

# Method in Madness

**Tour Promotional Pack: 13th Oct - 2nd Nov '16**

*"It is truly difficult to fault this production. Method in Madness is harrowingly beautiful, and a stunning display of visceral new physical theatre" ★★★★★ A Younger Theatre*



*Photo by Tim Kelly*

ENTITA

SHAKESPEARE IN MOTION

**Company Contact Details:**

Jamie Woods (Co-Artistic Director) - 07527993750

Katharine Hardman (Co-Artistic Director) - 07724911567

Reach us by email at: [info@entitatheatre.co.uk](mailto:info@entitatheatre.co.uk)

## About the Play

*Method in Madness* is a piece of new writing, set during the height of World War II in Blitz-struck London. It follows an American actress preparing to make her West-End debut as Ophelia in a staging of *Hamlet*. In the rehearsal room, despite the efforts of her director and co-actors, the actress struggles to connect to the character so desperately turns to method acting for salvation. However the boundaries between theatre and reality quickly blur and amongst the bombs and sirens of the Blitz the Hollywood starlet gives the performance of her life.

*Method in Madness* fuses Shakespearean text and new writing, told through thrilling physical theatre, stunning dance sequences and beautiful mask/puppetry work, framed by three dynamic set-piece mirrors that form strong visual stage imagery to demonstrate the changing environments of the piece alongside the performers. The production draws its powerful soundtrack solely from the hauntingly powerful music of celebrated British singer-songwriter Laura Marling.



## The Company

Entita Theatre is an emerging physical theatre company producing new, dynamic and visually stunning productions inspired by Shakespeare's characters and stories. We aim to shine a new light on iconic characters or plays through bold physical theatre that puts Shakespeare into motion. Entita's work is characterised by powerful physical theatre/dance sequences, pounding curated soundtracks and a strong visual aesthetic onstage combining performers and set. Entita are currently devising new work in Canterbury as the Graduate Theatre Company in residence at the University of Kent.

## Cast + Creative Team

*Actress* - Katharine Hardman. *Ophelia* - Jenny Geertsen.  
*Mother/Ensemble* - Jessie Knowles. *Hamlet* - Mark Curley. *Polonius* - Isambard Rawbone.  
*The Director* - Alex Frisby. *Polonius's Belle/Ensemble* - Francisca Stangel.

*Method in Madness* written by Alex Doble & Katie Dunstan, devised by Entita Theatre.

*Director* - Jamie Woods. *Movement Director* - Katharine Hardman.  
*Assistant Director* - Shannon Kissane. *Set Design* - Paul Ainsworth.  
*Soundtrack* - Laura Marling, mixed by Jamie Woods.

## Reviews

"[Entita have created] something terrifying, something beautiful, something exceptional ... you would have to be mad yourself to miss it"

★★★★★ *Broadway Baby* (2015)

"a truly stunning piece of art ... It is truly difficult to fault this production. *Method in Madness* is harrowingly beautiful, and a stunning display of visceral new physical theatre"

★★★★★ *A Younger Theatre* (2015)

"*Method in Madness* is gorgeous, poignant and breathtaking, and needs to be seen"

★★★★★ *edfringereview* (2015)

"The dance dynamics are exacting ... the physical theatre is never less than fiercely engaged and expressive"

★★★★★ *Fringe Guru* (2015)



## Praise for other Entita productions:

"Remarkable choreography ... the freshness of the concept is quite unmatched"

*Edinburgh Festivals Magazine* reviewing *Fall* (2015)

"a fresh look at this most familiar of plots ... something genuinely exciting and new"

★★★★★ *Fringe Guru* reviewing *Fall* (2015)

"pleasingly brisk and dynamic ... an evocative sense of the milling paranoia being wrought by the main characters comes across in their precise physicality"

*The Scotsman* reviewing *Fall* (2015)

"a beautifully intelligent piece of physical theatre that grasps the attention of its audience and does not let it go"

★★★★★ *edfringereview* reviewing *Fall* (2015)

"Entita are clearly aiming high in devising their own brand of theatre with high production values"

*Edinburgh Guide* reviewing *Turbulence* (2013)

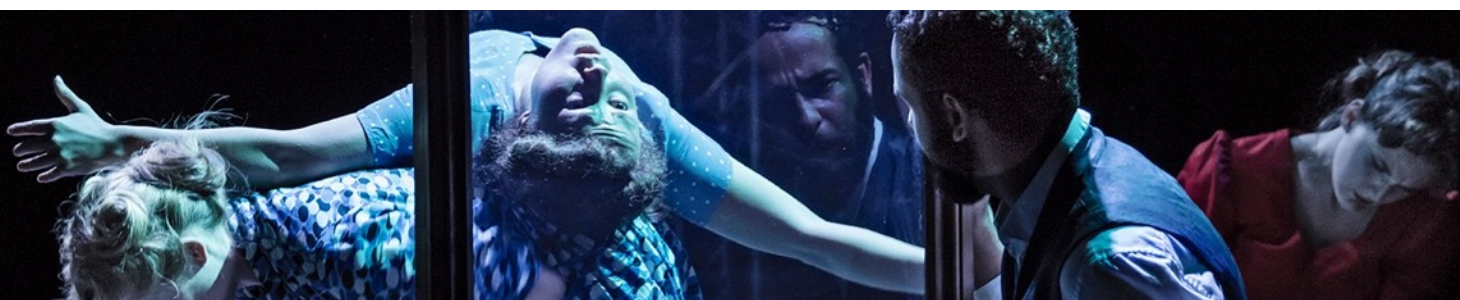
"this new work by Entita Theatre has moments of strong physicality that show just what this company is capable of"

*The Scotsman* reviewing *Turbulence* (2013)



## Production History

- **June 2014:** Early workshop performance presented on the University of Kent campus.
- **July 2014:** Premieres at the Rose Theatre in Kingston, presented as part of the International Youth Arts Festival. Subsequently wins the “Best of Fest” award.
- **October 2014:** Entita are selected onto Kent’s Graduate Theatre Company scheme and present *Method in Madness* on campus across three nights to students and the public.
- **June 2015:** Performed at the Kingston Connections Festival.
- **August 2015:** Runs from 7th August to 22nd at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, presented at Greenside Nicolson Square. The play receives two 5 star and two 4 star reviews plus hugely positive praise from audiences.
- **March 2016:** The production sells out a four night run at the first Catford-Upon-Avon festival, presented site-specific in a dressing room at the Broadway Theatre, Catford.



