

## PRESS RELEASE

BAC presents:

CELEBRATING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF BAC'S SCRATCH

# SCRATCH FESTIVAL

BAC, Wed-Sat 5-22 May 2010

Ten years ago, BAC changed the face of British Theatre with its first ever Scratch nights: a selection of unfinished work shared with an audience in order to gain feedback as it developed. Since then, some of the country's most exciting new theatre has emerged through the process: from *Jerry Springer: The Opera* to 1927's *Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea* and Nic Green's *Trilogy*. This May, in collaboration with Arts Admin, BAC offers a stellar line up of established artists and emerging practitioners for a bumper programme of exciting new theatrical experiments over three long weekends.

**Uninvited Guests**, the company behind 5 starred Edinburgh hit *Love Letters Straight From Your Heart*, returns to BAC with new work *Make Better Please*: a theatrical 'meeting' in which the ghosts and fears of the city are exorcised. **Station House Opera's** *Backwards* is a unique performance with 20 workshop participants that starts at the end and finishes at the beginning. **The Paper Cinema's** *The Odyssey: The Trailer* is an early sharing of the company's adaptation of the Greek myth, told with delicate paper marionettes, and **1927** shows a sneak preview of its wickedly twisted new tale, *The Animals and Children Took To The Streets*.

The extensive programme will also include work from **Geraldine Pilgrim**, **Little Bulb Theatre**, **Debbie Pearson**, **Dancing Brick**, **Inspector Sands**, **TDC**, **Tom Tom**, **Greg McLaren**, **Adam Bohman**, **Peter McMaster** and many more. Audiences are encouraged to catch more than one performance a night, taking the time in between to grab a drink at the bar and share their views with artists and other audience members.

Elsewhere at BAC **Will Adamsdale** returns with *The Human Computer*, a show that emerged through the Scratch process: a witty one man exploration of computing. **David Gale's** *Dash Dash Dash* is an amalgamation of six short plays, each written, produced and performed in the space of a month: expect blood, violence, sex and obscenity. **Tim Crouch** retells the story of *Twelfth Night* through the eyes of Shakespeare's most pent up steward in *I Malvolio*.

Scratch is central to BAC's mission 'to invent the future of theatre'. It is a pioneering approach to developing new theatre work from its early stages in conversation with an audience that has been copied throughout the world. Other works to have relied on audience and participant feedback in their development have included Will Adamsdale's *Jackson's Way*, Punchdrunk's *The Masque of The Red Death* and Blind Summit and BAC's *1984*.

BAC's Joint Artistic Directors David Jubb and David Micklem said: 'Scratch is central to our mission to invent the future of theatre. Through the dialogue between artists and audiences ideas are improved and shows finessed. This May we are delighted to offer audiences dozens of opportunities to try out new ideas for theatre in our beautiful building on Lavender Hill.'

LISTINGS OVERLEAF

## LISTINGS

**Graeme Miller**

**Opening of Scratch Festival**

Graeme will be officially opening Scratch Festival in the foyer.

Graeme Miller is an Artsadmin artist.

**5 May, 7.30pm, FREE**

**Dancing Brick**

***A L I C E***

A highly visual and aesthetic response to the demise of analogue technology; a nostalgic celebration of an era of expectation and potential, and a final goodbye to childhood as the future approaches.

A BAC Scratch Commission.

**5 & 6 May, 7.45pm, £5 (£3 concs)**

**Rogue Theatre Company**

***The Dancer and the Devil***

Rogue Theatre Company, known for visual and sensory work, take a journey that is rich in myth and metaphor towards the routes of theatre. Developed at BAC.

**5 & 6 May, 8.15pm, £5 (£3 concs)**

**Gary Stevens**

***Island***

Inspired by the thoughts of two well-known thinkers (John Donne & John-Paul Sartre), Gary will be working with four co-performers on a new text based performance piece which explores inter-relationships and interconnection.

Commissioned and developed at BAC. Gary Stevens is an Artsadmin artist.

**4 & 5 May, 8.30pm, £5 (£3 concs)**

**Chloé Déchery and Lucy Foster**

***Epic***

Combining personal stories, filmed oral histories, and fanciful re-enactments of key 20th century events, Epic creates moments of intimacy while also connecting us to the bigger picture. Developed at BAC.

**5 - 7 May, 8.45pm, £5 (£3 concs)**

**Debbie Pearson**

***Like You Were Before***

A work in progress about leaving places you can never go back to, leaving parts of yourself you can never get back to, and trying to frame your past 'just so' through videos and pictures.

Developed at BAC.

