

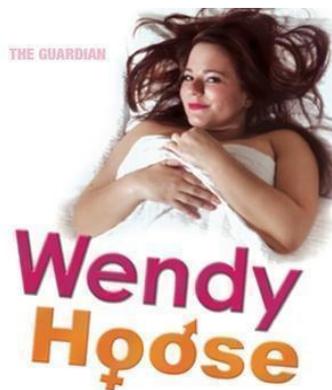
Birds of Paradise Theatre Company



**BIRDS OF
PARADISE**
THEATRE
COMPANY

Annual Report 2014 - 2015

★★★★★ **RUDE, RIBALD & HILARIOUSLY OFF-COLOUR** THE GUARDIAN
 ★★★★★★ **PAINFULLY FUNNY** THE HERALD
 ★★★★★★ **UPROARIOUS** THE LIST
 ★★★★★★ **JAW-DROPPINGLY FILTHY** EXEUNT
 ★★★★★★ **EYE WATERINGLY FUNNY** EDINBURGH GUIDE
 ★★★★★★ **RIOTOUS** TV BOMB
 ★★★★★★ **GORGEOUS, CHEEKY, OUTSPOKEN** THE SCOTSMAN
 ★★★★★★ **RIDICULOUSLY FUNNY** THE SKINNY
 ★★★★★★ **GLORIOUSLY UN-PC** THE PUBLIC REVIEWS



Wendy Hoose

by Johnny McKnight, made in coproduction with Random Accomplice

Directed by Robert Softley Gale and Johnny McKnight

Set and Costume Design: Neil Haynes / Animation: Jamie Macdonald

Lighting Design: Grant Anderson / Cast: Amy Conachan and James Young

Tron Theatre, Glasgow:	7 - 15 March
Paisley Arts Centre:	18 March
Macrobert, Stirling:	19 March
The Lemon Tree, Aberdeen:	20 March
Lochgelly Centre, Fife:	22 March
Achmore Hall, Stromeferry:	25 March
Eden Court, Inverness:	26 March
The Studio @ Festival Theatre, Edinburgh:	29 March
The Beacon, Greenock:	27 August
Perth Concert Hall, Perth:	29 - 30 August
Platform, Glasgow:	2 September
Howden Park Centre, Livingston:	3 September
FTH, Falkirk:	4 September
Unlimited Festival at Southbank Centre, London:	6 - 7 September
Sherman Cymru, Cardiff:	10 - 11 September

Laura and Jake just want sex. Late Friday night drunken sex. Nothing more. No strings attached. But getting your leg over is sometimes more difficult than you think. Wendy Hoose is about two twenty year olds searching for love in all the wrong places!

An incredibly successful production, receiving praise from both audiences and the press. The performances at Tron Theatre, Perth Concert Hall and Sherman Cymru sold out, and at Macrobert Centre the performances had to be moved to a larger auditorium due to increased demand. We increased our audience compared to previous touring productions by 91%.

A successful application was also made to Unlimited (a funding body for work made by disabled artists) which led to *Wendy Hoose* being featured in the Unlimited Festival 2014 at the Southbank Centre, London in September 2014.

“ bodes tremendously well for the new directorship of Birds of Paradise”

Mark Fisher - *The Guardian*

Be-BoP Ensemble

Our entry to the National Theatre of Scotland's *5 Minute Theatre Project* involved working with Be-BoP Ensemble member Rosie Smith.

“Let me show you around where I live. Come to my house and I'll tell you all about myself, some of my darkest secrets. I'll tell you about my friends and family, freedom and fame, my deepest fantasy and how a few seconds changed my life. But you'll have to stay quiet and listen because we've only got 5 minutes and what I decide to tell you will depend on the spin of a wheel. It's all a bit of a lottery. And a lot can happen in a few seconds.”



On 21st January, members of Be-BoP were joined by Solar Bear's '**Deaf Youth Theatre**' to take part in an '**Access to Acting**' workshop run by the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts. Our Ensemble members hugely enjoyed working alongside Solar Bear's young people and both BOP and Solar Bear are keen to find ways of working collaboratively in the future.

Be-Bop will be renewed for a new season in 2015-16, with many of those currently involved keen to continue working with Be-BoP. New people will be recruited to develop the work our Be-BoP.



