leuan arrives offering recovery in the form of a capsule containing 3,4 methylenedioxymethamphetamine with which he claims to have successfully treated his own post-traumatic stress.

'We hadn't played in Exeter for years. On one of our last visits to the city we nearly got arrested for performing a walkabout as a group of blind people leading the blind, while singing 'You are the light in my dark world'.

Parachuted into their recently fractured pasts, Zach and Leuan swing between dreamboat heroism and woozy enlightenment via a head warping exchange on patriotism, conflict and supermarket shopping that will tickle, move and appall you in equal measure.

'One of our most refreshingly provocative theatre companies.'

TIME OUT

'They are without doubt, two of the most innovative talents working in British theatre.'

BRITISH THEATRE GUIDE

WHAT'S ON



ON THE RUN

TELL ME ANYTHING

16 - 20 May, 7.30pm
 £12 (£10)
 £10 (£8) for Members
 2 for 1 on Tuesday

David is 15. He's doing OK. His girlfriend has an eating disorder but he's doing OK. He knows he can make her better.

A tender, raw, brutally honest boy-meets-girl story about a boy who's trying to be a man and a girl who doesn't want to be rescued.

Tell Me Anything is an award-winning show about love, intimacy and masculinity.

On The Run return to The Bike Shed Theatre, following UK and international tours of their sell out smash hit *So It Goes*.

'An emotionally complicated piece of theatre that successfully, even rivetingly, tries to come to grips with the toll taken on a self-styled care-giver determined to save someone.'

★★★★★ THE TIMES

'The writing is crisp and fresh and the commitment total. This is candid work, showing scars in order to elicit emotion.'

THE INDEPENDENT

'The Bike Shed Theatre nurtures relationships with its audiences brilliantly.'



NICK CASSENBAUM BUBBLE SCHMEISES

23 - 27 May, 7.30pm
£12 (£10)
£10 (£8) for Members
2 for 1 on Tuesday

Bubbemeises is Yiddish for a grandmother's story, a tall story, an old wives' tale.

Writer and street performer Nick Cassenbaum and his Klezmer musicians invite you into the warmth of the Canning Town Schvitz, East London's last authentic bath house. Amongst the steam and ritual Nick will take you on a journey to find the place he belongs. Schlapping through summer camps, barber shops and Spurs games, will Nick find what he was looking for? *Bubble Schmeisis* is full of intimate and personal true stories about identity, home and getting schmeised (washed) by old men.

'Cassenbaum is a gregarious performer and this is an accessible, generous, disarming production.'

★★★★ THE STAGE

'Effortlessly charming and infectiously funny.'

THREE WEEKS

'I studied drama at Exeter and remember attending The Bike Shed in my third year and seeing the most exciting work we got to see in Exeter. Since then I have watched the exciting programming develop from afar.'



IDIOT CHILD WHAT IF THE PLANES FALL OUT OF THE SKY?

30 May - 3 Jun, 7.30pm
£12 (£10)
£10 (£8) for Members
2 for 1 on Tuesday

What if how I feel about the world and myself at 4am, what if that is the truth? What if I get killed in an avalanche and most people are slightly relieved that they now don't have to read my novel? What if the only reason the plane is able to stay in the sky is because I am thinking really encouraging thoughts about the wings?'

A playful and unusual tale of fear, anxiety, and the idiosyncratic and frankly absurd strategies we employ to manage our sense of impending doom.

'The Bike Shed audience is always receptive to and excited about new work, and up for having fun and taking a few risks.'

Join the residents of Fear Camp as they tackle their manifold neuroses with gleeful enthusiasm and complimentary in-flight drinks and snacks. *What if the Planes Fall out of the Sky?* is a tender and giddily-told story about feelings we all recognise.

'A hugely enjoyable oddball tale... This is fresh writing that is laugh out loud funny but also shockingly sad.'

THE GUARDIAN (ON YOU'RE NOT DOING IT RIGHT)

A beautifully written and performed dark comedy.'

THE TIMES (ON I COULD'VE BEEN BETTER)

BELLA HEESOM
MY WORLD HAS EXPLODED A LITTLE BIT

13 - 17 Jun, 7.30pm, age 12+
 £12 (£10)
 £10 (£8) for Members
 2 for 1 on Tuesday

A logical, philosophical guide to managing mortality.

