

## Touring Fund for Theatre and Dance

### Recipients announcement May 2021

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## ABOUT THE PRODUCTIONS

The 13 production companies receiving funds in this round of the Touring Fund for Theatre and Dance are: All or Nothing Aerial Dance Theatre, Edmund Robson & Wezi Mhura, Farah Saleh, Frozen Charlotte, Mischief La-bas, Nutshell Theatre, Rob Heaslip, Ruxandra Cantir & Sarah Rose Graber, Tony Mills/Room 2 Manoeuvre, Suzi Cunningham, Tenterhook, Brite Theater and Vanishing Point.

### **New work (x7):**

*City Breakz* by Tony Mills/Room 2 Manoeuvre

*Fizzicals – Mind the Gap* by Mischief La-bas

*MESS* by Tenterhooks

*Strawboys* by Rob Heaslip

*Swing* by All or Nothing Aerial Dance Theatre

Unicorn Dance Party by Ruxandra Cantir and Sarah Rose Graber

*Woodland Creatures* by Frozen Charlotte

### **Restagings (x5):**

*Allotment* by Nutshell Theatre

*Deliverance* produced by Vanishing Point, made by Brite Theater with concept and text by Kolbrún Björt Sigfúsdóttir

*PAST-inuous* by Farah Saleh

*RULES TO LIVE BY* and *EIDOS* by Suzi Cunningham

*The Gardener* by Edmund Robson

## NEW WORK

### **1. City Breakz by Tony Mills/Room 2 Manoeuvre**

**City Breakz** from **Room 2 Manoeuvre** will see four performers, each armed with a two x two metre piece of linoleum dance floor and portable sound system move separately through an urban environment trying to find out where they fit in and where they can fit their dance floor.

For this new work Room 2 Manoeuvre is planning to work with Tramway Theatre & Eastwood Park Theatre, Glasgow City, The Beacon, Inverclyde, The Brunton & Lyra, East Lothian, Live Borders & Dumfries & Galloway, Scottish Borders, Cumbernauld Theatre, North Lanarkshire, Ayr Gaiety & Harbour Arts Centre, Ayrshire, Paisley Arts Centre & Renfrewshire Leisure, Renfrewshire; Falkirk Town Hall & MacRobert Arts Centre, Stirlingshire.

Room 2 Manoeuvre, **Artistic Director, Tony Mills** commented: "As well as being a fun, quirky and intriguing outdoor pop up hip hop show, City Breakz is inspired by the question of where, as artists, do we develop our identity and craft in the face of urbanisation and changing city landscapes. And in addition,

how does live art and culture reach audiences outside of prescribed venues and institutions.

"The pandemic has accelerated the need to tackle this question. By receiving this funding, we hope that City Breaks will bring an element of art and culture back to the concrete streets and demonstrate how the arts can play a significant role in societal and communal recovery going forward."

## **2. *Fizzicals – Mind the Gap* by Mischief La-bas**

Staged in partnership with Platform, Govanhill Bath Arts, The Beacon, Dunoon Burgh Hall, Achievement Bute, Cumbernauld Theatre, and Palace Theatre, **Mischief La-bas'** new work, ***Fizzicals – Mind the Gap*** sees three alien bodies go on a walkabout in streets, parks and town centres in a show which asks how do we bridge the gap between ourselves and others, across the great divide of socially distanced space? The Fizzicals are curiously shaped visitors who engage visually in a Covid safe way with passers-by, in an uplifting experience for all ages, abilities and backgrounds, intended to ease people back into the joy of live performance, through a safe, playful and, by its nature, fleeting, shared event.

**Angie Dight, Artistic Director of Mischief La-bas** said: "We're really excited to be bringing to the streets this new piece of interactive work that encourages socially-distanced exchanges. It's a performance about connection, about encouraging things that people have been missing, creating exchanges between people that we've all been lacking whilst remaining safe.

