



## **WhatNot Theatre**

Co-Creatives and Performers, Emma Claire Blythe and Lucy Hoult

### **Profile**

A female led Oxfordshire based theatre company specializing in interactive, audience involved theatre for all ages. Writing original script and songs. Predominantly focusing on storytelling, promenade and walking tours, puppetry, physical theatre and participation, including social and environmental issues. Connecting and collaborating with communities and organisations to create bespoke, site specific workshops and performances.

### **PRODUCTIONS:**

#### **Wanted!**

##### **Tap Social Brewery, Spring 2019**

An audience interactive production exploring the issue of employment discrimination against individuals who have a criminal record, and the effectiveness of employment on rehabilitation.

*'3 applicants sit before you. 1 job is up for grab. Who will win? You decide.*

*Join Babs and Flo on the interview panel to seal the fate of our hopeful contestants, on this journey for your social conscience.'*

#### **Frank is Alive:**

##### **Summer 2019**

Presentation for Oxfordshire based charity scrape store, *Orinoco*. With the help of the audience, *Doctor Sparks & Professor McAlchemy* bring to life *Frank Litter*, a puppet constructed from rubbish destined for landfill.

#### **Stain, Fuse Festival:**

##### **ShoeBox Theatre, Summer 2019**

Work in progress. Episodic, physical theatre production with multi media about the fast fashion industry.

*'Do you know the true cost behind the clothes you wear? April doesn't know a thing about the fashion trade beyond her high street finds, or how her spending habits affect the lives of people creating her favourite designs. April just loves to shop...'*

## **Alice in Wonderland:**

**Winter/Summer 2018/2019/2020/2021**

Varying adaptations of interactive storytelling performances using participatory games, improvisation and physical comedy. Presented by the characters, *March Hare & Mad Hatter*, *Tweedle Dum & Tweedle Dee*, *Queen of Heart & White Rabbit*.

### **Performed:**

- **Christchurch College and Wolfson College Ball, Oxford:**  
**Winter 2018/2019**  
An interactive tea party for students and visiting conferences using excerpts from the original text.
- **Botanic Garden, Oxford and Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot:**  
***Tea Time with Hatter and Hare:***  
**Summer 2020/2021/2022**  
Accessible and relaxed performance retelling the story of *Alice in Wonderland* as told by *March Hare* and *Mad Hatter*. Outdoor physical performance with interactive games aimed at children and families.
- **Harcourt Arboretum, Oxford:**  
**Summer 2021**  
Character promenade performance with participatory games and storytelling for children and families.
- **Oxford Botanic Gardens 400<sup>th</sup> Year Celebrations:**  
**Summer 2022**  
Literary & Historical character promenade performances with family friendly interaction.
- **Oxford Walking Tour, Round Square Charity-Annual Conference:**  
**Autumn 2022**  
***'Wonderland Walking Tour'***. Including all the *Wonderland* characters, above.

## **The Stealer of Stories:**

**OffBeat Festival & WillowBrook Farm Summer Festival 2022**

As if plucked from the pages of a *'Ladybird Book'*, this interactive family friendly performance is aimed at the child in all of us. Exploring the importance of compassion, community and inclusion through storytelling.

*'A long time ago, before electricity and espresso, in a distant land amongst a mountain range, on a dark and stormy night...Grimm is visited by the spirit of a story book character, and learns the importance of kindness.'*

## **Ugly Ducking, ShoeBox Theatre, Swindon:**

### **Christmas show 2019/2021**

Collaboratively devised retelling of Hans Christian Anderson classic tale the Ugly Duckling. Seven characters portrayed by two Actors. A relaxed performance for children 2+ and families. Including puppetry, original score and songs.

*'Join Dotty, the Plucky Little Duckling on a hunt to discover who she is amongst some friendly farm yard feathered folk.'*

## **Ugly Ducking, Old Fire Station Theatre, Oxford:**

### **Christmas show 2022**

Re-worked adaptation of Hans Christian Anderson classic tale the Ugly Duckling. Seven characters portrayed by two Actors. A relaxed, participatory performance for children 2+ and families. Includes gentle audience interaction.

*'Once upon a time there was a little Duckling called Dotty. Dotty didn't look like her brothers and sisters; her feet were too big and her feathers all scruffy and grey, and as much as she tried Dotty just couldn't 'Quack'...it always came out as a 'Honk!'*

## **Flotsam & Jetsam's Adventures to the Trash Vortex:**

An original interactive outdoor performance for children aged 6+ and families with original sea shanty's, themes of plastic recycling and ocean pollution. Scenery, props and puppets constructed from household plastic waste.

*'Plastic plundering sea pirates Flotsam and Jetsam are on a voyage to find the Great Pacific Trash Vortex aboard their plastic ship the, Polymer Poseidon. But first need the help of their audience to succeed on the next leg of journey.'*

### **Performed 2021:**

- **OffBeat Festival, Oxford**
- **WillowBrook Farm Summer Festival, Oxford**
- **Blenheim Palace Autumn Festival, Oxford**
- **Oxfordshire Green Week**
- **Broad Street Meadow Garden Party**

### **Performed 2022:**

- **Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot**
- **Green Action Community Event, Andover**

## **Natty & Flick find the Light:**

**Winter 2019**

Devised and performed as part of Oxford Christmas Light festival. An audience participation promenade throughout Oxford City Centre, with Explorers *Natty & Flick*, culminating in the Broad Street closing ceremony.

## **Natty & Flick's Adventure to the Other World:**

**Winter 2021**

An immersive walking tour in the grounds of the Oxford Botanic Gardens for children aged 8+ and families. Based on Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials*. Explorers *Natty* and *Flick* take audiences on a walking adventure to find the portal back to their own world.

## **The Great Inter-Dimensional Adventure:**

**Summer 2021**

Devised for the *Great Barn Festival*, Great Coxwell – A collaboration based on the characters and adventures of *Natty* and *Flick*. A site specific interactive adventure performed in a 13<sup>th</sup> Century Stone Barn for children aged 6+ and families.

## **Torch MYRIAD Project:**

**May 2021 – On-Line**

Seed Fund Project with the Oxford University Research and Public Engagement Department. Interactive theatrical workshops, ages 16-2. Project Title: Resilience in adolescence focusing on basic Mindfulness techniques for young adults. Originally, an in-house workshop the project was reimagined and presented via zoom during the initial lockdown. Included pre recorded scenes for student use.

## **WhatNot Presents, Theatre with a Trashy Twist:**

**September 2021**

Performed as part of Broad Street Meadows Garden Party, presented by Oxford City Council. A trio of Interactive performances including *Flotsam & Jetsam*, *Natty & Flick* and puppet, *Frank Litter* focusing on the themes of recycling, reusing and reducing waste. Outdoor free festival performances.

## **The Insect Game Show:**

**Blenheim Palace Autumn Festival & Harcourt Arboretum Festival 2022**

An accessible, relaxed Game Show for all ages and abilities about the wonderful world of Insects. An interactive performance where the audience become contestants on a Games Show. Join the zany Insect Presenters; *Gnat & Midge* and discover the little bug heroes that live right under our noses.

## **Education:**

Birmingham School of Speech & Drama – BA Hons Acting  
Rose Bruford- European Theatre Arts (Training the Contemporary Performer)

## **Skills and Qualifications:**

Full clean driving licence.  
First Aid at work/ Paediatric First Aid/ Defibrillator trained/ Mental Health First Aid.  
Enhanced DBS.  
Public Liability insurance.  
Advanced skills Q-Lab.  
Workshop facilitation.  
Project management.  
Crowd management.  
Scenic design & construction.