

// cloudcuckoolanders



LAPELLE'S FACTORY TOUR PACK



// desperado

// who are lapelle's factory?



“LaPelle’s Factory are an exciting new company. They are intelligent theatre-makers who imbue their work with humour. Audiences enjoy their ability to play dark moments alongside laugh out loud moments and then move them into thinking about the subject matter in unexpected but accessible ways. A company to watch.”

Sarah Brigham

Artistic Director, Derby Theatre

TEAR THINGS UP AND TAKE A PUNT ON WHAT COULD BE

LaPelle’s Factory is a creative partnership led by Olwen Davies and Ollie Smith. They make exciting and strange contemporary performance.

They’re messy and weird. They like laughing at themselves and picking on each other. They collaborate with a variety of other artists to re-imagine and recycle, tying themselves in knots and trying not to overthink it.

Questioning expectations, relationships and modern ideals, they use dark humour, relatable stories and some modest multimedia to entertain, tease and cause a bit of trouble.

Ollie and Olwen are particularly interested in examining relationships and social interactions; ego and alter-egos, liveness and technology. The pair’s first collaboration, *Cat in Hell*, was a comic yet nightmarish magic act, which explored power, control and emotional violence.

They have gone on to make two further shows, *CLOUDCUCKOOLANDERS* and *Desperado*, which now play in repertoire. You can read about both in this pack.

LaPelle’s Factory is Company-in Residence at **Attenborough Arts Centre**

in Leicester and ongoing associates with **In Good Company**, based at Derby Theatre. They have received funding, commissions and development opportunities including from **Arts Council England**, **Greenroom** (Manchester), **Hatch** (Nottingham), **Emerge** (Leeds), **Circuit** (Leicester), **Theatre Writing Partnership** (Nottingham), **NewVolutions** (Lincoln) and **Compass** (Leeds)

Both partners in LaPelle’s Factory have lengthy performance histories. Recent highlights include their successful touring solo shows, Olwen with her live cinematic performance *Fridge Logic* and Ollie with his onstage rock ‘n’ roll suicide *27*.

They also often collaborate as devisers and performers with other artists and companies. Olwen works with **Zoo Indigo**, most recently devising and performing in *Blueprint*. Ollie regularly works with **Michael Pinchbeck**, including *Concerto*, *Bolero*, *The Beginning* and *The End*.



www.lapellesfactory.com

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CLOUDCUCKOOLANDERS

There are secrets in the walls and under the floorboards and behind locked doors. We learnt that from the movies. We learnt everything we know from the movies.

youtu.be/QnWzVxCAJxE

In this startling and hilarious show, LaPelle's Factory tear up the conventions of cinema with a cocktail of fiery mania, razor-sharp wit and dangerously seductive eyes.

Using tricky home truths, little white lies and some wild fantasies, your two hosts dig up dangerous ground that crashes through old films, pop delusions, madness and loss.

Precariously balanced right on the edge of sanity, the show confronts love, obsession and secret urges to do terrible things. *CLOUDCUCKOOLANDERS* is a unique exploration of some very peculiar partnerships. It confronts the acts of faith we ask of one another as we try to work out what it means to belong.

And a lot of popcorn gets thrown about.

**“Sharply perceptive...
incredibly enjoyable...
fantastically sinister”**

EXEUNT

A charming and smiley couple invite their audience in to watch a film with them – but things are not quite what they seem. As they pour copious cups of fizzy drinks for everyone and make popcorn in the microwave they've brought along from home, the chit-chat morphs from the friendly to the peculiar to the downright dangerous. It seems the smiles are just skin deep. There's something frightening lurking under the surface. Frightening but compelling – like a bad taste horror flick. There's a riotous police interrogation, a live burial, a crazed dentist – and a poor innocent orange dies a spectacular death...

The show uses a videocamera hooked up to a projector, which throws a live-feed real-time 'movie' onto the back wall like a homemade cinema. As the action progresses, the carefully framed images begin more and more to resemble an actual horror movie – only the plot is being performed live. Gradually the performers' shared madness becomes the movie. And it can only end one way...

“In *CLOUDCUCKOOLANDERS* Ollie Smith and Olwen Davies ooze charm and darkness in equal measure, like some old fashioned double act gone off the rails. The show is extremely funny and naggingly unsettling and they are great performers to boot.”

Richard Lowdon

Forced Entertainment

Project supporters

In Good Company Derby, Leicester, Mansfield
The HUB Leeds

Mentor

Richard Lowdon Forced Entertainment

Outside eyes

Christopher Brett Bailey
Ellie Harrison
Alex Kelly Third Angel

Placement

Sophie Swoffer MA student, De Montfort University

// show #2



DESPERADO

Put your hands up – IT'S A RAID. Four nobodies, four horsemen, four lonely desperadoes, unite to face down the future.

▶ youtu.be/ef2BJRA-kS0

Riffing on rock gigs, dance marathons, school sports days and rodeos, *Desperado* is a manic and adrenaline-fuelled display of camaraderie and strength which fights to dispel the myth that mankind has reached the end of the line.

Driven by power and pain, this show pushes back against the grinding monotony and brutality of the modern world. Vibrant and fierce, hilarious and exhausting, *Desperado* is coming for you.

Our horsemen are pushing from the moment you enter the room, tearing back and forth across the stage, completing the bleep test that haunts many memory of childhood PE. By the time the lights go down and the show explodes into life, this band of hombres

and mujeres are already dripping with sweat and gasping for breath. Where do they go from here?