"Working with conventional theatre spaces to produce performance that explores the surrounding public space, Mischief La Bas' decades long experience of outdoor theatre engagement is glad to be able to help in ensuring restricted theatre spaces remain engaged with their communities."

## **3. *MESS* by Tenterhooks**

**MESS**, a show from **Tenterhooks** for children and young people with complex Additional Support Needs, and their families, will be performed outdoors and tells the story of how an ordinary day in the life of a team of cleaners turns unpredictable when, for the first time ever, they attempt to clean a space which has people in it.

The production will be performed outdoors on venue premises and in private gardens in partnership with Renfrewshire Leisure; North Edinburgh Arts; Beacon Arts Centre; Platform; and Eden Court.

Co-lead artist **Diane Thornton of Tenterhooks** commented: "Tenterhooks are delighted to be recipients of the Touring Fund for a summer tour of MESS. This funding enables us to offer our socially-distanced, outdoor theatre performance to family audiences who seek live, sensory engagement. We are thrilled to be working with venues across Scotland to bring MESS back to audiences who love the show and to share it with new audiences."

## **4. *Strawboys* by Rob Heaslip**

Inspired by folk figures once said to frequent homes to provide merriment, four dancers will perform Rob Heaslip's pop-up work, *Strawboys*. A vibrant and energetic new work that blurs traditional and contemporary music and dance through re-imagined straw costumes and stomping feet, performances will take place in outdoor public spaces come rain or shine.

Rob Heaslip is partnering with Eden Court, Lyth Arts Centre and Mareel to bring the work to audiences by visiting local communities across the breadth of the Highlands, Caithness & Sutherland and Shetland.

**Rob Heaslip** commented: "We are delighted to be taking our performance work out to Scottish audiences once again and we look forward to visiting the breath of the Highlands and Islands. Through Creative Scotland's support we will be bringing our outdoor work based on the strawboy tradition to communities both urban and rural, in rain or shine, as we re-imagine the tradition for audiences of today."

### **5. *Swing* by All or Nothing Aerial Dance Theatre**

**All or Nothing Aerial Dance Theatre** will present *The Swings*, a new outdoor performance and installation for all ages directed by Jennifer Paterson and Nic Green, designed by Becky Minto with sound by Yas Clarke. A short aerial dance duet happens at set intervals on a specially designed Giant 5m high Swing set, which is then opened up to the public to sit and swing. Whilst you are swinging, there is a sound installation filled with memories, thoughts, and feelings of being on a Swing.

**The Swings** was originally commissioned by Imagine and Merchant City Festival and for the tour will also be working with: Tramway; Govanhill Baths; Feis Skye/SEALL; Dunoon Burgh Hall; The Beacon; Brunton Theatre; Byre Theatre; Strathearn Arts; Dalkeith Country Park; Eastgate Theatre & Arts Centre; Platform; Palace Theatre; Catstrand; Renfrewshire Leisure; Lochwinnoch Arts Festival; Lyth Arts Centre; Eden Court, Inverness; Universal Hall, Findhorn; Shetland Arts Festival; Woodend Barn, Banchory; Nevis Centre, Fort William and Rockfield Centre, Oban. The Swings received further support from The Work Room and Macrobert.

**Jennifer Paterson, Artistic Director, All or Nothing Aerial Dance Theatre** said: "It's extremely exciting to receive the funding, to be able to get back out performing, meeting people across Scotland and to bring something we hope is a joyful experience to many communities."

### **6. *Unicorn Dance Party* by Ruxandra Cantir and Sarah Rose Graber**

Two unicorns, Melody and Luna, spread joy through the power of dance against a soundtrack of greatest hits in Unicorn Dance Party from performers Ruxandra Cantir and Sarah Rose Graber.

These magical, glittery creatures will bring some much-needed happiness back into everyone's lives. Audiences will be divided into socially distanced sections with their very own dance area outside, to join in with easy-to-follow choreography, hand clapping, and tail shaking for all ages. There will even be unicorn goodie bags!