This new play is part true story, part farcical performance with an enchanting live piano score. Through a darkly comic 17-step guide to bereavement, Bella tells a deeply personal story of loss and love. Mixing tender intimacy and unflinching honesty with clownish silliness and hard-hitting philosophy, she takes the audience on a powerful emotional journey, shot through with jet black comedy.

'A truly inspirational and breathtakingly beautiful piece of theatre - a must-see.'

★★★★★ **VIEWS FROM THE GODS**

'Funny, energetic, profound and heartbreaking all at once.'

★★★★★ **THREE WEEKS**



'Im excited about becoming part of the community of artists in the area, and developing a relationship with the theatre and its audience.'

PRODUCED BY SOHO THEATRE AND JACK ROOKE
JACK ROOKE: GOOD GRIEF

by Jack Rooke
 20 - 24 Jun, 7.30pm, age 14+
 £12 (£10)
 £10 (£8) for Members
 2 for 1 on Tuesday

With a coffin full of sympathy snacks, Jack Rooke and his 85-year old Nan Sicely invite you to the happiest town in Britain, where Dad's dead and the only thing to eat is lasagne.

Celebrating finding happiness after tragedy, Rooke's critically acclaimed debut blends comedy, storytelling and film to explore how we treat the bereaved and the state of welfare for grieving families.

Another compelling production from Soho Theatre, Good Grief was shortlisted for the Best Show by an Emerging Artist in the Total Theatre Awards 2015. Jack Rooke is a comedian, writer and regular panellist on BBC Radio 1's The Surgery. He has presented a BBC Radio 4 comedy adaptation of Good Grief and his own BBC Three documentary about happiness, due to air in early 2017.

'Engaging, frank and humorous.'

THE NEW YORK TIMES

'Rooke is a delight to spend an hour with, cheerily but sensitively tackling the most painful of subjects and finding hope in them.'

★★★★★ **THE SCOTSMAN**



WHAT'S ON



SNUFFBOX THEATRE

BLUSH

6, 7, 9, 10 Jun, 7.30pm, 16+
£12 (£10)
£10 (£8) for Members
2 for 1 on Tuesday

The writer of the award winning *Bitch Boxer* presents five candid stories about revenge porn and all its many victims.

'She just needs to understand that it's not her fault, that she's not to blame, that she's not a slut.'

Three women and two men swim in shame. Everyone's exposed. Everyone wants revenge. No one's talking about it.

★★★★★ THE GUARDIAN AND THE TIMES

'Powerful and important theatre.'
★★★★ THE TELEGRAPH

'This is absolutely vital theatre for an age where sex education and online awareness trails a deadly distance behind the march of technology in our impossibly, dangerously interconnected world.'
★★★★ THE STAGE

'Both actors are electrifying.'
★★★★ EVENING STANDARD

ARTIST SUPPORT

Did you know we offer an extensive programme of support for theatre-makers in the South West? Here's some of the opportunities we offer:

DEVON RESIDENCY

An opportunity for artists to develop a new piece of work in the most beautiful county in the country, both with The Bike Shed Theatre and North Devon's Beaford Arts.

FROM DEVON WITH LOVE

A festival of work made in the county. Work selected tends to be from emerging companies and is often an opportunity for companies to give a production its first full outing.

GRADUATES

A year-long programme of mentoring, workshops, development space and (a little bit of) money open to University of Exeter graduates.

UP SKILL

A series of weekend workshops run over four months, led by some of the most inspirational theatre-makers in the country.

RESIDENCIES

An opportunity for companies to develop a new production in our theatre whilst showing existing work.

THE UNIT

An empty shop unit where companies can develop a new idea. It is affordable and open to everyone.

TRANSIT

A joint programming initiative for a new production with the Arc in Stockton and Derby Theatre.



SCRATCH NIGHTS

16 Jan, 20 Feb, 20 March, 17 Apr,
15 May and 9 Jun
Pay what you decide

An opportunity to see the beginning bits of new work. A friendly audience ask thoughtful questions to support the work to the next stage.

