

SHOES TO FILL

FOREFRONT

MARKETING PACK

FORE
FRONT
THEATRE

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ABOUT FOREFRONT THEATRE COMPANY

Our Manifesto

In a world full of so many “truths”, we are here to stage those which speak to us and those which are relevant. Not just the known but the neglected and the ignored. We aim to give a voice to the subjects that are often overlooked.

Infusing music, movement and different mediums; we assess the way in which we, as a world live, we want to use our own experiences and other people’s stories to co-exist and not be defined by labels, but by our actions and lives.

We believe in the power of performance.

We want these stories to be brought to the forefront of your mind.

We want to question

To inform

To challenge

To inspire

We are **Forefront** Theatre Company!

SHOES TO FILL

A show aimed at adults and people coming of age to look at the five stages of life that present us with different shoes to fill.

Growing up, getting jobs and higher education, finding the one, becoming a parent and growing old. These are all important stages in people's lives but each individual faces these stages in very different way, we all break the mould in our own way.

Forefront Theatre Company uses verbatim and personal stories to see people's experiences of the shoes they have had to fill. With the use of original songs, movement and lots and lots of shoes we aim to challenge the superficial ideas we have about our role models, finding ourselves and filling those scary shoes society wants us to

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Theatre student audiences
- Music students
- Students in general
- Audiences that enjoy verbatim and documentary theatre, performances like *Life Vagina Monologues* and *Sleepdog's The Bullet and The Bass Trombone*
- Audiences that enjoy kitchen sink drama and naturalistic performance
- Audiences that enjoy music in theatre.
- Ideally for ages 15 and above, anyone that has had to face the ideas of their future (or their past) and what they are going to do with their lives.

SELLING POINTS

- Original songs- funny and heartfelt, the company sings live too.
- A mix of techniques- from physical theatre to spoken word poems, naturalistic real stories to dance, all working cohesively to transport audiences.

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

Title of show: shoes to fill

Name of company: Forefront theatre

Start time: 7.30pm

Running time: 50 minutes

Venue: LPAC auditorium

Audience capacity: 44

BROCHURE COPY

Have you ever been daunted by the thought of filling someone's shoes? To follow in the footsteps of your parents, your sibling or your role-model. To make them proud. You could be like them. Grow up, become an adult, get a job, have a family, get a dog and have a baby...or not. Using original songs, verbatim and our superficial ideas of aspiring to be like our role models; we will explore the shoes some people want to fill.

TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

SOPHIA BISHELL – PRODUCER/PERFORMER

At the age of seven I was taken to see my first musical with my family- The Lion King. I loved the singing, dancing, costumes and above all how the production brought to life the story! During my childhood trips to the theatre and the West End I began to develop my passion for the arts. I wanted nothing else than to be a part of the big productions and I dreamed that one day I could be on the stage.

In 2011, I was privileged to be offered a voluntary placement where I worked under the close supervision of the General theatre Manager at The Queens Theatre London. I worked in the auditorium, the box office, lighting and stage management departments. Studying drama at the University of Lincoln has enabled me to explore the departments and the industry thoroughly. I believe when you are an adult, it isn't because you are told you are an adult. But it is when you feel ready to be an independent individual, be responsible, and accepting of others in your society. You realise you are too tall to ride a donkey at the seaside and you won't fit in the swing at your old park. When you are an adult you just want to be a child again and have everything as easy as it was back then.

"Dreams do come true, if only we wish hard enough. You can have anything in life if you will sacrifice everything else for it." J.M. Barrie, Peter Pan

TAMSYN WEBLEY – DIRECTOR

In the least cheesy way possible, I like to make people smile. I have the type of personality where I am always performing in front of people, even as myself, so drama seemed a good subject for me. I have always been fascinated with bringing a character to life on stage and telling the stories of others. As I have gotten older, I have established a love for directing that has taken over my love for performing.

As a drama student I have had many opportunities to be a part of some great productions. The one role that stands out most for me is when I was assistant director for Much Ado about Nothing, in Shakespeare week, at the University of Lincoln. I was able to learn so much about directing through watching the director of the piece, whilst also gaining valuable experience by directing some of the scenes myself.

Being an adult, for me, is all about living your life. When I was a child my parents guided me from decision to decision and I was so grateful for that. However, when you are an adult, it is all about making your own decisions. It is exciting and, at times, daunting but being free to be yourself is the best feeling. Just because you are an adult it doesn't mean you have to stop being you! Live. Laugh. Love.

