

Jake Smith

Director

About

Originally from Billingham Stockton-On-Tees, I trained as the Trainee Director at Chichester Festival Theatre, one of the UK's flagship theatres with an international reputation for producing work of the highest quality ranging from large scale musicals to distinguished dramas. I want to continue to foster my ambition to create contemporary theatre that can reach a wide variety of audiences. In pursuit of this ideal I previously attended a residency with the Festival International de Teatru Sibiu, Romania, which I funded independently. I was able to observe Yuri Kordonsky in rehearsals for *The Chronicles of Love Incidents* and further my understanding of an international theatre festival organisation. This was a really fruitful opportunity to seek out new ideas and the perspective of artists from across the world. I am furthering this passion through the development of new work by international and regional based playwrights and theatre makers. I will be directing a new play from New York in 2017 and I am currently working with the writer Hanif Kureishi on a new stage play. I am drawn to humane stories set in extraordinary circumstances. I want to produce work from across the globe both contemporary and classical, which can be provocative, challenging, entertaining and ultimately an 'event', which might manifest itself in a variety of ways. I like to adopt an ensemble based approach to rehearsal where attention can be given to the actor and together through exploration of the text the creative team can refine and produce a svelte production. I am also very passionate about the role of the community and its relationship with the theatre, having striven to inspire and enthuse artists, collaborators and communities locally and nationally, in particular during my early career at Hull Truck Theatre through the creation of Assemble Fest; 'a festival of performance where you least expect it' and leading a drama provision for the Refugee Council, which was a richly rewarding platform to activate cultural exchange through the medium of theatre.

Experience

Trainee Director In Residence, Chichester Festival Theatre, March 2014 - March 2016:

Under the tutelage of the Artistic Director Jonathan Church, I have been offered the environment and opportunity to learn from established professionals, the key role of a repertory theatre director including, the organisation and running of a regional repertory theatre and through being an assistant director on Festival and Minerva theatre productions.

Creative Learning Facilitator, Hull Truck Theatre, September 2013-March 2014:

During this post as Creative Learning Facilitator I delivered Hull Trucks Engagement and Learning strategy including youth theatre, outreach and disability, adult drama and over fifty-five's company. I was also part of the day-to-day management of the department including contributing to strategic decision-making.

Founding Member, Assemble Festival, Hull, September 2013 – March 2014:

Assemble Fest is a one-day theatre festival taking place on [Newland Avenue in Hull](#), a multicultural community infused with local charm and international character, specially commissioned shows are performed multiple times to create highly visual, exciting and engaging experiences in surroundings that range from hair salons to cafe bars.

As Director:

The Tempest, (*by William Shakespeare, Petersfield Shakespeare Festival*)

Citizenship, (*by Mark Ravenhill, National Theatre Connections, Chichester Festival Youth Theatre, The Capitol Horsham*)

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The Boy Who Built Clock, (*a new short play by Aaron Hubbard, Paperback Pictures, Arts Theatre*)

Andy Capp The Musical, (*Music and Lyrics By Alan Price and book by Trevor Peacock, Finborough Theatre*)

A Christmas Carol, (*by Bryony Lavery, Music by Jason Carr, Chichester Festival Theatre*)

Arthur, (*Staged –reading*), (*a new play by Ben Weatherill, Theatre Royal Haymarket*)

Smoke (and mirrors), (*a short play by Stef Smith, Theatre Uncut*)

The Little Match Girl, (*adapted by Morgan Sproxtton, Assemble Fest*)

Alice's Site, (*a new play by Melanie Anne Ball, Hull Truck Theatre*)

The Coronation of Poppea, (*an opera by Claudio Monteverdi, Middleton Hall*)

Swan Song, (*Staged-reading*), (*by Anton Chekhov, Minerva Theatre*)

I am Scratch (*Staged-reading*), (*a new play by Benjamin Lyon-Ross, Old Red Lion Theatre*)

Betjeman with Edward Fox, (*Staged-reading*), (*by Hugh Whitemore, Chichester Festival Theatre*)

As Assistant and Staff Director:

Nikolai Foster on Breakfast at Tiffany's, (*Based on the novel by Truman Capote, Adapted by Richard Greenburg, Curve Leicester,*

UK Tour and Theatre Royal Haymarket)

Howard Davies on For Services Rendered, (*by W Somerset Maugham, Minerva Theatre*)

Nadia Fall on Way Upstream, (*by Alan Ayckbourn, Chichester Festival Theatre*)

Christopher Morahan on Stevie, (*by Hugh Whitemore, Hampstead Theatre*)

Dale Rooks on The Hundred and One Dalmatians, (*by Bryony Lavery, Chichester Festival Theatre*)

Jonathan Kent on Gypsy, (*by Julie Styne & Stephen Sondheim, Chichester Festival Theatre*)

Max Stafford-Clark on Pitcairn, (*by Richard Bean, Chichester Festival Theatre & Out of Joint*)

Jamie Glover on Miss Julie (*by August Strindberg in a version by Rebecca Lenkiewicz, Minerva Theatre*)

Education:

First-class BA Hons Drama and Theatre Practice, The University of Hull, September 2010 – July 2013

The Norton School, September 2003 - July 2008

Gordonstoun School, Drama Scholar, August 2008 – July 2010, London College of Music, April 2010

References:

Max Stafford-Clark

Artistic Director Out of Joint, 7 Thane Works, Thane Villas, London N7 7NU,

Email: max@outofjoint.co.uk

Jonathan Church

Artistic Director Chichester Festival Theatre, Oaklands Park, Chichester, PO19 6AP,

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Black Comedy, (*by Peter Shaffer, Minerva Theatre*)