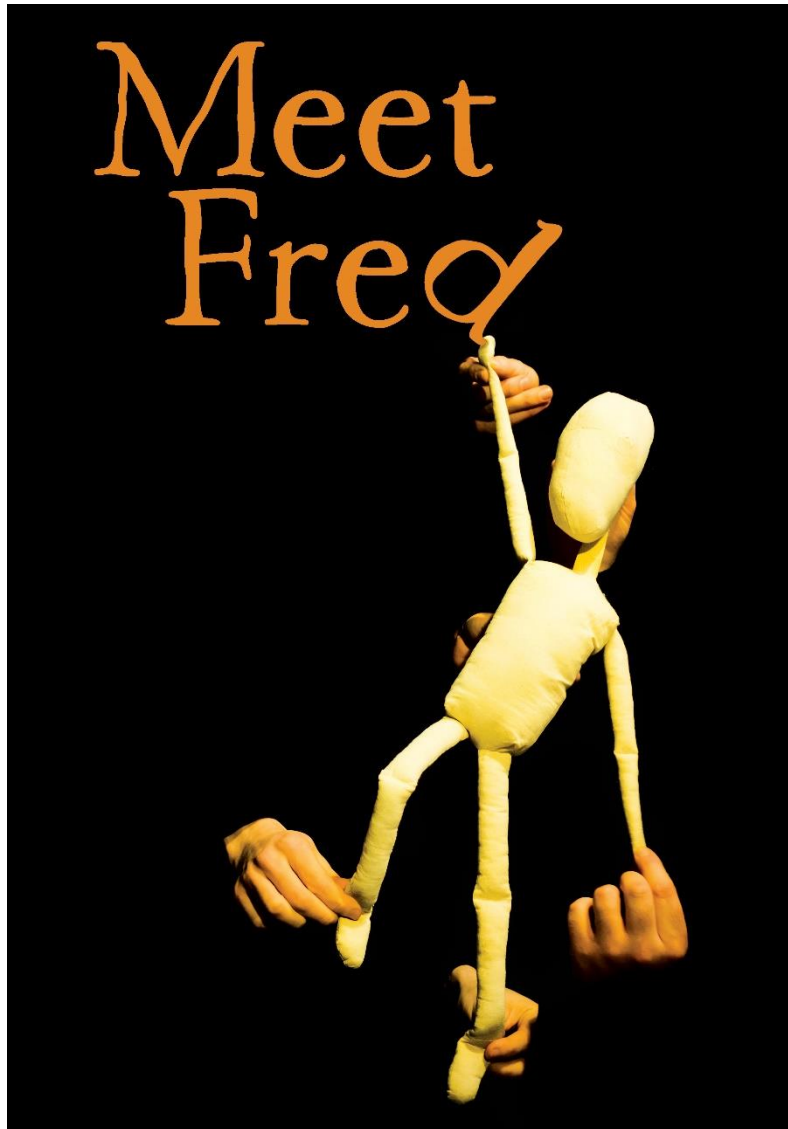


A  **Hijinx** production

in association with

BLind SumMiT



Venue Pack

For more information about this production or to book please contact Ellis Wrightbrook on
+44 (0)2920 635628 or email ellis.wrightbrook@hijinx.org.uk

Personnel

CAST

The Director	Gareth Clark (or Ben Pettitt-Wade)
Stage Manager	Gareth John
Puppeteer & Voice of 'Fred'	Bryn Fitch
Puppeteers	Llŷr Williams Nick Halliwell (or Sam Harding)
Lucille/ Maker	Lindsay Foster
Jack	Richard Newnham

CREATIVE TEAM

Director	Ben Pettitt-Wade
Lighting Designer	Ceri James
Production Manager	Tom Ayres
Surtitle Operator	Vanessa Pasquet
Fred Theme Music	Jonathan Dunn
Puppetry Dramaturgs	
Of Blind Summit:	Tom Espiner & Giulia Innocenti

Meet Fred is devised by the Company. Puppet designed and made by Blind Summit.



Background

Hijinx

Hijinx is an award-winning, inclusive theatre company based in Cardiff. All our productions include learning disabled performers alongside performers without learning disability. To support our work we have a network of Academies around Wales that train learning disabled performers in a variety of skills. We provide this training because it is virtually impossible for an actor with learning disability to access more traditional drama schools or universities. When ready, students from our Academies join us on our professional productions. This ensures that our work is always of the highest quality, with all artists starting a process on an equal footing. Meet Fred features three of our performers with learning disability, all of whom were heavily involved in the devising of the production.

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Blind Summit

Based in London, Blind Summit is recognised as one of the UK's most exciting companies working with puppetry. They have had huge success with productions such as *The Table* and *Citizen Puppet*, and often work with companies such as Complicite and ENO. Hijinx came into contact with Blind Summit in April 2014 when we invited them to run a week's training in puppetry for our Academy students in Cardiff. We were joined by three of their artists, including Artistic Director Mark Down, it was during this week that the seed for making an inclusive production with a puppet was sown. Blind Summit have supported us throughout the process, from their designers making a set of puppets for us to train and explore with, and providing associate artists Tom Espiner and Giulia Innocenti to work with us during the research and development stage for the project and rehearsals.

