

HAPPY IDIOT  
PRESENTS

# NOT LADY CHATTERLEY'S LOVER

by  
**LAWRENCE  
RUSSELL**

Directed by  
**BEN SIMPSON**  
Original Music by  
**SAVAGE AND SPIES**

★★★★★  
'LITERALLY A LAUGH  
A MINUTE'  
The Independent on Sunday

★★★★★  
'SUBVERSIVE,  
INVENTIVE  
AND WITTY AS IT  
IS RUDE'  
Buckingham Daily Times

★★★★★  
'ONE OF THE FUNNIEST  
TAKES ON A CLASSIC  
AT THE FRINGE'  
The Fringe

★★★★★  
'THE PACE IS  
WATERTIGHT AND  
THE COMIC TIMING  
IS PERFECT'  
The Fringe Review



## Autumn 2018 Tour Pack

*A darkly comic, Mel Brooks – style parody of the D.H. Lawrence novel.*

# Not: Lady Chatterley's Lover Overview



**Written by:** Lawrence Russell

**Director:** Ben Simpson

**Music:** Savage and Spies

**Set Design:** Erin Green

**Age Guidance:** 16+

**Running time:** 90mins + 15min interval

**Cast:** 4 **Crew:** 1

**Get-In time required:** 4 hours (negotiable)

**Trailer and videos:**

[www.youtube.com/happyidiotproductions](http://www.youtube.com/happyidiotproductions)

**Company website:**

[www.happyidiot.co.uk](http://www.happyidiot.co.uk)



**Plot:** Following the story line of Lady Chatterley's Lover, but with some twists along the way; there will be long contemplative looks into the middle distance, moments of touching drama, plenty of farce and a gentle stroke of innuendo.

**Press:**

"Leave you wiping the tears of laughter from your face." ★★★★★ Fairy Powered Productions

"One of the funniest takes on a classic at the fringe this year." ★★★★★ Fringe Guru

"A hilarious watch, constantly charming and remains true to the spirit of D.H.

Lawrence's work" ★★★★★ Ed Fringe Reviews

**Developed with:** Stephen Harper (Told by An Idiot), Annie Sertich (Groundlings), Helen Baggett (Gecko)

**Tour Venues Booked To Date:**

Red Rose Chain (Ipswich), Swindon Arts Centre (Swindon), Courtyard Theatre (Hereford), Rhodes Arts (Bishops Stortford), Haverhill Arts Centre (Dorchester Corn Exchange) Cheltenham Everyman (Gloucester) Lighthouse Theatre (Poole), Marine Theatre (Lyme Regis), Guildhall Theatre (Grantham), Waterside (Sale), The Mill Studio at The Yvonne-Arnaud Theatre (Guildford).

**To entertain and inspire through characters  
that move freely between comedy and tragedy.**



## Happy Idiot Productions Ltd.

We are a Shoreham-by-Sea based company creating theatre that makes people laugh and then makes them think...but hopefully not about why they were laughing. We work collaboratively through improvisation to devise text and create characters that freely move between comedy and tragedy.

Our current 'Not: A Classic' series sees us create subversive, comedic parodies of Classic Literature. Whether the comedy comes from farce, slapstick, word play, or honest delivery, we provide an entertaining night out whilst staying (sort of) true to the original text.

### Contact Details

For all booking, marketing and press related for Not: Lady Chatterley's Lover please contact **Emma Murton** (General Manager) on [emmavmurton@gmail.com](mailto:emmavmurton@gmail.com) or 07502264354.

## About the show

Following the story line of Lady Chatterley's Lover, but with some twists along the way; there will be long contemplative looks into the middle distance, moments of touching drama, plenty of farce and a gentle stroke of innuendo.

Lord Clifford Chatterley comes home to his wife, Constance (Lady Chatterley) from a war that has left the world in tatters including his legs. Despite Clifford's impotence, a subject that everyone struggles to avoid; it is his family duty to have an heir. However, with the added pressure of being a success in his intellectual and industrial pursuits, Clifford and Constance become distanced, leading to a passionate, sexual and curiously experimental affair between Lady Chatterley and the estate gamekeeper: Mellors.

Expect high drama, high comedy and highly raised eyebrows in what will be a fantastic show for those who know the novel as well as those who are coming to it for the first time.

# Marketing



## 40 words copy

A Mel Brooks style parody following the story line of the D.H. Lawrence novel...with a few twists. Long contemplative looks into the middle distance, moments of touching drama, plenty of farce and a gentle stroke of innuendo.

## 100 words copy

A darkly comic, Mel Brooks style parody following the story line of the D.H. Lawrence novel... with a few twists.

Lord Clifford Chatterley comes home to his wife, Constance (Lady Chatterley) from a war that has left the world in tatters. With his legs also left in tatters, Clifford returns to Wragby Hall confined to a wheelchair. As the couple grow apart Constance falls into a passionate, sexual and curiously experimental affair with estate gamekeeper: Mellors.

Long contemplative looks into the middle distance, moments of touching drama, plenty of farce and a gentle stroke of innuendo.

## One line

A saucy and subversive parody that stays true to the original novel.

## Sound Bites

- Subversive, inventive and as witty as it is rude.
- Watertight pace and perfect comic timing.
- Subtle twists to archetypal moments.

## Buzzwords

Farcical, tongue-in-cheek, saucy, dry, charming, fresh, inventive, creative, playful, irreverent.





## Selling Points (USP)

- A chance to re-live the classic novel by the famous British writer D.H Lawrence, but in a fresh and comedic way that will make you laugh out loud.
- Previous successful performances at The Edinburgh Fringe 2017.
- Different styles of comedy that has proven to entertain mum and dad, young people (16+) and grandparents, all in the same night. (See our audience feedback videos – [www.youtube.com/happyidiotproduction](http://www.youtube.com/happyidiotproduction) )
- An excellent script developed with the help of established theatre companies and actors (Told by An Idiot, Gecko, Groundlings, Laurence Pears (The Play That Goes Wrong)).