This new work will be staged in partnership with Mull Theatre/Comar, Dunoon Burgh Hall, Byre Theatre, Platform, Eden Court, Beacon Arts Centre, Paisley Arts Centre, RIG Arts, Horsecross Arts.

**Cantir and Graber** commented: "We are thrilled to be shifting 'Unicorn Dance Party' from a pop-up style experience into a fully supported outdoor show. We have the most amazing creative team around us to take our ideas to the next

level and we know our own practice will grow immensely as we perform for different audiences across the country. We can't wait to hit the road and support the reintroduction of live experiences in shared space as we move forward."

## **7. *Woodland Creatures* by Frozen Charlotte**

**Frozen Charlotte's** new show, ***Woodland Creatures*** will see children aged 2-8 and their families in Moray, Highland and Aberdeenshire encounter spectacularly costumed creatures in local woodland sites through a fun combination of live music, puppetry and play.

The interactive show will tour to six locations - in Moray as part of Dance North's Rise Festival in partnership with Eden Court Theatre, and in Aberdeenshire, in partnership with NEAT and The Barn. The first show will be on the 27th of August with tickets going on sale from July. For further details please visit: [www.frozencharlotte.com](http://www.frozencharlotte.com)

**Heather Fulton of Frozen Charlotte** commented: "We're delighted to be contributing to the wellbeing of young people and families across the North East. Through celebrating the amazing talent and stunning natural environments here in the North East to create a covid-secure show that will inspire playfulness and bring joy to children and their loved ones and friends."

## **RESTAGED WORK**

### **1. *Allotment* by Nutshell Theatre**

The very human need for connection to community is at the heart of **Nutshell Theatre's** multi award-winning, critically acclaimed open-air show ***Allotment***. The re-staging of a darkly funny play which travels with its own seating and front of house area, and will be performed in locations from allotments, car parks and garden centres to the sides of lochs.

This restaged work will be touring to Harestanes Park, Jedburgh, Wilton Lodge Park, Hawick in the Borders; Eastgate Peebles; Kinneil House and Muiravonside Country Park in Falkirk; Howden Park in West Lothian; Lewisvale Park Musselburgh in East Lothian; Cumbernauld Theatre; Perth Theatre; Hidden Gardens at Tramway Glasgow; South Queensferry with Greenferry; The Byre Theatre in St Andrews; SEALL in Skye; The Barn in Banchory and Lyth Arts Centre in Caithness, amongst other places.

**Kate Nelson of Nutshell Theatre** commented: "Receiving touring funding has been like opening the curtains to bright sunshine after weeks of rain. We are setting out on a tour that takes our work to both new audiences and loyal theatre-goers. We are coming to people's doorsteps in their local parks and green spaces, from Jedburgh to Caithness, and we are proud to be playing our part in helping people reconnect with live performance in a safe and gentle way.

"As a company, we believe that arts engagement whether as an audience member, a participant, or as an artist, can make us feel better about ourselves and the world we live in. Funding for our work allows us to bring people together

to share something unique. We are thrilled that we can do this with a show we are so proud of and love dearly."

**3. *Deliverance* produced by Vanishing Point, made by Brite Theater with concept and text by Kolbrún Björt Sigfúsdóttir**

Created by **Brite Theater** and produced by **Vanishing Point**, *Deliverance* is a live performance that audiences experience, individually, in their own homes. The show begins with a script being delivered to the participants at the door of their house by a local actor, wearing a mask and at a distance. The participant then stars in their own show, reading the script and following the instructions contained within it, as well as receiving a phone call about half-way through.

The production will work in partnership with Dunoon Burgh Hall; Lyth Arts Centre; Byre Theatre, St. Andrews; Paisley Arts Centre; Rockfield Centre, Oban; Argyll Arts Collective and others to be confirmed.

**Kolbrún Björt Sigfúsdóttir, Artistic Director of Brite Theater** commented: "I'm personally thrilled to be able to reach audiences at this time. It feels more important than ever to offer live experiences and with Brite Theater we've always put the audience first. This, to remove the audience and have participants only, is a radical departure for us, an exciting new way of connecting that we're thrilled to be able to share so widely.

