

TOBACCO FACTORY THEATRE PROTOTYPE experiments in theatre

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OLYPUPPET

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WHO? Oliver Smart has been exploring puppetry for over a decade. He has been commissioned to design and construct puppets for theatre, and has appeared in film and music videos throughout Australasia, the Orient, UK and Europe. Matt Short is a musician, songwriter, composer and puppeteer. He performs as a solo artist and as lead singer with The Pete Trill Band. Recent work includes an original score for *The Little Prince* (Salisbury Theatre) and Soap Soup Theatre's *How to Deal with Very Bad Things* (Bristol Old Vic).

WHAT? As well as new material, tonight's performance will include some of Oliver's more established creations. *Suitcase Circus* occupies the ground between character and object, where all that distinguishes the talent from the props is how they are handled.

FIONN GILL

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WHO? Fionn is an independent performer from Bristol. After graduating from Bretton Hall in 2007 he co-founded *Lost Spectacles*, a clown and physical theatre troupe whose debut show *Lost in the Wind* will be appearing at this year's Mayfest and other festivals across the UK. Fionn has also worked with local companies Precarious and Action Hero. Fionn's practice draws heavily on the clown, physical performance, attention to character, visual poetics and the desire to make simple but powerful theatre.

WHAT? *For Provide Life* follows one man as he journeys from Eastern Europe to England in search of a better life. The piece was borne out of a fascination with the notion of exodus. Fionn writes: I find the idea of someone carrying their life in a suitcase and hopelessly travelling a great distance in search of something, or to get away from something, very powerful. The show is also a personal investigation into the pathetic clown; I want to see if the clown can be used to convey real human experience and engage an audience on an emotional as well as comic level.

LIZ HART

Contact name.....Liz Hart
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WHO? Liz Hart trained at Wimbledon School of Art and at Circomedia. She has previously worked in live art, street performance and Berlin cabaret. Now settled in Bristol, Liz is beginning to establish herself as a mask maker, workshop facilitator and theatre performer.

WHAT? Liz is currently working on a full-length small-scale theatre piece called *Richard's Love*. What you will see to tonight is the first extract from this piece.

KETTLE OF FISH

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WHO? Kettle of Fish is an emerging all-female theatre collective whose work explores the possibilities of the live encounter, claiming the space between a performance and its audience and asking, 'Where can we go from here?' Kettle of Fish create collaboratively devised, experimental work, which uses a mix of styles and techniques.

WHAT? *Post-Show* opens at the end of a performance. Flushed performers rush in, still in costume and clutching a beer from the bar, ready to hold a post-show discussion. The only difference is the audience have never seen the show. A chairperson opens the discussion and, as she talks with the performers, fragments of and clues to the unseen show emerge. The guessing game begins.

PRECARIOUS

www.precarious.org.uk

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WHO? Award-winning Bristol-based company Precarious aim to create truly interdisciplinary work that tackles contemporary social issues whilst entertaining and inspiring audiences. Precarious have been creating/touring work since 2005. *The Factory* will be their third full-scale production.

WHAT? Tonight Precarious present some non-sequential ideas for their new show *The Factory*, which will explore the theme of consumption and the effect that it is having on the human condition. The piece will examine the struggle to survive in a world in which humanity has succumbed to productivity, profit and the notion that status is measured according to what we own, rather than how we behave. The sections you will see deal with the 'born - consume - be silent - die' treadmill, the commodification of the female body and the phenomenon of disposable goods designed for the dump.