The Process

As we explored the concept of creating an inclusive show with a puppet, the parallels between life for a puppet, and the learning disabled artists that we work with quickly became apparent. Just as many of the people that we work with rely on support in order to live an independent life, so Fred relies on his three puppeteers simply to exist. The relationship of dependence and interdependence that exists between Fred and his puppeteers is the exact same situation that many people with learning disability and disability in general face in their everyday life.

Inevitably during a devising process it is the people that you have in the room that ultimately influence in what direction a piece may go, and crucially what their experience is of the world at any given time. As we were making this show, many of our learning disabled performers were living through the current overhaul of the benefits system by our wonderful Tory government. We began to explore how life would be for Fred if he also lived in this environment, what would happen if Fred is threatened with losing his Puppetry Living Allowance, what would Fred be without his puppeteers, would he even survive? Suddenly, instead of the whimsical, light puppet show we had envisaged, we had a serious political message on our hands, but one that could be presented with hilarity and made seem all the more ridiculous when seen through the eyes of our puppet hero Fred.



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Marketing Copy

Hijinx Theatre in association with Blind Summit

Short

Meet Fred

When threatened with losing his Puppetry Living Allowance, Fred's life begins to spiral out of his control. A sell out hit at Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2016, contains strong language and puppet nudity.

Sharp, funny and vastly entertaining (Lyn Gardner, The Guardian)

********* *The humour here is brilliantly black with mordant social and political relevance* (The Herald)
(58 words)

Mid Length

Meet Fred

"Prejudice against puppetry is the only acceptable form of prejudice"
(David Sefton, Artistic Director, Adelaide International Festival)

A cloth puppet fights prejudice every day. Fred just wants to be part of the real world, to get a job and meet a girl, but when threatened with losing his PLA (Puppetry Living Allowance), Fred's life begins to spiral out of his control. This Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2016 sell out hit contains strong language and puppet nudity.

Sharp, funny and vastly entertaining
Lyn Gardner, The Guardian



The humour here is brilliantly black with mordant social and political relevance
The Herald



Meet Fred is an ingeniously conceived, hilarious and truly unmissable piece of theatre
Broadway Baby

(115 words)

Long

Meet Fred

“Prejudice against puppetry is the only acceptable form of prejudice”
(David Sefton, Artistic Director, Adelaide International Festival)

Meet Fred, the two foot tall cloth puppet that fights prejudice every day. He just wants to be a regular guy, part of the real world, to get a job and meet a girl, but when threatened with losing his PLA (Puppetry Living Allowance), Fred’s life begins to spiral out of his control. This Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2016 sell out hit contains strong language and puppet nudity.

Sharp, funny and vastly entertaining
Lyn Gardner, The Guardian

Packed full of first-rate theatrical invention, irreverent revelling, and with an urgent human story at its heart, Meet Fred is a real marvel. Essential viewing for humans and puppets everywhere
Total Theatre



The humour here is brilliantly black with mordant social and political relevance
The Herald



Meet Fred is an ingeniously conceived, hilarious and truly unmissable piece of theatre
Broadway Baby



A terrifically funny no holds barred subversive satire
Edinburgh Guide



If you only see one show at the EdFringe this year, make sure you see Meet Fred
Fringe Review



Every moment of the show is captivating
To Do List



Prepare to be tickled and devastated in equal measure
The Upcoming

(206 words)

This is the copy which we think best reflects the play and its themes. If you feel that you would like to revise the wording to suit your audience, could you let us see the copy before you use it – just to make sure it’s a true representation of the play. Thanks.

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Meet Fred reviews at Summerhall, Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2016

Sharp, funny and vastly entertaining – Lyn Gardner, The Guardian

Packed full of first-rate theatrical invention, irreverent revelling, and with an urgent human story at its heart, Meet Fred is a real marvel. Essential viewing for humans and puppets everywhere. – Total Theatre



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The humour here is brilliantly black with mordant social and political relevance



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A terrifically funny no holds barred subversive satire



Fringe Review

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To Do List

Every moment of the show is captivating



The Upcoming

Prepare to be tickled and devastated in equal measure



Young Perspective

An incredible production which demands to be seen



The List

A prime example of emotional manipulation in all the best ways



The Stage

The show is a celebration of cooperation and collaboration, of people combining their strengths to create something joyous

Top 5 best reviewed dramatic shows:

https://www.comedy.co.uk/fringe/2016/features/edinburgh_fringe_best_shows_2016/

All our Edinburgh reviews can be read in full here:

https://www.comedy.co.uk/fringe/2016/meet_fred/

...except for Total Theatre, which can be read here:

<http://totaltheatre.org.uk/hijinx-theatre-company-with-blind-summit-meet-fred/>

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Links to Videos, Photographs and other Reviews