"Though the piece is performed to no audience, the participants make the piece for themselves, to themselves, by themselves, there is a special kind of rush for us as theatre makers knowing that homes across the country are occupied with our little piece of theatre and that we've given our audience something special. Though it is enjoyed alone, in private, *Deliverance* offers a connection, to ourselves, and to each other that so many of us have craved in the last year or so. We can't wait to see what audiences make of it."

**3. *PAST-inuous* by Farah Saleh**

*PAST-inuous* is a new interactive video dance performance installation from **Farah Saleh**. Created over a digital platform with 11 Palestinian dancers, and in collaboration with video artist Lucas Kao, the work aspires to reflect on the future of the Palestinian refugee cause and its connection to the current global refugee condition. Two performers will perform live before audiences in Scotland, with the remaining nine performing in Berlin, Gaza and Nablus live via Zoom.

The new work will be staged in partnership with venues in Glasgow, Dundee and Edinburgh.

**Farah Saleh** commented: "It was very inspiring to work with the dancers in all four locations on Zoom, it felt as if we defied physical borders and managed to come together and engage artistically and on a human level despite all constraints."

**4. *RULES TO LIVE BY* and *EIDOS* by Suzi Cunningham**

A double bill of restaged work by **Suzi Cunningham** of stunningly visual and physical female solo Butoh dance and physical theatre with a rollicking soundtrack, inspired by the late Mark E. Smith of The Fall and the artist's grandmother, will explore idolatry and identity.

**RULES TO LIVE BY** began as spontaneous tribute dance in front of 200 people on the night of the death of one of Suzi's greatest idols, Mark E. Smith of the band The Fall, whose collaboration with renowned Scottish Choreographer Michael Clark led her to train as a dancer. **EIDOS** started as a celebration of Mark E Smith and punk, and evolved into a tribute to Suzi's grandmother, who was a punk in-her-own-right.

With vivid costumes but simple set ups, the double bill will be staged in partnership with Dundee Rep Theatre; The Space, Dundee; The Barn, Banchory; Universal Hall, Findhorn; Sabhail Mor Ostaig (SEALL), Skye; An Lanntair, Isle of Lewis; Paisley Arts Centre, Paisley; Dunoon Burgh Hall, Argyll; Craignish Village Hall; Lyth Arts, Caithness; Byre Theatre, St.Andrews; Assembly Roxy; Edinburgh Eastgate Theatre.

**Suzi Cunningham** commented: "I am incredibly grateful to receive this funding for a double bill of my solo work. It feels like a culmination of years of creation and development to this point, supported by lots of wonderful individuals and organisations that have nourished me along the way, inspired me with their determination, sharing their embodied knowledge and kindness. I am excited to share these works across Scotland and engage in conversations around bodies, music, identity and modern culture."

#### **5. *The Gardener* by Edmund Robson**

***The Gardener*** is a quiet play about growing up, growing old, and growing plants. Meet Frank, a recently retired teacher. After the passing of his wife, he's sold the house and moved into a supported retirement community. But he's having trouble adjusting to being 'old', so he decides to launch the Gardeners' Appreciation Society, and the audience are all invited to the very first meeting.

Produced by **Edmund Robson & Wezi Mhura**, a critical success at Edinburgh Fringe 2017, this remount is touring widely across Scotland including to: Aberdeen Performing Arts, An Lanntair, The Beacon, The Brunton, Byre Theatre, Dundee Rep, Eden Court, Gaiety Theatre, Heart of Hawick, Horsecross, Lyth Arts Centre, Macrobert and The Palace Theatre.

**Edmund Robson** commented: "I'm naturally delighted this quite unique production will have the chance to tour nationally and be seen by many more people across the whole of Scotland. I've always believed touring builds engagement and promotes accessibility and I have no doubt that doing so will play a vital part in the future of Scottish theatre, helping both to restore our artistic communities and rebuild our audiences with hope and determination."

ENDS