## Audience Demographic

- Comedic, slapstick audience. Those who have a love of dry British humour, in similar lines of Blackadder and 'The Play The Goes Wrong'.
- Traditional theatre going audience, 50+ / retired, who have grown up seeing several version on T.V, stage and film of the classic book.
- Classic Literature / D.H.Lawrence fans. This play parody the most recognisable title of the famous British writer.
- Millennial's 16 - 26 - We had also attracted a younger audience who enjoy self referential, parody style goes down well who are used to this type of comedy.

## Audience Feedback

For full clips of our audience feedback, go to: [www.youtube.com/happyidiotproduction](http://www.youtube.com/happyidiotproduction)

*"I absolutely loved it, literally make up running, crying, it was absolutely amazing."*

*"All the audience were just guffawing all over the place. There were so many totally unexpected moments which were really good."*

*"I thoroughly enjoyed the comedy, but the poignancy of the drama was out of this world."*

*"Best thing I've seen at the fringe, most inventive, most comedic, best show in four weeks!"*  
*"Loved it. I loved it. Never read the book and now I don't need to!"*

## Social Media

**Twitter** - @idiothappy

**Instagram** - @happyidiotuk

**Website** – [www.happyidiot.co.uk](http://www.happyidiot.co.uk)

**Youtube** – [www.youtube.com/happyidiotproduction](http://www.youtube.com/happyidiotproduction)

**Hashtags** - #NotLadyC



## Handling the sex and nudity (Spoilers!)



When we first approached this play during R&D, one of our key questions in terms of the sex and nudity was: how do we stay true to the novel while keeping the audience open to the comedy and not pulling away when it comes to the more delicate moments?

After testing various representations, we decided to stay true to the 'type' of sex at each moment, but twist it very slightly in order to make it absurd. For example in the novel the first sexual encounter between Mellors and Lady Chatterley, is slightly awkward and very functional. As a result, in our representation, all the clothes stay on, Mellors lifts Connie's skirt like a car mechanic and counts to 5 in time with his thrusts.

In terms of the nudity, as in the novel, there is a slow build to the moment when they first see each other naked, but in our version they undress hidden behind Lady Chatterley's mackintosh (the audience still unaware what will happen) and then reveal water-inflated balloons bouncing as genitalia. The actors play the balloons as real body parts, giving the sense of nudity, but allowing the audience to feel more comfortable.

***Our audiences said...  
"The nudity was just  
right – very clever and  
creative."***

(Image taken from our first show at The Avenue, Ipswich)



# How we made it



Writer and actor Lawrence Russell is associate artist at Red Rose Chain in Ipswich and thanks to their support, Happy Idiot were able to use free rehearsal space and mount an Arts Council England application for the funding of 2 weeks R&D and 4 weeks rehearsals. Following this funding, and the added support of The Pimlott Foundation plus a number of crowdfunders, Happy Idiot began developing the show,

Along the way we worked with clown and physical comedy expert Stephen Harper (Told by An Idiot), Helen Baggett from award winning physical theatre company, Gecko, and Annie Sertich – an improvisation and writing guru from The Groundlings in LA (the same company that taught, Will Ferrell, Kristin Wiig and Melissa McCarthy).

We then performed the show at Red Rose Chain (Ipswich), The Ropetackle Arts Centre (Shoreham-by-Sea) and Stockwell Playhouse (London),

Off the back of some great audience feedback we took the show to Theatre 503 (London) before heading to Sweet Venues at The Edinburgh Fringe.

In Edinburgh we gained some lovely 4 and 5 star reviews a load more excitable audience feedback and interest from a number of theatres around England. With this we thought it was about time to put together a tour!

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## Project Partners

**Red Rose Chain** – Production and Writing

**Stephen Harper (Told by An Idiot)** – Clown and Physical Comedy

**Annie Sertich (Groundlings)** – Text and characters

**Dr. Catherine Brown (Vice President, D.H. Lawrence Society)** – Script Advisor

**Nicki Miles-Wildin (Ramps To The Moon)** – Consultant

**Chloe Phillips** – Integrated Audio Description

**Erin Green** – Set Design





## Creative Team

### Lawrence Russell – Writer



Lawrence is Associate Artist at Red Rose Chain after collaborative development and performances in the title roles of Tale of Mr Tod, Richard III and The Importance of Being Earnest.

He has recently written an Only Fools and Horses Dinner Show adapted from the well-known sitcom. This is currently touring the South East of England. Lawrence also developed and co-wrote 'The Lift', winning NSDF Commendations for Acting and Writing at The Edinburgh Fringe 2011.

### Savage & Spies – Music Writers and Composers



Composer duo, Savage & Spies, most famously composed the score for the cult horror, *The Human Centipede*. Savage & Spies comprises Patrick Savage (Australian composer and former Royal Philharmonic Orchestra principal violinist) and Holog Spies (composer/producer, and member of the French electro band, Olowex).

## Technical Venue requirements

Ideally, we require wing space of 2m - 2.5m squared either side of the stage. This can be the wings of the stage itself or created by our side flats, plus black curtains. If this is possible, we are comfortable adapting the show to suit either an end on or thrust stage.

A touring, company Stage Manager will be with the production for get-in, get-out and show.

**Get-In time required:** 4 hours (negotiable)



## Contact Us

To learn more about our exciting production, and to discuss booking for Autumn 2018 please contact **Emma Murton** (General Manager) at: [emmavmurton@gmail.com](mailto:emmavmurton@gmail.com) or 07502264354.



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