"The only person you are destined to become is the person you decide to be" Ralph Waldo Emerson

EMMIE KERNS – STAGE MANGER

My main passion is Musical Theatre; I live and breathe it. I guess my reason for this is not only my love of drama but also my love of dance and singing too, even if I can't sing very well! My favourite musicals would have to be 'Wicked' or 'Billy Elliot'. I'm also very interested in what happens backstage and how a piece of theatre comes together, from all things technical and beyond. Having been interested in drama for a while, and having a love for ballet, I have been fortunate enough to feature and partake in many productions. One of my favourite

performances was a play called 'Mine' by Polly Teale in which I got to explore and develop a character called Rose. I love a play which takes a real life problem and explores issues that happen around us on a daily basis. I've also had experiences with backstage roles, for example I've been on the marketing team for Much Ado about Nothing, in Shakespeare week, at Lincoln Performing Arts Centre.

Adulthood as a theme for our performance really excites me. I'm really interested in getting people's opinions on what constitutes to be an adult, whether it's the law, society, yourself or any other view that others have. I feel there are various life situations and roles which help you to grow up such as being the older sibling and university.

'Growing old is mandatory, but growing up is optional' Walt Disney

RACHARL CAULTON— DRAMATURG/PERFORMER

My love for theatre comes from a want for people to learn, to stimulate change for the better. Performing on the Olivier stage at the national theatre was one of the best acting experiences I've had, I felt I was treated as a professional and enjoyed performing for such a broad audience. I enjoy exploring new practitioners which reflects my curiosity I aim to use productively in Forefront theatres growth. I feel there's always more to learn and to know. To me adulthood is scary but involves taking responsibility, being sensible with money and prioritising work.

Oddly I have never felt less adult than I do now.

OLIVER PARKS— WRITER/PERFORMER

The first play I was ever in was a version of Mary Poppins at my primary school, where the audition consisted of the question 'Can you say supercalifragilisticexpialidocious?' As I could not, being five years old, I was cast as a penguin with no lines, my part reduced to waddling onstage and then waddling off again. Somehow, I was hooked. But my career did not peak (or should I say 'beak') there, as few spaces of time have passed since then when I haven't been involved in some sort of theatrical production, with my performance at the National Theatre to perform I'm Spilling My Heart Out Here as part of NT connections being the highlight of my experiences. More recently, I performed as Jack Frost in The Lincoln Company's Alice's Adventures in Winter Wonderland, and Prince Florizel in A Winter's Tale. After having a taste of writing my own script for the first time last term, I (along with one other) am attempting to write my first full(ish) length script. Filter Theatre, the RSC and Wes Anderson's films inspire me.

For me, growing up is having to kill the spider yourself because there is no one else there to do it. "Oh, get a job? Just get a job? Why don't I strap on my job helmet and squeeze down into a job cannon and fire off into job land, where jobs grow on little jobbies?!" Charlie Kelly, It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia

HANNAH FODEN— WRITER/PERFORMER

My love for theatre and cinema has been since infancy and I know that this will be life-long. Musical theatre, especially, is a big part of my life as I spend a great deal of time (and money that I don't have) on West End shows. Having played the piano since six years old, I cannot wait to try my hand at writing original songs to fit into our devised theatre performance. I have always loved how music can teach you, tell a story, and bring people together. I'm a big believer in story-telling.

My three years at university have given me many fantastic opportunities: my personal favourites being writing my own script, which I hope one day to take to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and playing Beatrice in Much Ado about Nothing. I don't know what the future holds but so long as writing, music and performing play a part, I will be happy.

Since I was small, it has been an intriguing question for me to think what makes someone an adult. What makes a person no longer a child? Is it simply age? Or more a question of

maturity? For me, keeping the child within alive is a perfect escape from all the troubles of being a "grown up". I believe it is good to find a happy medium: love Disney, live alone. Room

full of teddies, drive a car.

"Too many people grow up, that's the real trouble with the world" Walt Disney

HOPE TARNEY-PETERS- MARKETING PRINT/PERFORMER

My bond to drama came from my school classrooms and amazing teachers that inspired me to want to go on to become a teacher. The way drama can affect so many people, each of them having a different response and ideas about a subject is what brings it to life for me. I have had some interesting acting opportunities, like being a Dalek in a school play or 'shark gang member number 4', with no lines, in west side story! But on during my time at university I have been given opportunities like writing my own play, a chance to write things I am passionate about and it turned out to be a humorous hit. To be an adult is a big question for me. I think I am focused, intelligent and have my priorities right, but there are still elements of me that may not be considered that of an 'adult'. The fact that I like make noises to communicate how I feel sometimes, I also tend to curl up in a ball in bed if I get woken up too early in the morning and I am forever changing my hair to crazy colours. I don't think I will truly prove to myself that I'm an adult until I'm in a sustainable job, my own home and I'm not relying on my parents. .