**5 & 6 May 9pm, 7 May 7pm, £5 (£3 concs)**

**Uninvited Guests**

***Make Better Please***

A one-off Meeting of Friends, to voice stories from the news and listen to your concerns.

Uninvited Guests in collaboration with Lewis Gibson / A Fuel Production. Commissioned and developed by BAC, Theatre Bristol, Bristol Old Vic.

**6 - 8 May, 7.30pm, £5 (£3 concs)**

**Stuart Silver**

***You Look Like Ants***

Stuart Silver (of Perrier Award-winning nobleandsilver) presents a Scratch version of his new solo show, about the consequences of worshipping star rating systems and Sharon Davies MBE.

**6 - 8 May, 8pm, £5 (£3 concs)**

**Bohman Brothers**

An international line-up of musicians, free improvisers and audio artists.

**7 May, 8.30pm, £5 (£3 concs)**

**Kings of England**

***I Belong to this Band!***

A series of short narrations and little performances, re-working the folk traditions of the British Isles.

A BAC Scratch Commission.

**7 & 8 May, 8.30pm, £5 (£3 concs)**

**The Paper Cinema**

***The Odyssey: The Trailer***

Through paper puppets and original live music The Paper Cinema tell their unique version of the age old myth about a man's struggle to return home to his wife. Commissioned and developed at BAC.

**7 & 8 May, 9pm, £5 (£3 concs)**

**They Are Here**

***Open Laboratory***

BAC's former photography darkroom will be transformed into an interdisciplinary laboratory that will develop a series of experiments and share the results both in situ and online. Developed at BAC.

**7, 8 & 15 May, from 4pm, FREE**

**REMIX**

***We Were Here***

An innovative multi-disciplinary experience combining theatre, visual art, virtual media, fashion, music and poetry.

**8 May, 7pm, 8pm, 9pm, £5 (£3 concs)**

**Geraldine Pilgrim**

***Lost Time***

Exploring archaeological layers of theatrical tradition, Lost Time looks at a theatrical form that is frozen in time and nearly vanished.

Commissioned and developed at BAC. Geraldine Pilgrim is an Artsadmin artist.

**12 May, 7pm & 8.30pm, £5 (£3 concs)**

**Will Adamsdale**

***The Human Computer***

This is a show about computers, by someone who knows nothing about them. Lots of it isn't about computers. It's stories. It's a cardboard cabaret. A skewed stand-up quest to the wiry heart of the cyber web.

A BAC Scratch Commission. A Fuel Production.

**12 - 15 May, 8pm, £12 (£7 concs)**

**Ray Lee**

***The Sound Hunter***

A rare opportunity to hear a demonstration of the obscure electronic sound devices that Ray has collected over the past 30 years.

A BAC Scratch Commission.

**12 - 15 May, 9.30pm, £5 (£3 concs)**

**David Gale**

***Dash Dash Dash: The Omnibus***

Playwright David Gale, erstwhile writer for Lumiere & Son, after some decades in the scripting saddle, has turned his hand to a new performance challenge. Having toyed with the short form in his must-have text and image entertainment David Gale's *Peachy Coochy Nites*, he has tested the possibilities of brevity to the limit, writing and directing a play a month over the last six months. These pieces have now been combined in the final omnibus edition of *Dash Dash Dash*. David has worked with a team of hot young theatre designers from Wimbledon College of Art to create this fractured, hilarious and melancholy work over the last few months.

**13-15 May, 7.30pm, £5 (£3 concs)**

**TomTom**

***The TomTom of the Opera***

Tom and Tom are both called Tom. That is not all they have in common. They both also have legs and teeth and thighs and a passing knowledge of a certain operatic Phantom.

A BAC Scratch Commission.

13 & 14 May, 9pm, £5 (£3 concs)

Organised by They Are Here

*Architecture Lecture: E.W. Mountford and the Labyrinth*

Invited experts will explore the work and mind of the EW Mountford, the architect of BAC's building of Old Town Hall and Battersea Library (also on Lavender Hill).

14 May, 6pm, £5 (£3 concs)

Tim Crouch

*I, Malvolio*

The story of Twelfth Night told through the eyes of Shakespeare's most pent-up steward. A story of lost dignity, prudery, practical jokes and bullying.

14 May, 7.15pm, £12 (£7 concs)

Search Party

*Growing Old With You (A Work in Progress)*

A new life-long performance project that attempts to document lived experience in real time. Exploring ideas of age, duality and accumulation, the project uses the lives and experiences of a range of participants of all ages to create each performance. Developed at BAC.

