

Sam Freeman in association with the Lawrence Batley Theatre

We've Not Getting A Dog*

*A Show Mostly Not About Dogs



Hello.

Thank you for taking the time to read this pitch for *We're Not Getting A Dog (A Story Mostly Not About Dogs)*.

In 2021/22 I toured a storytelling show, *Every Little Hope You Ever Dreamed (But Didn't Want To Mention)*, to 11 venues around the UK. Even though it was in the wake of the pandemic and ticket sales were tricky, it was fun and audiences seemed to really enjoy the show (which was, largely, a rom-com for the lonely hearted).

In 2023 I followed it up with *Every Time I Close My Eyes (All I See Is You)* which toured to 7 venues, and audiences were slightly easier to get in, and, it received better feedback (and audiences) than the first show (despite being, broadly, about loneliness and an elderly man trapped in the window of a care home, set during covid).

With similarities to the work of Daniel Bye, Sion Dale-Jones, Inua Ellams and to a lesser extent Daniel Kitson, my shows are, I hope, really accessible (both shows worked really well for blind and partially sighted audiences), intimate feeling, feel light (despite the themes and content) and, at points funny.

This new show was written in 2024 and I've developed it over the last 4 months to get to a point where it's tourable and is, good. The show premiered for a work-in-progress performance at Huddersfield's Lawrence Batley Theatre (The LBT) after a 3 day residence. This show has been produced in association with The LBT and without their support it would not be touring now.

I wanted to set this context as it'll explain a few things you'll read later on surrounding the deal and my motivation for wanting to sell this in a very specific way.

I hope this interests you.



The Story.

This is a story about making a house a home.

It's about moving to a new neighbourhood and slowly finding a community. It's about letting go of the past, dealing with grief, and making new memories. Finally, it's about a writer struggling to write a show.

The show has four strands that start disconnected and then, over 70 minutes, weave together to tell the story.

The core is about moving into a new house - discovering everything right (and wrong) with the house you now own, meeting the neighbours, making friends and the slow path to acceptance. The core story focuses on three sets of neighbours including an elderly woman (who is the anchor to the rest of the show).

The supporting stories are:

- Photographs that are narrated that give snapshots of a woman's life - from a new home to leaving 60 years later.

- A singular memory of a couple going to see their first home for the first time in the mid 1960s.
- A man sat at his desk writing a new show called "*We're Not Getting A Dog*" but finding himself unable to start.

Why now?

It's about growing old and dealing with grief and loss.

It's about self-doubt.

It's about inter-generational friendship.

It's about seeing the beauty in the little things in life.





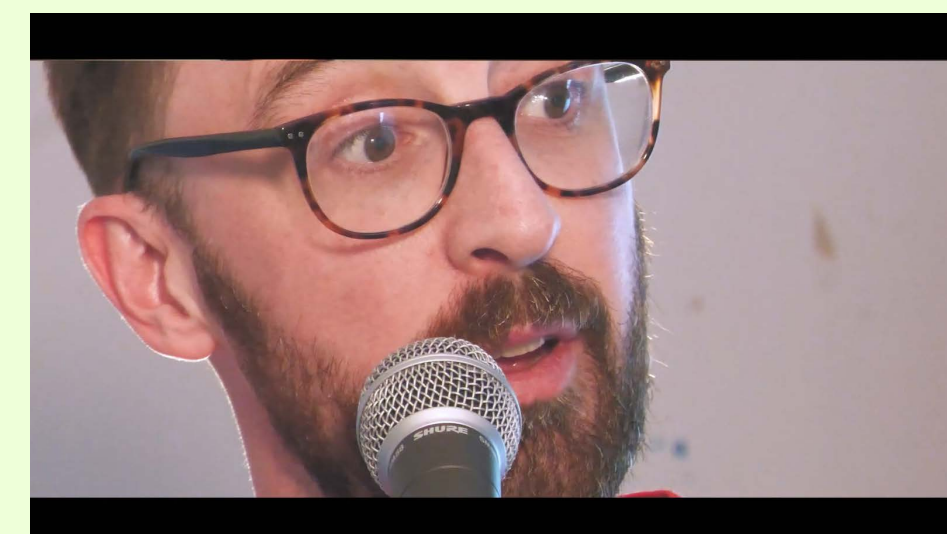
Watch Clips Of My Work

I do not have a full recording of this show (my recording at The LBT corrupted) - however I do have a clip of the opening of the show*.

