



# Fish Eye

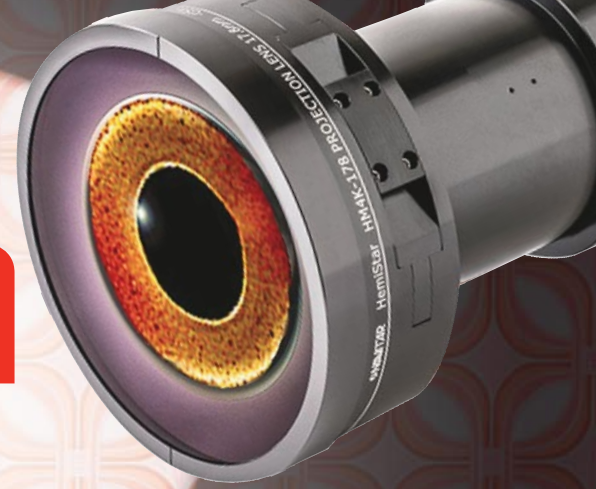
By Daniel Jamieson

Theatre Alibi



# Fish Eye

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**A dark comedy about nosiness gone wild...**

**Touring Spring 2017**

Someone's pinched Pam's Elizabethan sideboard. So she signs up for her local Neighbourhood Watch. With the aid of her nephew who works in security, she swiftly graduates from curtain twitching to spy cameras hidden in hand-knitted novelties. But what Pam unearths only confirms what she already suspects – that everyone around her is a thief, a pervert or a terrorist (or perhaps all three) and that they are all on the verge of heinous crimes...

A sharp sideways look at what former Liberty Director Shami Chakrabarti describes as the issue of our times – how the relentless monitoring, collecting and hacking of every inch of our lives has run completely out of control.

**Fish Eye** features live music and projection.

**Fish Eye** was originally commissioned by REACH, a project bringing new theatre to the North East managed by ARC Stockton and Dep Arts Ltd and funded by Arts Council England.



# Writer Daniel Jamieson on Fish Eye – What are we looking at here?

**A new, draft surveillance bill is going through Parliament right now. It will decide how all our electronic communication is spied on – emails, phone calls, social media, Internet use – the lot. Pretty hair-raising and fascinating stuff and yet, perhaps, there are some with an interest in keeping us all unbothered by smothering the whole debate with techno jargon...**

That's why we wanted to explore the subject in an accessible and entertaining way, and how we arrived at the story of Pam, who spies on her neighbours. To begin with she just wants to find out who stole her sideboard, but bit by bit she becomes obsessed with what her neighbours are up to – no good, she becomes more and more certain. She's "helped" by her nephew, who supplies her with the gizmology and the encouragement to take her snooping to a whole new level.

Through Pam's story we were interested in exploring a number of questions. Is spying ever justifiable? Where's the line between reasonable vigilance and invasion of other people's privacy? What role does technology play nowadays in tempting us over that line? Who says we need mass surveillance, and what's in it for them? And how effective is it anyway at preventing bad stuff from happening?

What we've ended up with is a dark comedy. But we want Pam's story to be a richly human character study too. Part of the reason Pam is so obsessively nosey is that she's excruciatingly lonely. Recently widowed and without any friends in her neighbourhood, she unconsciously satisfies a deep yearning for human contact by spying on the people around her. It's company she craves, and nobody can blame her for that, can they?



# Theatre Alibi

Theatre Alibi are contemporary storytellers, creating work for all ages that moves freely between the intimate and the epic and aspires to be inventive, joyful, moving, vivid, intricate and ambitious. Our productions are marked by a passion for the live event – actors as storytellers absolutely present with their audience, live music, a delight in revealing acts of transformation that would often be confined to the wings and a level of inventiveness that allows us to embrace action that might seem unstageable. The company integrates a wide variety of art forms into its work and recent productions have featured animation, film, puppetry, photography and live music.

