

NICK FIELD presents



Work Play

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An epic journey through hilarious encounters with workplace politics

TOUR INFORMATION PACK

Theatre maker Nick Field leads us into the battlefields of work, played out through power struggles over stationery and wars sparked by cupcakes, in this inventive, provocative and hilarious new show. Available for touring from October 2016.

ABOUT THE SHOW

Work Play, explores the games we play at work, and why we play them. It makes the tiniest office incidents into the biggest things in the world, it makes desks into epic battlegrounds and stationary cupboards into coveted treasure chambers. It asks why we so willingly become embroiled in minuscule intrigues blown up to medieval court proportions in the workplace, when all we really need to do is get paid. It pitches the personal implications of this against a political context in which the increasing loss of workplace stability and rights crank up the imperative.

Work Play uses sharp observations from first hand experience of working in an eccentric, hilariously dysfunctional and archaic institution fighting a losing battle to survive in a hostile and shifting landscape. It locks us in a world where the paper type of A4 envelopes becomes explosively controversial, where malicious, Chinese-whisper gossip lubricates the engine and a gifted box of cupcakes between colleagues is treated as an act of war. Multimedia and interactive, this show leads the audience through surreal encounters with workplace politics, plays with ideas of scale both physical and conceptual, and draws them into games that mirror, subvert and parody those we've all played at work. **Work Play** features searing, soaring storytelling, sharp-eyed comedy performance, live music and participatory games that sit somewhere on a sliding scale between Guess Who? and Gladiator.

Watch the venue information [video](#)

Find out how cupcakes become [war](#)

Directed by Rebecca Atkinson-Lord

Movement Direction by Imogen Knight

Developed in collaboration with Rachel Mars

Commissioned by Harlow Playhouse, developed with support from House Theatre, Ovalhouse, The Garage & Apples and Snakes with funding from Arts Council England

ABOUT NICK FIELD

Nick Field is a theatre maker and writer, He fuses theatre with contemporary performance to create evocative, bittersweet and richly lyrical experiences. Warm and funny, but sharply incisive, he has taken his work to major events, venues and festivals internationally including Soho Theatre, The Royal Festival Hall, Latitude Festival and Kulturhusett, Stockholm. Nick's previous solo shows *The Cosmos*, *The Cosmetics* and *Adventure/Misadventure* have toured internationally. In 2015 he performed two shows as part of the Forest Fringe programme at Latitude and Edinburgh Festivals. He was Associate Artist at Ovalhouse in 2013 and Artist in Residence at London Metropolitan Archives in 2015.

www.nickfieldpoetic.co.uk

QUOTES FROM PROGRAMMERS

'Work Play is a bittersweet evocation of the petty discomforts of working life. Its sharp wit punctures the pomposity of office politics and leaves space to contemplate what life could be like if we weren't quite so crushed by the daily grind. Nick Field charms his audience with post it note confessions and razorblade cupcakes and rules the stationery cupboard with an iron fist.'

Rebecca Atkinson-Lord

"Nick Field was chosen ahead of hundreds of applicants to participate in the 2nd edition Stockholm Fringe Fest (Stoff 2011). Nicks production "The Cosmos, The Cosmetics" was popular with the local press and drew a sell -out crowd. Our programming team finds Nicks work engaging and entertaining. We believe that Nick is a great representative for the UK performance art scene."

Adam Potrykus, Stockholm Fringe Fest

Ace eve in the company Nick Field at the theatre. Adventure/Misadventure is hilarious but also so evocative of my freedom 'moments'.

Ira Brand, Forest Fringe

QUOTES FROM PRESS

"A gift and a welcome exchange"

Lyn Gardner on Be My Friend

“Nothing in this show is linear or ordinary, but all of it is exquisite...throughout the hour of this one-man show, Field creates theatre that is unique, unexpected, and absolutely engrossing...this show is a thoughtful, well observed, and ethereal marvel”

What's Peen Seen on Adventure/Misadventure

“A beautifully unfolding tale of travel and wanderlust...Told through precise and lucid prose, ritualised movement, singing and harp playing. The world tour is a whistlestop one, our heart racing with Field's pace”

Broadway Baby on Adventure/Misadventure

‘There is something wonderful about this show and it's hard not to be moved...as a writer and a creative talent, Nick Field has a gift’

One Stop Arts on Adventure/Misadventure

"Nick Field utilises beautiful language and an endearing stage presence to tell a story that is personal, honest and heartfelt"

Guardian blog review of The Cosmos, The Cosmetics

WORKSHOPS

Nick is an experienced workshop facilitator and teacher in creative writing, poetry, performance making and theatre. As a workshop facilitator he has worked with organisations including The Southbank Centre, The Poetry School, Apples and Snakes, Spread The Word, Ideas Tap, Keats House, London Metropolitan Archives and New Writing South. He has taught performance making at Queen Mary, University of London, and is a tutor in Creative Writing and Literature at City Lit. He has also toured a masterclass in solo show making for Apples and Snakes. Topics of Workshops and courses have included autobiographical writing and performance making, approaches to creative writing, approaching and completing creative projects and adapting text for performance. Nick also provides mentoring support and development advice for emerging practitioners. Work Play has been developed in conjunction with a series of workshops focussing on creative techniques for workplaces, facilitated by Nick at businesses and organisations local to partner venues. Workshops are available to be booked alongside tour dates.

Thank you very much for your engaging and creative workshop on project development. My team thoroughly enjoyed it and got a lot out of the short session, which was expertly planned and facilitated. A number of techniques and approaches were introduced which were challenging but enjoyable and inspiring, and have brought new energy and creativity to our work.

Lucy Crompton-Reid, Chief Executive, Wikimedia UK

VENUE INFORMATION

Running Time: 60 minutes, no interval

No. of Performers: 1

No. of Crew: 1 plus venue technician required to operate

Guidance: 12+

Technical Information:

- Set includes 1 desk, 1 chair and a stationary cupboard. Props are stationery items, a large artificial cupcake that turns into a mace and a crown made of stationery
- Minimum stage space is 7m x 6m, but the performance can be flexible
- Handheld mic, a smoke machine and sound playback required. Further information can be provided on request.



CONTACT

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