Clips of my previous work are also available to watch so that you can get a flavour of the style of the show (they're not massively dissimilar).

The script is available to read (and these two shows are also available if one storytelling show from me isn't enough in a season).

*recorded in a quite grim, soulless rehearsal room without any lighting kit, an audience or any ambience at all (the other films are more representative). I've also managed to inexplicably cut off the top of my head in the clip too.



We're Not Getting A Dog*

*A Show Mostly Not About Dogs

Rehearsal Room Clip (see caveat*)



Every Little Hope You Ever Dreamed

(But Didn't Want To Mention)

Filmed at Theatr Clwyd in 2021.



Every Time I Close My Eyes

(All I See Is You)

Filmed at Theatr Clwyd in 2023.



About Me.



My name is Sam Freeman, I'm a theatre maker, based outside Chester. I wrote, directed, designed and perform *We're Not Getting A Dog*.

Born in Leeds, I grew up on the Yorkshire coast in the seaside town of Scarborough. A theatre-obsessive, my first job was at the Stephen Joseph Theatre before I moved to York for University.

I attended York St John College and HKU in Utrecht, Holland before working for York Theatre Royal. I worked in a variety of roles before running TakeOver Festival 2009 as co-Artistic Director. Roles at Liverpool's Unity Theatre and North Wales' Theatr Clwyd followed with administrative positions augmented with writing and directing.

My three produced plays are *Three Cheers For HRH*, *Revenge* and *Floating*. *Floating* was funded by Arts Council England and premiered at Unity Theatre before touring nationally.

My last directorial project was Chris Chibnall's footballing comedy *Gaffer* at Unity Theatre.

In 2012, following long-standing comedy programming experience, I took tentative steps on stage doing stand up comedy and long-form improvisation. It was while performing stand up that I started developing my storytelling voice.

I've created five full-length storytelling/projection led shows: *A Little Bit*, *Truth and the Unintentional Consequences Of Putting Up Signs*, *Every Little Hope You Ever Dreamed (But Didn't Want To Mention)*, *Every Time I Close My Eyes (All I See Is You)*, and *We're Not Getting A Dog*.

Every Little Hope toured in 2021 and 2022 to 11 venues across England and Wales.

Every Time I Close My Eyes toured in 2023 to 7 venues across England and Wales.

We're Not Getting A Dog debuted at Huddersfield's Lawrence Batley Theatre in April 2025.





What Audiences Say.

Loved your story telling this evening, so clever, so moving and so true... Bravo from the couple on the second row. Good Luck with the rest of your tour 😊👍👍

Thank you for your York performance. Brilliant.

Sioe gwyb neithiwr. Os da chi'n cael cyfle i weld Sam ar ei daith byddwch ddim yn cael eich siomi!

Excellent show last night. If you get a chance to see Sam on tour you won't be disappointed.

Sam we loved this performance, so clever, so touching and so true. We highly recommend going to see this show...reminded us of Dave Gorman 😊👍👍

This was utterly lovely, funny, heartwarming and gorgeous. Still plenty of dates on the tour to catch @MrFreeman1984 do his thing...get your tickets booked 🌟🌟🌟

Replying to @MrFreeman1984
I saw your show last night & thought it was incredible, thank you for doing it.