Past productions include: **Goucher's War** “**As always with this company, the telling is an inventive delight**” THE GUARDIAN ★★★★★, **The Crowstarver** “**Truly faultless theatre**” WHAT'S ON STAGE ★★★★★, “**Heart gladdening theatre**” THE GUARDIAN ★★★★★, **Cobbo** “**Casts a considerable spell**” THE GUARDIAN ★★★★★ and **Hammer & Tongs** “**This highly physical show is intelligently devised as the actors engage, entertain and intrigue**” THE STAGE and **Falling** “**Fearless**” REVIEWS HUB ★★★★★.

The company tours to large and small venues nationally and past co-producers include Oxford Playhouse, Exeter Phoenix, The Lowry, Exeter Northcott Theatre and Polka Theatre.

Theatre Alibi is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation and is also supported by Exeter City Council.

**See our website for more about  
Theatre Alibi [www.theatrealibi.co.uk](http://www.theatrealibi.co.uk)**



**FALLING**



# Marketing

Theatre Alibi has an excellent reputation for the quality of its marketing materials and support, providing clear and informative marketing packs, visually arresting print and strong photos. Please go to the Past Productions section of our website to see publicity images and photos. Previous marketing packs are available on request.

A marketing pack for **Fish Eye** will be available this summer. Press photos and a trailer will be available to sell the show to audiences from late November.

## Fish Eye is

- ☞ A quirky, dark comedy
- ☞ Intriguing –you have to draw your own conclusions about what’s really going on
- ☞ About something that concerns us all – the balance between a right to personal privacy in the face of terrorist and other criminal threats. Surveillance is one of the big issues of the moment, from Leveson to Wikileaks and Edward Snowden
- ☞ An exploration of how fear grows in a climate of suspicion and how prejudices and assumptions allow us to find exactly what we expect to find.
- ☞ Echoes of Alan Bennett’s *A Lady of Letters* and feature films including Andrea Arnold’s *Red Road*, *The Lives of Others* and *The Conversation*.

## Fish Eye is for

- ☞ People who enjoy comedy and satire
- ☞ People with a taste for contemporary theatre
- ☞ People interested in the issue of surveillance and personal freedom.
- ☞ People who enjoy storytelling
- ☞ Drama students at GCSE, A Level , BTECH and Degree level.

We will be opening **Fish Eye** in the North East as a REACH commission in mid-November, so Marketing staff will have an opportunity to either see the show or a recording at an early stage in planning the marketing campaign.



# Schools & Colleges

Theatre Alibi has an excellent reputation with schools and colleges for its inventive style of physical storytelling and is a **Prescribed Practitioner** on the new draft Specification for the **AQA A Level Drama** syllabus. The company produces high quality resources to support students studying its productions to GCSE, A Level and BTECH, including a study pack, script and DVD recording. We mail directly to schools and colleges, helping you reach this audience. You'll find copies of previous study packs on our website. The Study Pack for **Fish Eye** and DVD recording will be available from mid-November at the point that you will be marketing to schools.







# Press Quotes

## Falling

*"Falling deals fearlessly with the darkness of real people's lives*

THE REVIEWS HUB ★★★★★

*"Its haunting resonance stems from remarkable performances by two actors perfectly in tune."*

THE HERALD

## Hammer & Tongs

By Daniel Jamieson

*"This highly physical show is intelligently devised as the actors engage, entertain and intrigue..."*

THE STAGE

*"Theatre Alibi has established a firm reputation for its inventive and vivid stage productions and **Hammer & Tongs** is no exception"*

BRISTOL EVENING POST

# Goucher's War

By Daniel Jamieson

*"An impressive parachuting of the audience into quickly assembled worlds and characters you care about instantly, buffeted by questions that are delicately, tenderly explored. The themes in the show are hefty. But as always with this company the telling is an inventive delight"*

THE GUARDIAN ★★★★★

*"A tale that is by turns comic, thought-provoking and deeply poignant. With sterling performances throughout this fast-paced story captivates its audiences"*

THE STAGE



GOUCHER'S WAR



# Curiosity Shop

By Daniel Jamieson.