To find out more about anything related to Artist Support, get in touch with Emily:
emily@bikeshedtheatre.co.uk / 01392 434169.

NEWS FROM THE BAR



HELLO AGAIN LOVELY BAR FRIENDS,

I hope you're well and looking forward to our spring season. We're here to keep you well entertained and well hydrated, providing drinks and dancing to rival the shows in the theatre.

I'm always on the look out to find new, exciting and unusual things for you to try; rest assured when I'm not behind the bar I'm out drinking on your behalf. Our selection is always changing so keep an eye on our back bar and the specials board to see what we're drinking and experimenting with.

One of the weirder new cocktails to the menu is the Milk Punch, the first thing you'll notice is that it's clear. We batch mix bourbon, plum sake, Lapsang Souchong tea, a little cardamom and a little lemon, and milk. We leave the mixture for

about a day to infuse and the milk to curdle with the citrus, and then we run it through a coffee filter to clarify it, removing the curdled milk and leaving a super smooth and refreshing drink with a creamy mouthfeel. It's a little unusual, but I absolutely love it and definitely think it's worth a try.

I'd also recommend the GST, new to the menu it's bright, refreshing and a little different from your usual gin and tonic. We've infused gin with fresh strawberries and black pepper. It's light, fruity and floral but with a little kick of spice. This pairs perfectly with Suze, one of my absolute favourite drinks and an unsung hero of the back bar. It's a french aperitif with gentian root. It's complex, herbal and super refreshing but with a punch-in-the-face bitterness. Lengthened with tonic you've got a really delicious, light summery drink.

And if neither of those tickle your fancy, we've always got beer, lots of lovely beer.

We've got some brilliant music in the bar every weekend, DJ Louie Louie has been playing here for over 5 years now, and we've got some new DJs who I guarantee will keep you dancing until we kick you out the door. Check out the listings on the website and come and see one you haven't seen before, you won't regret it.

Keep your eyes peeled as well for mid week and one off bar events such as jam nights quizzes and tastings.

Justine
Bar Manager

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Since we transformed a damp cellar just six years ago, we've been on a remarkable trajectory, from pop-up to award-winners. We've worked with amazing theatre companies from across the country and offered tailored support to any local artist that wants it.

But there's so much more we need to do:

We want to support artists so that they can afford to take risks and we continue to see exciting new work in Exeter.

We want to offer reduced ticket prices for those who might not normally be able to afford to come.

And we need to deliver on our ambitious plans to develop the Quayside Boat Shed into a vibrant cultural hub for the city.

If you can, donate as much or as little as you like via bikeshedtheatre.co.uk/support-us. Your help is greatly appreciated.

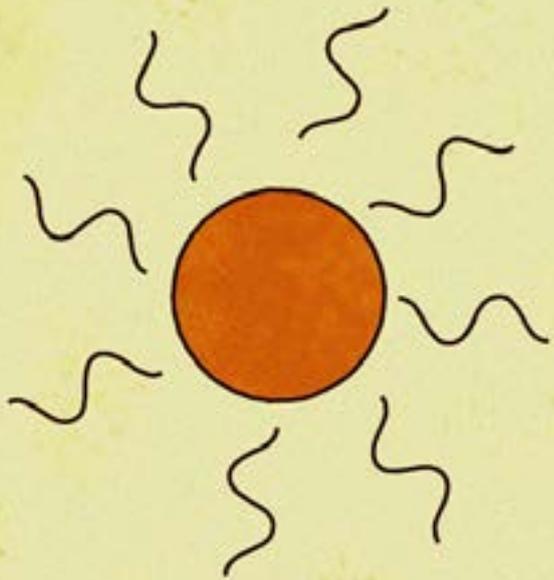
MEMBERSHIPS

Get 4 free tickets to use across 4 different shows plus £2 off further tickets for the membership card holder for just £40 or £35 concession rate

Buy them online at bikeshedtheatre.com and we'll send you or the person you're buying for a special membership card in the post. bikeshedtheatre.co.uk/gift-vouchers.

ASHLEY HOUSE AD





bikeshedtheatre.co.uk

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