Jul 2
@MrFreeman1984 you absolute beauty. Loved, loved, loved - your heart moving and extremely funny performance tonight @41monkgate it was a stellar piece of work 🌟 well done mate! & top nosh seeing you + always keep waving 🌟 with a Yorkshire tea 🍵 in ya hand! 🌟🌟🌟 big Hugs X

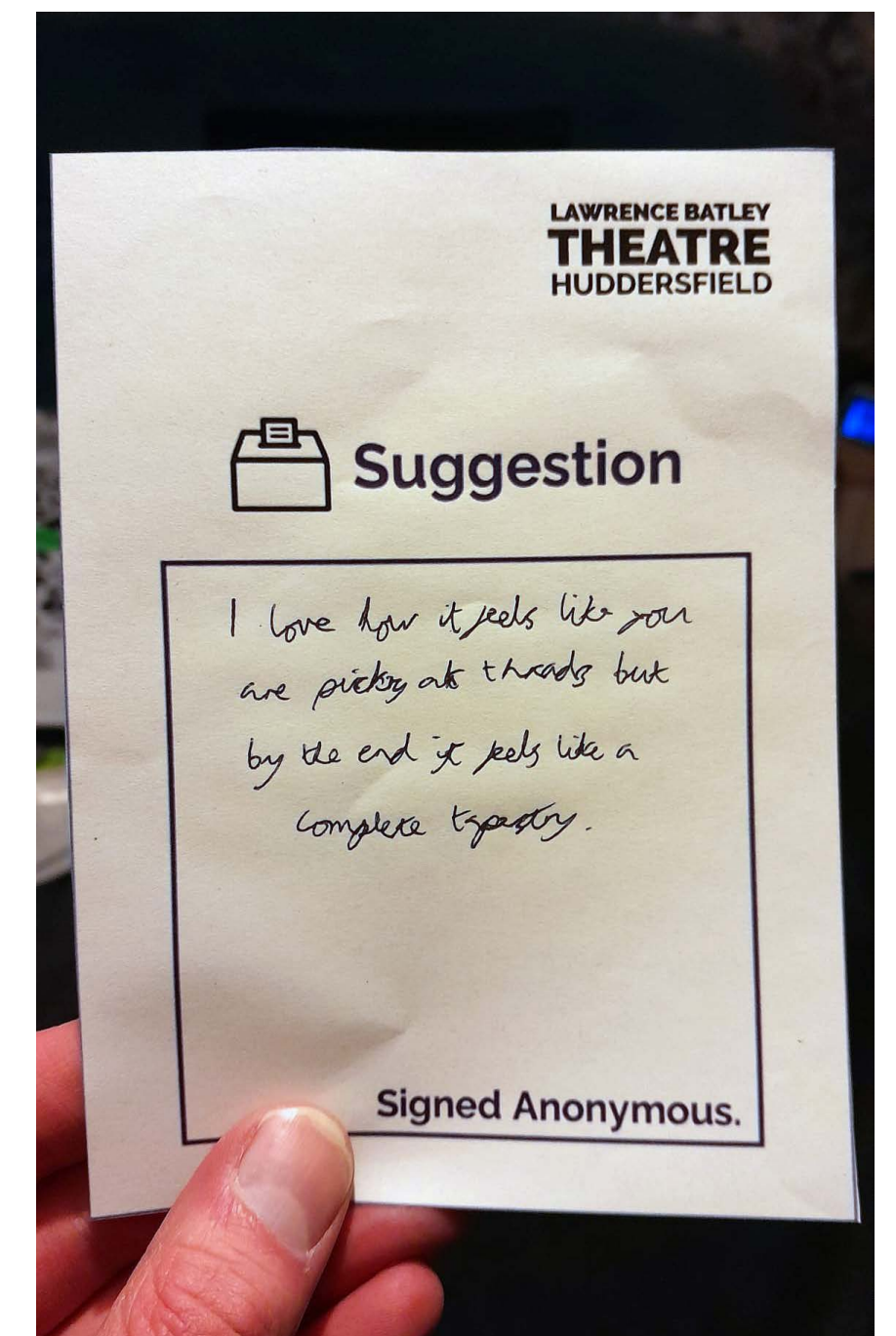