"To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment" Ralph Waldo Emerson

OLIVER SAMUALS- MARKETING SOCIAL MEDIA/ PERFORMER

I have always enjoyed performing. But had never taken it seriously as a career until 2011, when at short notice I was drafted into a performance of *Footloose*, with a mixture of that and crashing out of A-levels I decided to take up the mantle of 'Actor'. Since then I have been in a wide variety of performances from Grundy in *The Black Hearted Villian* to Danforth in *The Crucible*. To me, acting is like a drug, when you hear the roar of the audience it sets off a euphoric feeling.

Since coming to Lincoln University, I have nurtured into the actor I wanted to be and have gained the valid experience needed to make something of myself. My proudest moments are selling out a few shows in the Lincoln Performing Arts Centre. A few of these sell-out shows have been musicals, which is another great passion of mine, increasing my vocal capacity and range has been a goal of mine for years. Being told at the age of 11 that I had damaged my vocal chords as a child and that I might lose my voice one day terrified me so I used to go days without talking, but gaining confidence in singing and learning the right technique has given me a new lease in life.

'Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're gonna get.' Forrest Gump, *Forrest Gump*.

MIA KAUR- CHOREOGRAPHER/PERFORMER

Personally I don't remember how I got into drama; there's no prolific answer of wanting to make people smile or having an irrational love of musicals. It just sort of happened. I just simply love being a part of theatre in any aspect, it's fun! No two days are ever the same and so I thought if I enjoy it, why the hell not go for a career in it?

For me, being an adult is to understand the bigger picture. We're just a slab of meat floating about on a rotating rock, so why not do what you want as long as you don't hurt anyone?

"The world. Ingredients: mostly idiots" Marc Johns

EDEN SHORTT – COSTUME/PROPS/PERFORMER

Performing to me is not only an experience for yourself but also for the people who are watching. I started performing at around four years old but it was more dance related than theatre. It wasn't until I reached about eleven that I got into acting. I stopped going to the drama classes because I moved on to singing. It wasn't until my GCSE's that I decided to go back to acting, and not going to lie, it was because my best friends took it. In year ten I got the part of Judy, in 'Too Much Punch for Judy'. On the day of performance, I cried because I was too nervous to do it and only about ten people turned up for our audience but it was the first time I'd had a main part. I have always questioned myself as to whether to carry acting on because I don't feel like the best actor. I went on to college where it was the decision to pick fashion or drama and I went for drama. This time it wasn't because my friends had picked it. I didn't know anyone at all when I turned up at Barnsley college. However it was the best decision I have ever made and that's how I carried on to Lincoln. To me, I enjoy drama because I love the process of making the actual performance, the people you meet and the friends you make through performing.

"We had been trying to be adults since we were 15. When we finally reached 18, nothing changed. It wasn't until we were lying on the bathroom floor, drunk and high in two different states, that we realised age is just a number. And reality is learning there's no such thing as been an adult. You only grow older and if you're lucky, maybe a little bit wiser." – Anon

CLARE OWEN – LIGHTING/SOUND/PERFORMER

The reason I chose to do a drama degree was to help people, which at first may sound a bit odd. But I believe in the power of theatre to create change. Theatre exists in a space which is limitless, a world without boundaries or codes. We often see a piece of theatre and distance ourselves from it but the theatre that inspires me is the type which takes what appears to be a black and white topic and shines a new light on it. Changing perspectives and shattering stereotypes.

During my time at university the modules I have enjoyed the most are the ones in which the performance has had a visible effect on an audience. The 'Theatre for Young Audiences' performances are easily my most memorable. Children are so honest and unreserved about their opinions and to receive such positive feedback was amazing (and big relief!)

This project has really inspired and excited me. Growing up and adulthood is something which is always spoken about and yet is hard to define. When does it happen and how? I don't think there is really an answer but hearing other people's perspectives on it is fascinating and exciting for sure!

"When I was a child, I spoke and I thought and I reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things" 1 Corinthians 13:11 (new living translation)

ONLINE LINKS

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