



*The Blue Bird*

# Our creative vision

Written in 1908 by the Belgian symbolist playwright Maurice Maeterlinck, *L'Oiseau Bleu* is an elaborate fairytale in which two children go on a quest to find the elusive blue bird. Along the way they visit fantastical worlds including the Land of Memory and the Palace of Night, and learn valuable lessons about perception and happiness.

The play was written for an enormous cast, in a traditional proscenium arch setting. Maeterlinck's stage directions suggest lavish costuming and frequent changes of set. It is therefore rarely performed, the last professional production in London being at the Lyric Hammersmith in 1962. Yet the play's themes and concerns are as relevant today as they were in 1908.

Our intention is to create a 80 minute show targeted at young people from 6 upwards that can be enjoyed by young and adults alike.

We want to faithfully render Maeterlinck's play with all its light, darkness, magic and fantasy but in a pared-back imaginative way and without naturalistic constraint. We therefore want to keep the staging simple and fluid, with minimal scene changes, and using lighting and sound to create the worlds of the play, rather than an elaborate set. A live score will be written specifically for the show and a cast of five including two actor musicians will realise the piece.

The show will look beautiful, feel magical and convey the sense of transformation that happens throughout the play with puppetry, projection, lighting will be used to achieve this in the design so that the ordinary and everyday becomes extraordinary and fantastical.

With support from Arts Council England to develop the piece, and a strong and committed creative team in place we are in discussion with a number of venues in London to stage the production in late 2016. A series of creative workshops based on the themes of *The Blue Bird*, with young people and community participants will run alongside the production.

# Creative Team

<b><i>Emma Faulkner</i></b> Director	Emma received the 2010 Regional Theatre Young Director Scheme bursary in association with The Young Vic. In addition to her shows for Lightbox Theatre, other directing credits include: 17 (Finborough Theatre), Swimming (Theatre 503), Christmas The Musical (Battersea Mess and Music Hall), The Scared Ritual of the Nymphs of Natterjack, part of Bush Bazaar (Bush Theatre), Different is Dangerous (Tamasha), After the End (Dundee Rep/Pleasance, Edinburgh), Forfeit, What Love Is (Òran Mór/Dundee Rep), The Ruffian on the Stair (Orange Tree Theatre). Associate Direction includes Sunshine on Leith (National Tour) and assisting Alan Ayckbourn on Taking Steps. Sleeping Beauty, A Doll's House (Dundee Rep).
<b><i>Petra Hjortsberg</i></b> Designer	Petra works internationally across theatre, dance, opera and film. Recent theatre credits include: OFFIE Best Set Design Fall (Pleasance London) and Occupied (Theatre 503). Other theatre credits include: How To Win Against History (Oval House Theatre); Silent Planet (Finborough Theatre); Freak (Theatre 503/ Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh); Companion Piece (Pleasance, London), Body Electric (Best Production & Best Off Dublin); Treasure this? (Bush Theatre). In 2013 Petra exhibited at the international World Stage Design Exhibition. She is a Creative Associate at Gate Theatre.
<b><i>Jon McLeod</i></b> Composer	Jon is a composer and sound designer. Recent credits include shows at the Gate Theatre, Southwark Playhouse, Finborough Theatre and Edinburgh Festival.
<b><i>Peter Harrison</i></b> Lighting	Peter's lighting design work has ranged from the pub theatres of the London Fringe through national and international touring to West End productions.

# Lightbox Theatre

Founded in 2013, Lightbox brings to life stories that are **untold** or **overlooked**. Lightbox Theatre is one of the 2015 New Diorama / IdeasTap Emerging Companies, and has produced the following shows:

<i>Over The Bridge</i> , by Sam Thompson, Finborough Theatre	<i>"...Emma Faulkner's production has an authentic documentary feel and is totally involving. What the West End needs is a small theatre to which fringe productions of this calibre can transfer."</i> British Theatre Guide
<i>John Ferguson</i> , by St John Ervine, Finborough Theatre	<i>"St John Ervine's powerful 1915 classic, now receiving its first English revival since 1920 in Emma Faulkner's strongly cast, atmospheric production."</i> The Independent
<i>Battersea Odyssey</i> , verbatim promenade show, Wandsworth Arts Festival	<i>"It could not have been better executed and this exceptionally talented group of people have really made something to be proud of. A true local triumph!"</i> A Younger Theatre
<i>The Air Around Us</i> , verbatim one-man show, Theatre 503/Omnibus Clapham	<i>"...through Creswell's memories we see the bigger picture: the consequences of gentrification, the increasing individualism in society and how our lives are shaped by the places we live in. A beautiful and charming piece of theatre."</i> Everything Theatre

Emma Faulkner, Artistic Director trained on the Regional Theatre Young Director Scheme. Credits include shows at Finborough Theatre, Bush Theatre, Dundee Rep, Pleasance Edinburgh, Orange Tree Theatre, Theatre 503.

Clare Annamalai, Producer, spent 20 years in European sales and marketing roles within the retail and pharmaceutical sectors, before making the leap into arts management. She also writes about theatre.

Lightbox Theatre is a registered charity. Our board of trustees work in teaching, finance and law.



## Show Trailer:



The trailer can also be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vEz2JseklH8>

For more information about the show please contact: [clare@lightboxtheatre.co.uk](mailto:clare@lightboxtheatre.co.uk)

<http://lightboxtheatre.co.uk/upcoming/the-blue-bird>