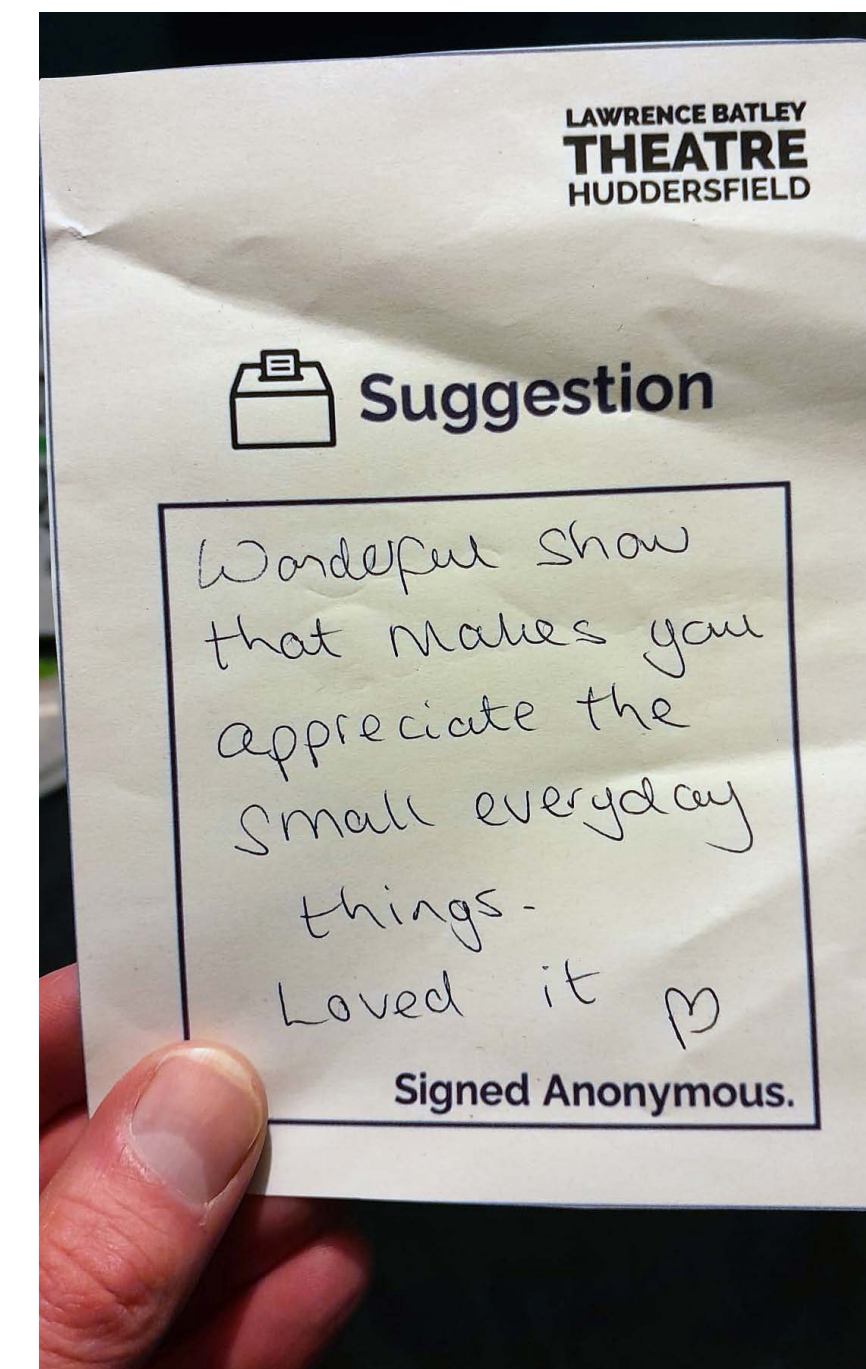
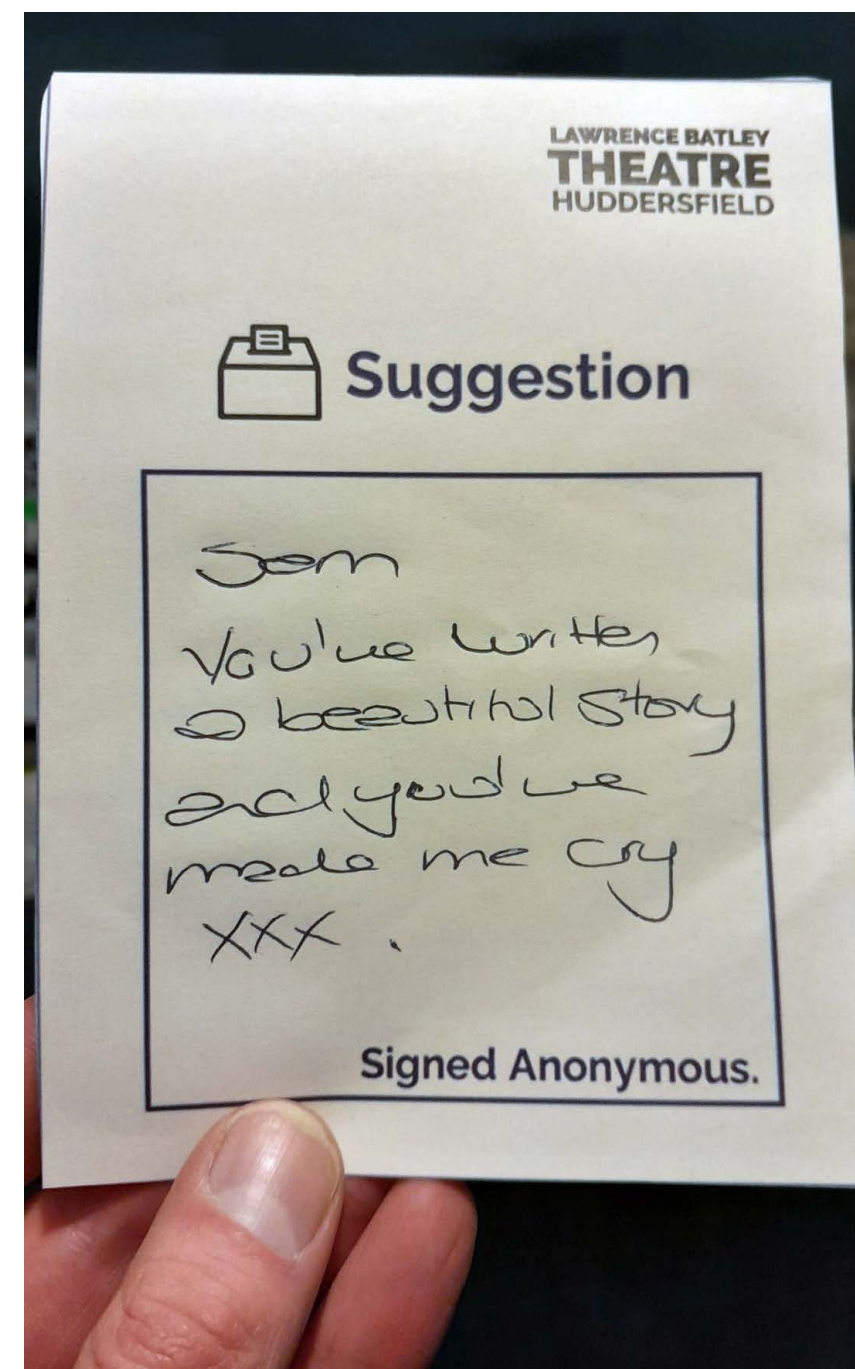
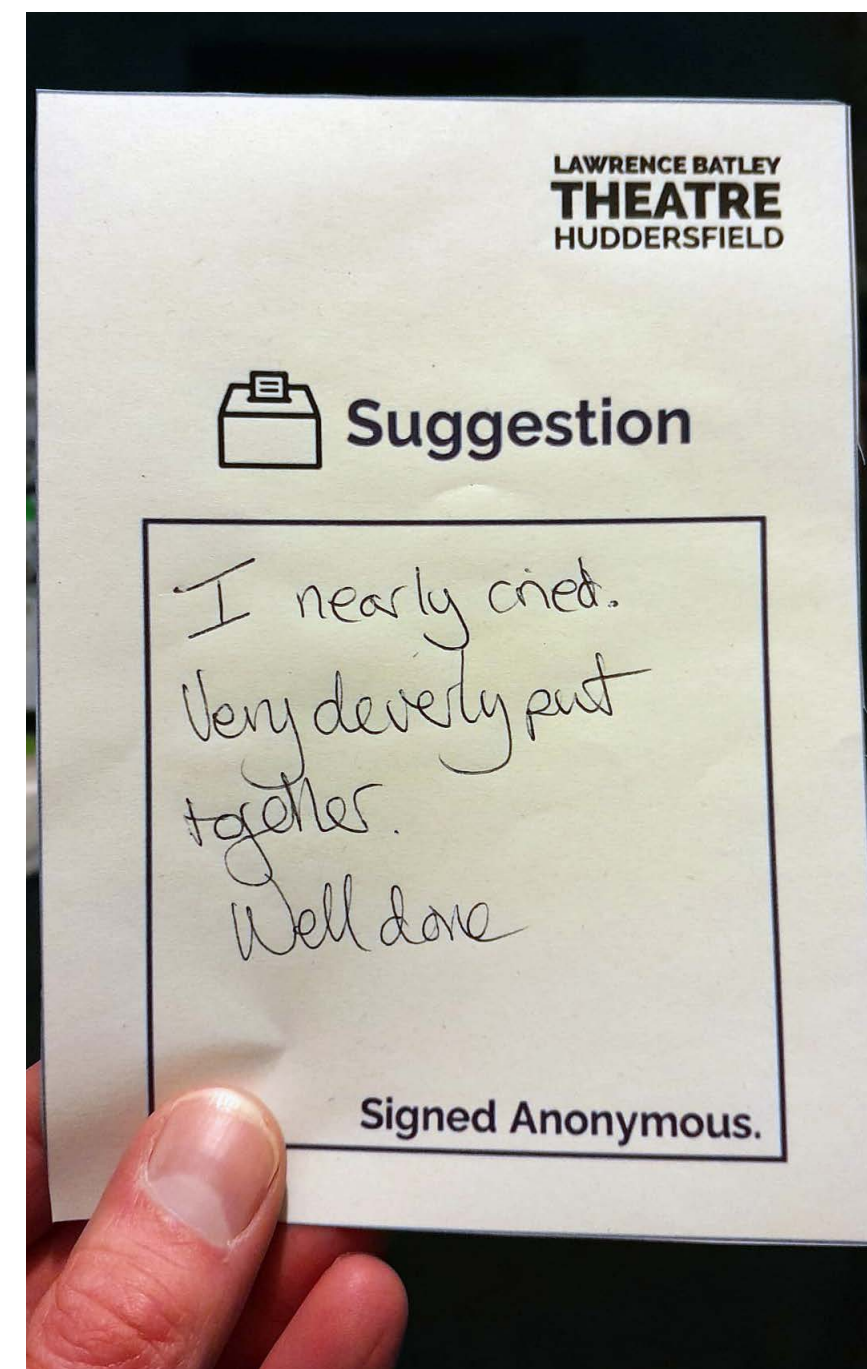
Jul 2
Nothing but admiration for @MrFreeman1984 and his latest show. You know it's good when you get to the words "The End" and think "but it's only just started!". I'll be thinking about that one for a long time. 🌟🌟🌟

