

**MANIC
CHORD**

**Manic Chord Theatre
in association with LittleMighty
presents**

THE ECONOMY OF ECOLOGY

TOURPACK

WHAT'S THE SHOW ABOUT?

An urgent and provocative story about human relationships, communications and our impact on the natural world.

Scientist Steve is on a long haul flight. His partner has just left him. Travelling home on a crowded aeroplane across the Atlantic, he feels suddenly dislocated and alone. In a world of touch screens and social robots, he has lost the ability to make meaningful bonds with other people.

He makes a decision that will eventually force him to face his own inability to make a connection. He decides to talk to the nervous passenger sitting next to him.

In a forest thousands of miles away a sapling pokes its head through the leafy forest floor. Beneath the soil its roots begin to scramble for the one thing that guarantees its survival - a connection.

Blending stunning visuals and urgent storytelling, *Economy of Ecology* uncovers the power of human touch and the unexpected links between all things: from a man on an aeroplane who is scared of flying, to the underground fungal networks of Oregon's Blue Mountains.

The Economy of Ecology has been created with support from and in association with Enable US at University of Sheffield where Manic Chord Theatre are a resident company. Supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England. Originally presented in association with the West Yorkshire Playhouse.



WHAT'S IT LIKE FOR THE AUDIENCE?




The Economy of Ecology sits at the crossroads between highly visual, beautiful storytelling and performance lecture, full of colour, poetry and a little bit of actual science. It explores the role of touch in our lives. It asks us to join the central characters as they make their

flight across the Atlantic, interspersed with tree scientist Steve offering evolving insights into his field of expertise.

The show ends with an invitation to hold the hand of the person next to us in the audience, allowing us to finally make a genuine connection.

IS THERE A TRAILER?

We made the following videos during the making of the show – they help to give a feel for the show:

-  vimeo.com/260224716
-  vimeo.com/255421757
-  vimeo.com/256753133

WHO ARE MANIC CHORD THEATRE?

“Manic Chord are one of the most exciting and talented emerging companies currently making work.”


JAMES BRINING
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, WEST YORKSHIRE PLAYHOUSE

Manic Chord was formed in 2013 by Leeds University graduates Alex Monk, David Cartwright and Sam Berrill. Our unique ensemble practice blends strong visuals with lyrical storytelling, playful humour and a keen engagement with our social and political surroundings. To date we have produced three shows. *After What Comes Before* premiered at the Incoming Festival, before a stint at the Edinburgh Fringe and a short national tour.


This was followed by *Don't Let Go*. Giving the show five stars, EDFRINGE REVIEW said “every aspect is brilliant.” This success resulted in a commission from West Yorkshire Playhouse for *Treading Water*, which explored issues of gender discrimination in sport.

Most recently, we embarked on an ACE-supported development period for new piece *This is Yesterday*, a remarkable cross-platform theatre and digital project drawing on the experiences of people with dementia, supported by Arts Depot, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Square Chapel, Halifax and Slung Low.

 @ManicChord

 /ManicChordTheatre

www.manicchordtheatre.co.uk



“A rollercoaster of devised mayhem that gets the laughs all the way.”

THE STAGE

WHO ELSE IS INVOLVED?



LAURA PRICE

Designer

Laura is an artist and performance designer whose work operates as a bridge between art and theatre. Using a mixture of materials and technologies Laura creates visual landscapes echoing the sweet quirks in life. Laura has previously collaborated with Manic Chord on numerous occasions and has recently been Assistant Design to multiple David Shearing projects and designed for Dark Horse Theatre. She is currently studying an MFA in Scenography at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.
www.lauraannprice.co.uk

STUART MELLOR

Sound Designer

Stuart will continue the development of an original soundscape for the show. Stuart, an Associate Artist of the company, has collaborated with Manic Chord on all previous projects. He creates in creating atmosphere-led electronic music, providing immediate responses to the physical action or through using sound as a stimulus for the show's development. Stuart specialises in aural acoustics and composition and is undertaking a PhD at the University of Leeds.
www.stuart-mellor.uk

ALASTAIR MICHAEL

Dramaturg

Co-Founder and leader performer of Ransack Theatre Alastair is an experienced performer and facilitator. Alastair has recently performed in Ransack's sell out, award winning run of *MOTH* at the Hope Mill before starting work on a new collaboration with the Royal Exchange. Alastair is also part of the Producers development programme at the Liverpool Everyman Theatre.
www.ransacktheatre.co.uk