A contemporary adaptation of Dickens's novel

*"Theatre Alibi's **Curiosity Shop** is beguiling. Dickens's ghost nodded approval"*

THE TIMES

*"**Curiosity Shop** looks and sounds fabulous and is full of imaginative takes on familiar characters"*

THE STAGE

*"This modern day adaptation blending photography, music, film and Theatre Alibi's signature immersive performance style is an utter triumph"*

EXETER DAILY

*"An enjoyable, emotional rollercoaster"*

THE PUBLIC REVIEWS ★★★★★

*"A hugely enjoyable production"*

NEWBURY WEEKLY NEWS

*"A talented cast combine with Daniel Jamieson's moving adaptation of The Old Curiosity Shop to create a truly memorable production"*

DIG YORKSHIRE







HAMMER & TONGS



COBBO

## Cobbo

By Daniel Jamieson

*“The tale moves charismatically between dream worlds, human environments and watery realms to craft a very modern love story that casts a considerable spell”*

THE GUARDIAN ★★★★★

*“Theatre Alibi creates a tale so unusual and surreal that it holds audiences spellbound. Funny, tender and touching. Simply unforgettable...”*

THE STAGE





## Caught

By Daniel Jamieson

*“Theatre Alibi do it again and it just gets better. In a sparkling light mix of their signature comedy and farce blended over a dark skeleton of cruel secrets and hypocrisy, Theatre Alibi have created a fabulous play and a true testament to the light and dark that inspired Caravaggio”*

THE BIG ISSUE

*“Live music swells and ebbs over dialogue, giving a filmic feel to a piece that sketches its characters with great tenderness and pathos. This is wonderful stuff”*

BRISTOL EVENING POST

*“If Simon Schama hasn’t got there first, **Caught** will make you want to scrutinise every painting Caravaggio ever made, and wonder”*

VENUE ★★★★★

*“Totally enthralling”* PLYMOUTH EVENING HERALD



# The Crowstarver

By Dick King-Smith. Adapted by Daniel Jamieson

*“Heart-gladdening theatre... hugely moving... the immersive, inventive storytelling that Theatre Alibi does so well. The impact of this story is ingeniously matched by a sensual richness in the design and style of the production”*

THE GUARDIAN ★★★★★

*“Intelligent and moving theatre that doesn’t shy away from asking big questions.”*

THE STAGE

*“An uplifting and life-affirming production. No-one should miss the opportunity to see this remarkable production, which offers bravura performances”*

OXFORD TIMES

*“**The Crowstarver** truly is faultless theatre – moving and highly original. Don’t miss it”*

WHATS ON STAGE ★★★★★

*“Truly touching, unsentimental and inventive theatre that should be seen by everyone who loves theatre, and will convert those who think the form has little to offer today. A wondrous stage piece combining superb acting, brilliant puppets and live music that underscores and defines the action perfectly”*

REVIEWSGATE

*“Rich storytelling, beautifully drawn characters and a trademark quirkiness all add up to a piece of theatre to savour”*

EXPRESS & ECHO

*“An extraordinary and heart-warming story”*

WESTERN MORNING NEWS



# Touring Spring 2017

## **Audience**

Adults 14+

## **Running time**

60 minutes, no interval (tbc)

## **Performance space**

End on

6.5m width x 6.5m depth x 5m height to grid.

If your space is smaller, or has no grid, please let us know – we may be able to accommodate your venue

## **On Tour**

3

1 Actor, 1 Musician, 1 Technical Stage Manager

## **Get-in**

Pre-rig before the 4 hour get-in. 1 venue technician required

## **Get-out**

1 hour (tbc)

**To book or for more details contact:**

**Ruth Weyman [ruth@theatrealibi.co.uk](mailto:ruth@theatrealibi.co.uk) ☎ 01392 217315**

**[www.theatrealibi.co.uk](http://www.theatrealibi.co.uk)**



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