Jul 1
Replying to @MrFreeman1984
Saw the show in Preston last night @derelictlive Loved It! The writing, the delivery...such a great piece of storytelling!

Jul 2
As someone who has a billion tabs open in my brain at all times, I find it hard to fully engage at times, I however found myself fully engrossed in @MrFreeman1984's storytelling this evening. Really did highlight that stopping still can give you the motivation to step forward 🌟

Feedback from previous shows

What Else Do Audiences Say?



Feedback from the work-in-progress in April 2025 in Huddersfield



Where Have I Performed?

- . **Shakespeare North Playhouse**, Prescott
- . **Unity Theatre**, Liverpool
- . **Derelict Live**, Preston
- . **Everyman**, Liverpool
- . **Arena Theatre**, Wolverhampton
- . **Lawrence Batley Theatre**, Huddersfield
- . **Theatr Clwyd**, Mold
- . **Theatr Dwyfor**, Pwllheli
- . **Aberwystwyth Arts Centre**
- . **Theatre At Number 41**, York
- . **York Theatre Royal**
- . **Square Chapel Theatre**, Halifax
- . **Chapter Arts Centre**, Cardiff
- . **81 Renshaw Street**, Liverpool
- . **Old Courts**, Wigan
- . **Dukes Theatre**, Lancaster
- . **Theatre Deli**, Sheffield
- . **Coldbath Brewery**, Harrogate (for Harrogate Theatre)

Touring

The show is available to tour from July 2025 - I'm only looking at performing it eight to ten times. There are no writer's royalties payable for this show and the sound and the music is royalty free (I wrote all of it).

Technical Requirements

Get in takes 1 hour, get out takes 30 mins with 1 member of venue technical staff to help. The ideal* lighting requirement is 4 rigged profiles (all without gels), with a microphone (ideally SM58), mic stand and stereo DI box into the venue sound system from the stage. 2 plug sockets are required for on stage power. Minimum stage size is 4m x 4m and a technician is required to operate lighting cues (but not sound). The show can be learnt technically in 30 minutes.

Deals

The show is available on a 70/30 split (against a guarantee of £150*) with tickets priced at a maximum of £8 or, ideally *Pay What You Want/Decide*.

*If you're a community-led organisation (i.e. not an NPO or regularly funded organisation then there is no guarantee, just a split). Covering the guarantee should mean selling around 25 to 30 tickets.

Show includes digital assets and press release but no print (A6 flyers can be produced for a small fee).

Tour Impact

The show is toured by one person for reduced environmental impact and cost in a small, lower emissions car. The lighting design is deliberately low-tech (with high impact) for reduced energy usage.



Contact



Thank you again for reading this - if you've enjoyed watching the show and think it might be of interest *for* (or ideally *with*) your venue then please drop me a line. I can't wait to hear from you.



darklaughs@outlook.com



07732977514

Why is the deal like it is?

Storytelling is hard to sell at the best of times. These are not the best of times. Added to that I'm a relatively unknown performer, it's actually hard subject matter and it's already a tricky sell. What's more important to me is that the show is seen (rather than any huge guarantee or higher ticket prices - but don't worry, I can do this because I have a good job - any box office income will basically cover petrol and accomodation).

This is a more commercially minded show than my last two (very deliberately) and is written to be accessible, warm and friendly. I'm pretty proud of this show and for you it offers the opportunity to try something out that's low cost or delivered in a different way - it could be an early evening, late lunch or late night show, or maybe it's going to be in a library or upstairs in a cool brewery in a really low-tech way. Or maybe it's in your normal theatre spaces but it's just a cheaper show. It's a chance to dip your toes in the waters of storytelling in a low-cost, low-risk way.