Videos

Trailer - <http://www.hijinx.org.uk/meet-fred/>

Teaser - <https://youtu.be/8oQP5ELCmgE>

Full Show - <https://vimeo.com/303026092> (Password: Puppet2016)

Audience Comments - <https://youtu.be/y4aKBmakGeY>

Photographs

Production Photographs -

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/f3lcoe916ad1dt/AACnKk5U6ao0j_BuxhdRjfra?dl=0

Reviews

Arts Scene in Wales - <http://www.asiw.co.uk/reviews/meet-fred-hijinx-blind-summit>

The Nerdy Theatre blog - <http://linkis.com/blogspot.co.uk/lAtyX>

British Theatre Guide - <http://www.britishtheatreguide.info/reviews/meet-fred-chapter-cardif-12622>

Wales Arts Review - <http://linkis.com/walesartsreview.org/O7xZg>

Disability Arts Online - <http://www.disabilityartsonline.org.uk/Hijinx-Meet-Fred>



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Box Office Information

Age Guidance: 14+ contains strong language, adult themes and puppet nudity.

Running time: 80 minutes

Technical Specifications

General: Meet Fred is a puppet show performed by 3 puppeteers and 4 other members of cast. It is most suited to studio spaces, with tiered seating, of capacity 80-200.

Get in time: 3 hours

Get out time: 1 hour

Set: Five 6x8ft flats and two flight cases (both fitted with batteries and supply 12v power for birdies), two chairs, a wooden ladder and various props.

Stage requirements: Minimum – 6m width, 4.5m depth, 3m height

A “Black Box” style theatre space is most effective. Black stage surface preferred. Black or similar dark coloured walls or drapes surrounding the stage with a minimum of 1 entrance/exit to backstage.

Sound: All sound playback is cued from a laptop /iPad at the lighting op position. There is no live sound in the production. No fallback is required on stage.

LX: Please see LX plan below. We will bring our own LX desk and all fixtures on the floor/booms. Where possible, if the venue can pre-rig the FOH and side bars, this is desired.

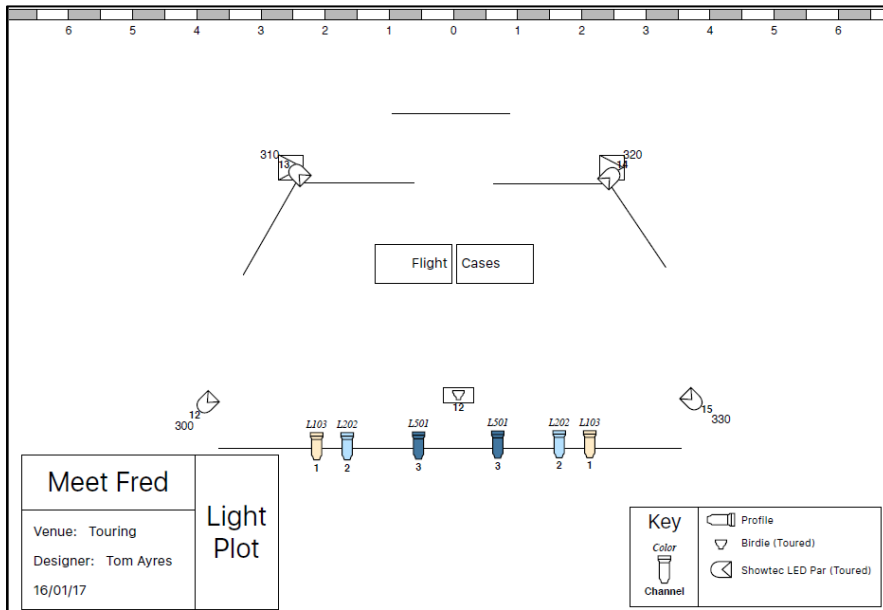
This plan can also be adapted to suit the requirements in the venue (please contact first).

Misc.: A smoke machine/hazer will be used for two short burst during the performance. This will be supplied by us.

There is no strobe lighting in the performance.

If the show is being subtitled, we will need a projector provided by the venue. We have preferred surtitle operators in Germany and France, please ask us for details.

Lighting Plan



Set



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Costs and Touring Information

Currently taking bookings for: **2020/21**

However, please speak with us if you are interested other dates.

Fee: Please contact Hijinx to discuss fee, as this can vary depending on the length of engagement.

Maximum 2 shows per day.

All travel, accommodation and subsistence to be provided by the host country. Hijinx will invoice in GBP and we are not VAT registered.

Touring Party: 9 adults (7 Performers, 1 Technician, 1 Support Worker)

Dressing Rooms: 1 Male for 6 adults, 1 Female for 1 adult.

Contact

Hijinx Office:
0044 (0)2920 300331

For Bookings & Administration:

Ellis Wrightbrook
ellis.wrightbrook@hijinx.org.uk
0044 (0)2920 635628

For Technical:

Tom Ayres
tom.ayres@hijinx.org.uk
0044 (0)75844 17998



Social Media

Website: www.hijinx.org.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/hijinxtheatre
Instagram: @hijinxtheatre
Twitter: @HijinxTheatre

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