

March 2009

VOID STORY

World premiere:

21 - 25 April 2009

Soho Theatre, London as part of SPILL Festival

Tickets: 0207 478 0100 | www.sohotheatre.com

2009 marks Forced Entertainment's 25th anniversary and projects for this year include a new piece of work for SPILL Festival.

Void Story follows a beleaguered pair of protagonists on a rollercoaster ride through the decimated remains of contemporary culture. Navigating one terrible cityscape after another, mugged, shot at and bitten by insects, pursued through subterranean tunnel systems, stowed away in refrigerated transport, shackled up in haunted hotels and lost in wildernesses, backstreets and bewildering funfairs, they travel to the centre of a night so intense that there are no stars to be seen.

Forced Entertainment perform the bleak and comical contemporary fable of *Void Story* as if it were a radio play, sitting at tables, turning the pages of the script, 'doing' the requisite voices and adding in sound effects for gunshots, rain and bad phone-lines. Simultaneously the otherwise empty stage is dominated by a series of projected images, a storyboard for an impossible movie-version of Tim Etchells' uniquely unsettling text. Somewhere between the live dialogue, the recorded sound effects and the collaged images attempting to visualise the narrative, is where *Void Story* actually takes place.

Since forming the company on graduation from Exeter University in 1984, the six core members of Forced Entertainment have sustained a unique artistic partnership for quarter of a century, confirming time and again their position as trailblazers in contemporary theatre. The company's substantial canon of work reflects an interest in the mechanics of performance, the role of the audience and the machinations of contemporary urban life. The work - framed and focused by Artistic Director Tim Etchells - is distinctive and provocative, delighting in disrupting the conventions of theatre and the expectations of audiences. Forced Entertainment's trademark collaborative process - devising work as a group through improvisation, experimentation and debate - has made them pioneers of British avant-garde theatre and earned them an unparalleled international reputation.

Also showing as part of SPILL Festival is a solo project from Forced Entertainment's Artistic Director, Tim Etchells:

THAT NIGHT FOLLOWS DAY

London Premiere:

7 & 8 April 2009

Southbank Centre, London as part of SPILL Festival

In response to the request by the Flemish theatre company Victoria to create a performance 'with children, but for adults' Tim Etchells developed *That Night Follows Day* - a show with a cast of 17 children aged between 8 and 14. By turns comical and poignant, the show explores the systems that make and shape young people's experience, as a Greek chorus of children explore and interrogate the many truisms told to them by their elders. Created in 2007 *That Night Follows Day* has been presented in cities and festivals from Budapest to Melbourne and Toronto.

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VOID STORY CREDITS

Devised by Forced Entertainment Robin Arthur, Tim Etchells, Richard Lowdon, Claire Marshall, Cathy Naden, and Terry O'Connor.

Text, Images and Direction Tim Etchells

Performers Robin Arthur, Richard Lowdon, Cathy Naden, and Terry O'Connor.

Design Richard Lowdon

Sound & Music John Avery

Lighting Nigel Edwards

Production Ray Rennie and Elb Hall

Performers in the photo-collages Rajni Shah and Chris Williams, Kaya Freeman, Nigel Edwards, Jim Fletcher, Bob Clarke, Will Waghorn and Vlatka Horvat.

Additional Photoshop Assistance Stephanie Wong and Graeme Stonehouse.

Forced Entertainment Management Team

General Manager	Eileen Evans
Administrator	Gareth James
Marketing Manager	Sarah Cockburn
Administrative Assistant	Natalie Simpson

Void Story is a new Forced Entertainment project made for SPILL with support from Tanzquartier, Vienna and Tate Media.

Learn more about SPILL Festival at www.spillfestival.com

Forced Entertainment is regularly funded by Arts Council England and Sheffield City Council.

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