Cue erratic dance numbers and energetic exercise routines, poetic dialogue and the snappiest of banter.

Dante makes an appearance; we hear from the Rolling Stones; horses are raced and put down; there's glitter, faded glamour, and four real people giving it their all in a modern day dance marathon, complete with crazed compares and a diehard need to win.

Devised and performed by
**LaPelle's Factory in collaboration with
Jack Britton & Giada Maran**

Commissioned by
Lincoln Performing Arts Centre

Project supporters
**Attenborough Arts Centre Leicester
and Derby Theatre of In Good Company
Camden People's Theatre
The HopBarn Southwell**

Dramaturgy
Michael Pinchbeck

This is the company's first show featuring performers and devisers in addition to Olwen and Ollie.

Giada Maran is a contemporary dance artist and performer, originally from Venice (Italy), and currently based in Nottingham (UK). She holds a BA in Dance from De Montfort University (Leicester) and is currently completing an MA in Performance Practice. In February 2016 Giada worked closely with Rong Tao, a dancer from China and artist-in-residence at Lakeside Arts Centre. Other current work includes an immersive theatre/secret cinema collaboration between De Montfort University and Trocadero Cinema (London) to premiere in June 2016.

Jack Britton is a performance and theatre maker based in Leicester (UK). His solo practice often explores themes of architecture, memory, childhood and nostalgia. He has performed his work at many festivals and platforms including Hatch, Pulse Festival and Edinburgh Fringe Festival. He has worked and collaborated with other artists including Michael Pinchbeck and whatsthebigmistry.

// who are the audiences for the work?

Audiences who will love the work of LaPelle's Factory include:

- "Experience seekers"
(ACE Audience Insights)
- Fans of independent cinema, cult movies and the history of cinema (particularly *CLOUDCUCKOOLANDERS*)
- *Desperado* features energetic movement sequences that will appeal to audiences for contemporary dance
- People who enjoy intelligent, pitch-black comedy
- Audiences who enjoy unusual, finely crafted contemporary theatre and performance.
- Visual arts fans

Due to use of bad language and mature themes we recommend the shows are suitable for ages 15+.



"A complex and subtle exploration of our fascination with the darker sides of human behaviour and relationships; distinctive in form, but totally accessible to an audience who might not be used to this territory of theatre. The gradual revealing of what is really going on is handled deftly, is at once unsettling and very funny. LaPelle's Factory prove to be great company, drawing us in to their world and making us complicit in their obsessions."

Alex Kelly Third Angel

// what about education and wraparound activities?

Both Olwen and Ollie are very experienced at delivering high quality wraparound activities that open up the work and practice to different participants.

Ollie now teaches devising theatre at De Montfort University (Leicester). The company offers practical theatre-making masterclasses and devising workshops designed for A-Level, BA and MA students and for members of the public. Workshops are suitable for people who are experienced and those who are new to contemporary performance.

The engagement can range from a



couple of hours to a few days' residency, culminating in the sharing of new work created by the group.

This wraparound activity can be tailored to suit a range of needs – for example, the company has experience leading long-term, degree-level projects in HE environments right through to working with young people on ArtsAward within SEN environments. Thematically, masterclasses can be



delivered around the content of the show or they can be more generally skills-based.

The company is also available for Q&A sessions and post-show discussions to accompany performances.

Please do contact us to discuss a package that meets your needs by emailing info@lapellesfactory.com

// how do I book the shows?

LaPelle's Factory is supported by producer LittleMighty. The company works with remarkable artists to make brilliant theatre happen.

Recent successes include Move to Stand's *Fat Man* ("For theatre like this I'd follow them anywhere" *The Times*); Unfolding Theatre's *Putting the Band Back Together* ("Fantastic – funny, big-hearted, moving and truthful" *The Guardian*); and Testament's *Blake Remixed* ("An entertaining fusion of hip-hop, rap and

beatboxing that thrusts the Blake mythology into the 21st Century" *The Stage*).

If you are interested in bringing either of LaPelle's Factory's shows to your venue, please get in touch with producer Dick Bonham of LittleMighty to discuss dates and a financial package:

✉ dick@littlemighty.co.uk

☎ 07956 573 679

www.littlemighty.co.uk

🐦 @littlemightyuk



// what about the technical side?

Full technical specifications are available on request. A house technician is required for get-in, operation of LX and for get-out.

Minimum playing spaces

6m wide by 4m deep

Get-in

Minimum 4 hours

Get-out

1 hour following performance

Set

CLOUDCUCKOOLANDERS: We will require two trestle-type or equivalent tables to be provided by the venue. The show gets messy with chocolate sauce, soil and water, but the majority of the mess remains on linoleum provided by the company and is easy to clean up during the get out. Venue to provide a mop and bucket.

Desperado: The setting is more simple, consisting mainly of hand props carried by the company. The venue should provide a table, which is set onstage.

Lighting

Full design available on request. Pre-rig of general cover if available.

Sound

Use of PA suitable for venue. Sound for both shows is operated from company laptop with standard minijack output.

Desperado requires the use of 4 vocal mics on stands (SM58 or equivalent).

Projection

CLOUDCUCKOOLANDERS uses a live camera feed from company videocamera. Venue to provide projector and screen.

LaPelle's Factory

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