



YOUNG ACTOR MUSICIANS

A pioneering opportunity for young actors and musicians to explore actor musicianship.

DumbWise Theatre develop and create high standards of actor musician work, both professionally and with actors in vocational training. We feel there is an opportunity in the UK for more actor musician work to be created with and for young people. Alongside our touring productions we run workshops where children and young people can explore the craft of actor musicianship through voice, song, rhythm and instrument - with inspiring results! Often young performers feel you have to be either actor or musician, and youth theatre work rarely combines the two. DumbWise's unique practice opens the door to this exciting aspect of theatre making. In 2016 we ran a youth theatre project for young people where actors could engage their instrumental skills on stage, and where musicians and actors could work together to explore the craft of actor musicianship in rehearsal and performance.



ACTOR MUSICIAN YOUTH THEATRE

The DumbWise Theatre team are John, David and Eilidh. We are three experienced professional theatre makers who have delivered projects in Drama schools and theatres including; The Almeida, Young Vic, The Egg Bath, Rose Bruford and Mountview Drama Schools. We are passionate about the exploration of actor musicianship and we want to see youth theatres embracing the art form it as much as the industry is doing so.

- We are looking for 3 fantastic youth theatres from across the country to collaborate with us.
- We will come and deliver a performance project with your youth theatre that explores actor musicianship
- We create theatre that is of a high standard, that pushes our expectations of what young people are capable of, and surprises it's audiences.

what is it

YAM is a performance project where musicians, actors and actor-musicians collaborate under the guidance of a highly experienced director and musical director to stage an actor musician production. Participants explore the skills of the actor musician; the musicians are composing, scoring and performing, learning how they can dramatically support an actor on stage, how their music can add to the drama of the scene and how they themselves can act through their instrument. Actors are singing and speaking text over music, learning how they can use the music and rhythm to lift their performance, both the musicians act and the actors become musical, therefore all are actor-musicians.

case study:



- In 2016 in collaboration with the Garage, Norwich, we delivered the country's first Actor Musician Academy for ages 14-21, this project was fully supported by Arts Council England.
- We worked for two weeks in the summer and staged a production of Angela Caters' *The Bloody Chamber*.

"I've really enjoyed this week. It has opened up doors for me as it has shown me a style of theatre that I'd never really experienced before, being able to play my violin and do drama at the same time!" - Amy AMA participant. "

"I have really grown in confidence and have seen a different side to theatre " - Rachel AMA participant.



project aims

- To introduce a group of young theatre makers and young musicians to actor-musicianship, to enable them to explore how we create music for live theatre and how as actors it can become a part of our performance.
- To give young actors the opportunity to explore how live-music and musicality can further deepen their understanding of emotional journey, drama and development of character.
- To give young people the opportunity to develop their skills as theatre practitioners, encouraging imagination, bold thinking and ensemble work.
- To create a performance piece that is of an extremely high standard.

who is YAM for

- **8-13 years** with this age group we focus the work on the ensemble, creating a performance that has chorus work, singing, percussion, storytelling and rhythm at its core. Where possible we would incorporate instrument work, though this would not be the projects main point of focus.
 - **14-21 years** by the age of 14 instrumental skills have reached a good level, continuing our focus on ensemble and chorus work, participants will also use their instruments (if they play) to provide live music to support songs and create underscoring.
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DUMBWISE THEATRE

WHO WE ARE

DumbWise are an actor-musician theatre company fusing live musicianship, original songwriting and dynamic storytelling in the pursuit of creating new musical works for contemporary audiences. The company has a national reputation for re-imagining classic and modern stories into groundbreaking actor-musician shows of all shapes and sizes, from fringe festivals to London runs, from music halls to regional and rural touring.

Artistic Director John Ward

John is the founder of DumbWise Theatre, he grew up playing in rock bands before training as a theatre director at Rose Bruford where his interest and love for actor musicianship began. John adapted and directed the award winning Faust @ Greenwich Theatre (National Tour), Twisted Christmas @ Liverpool Playhouse, The Matchgirls Musical @ Wilton's Music Hall and DumbWise's family adventure Nicobobinus (National Tour). John is an Associate Director for Red Ladder and teaches on the Actor Musician courses at Rose Bruford and Mountview.

Musical Director David Hewson

David is a composer/musical director and actor musician. His passion to break new ground in the development of actor musicianship has led him to working with Dumbwise Theatre company. As composer recent credits include a commission to write an original score for English National Ballet, for a new ballet at the Barbican in London. His music is greatly influenced by the likes of Radiohead, Nick Cave and Tom Waits.

Participation Producer Eilidh deBonnaire

Eilidh is a highly experienced theatre facilitator and participation producer, she has worked in this capacity with The Almeida Theatre, The Young Vic and Southwark Playhouse. She has produced and delivered worked in theatres, special needs schools, youth theatre companies, prisons, youth offending teams, classrooms and village halls. She is also an actor musician and has performed in venues across the world, from Bradford to Beijing.

Associate Producer Euan Borland

As an independent theatre producer he works with artists and organisations across a range of art forms but has a particular interest in new writing, actor musicianship and community projects. Euan currently works for the Half Moon Theatre and has previously worked with Theatre503, Fraser Cannon-Productions and Ideastap. He is also a mentor for the charity Arts Emergency.

want to get involved?

- Do you have young people who would engage in this work?
- The YAM can take place intensively during a school holiday or could be run during weekly sessions.
- We can adapt the project to suit age groups ranging from 8 - 21 years.
- The YAM is a performance based project, however DumbWise can also run skills based actor musician workshops.
- To start the conversation get in touch with our Participation Producer eilidh@dumbwise.co.uk / 07853147990

www.dumbwise.co.uk

@DumbWiseTheatre