14 & 15 May, 7pm, 7.30pm, 8pm, 8.30pm, 9pm, 9.30pm, 10pm, £5 (£3 concs)

Simon Vincenzi

*The Ouroboros Recordings*

Featuring four extraordinary dancers/performers this work-in-progress is the culmination of two recent week-long residencies in Italy hosted by the Swiss Institute in Rome and the Crisalide Theatre Festival, Forli.

A BAC Scratch Commission. Simon Vincenzi is an Artsadmin artist.

14 & 15 May, from 8.30pm, £5 (£3 concs)

Patrizia Paolini

*The Financial Smurf*

A new Scratch performance from Patrizia Paolini.

14 & 15 May, 7pm, FREE

nimmi harasgama

*auntie netta's Holiday for Asylum*

A chance to see the online sensation auntie netta as seen on [www.funnyordie.com/nimmi](http://www.funnyordie.com/nimmi) A fresh new satire on immigration, politics and auntie's experience of living in the UK. Developed at BAC.

19 May, 7pm & 8.15pm, £5 (£3 concs)

1927

*The Animals and Children Took to the Streets*

1927 invite you into a multi-dimensional world of dubious characters, and inner city paranoia. In a world ruled by fear, a world where no one can be trusted, the wolf is always at the door...

19 - 21 May, 7.15pm, £5 (£3 concs)

Matthew Robins

*Sad Lucy: A Fish Opera*

Matthew's work combines live film, animation, shadow puppetry and song to tell enchanting and humorous stories. With a band and new guest musicians, this is a song cycle about the sea, death and the devil. A BAC Scratch Commission.

19 - 21 May, 8pm, £5 (£3 concs)

Brian

*Roommates*

With issues of guilt, longing, regret, self-loathing and physical and mental abuse, Roommates is an absurd comedy wrapped up with a wonderful tea dance.

Brian is Jon Foster and Colin Carmichael. Developed at BAC.

19 - 22 May, 9.15pm, £5 (£3 concs)

Leo Kay

***It's Like He's Knocking***

A visually arresting and poetic one-man show, weaving together a collection of memorable experiences, shared and remembered in fragments by three generations of men from Leo's family.

Developed at BAC.

19 - 22 May, 9pm, £10 (£6 concs)

**Bohman Brothers**

An international line-up of musicians, free improvisers and audio artists.

20 May, 9.15pm, £5 (£3 concs)

**Greg McLaren**

***Doris Day Can F\*\*k Off***

Greg McLaren, founder of Stoke Newington International Airport puts performance into the world by replacing all speech with song for one week. He'll be recording what happens, modifying it and then reporting back in a performance that is part travelogue and part one man opera. Developed at BAC.

20 & 21 May, 8.15pm, £5 (£3 concs)

**Peter McMaster**

***The Fire Burns and Burns***

A contemplative and autobiographical performance in which Peter explores the difficulties of his oppressive Catholic upbringing, and how, if possible, he can live without it.

Developed at BAC.

20 - 22 May, 7pm, £5 (£3 concs)

**Inspector Sands**

***Mass Observation Project***

A new Scratch from award-winning company Inspector Sands, recently at BAC with *If That's All There Is*.

20 - 22 May, 7pm, FREE

**Station House Opera**

***Backwards***

Following a six week workshop with 20 volunteers, Station House Opera explore the idea of backwardsness. A BAC Scratch Commission. Station House Opera is an Artsadmin artist.

21 & 22 May, 7.30pm, £5 (£3 concs)

**Kevin and Max**

***Nothing Ever Held You Like Me***

In this Scratch, Kevin and Max have been immersed in a pursuit in which neither is held liable for anything they may do. Developed at BAC.

22 May, 7.15pm & 8.15pm, £5 (£3 concs)

**Little Bulb Theatre**

***Operation Greenfield***

Set in the fictional town of Stokely (somewhere in Middle England), Operation Greenfield is an exploration of faith and music, as seen through the eyes of four teenagers on the rocky road to Stokely Annual Talent Competition glory. Commissioned and developed at BAC.

22 May, 7.15pm, £5 (£3 concs)

**TDC**

***Reasons for Living***

At a time of recession it can be hard to find a reason for living. TDC have been searching... Rapping, singing, dancing, Korg Nanopads, all come together to try and explore and discuss the possible reasons for living.

Developed at BAC.

22 May, 7pm & 9pm, £5 (£3 concs)

<b>Venue:</b>	Battersea Arts Centre
<b>Address:</b>	Lavender Hill, London SW11 5TN
<b>Dates:</b>	5-22 May 2010
<b>Times:</b>	Various
<b>Price:</b>	£5 (£3 CONCS) 3 FOR 2 TICKETS (Some performances FREE- see listings below)
<b>Box Office:</b>	020 7223 2223

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Transport:	Clapham Junction overground station
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