## Historical Notes

*Method in Madness* explores the pressure upon all actresses cast in the role of Ophelia - one of Shakespeare’s most enigmatic female characters. As one of only two female characters in the epic that is *Hamlet*, many iconic actresses have played her onstage or on film at some point in their careers - Jean Simmons, Dame Judi Dench, Helena Bonham-Carter and Kate Winslet to name only a few.

Furthermore the play comments on the wider experiences of actors who are known to employ method acting techniques to assist in their portrayal of characters. It is thought, for example, that Daniel Day-Lewis couldn’t continue giving his title performance of *Hamlet* at the National in 1989 having experienced hallucinations of the ghost of his own father mid-play; anecdotes such as these inspired *Method in Madness* to explore and comment upon the application of method acting and the implications.

Set in the heart of London during the Blitz, *Method in Madness* also serves to highlight the somewhat rarely-hailed defiance of British theatre against the efforts by Nazi bombers to demoralise and divide a nation.

# Audience Responses

🐦 Absolutely LOVED @EntitaTheatre Method in Madness. Beautifully executed, it was just phenomenal. I can't recommend it enough!

Nicole Gaskin @nikigaskin August 2015

🐦 Method in Madness by @EntitaTheatre is why I came to the fringe. What a beautiful, incredible and skilled performance. Wow. #edfringe2015

Jenny Burton @jenburty August 2015

🐦 @EntitaTheatre real treat to see Method in Madness in a dressing room tonight @BroadwayCatford. Hurrah for #catforduponavon

Ann-Marie Hall @thursdaythinkin March 2016

🐦 Strongly recommend Method by @EntitaTheatre catch it before it closes. Hamlet meets Black Swan with stunning physicality.

Dogfish Theatre @dogfishtheatre August 2015

🐦 STUNNING physical theatre from @EntitaTheatre earlier with Method in Madness, get yourself a ticket if you're in Edinburgh #aytfringe

Hannah @hannahmarge\_ August 2015



🐦 Literally cannot get enough of @EntitaTheatre - Method in Madness as stunning ever @AvonCatford this evening

Cassiopeia B.A @CassiopeiaBA March 2016

🐦 Me and @jonnyblackwell @ChippyTobin have just taken a chance on something and come away enriched thanks @EntitaTheatre #ophelia

Justin Moorhouse @justinmoorhouse August 2015

🐦 "Method in Madness" - Cleverly written, great music and dance, brilliant acting, so good it made me cry. @EntitaTheatre #EdFringe

Sue Q @SuQ10 August 2015

🐦 So inspired by 'Method In The Madness' by @EntitaTheatre, the kind of theatre that I want to be a part of, thoroughly recommend #EdFringe

Lucy @LucyACheetham August 2015

🐦 Just saw Method in Madness @EntitaTheatre loved it it was absolutely beautiful so lyrical so much talent #wakeupkingston @IYAF @Rosetheatre

Maria Prassinou @MPrassinou July 2014

## Tour Wrap-Arounds

Following performances of *Method in Madness*, the company are more than willing to take part in Q&A sessions discussing the process of creating the play, the themes it explores and the wider work of the company. This would be of particular relevance for any school groups in attendance.

Entita can also offer a series of workshops tailored for GCSE or A Level Drama students. Due to the nature of our practice we can offer a wide ranging course of workshops covering introductions to physical theatre, introductions to devising and devising with Shakespeare text. The company can also provide schools with a comprehensive education pack, including further classroom exercises and activities for after viewing the production.

## Technical Details

*Method in Madness* is 60 minutes long, with no interval.

No wing space is required as all actors and set remain onstage throughout. The play's soundtrack can be played through a laptop or CD and run through a basic PA system, linked to a mixing desk - this is a minimum sound requirement for the production.

Lighting can be adapted to the space - basic requirements being the ability to break the stage wash into quarters, with a focused profile centre-stage and another down-stage right. If available coloured LED's are preferably used throughout the production.

The logo for Entita Shakespeare in Motion is centered on a dark background. The word "ENTITA" is written in large, red, serif capital letters. Below it, the words "SHAKESPEARE IN MOTION" are written in smaller, white, sans-serif capital letters. The background of the logo area shows a blurred scene of a stage performance with blue and red lighting.

ENTITA  
SHAKESPEARE IN MOTION

## Contact Details

For all enquiries regarding booking *Method in Madness* during the forthcoming Autumn tour or all other questions please reach us by email at: [info@entitatheatre.co.uk](mailto:info@entitatheatre.co.uk)

Alternatively you can reach the Co-Artistic Directors of Entita directly on: 07527993750 for Jamie Woods (*primary tour booker*) or 07724911567 for Katharine Hardman.

For more information about the company, further production photos and information about our other work please visit our website: [www.entitatheatre.co.uk](http://www.entitatheatre.co.uk)

Or you can interact with the company at the following social media links:

[f https://www.facebook.com/entitatheatre/](https://www.facebook.com/entitatheatre/) [t https://twitter.com/EntitaTheatre](https://twitter.com/EntitaTheatre)