

Polly Tisdall: Freelance Director, Theatre-Maker & Storyteller

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Qualifications: BA English Literature and Drama, University of Birmingham, First Class

Work includes:

Leverhulme Arts Scholar 2017/18: Undertaking a year-long residency with the egg theatre, Bath, creating a new programme of work, using story to inspire imaginative play.

Workshop Facilitator: *Public Speaking as Performance*. Storytelling workshop series with academics at the University of Oxford and Bath Spa University: offering creative direction on creating compelling research narratives (2016-18).

Director: *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Family*: IdeasTap/ Underbelly award-winning show, telling one man's true story. 5* Edinburgh Fringe (2015). UK Tour (2016). Adelaide Fringe (2018).

Storyteller / Project Producer: *Laos Storytelling Exchange*. Arts Council and British Council funded project developing a new storytelling show in collaboration with Garavek Storytelling Theatre, Laos, and working with rural communities in Laos (2016-17).

Resident Artist / Workshop Facilitator: *School Without Walls*: the egg theatre / Bath Cultural Education Partnership (2016-17).

Storyteller: *The Story Ceilidh*: Halsway Manor, National Centre for the Folk Arts (2015), Ashmolean Museum, Oxford (2016) and Oxford Festival of the Arts (2017).

Workshop Facilitator: Oxford Playhouse. Designing and delivering a range of drama and storytelling workshops for the Education Department (2015-16).

Storyteller/Actor: Various roles: Bakehouse Theatre (2016)

Assistant Director: *Dear Father Christmas*, dir. Helen Eastman: Oxford Playhouse (November-December 2015)

Storyteller: *The Man in the Moone & The Journey Thither*: Toured UK storytelling clubs and also visited Walsall Asian Libraries Users Group. Nominated for a British Award for Storytelling Excellence 2013 (2013-14). Remounted for Oxford Playhouse's BT Studio, (2015).

Director: *Charlotte Sometimes R&D*: commissioning and directing the first stage adaptation of the book by Penelope Farmer: BT Studio (2015)

Resident Director: Oxford Playhouse / Magdalen College School: designing and directing projects with young people at the school, creating and facilitating Oxford Playhouse workshops and assisting on Oxford Playhouse productions (2014-15)

Projects included:

Direct Roots: A Symposium for Emerging Artists (June 2015)

ReStory: Workshop & Performance series with mental health service users at Restore, Oxford (April-June 2015)

A Doll's House: BT Studio (March 2015)

The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde (January 2015)

Sophocles' Ajax (October 2014)

Assistant Directing Projects:

Ready, Steady, Colour: early years show which toured UK shopping centres, dir. Toby Hulse (April 2015)

Beauty and the Beast: Oxford Playhouse pantomime, dir. Peter Duncan (November - January 2014)

Assistant Director: *Never Try This at Home*, dir. Paul Hunter: Told by an Idiot / Birmingham Rep and national tour (February-April 2014)

Director on Birmingham Rep Foundry Programme. Projects included: *Hidden Histories: Birmingham Rep / Old Rep*, directing rehearsed readings of new work from *Write Away* writers and creating devised work for *Foundry Nights* (2013/14).

Director: *Biting Tongues: Capital Plays Festival* (2013).

Director: *Icarus Reforged: an original reworking of the Greek myth fusing storytelling and theatre: Minerva Works, Birmingham* (2013).

Director: *LitFuse: mac, Birmingham / Apples & Snakes* (2013).

Workshop Facilitator: *Talking History: AHRC funded storytelling workshop series with academics at Cambridge University* (2013).

Director / Deviser: *The Girl in the Window: The Three Week Window Festival, Birmingham* (2012).

Co-director: *Taking Stories Home: creating a participatory drama project with mental health service users: Telford Mind Wellbeing Centre* (2012).

References available on request from Mezza Eade, Director of Learning & Participation, Oxford Playhouse, and Kate Cross, Artistic Director, the egg.