Looking 4 Talent

After taking stock of all the arts provisions across Scotland for D/deaf and disabled people, during November and January sessions were offered to people (particularly venues and community groups) outlining disability arts and the state of play for disabled people in the arts in Scotland. The afternoon elements of these sessions were audition workshops for disabled people looking to explore a career in the arts.



L4T Roadshow 2015 dates and venues:

- 24 - 25 Jan: Amsterdam
- 27 Jan: Dumfries and Galloway – Spiegeltent Big Burns Supper
- 23 Feb: Inverness – Eden Court
- 24 Feb: Aberdeen – The Lemon Tree
- 10 Mar: Dundee – Dundee Repertory Theatre
- 28 Mar: Glasgow – Citizens Theatre

The session in Amsterdam was fabulous. Initially it involved a presentation to a gathering of key players in the Amsterdam theatre world and then over the next two days we worked with an integrated group of ten practitioners to build a performance incorporating creative access.

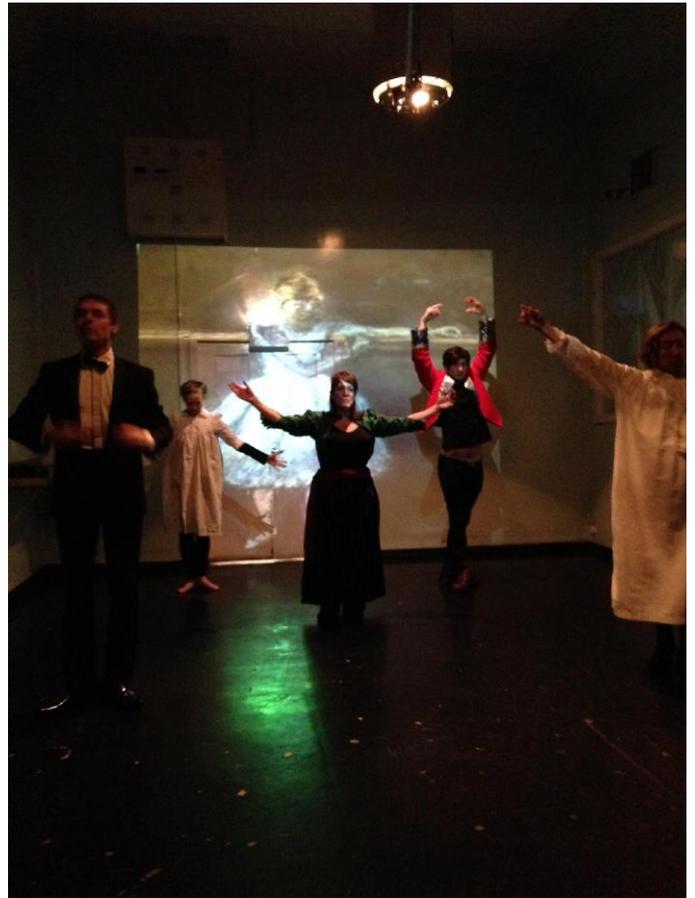


The session in Dumfries and Galloway was also great – a big thank you to Electric Theatre Workshop who were excellent hosts. At this session we worked with a group of about twenty including a school group and auditioned three people, one of whom we will be looking to work with further.

Looking 4 Talent will return in 2015/16 with a two week intensive, building a performance with new performers coming from the audition process.

Crazy Jane

With the support of Summerhall we staged a development week for our dance theatre work '**Crazy Jane**'. As well as developing the key themes of the show we worked with the writer Nicola McCartney and musicians Hector Bizerk to trial the work as a promenade performance. We also involved our young disabled performers Be-BoP group in this and working with Summerhall's technical team we presented three very well received walk-through performances in the atmospheric Small Animal Hospital.



MSc Playwriting University of Edinburgh

We continued to develop our relationship with the University of Edinburgh both through having students on placements working with our young people's theatre ensemble and by giving talks to the students on Deaf and Disability Theatre. For the second year in succession we offered a one-day training session to Russian theatre makers at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. This work subsequently led to a request to direct a show in Russia which resulted in the Tomsk Project during 2015/2016.