

Black Tonic | Photo: Chris Keenan



08/09 ANNUAL REPORT

THE OTHER WAY WORKS

The Other Way Works creates daring and remarkable theatre that draws the audience into the very heart of the experience.



INTRODUCTION 08/09

The Company's big news for the year April 2008 - March 2009 was becoming a Company Limited by Guarantee in May 08.

I was excited to welcome the new Non-Executive Board of Directors to their posts, where they will have oversight of the Company and act as advocates for our work.

I made the most of several opportunities to raise the Company's profile during the year. In April 08 I was asked to speak as part of Fierce! Talks which took place just ahead of the annual Fierce! Festival in Birmingham, and I also attended the ITC Summer Conference in London in June 08. I continued in my position as an elected member of the Mid*Point Steering Group, planning networking events for independent theatre companies in the West

Midlands, and fundraising to support the network's future.

An Arts Award from the Wellcome Trust (a Biomedical Science Trust) for Black Tonic provided the funds to recruit a Producer to work alongside myself to develop Black Tonic. Katie Keeler was appointed in August 08, and fast became an invaluable member of the team.

A summary of performances, participatory and international projects follows. For more information on any of these, please follow the links or take a look at our website www.theotherwayworks.co.uk.

Katie Day
Artistic Director



BLACK TONIC

“Produced by Birmingham company The Other Way Works, this interactive performance for an audience of just four draws on a short story by Clare Duffy. It’s an intriguing detective tale about Anna, who offers a service described as “professional relationship restoration” that takes place in the rooms and corridors of a hotel, and its pleasure is in the tension between that strange hotel mix of intimacy and anonymity and the way real guests are oblivious to what is happening.” Lyn Gardner, The Guardian

A roaring success with audiences and critics alike, Black Tonic enjoyed sell-out runs in 2008. The Company gained new audiences and greater notoriety with its performances in London as part of

Camden People’s Theatre’s Sprint Festival in June 08, and in Manchester supported by Contact Theatre in November 08.

Throughout the Autumn the Company developed the production in collaboration with a Biomedical Scientist, as well as a writer, scenographer, film maker and composer. Everything came together in rehearsals with the performance team, which took place in late November at Contact Theatre in Manchester.

Devised by the Company | Text by Clare Duffy | Directed by Katie Day
Originally commissioned by Camden People’s Theatre. Funded by a Wellcome Trust Arts Award, Arts Council England, Birmingham City Council & The Sir Barry Jackson Trust. Supported by Contact Theatre, CPT & mac.
Available for touring from Late Spring 2010



PERFORMANCES 08/09

COMPLIMENTARY

We were commissioned by Experiment:Grow and Warwick Arts Centre to create a new performance for the 'Bite Size' Festival in May 08. The resulting performance entitled 'Complimentary' is a bittersweet one-to-one rendezvous that takes place at a Theatre Bar. The audience member is drawn into the role of cupid, playing messenger and matchmaker for the two performers. Past lovers, the characters Helen and Steve, spot each other quite by chance across the bar. Funny stories evoking past memories help to break the ice, before the audience member is given the power to determine how the flirtation will end.

Available for touring from Autumn 2009

AVON CALLING

In February and March of 2009 we began work on a new show called Avon Calling. We presented a short collection of ideas at PILOT Nights in Birmingham in March 09, which were well received by the audience. Following this Avon Calling was selected by PILOT Nights to be part of their spin-off event 'It Came From Pilot' on 8 October 2009 at Warwick Arts Centre.

Avon Calling is based on the personal source material of performer and co-deviser Louise Platt, and explores the role of Avon Cosmetics in her life to date.

Available for touring from Late Spring 2010



08/09 INTERNATIONAL & PARTICIPATION

INTERNATIONAL - IETM

In November 2008 Katie attended the [IETM](#) Meeting in Zurich, Switzerland. As well as seeing some inspiring Swiss performance work, and networking with producers and artists from across Europe, she presented a project pitch about an idea currently in development 'Bandstand' as part of the Brainstorm session.

PARTICIPATION - OPEN SPACE

Open Space was a professional development opportunity for live artists, funded by [DIY 5](#). Katie led a weekend escape to the Clent Hills in August 2008 for artists working in live art from the West

Midlands. Open Space aimed to take artists out of their usual metropolitan habitat, and into the open space of the countryside: To remove the walls that contain much site-specific work (made inside buildings), in order to see if that had the power to remove the mental walls we build up around our own practise.

"Each task was a discovery and was internally uplifting and unforgettable. Play opened up creativity and united us." Participant

[DIY 5](#) was a Live Art Development Agency initiative developed in collaboration with Arnolfini and Theatre Bristol; Artsadmin; Colchester Arts Centre; Fierce Earth, North East; New Work Network and China Plate; and Nuffield Theatre and LANWest. Open Space was delivered with support from the National Trust at the [Clent Hills](#)



OUR THANKS TO 08/09

FUNDERS

The Wellcome Trust – Arts Award
Arts Council England – Grants for the Arts
Live Art Development Agency

PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

Camden People's Theatre, London
Contact Theatre, Manchester
The Place Hotel, Manchester
PILOT Nights, Birmingham
China Plate / Experiment:Grow
Warwick Arts Centre
National Trust
New Work Network