

Forced Entertainment 30th Birthday year

In 2014 Forced Entertainment celebrate 30 years of unique artistic collaboration; three decades of inspiring audiences and making theatre that speaks about the times we live in.

Find out more about our anniversary year events in the UK below...

The Last Adventures

01–03 Oct
Warwick Arts Centre, COVENTRY
as part of Fierce Festival
UK premiere
warwickartscentre.co.uk | wearefierce.org

The Notebook

10–11 Oct
Sheffield Theatres, SHEFFIELD
sheffieldtheatres.co.uk

That Night Follows Day rehearsed readings
29 Oct COVENTRY

warwickartscentre.co.uk

23 Nov LEEDS as part of Compass Festival
compassliveart.org.uk

Quizoola! 24–hour version

21–22 Nov midnight–midnight GMT
Millennium Gallery, SHEFFIELD
tickets via forcedentertainment.com

The Possible Impossible House

17–28 Dec
Barbican, LONDON
world premiere barbican.org.uk

Live Streaming

As part of our 30th Birthday celebrations we are streaming live versions of our durational pieces. Following *12am: Awake & Looking Down* from Essen in January and *And on The Thousandth Night* from Lisbon in March we are pleased to present:

Speak Bitterness

18 October | 5pm–11pm GMT | Live from Berlin
Streaming at: forcedentertainment.com

Quizoola24!

21–22 November | midnight – midnight GMT
Live from Sheffield
Streaming at: forcedentertainment.com

There's even more on our website...

Discover two special digital projects, **#FE365** and **#FE84to14**; we've launched two limited edition prints from Hugo Glendinning and Tim Etchells; and find a wealth of resources for research purposes, from texts and books to DVDs.

Join our mailing list and keep up to date with news and tour dates:

forcedentertainment.com

Find us on **Facebook**

Follow us on **Twitter** @ForcedEnts

Tell us what you thought **#thelastadventures**

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Design: The Cafeteria

Forced Entertainment & Tarek Atoui

The Last Adventures

We are in the
rubble of a story.

UK PREMIERE



Forced Entertainment & Tarek Atoui

The Last Adventures

Presented by Warwick Arts Centre
in association with Fierce Festival

In *The Last Adventures* Forced Entertainment create a compelling performance mixing text, choreographic action and improvisation from a cast of 12 international performers. The specially scored soundtrack from collaborating artist Tarek Atoui mixes his unique approach to electronics with live instrumentation from special guest musician KK Null.

Forced Entertainment Performers

Richard Lowdon, Claire Marshall,
Cathy Naden and Terry O'Connor.

Guest Performers

Gareth Brierley, Mark Etchells, Leja Jurisic,
Thomas Kasebacher, Teja Reba,
Bruno Roubicek, John Rowley, Kylie Walters

Direction Tim Etchells

Sound score and composition Tarek Atoui

Live guest musician KK Null

Text Tim Etchells

Design Richard Lowdon

Lighting Design Nigel Edwards

Sound Daniel Teusner

Production Jim Harrison

Dramaturgical advice Adrian Heathfield

Choreographic advice Kate McIntosh

Thanks to Robin Arthur, Nada Gambier, Phil
Hayes, Maria Jerez, Reena Kalsi, Kuselo Kamau,
Nina Eva Lampic, Floor Van Leeuwen

A production of Forced Entertainment and
Ruhrtriennale – International Festival of the Arts.
Co-Produced by Fierce Festival, Birmingham;
Künstlerhaus Mousonturm, Frankfurt; Tanzquartier,
Wien; Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry.

Tarek Atoui

Tarek Atoui was born in Lebanon in 1980 and moved to France in 1998 where he studied sound art and electro-acoustic music. In 2006, he released his first solo album in the Mort Aux Vaches series for Staalplaat Records, and in 2008, he served as artistic director of the STEIM Studios in Amsterdam, a centre for the research and development of new electronic musical instruments. Since then he has presented work all over the world. tarekatoui.com

KK Null

Kazuyuki Kishino (aka K.K. NULL) is a composer, guitarist, singer, and mastermind of progressive hardcore band ZENI GEVA. Since the early 80s, he has been one of the leading names in Japanese noise music, working with various artists such as Steve Albini, Fred Frith, Chris Watson, Z'ev, Keiji Haino, and Matmos; and performing at international festivals such as Présences Électronique (Paris), Sonar (Barcelona), All Tomorrow's Parties (UK) and Supersonic (Birmingham), among many others. kknnull.com

About Forced Entertainment

We are a group of six artists who began working together in 1984. In the many projects we've created since that time we've tried to explore the unique ways that theatre and performance can articulate and engage with the contemporary world. In doing so we've made shows from the highly minimal to the brashly theatrical – one, two, six and twenty-four hours long – pushing at the limits of the form. We create our work from our home in Sheffield, and the results – theatre shows and durational performances – are presented all over the world.

Forced Entertainment Artistic Team:

Robin Arthur, Tim Etchells (Artistic Director),
Richard Lowdon, Claire Marshall, Cathy Naden
and Terry O'Connor.

Forced Entertainment Management Team:

Eileen Evans (Executive Director), Jim Harrison
(Production Manager), Sophie Nurse (Project
Assistant), Natalie Simpson (Office Manager),
Sam Stockdale (Marketing Manager).

Flickering into existence: some notes on *The Last Adventures*

In the vast Maschinenhalle (machinehall) of a former coal-mine in the old industrial heartland of Germany's Ruhr valley, a group of people are clearing items left strewn across the expansive concrete and cracked tile floor. There's a loose scattering of dented cooking pots, half a jumble sale's worth of ruined clothing, a motley collection of sticks, mops, brooms and what seems to be golf clubs, as well as assorted battered suitcases and boxes, tin foil stars on bamboo canes, scraps of white and blue gauze, paper streamers, buckets and broken wheelbarrows, and here and there, a messy web of tangled long red ribbons tied to yellow tennis balls. Clearing this lot up, and then packing it carefully seems to be the start of every rehearsal day over two months in Gladbeck as we are making *The Last Adventures*, a process of arranging the chaos neatly so that it can all be located again, used for the scenes of the performance and in the process strewn around the floor once more.

Like much of Forced Entertainment's work *The Last Adventures* is a strange mix of high-tech and low-fi, the high-tech in this case concentrated in the lights and the sound, the lo-fi focused very much in the performance, which lies somewhere between a largely improvised choreography, an animated scenery or painting come to life, an absurd game of costume changing and transformation, and a pattern made from stories that have been broken into pieces.

Beginning from a discussion about epic and fantastic tales, folk stories and the crowd scenes of pantomime and opera the project soon took on a life of its own, seeing the regular Forced Entertainment team and guests working with 19th century illusionistic scenery in the form of wooden trees and other items one week, whilst creating a kind of comical Hieronymus Bosch landscape-as-dressing-up-game-gone-wrong, the next. At the heart of this process there remained an interest in stories, especially the kinds of stories contained already in pictures, and in the meeting of visual fragments – the kinds of stories that might flicker into existence in collage or in TV channel hopping.

The starting point sound-wise was a collaboration with the extraordinary Lebanese artist Tarek Atoui, whose longstanding interest in sound samples as modular fragments for algorithmic recombination made a clear connection to our interest in narratives made from fragments and slithers of existing stories. Like Forced Entertainment, Atoui also has a practise deeply rooted in structured improvisation and the possibilities that it affords for generating surprise shifts in performance energy and content. To animate this connection in *The Last Adventures*, Atoui conceived a musical structure for the work in which his written and recorded score would be accompanied and remixed for each live presentation by a new sonic collaborator. Keeping the sound textures changing, performances have thus far featured improvised contributions from Atoui himself, Uriel Barthélémi, percussionist, Mazen Kerbaj, trumpeter and for Warwick one of the founding fathers of Japanese noise music, the multi-instrumentalist and electronic musician and composer KK Null. This shifting aspect to *The Last Adventures'* soundtrack also demands extra focus from the performers onstage who must adapt and remix their own actions and the atmospheres they create in relation to the shifts in the acoustic territory of the piece provided by each of the guest musicians interpreting Atoui's score.

Visually rich with dispersed detail, *The Last Adventures* wears contradiction on its sleeve; home-made and evidently improvised in part, it's nonetheless a carefully structured journey from start to finish. Comical and at times ridiculous, whilst often making switches of tone that are deeply felt but hard to explain, the piece can also generate real emotional involvement. The role of the spectator in a theatre like this, is always active, never passive; a matter of joining in, not as part of the on-stage work of performance but in the deep imaginative work of finding, linking, reading and transforming what takes place in front of you.

We hope you enjoy the performance.

Tim Etchells
Artistic Director
Forced Entertainment