ALI PIDSLEY

Associate Director

A Director and Theatre maker based in Leeds. Co-Founder of Barrel Organ (*Some People Talk About Violence*) and has recently been Assistant Director for the National Theatre Tour of *Hedder Gabler*. Other credits include *A Girl In a School Uniform Walks Into a Bar* for West Yorkshire Playhouse.

www.barrelorgantheatre.co.uk

LAME STUDIO

Documentation/Outreach Resources

Lame is a creative studio celebrating visual simplicity in contemporary culture. They have a strong online following and release a quarterly artists journal. They are directors of 49 Darley Street, an artist-led learning studio, art space and cafe in Bradford. They have recently collaborated on Manic Chord's *This is Yesterday*, an online, visual storytelling experience for which they are the Art Directors.

www.lamestudio.org

DACHER KELTNER

Scientific Advisor

Dacher Keltner is the founding director of the Greater Good Science Centre and a professor of psychology at the University of California, Berkeley.

www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dacher_Keltner

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“Touch is the language of human social connection, but never before explored deeply in the theatre. The Economy of Ecology is sure to inspire important social change.”

DACHER KELTNER ON THE ECONOMY OF ECOLOGY

WHO IS THE SHOW FOR?

The Economy of Ecology is an immersive, highly visual two hander that offers an unusual, thought-provoking night out with a broad appeal.



TARGET AUDIENCES

- People interested in the impact of technology on human interaction, including local computing groups, mindfulness groups and forums.
- Fans of popular science books and documentaries.
- Students at all levels studying biology and dendrology (the science of trees), attracted by an unusual creative expression of their field of study.
- Fans of accessible, thought-provoking contemporary theatre and performance.
- Visual arts audiences, attracted by Manic Chord Theatre's unique visual style.

SELLING POINTS

- The show is based on cutting edge scientific research informed by world renowned experts, exploring fascinating new ideas and concepts.
- High quality inter-disciplinary performance from a critically acclaimed company.
- A highly visual, immersive experience.

WHAT ABOUT WORKSHOPS & TAKING PART?

Participation fuels all our professional productions – so if you have an idea about how you would like to work with the project, please drop us a line. We offer workshops with young people and emerging artists on topics and devising processes related to the show.

Generate, our groundbreaking participation programme, recently delivered 5 projects throughout Yorkshire to over 3000 young people over an 18 month period.



HOW CAN I BOOK THE SHOW FOR MY VENUE?

Manic Chord Theatre is produced by LittleMighty, who work with remarkable artists to make brilliant theatre happen.

Recent work includes **Testament's** *WOKE*, co-produced with West Yorkshire Playhouse ("An entertaining fusion of hip hop, rap and beatboxing that thrusts the Blake mythology into the 21st Century" – *The Stage*). Other successes include **Silent Uproar's** multi-award winning *A Super Happy Story (About Feeling Super Sad)* ("A mix of with and low-key emotion that suddenly grips your heart" – Lyn Gardner, the *Guardian*; Fringe First Award; KSF Artist of Choice Award; Best Musical Award at Edinburgh Fringe); and **Unfolding Theatre's** *Putting the Band Back Together* (Performance of the Year, Journal Culture Awards).

If you are interested in bringing *The Economy of Ecology* to your venue please get in touch with Dick Bonham to discuss dates and a financial package:

✉ dick@littlemighty.co.uk
☎ 07956 573 679
www.littlemighty.co.uk



WHAT ABOUT THE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION?

COMPANY

2 performers, with 4 on the road.

MINIMUM PLAYING SPACE

5m x 5m.

GET-IN

Minimum 5 hours.

GET-OUT

1.5 hours following curtain.

RUNNING TIME

60 minutes.

SET

Backdrop blinds measuring 2.5m high, behind which are concealed a number of cardboard boxes which are revealed during the show. Two aeroplane-style seats on wheels. Water fountain. Laminate flooring. DMX-controlled digital LED tube and exit sign.

SOUND

PA suitable for venue. Sound run from company laptop.

PROJECTION

Projector provided by company, run from company laptop. Visuals are projected onto the backdrop blinds.

LIGHTING

Full design available on request. Pre-rig if available.

A full tech spec will be made available in advance of the tour.

MANIC
CHORD

EST 2011
LITTMIGHTY
- MAKING THEATRE HAPPEN -

ENABLE US
PROJECT



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

ht
HARROGATE
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Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND