



Media information

Brand new show from Dumbshow explores: Are we a nation in shock?

As we watch the destruction of our welfare state, we're asking: why is this happening? Is it what people want; have we actively chosen this path? Have we been told that we're in a crisis so many times that we've come to believe it?

Combining Dumbshow's trademark storytelling style with urgent contemporary issues, *Electric Dreams* is a brand new show inspired by Naomi Klein's *The Shock Doctrine* - a vibrant, unsettling and bold examination of the state of the nation explored through a human story, a love story.

Rose can't remember the first 18 years of her life. What happened to her?

Seeking to unravel this mystery she turns investigator, piecing together her history from fragmented memories, documents and dreams - aided by staff in a soon-to-be-closed library. Can Rose's story wake us all up?

Using live music composed and performed by **Rollo Clarke**, and video, *Electric Dreams* journeys from 1950's Canada to the Iraq war to the present day where standing up to a library closure in the UK can have you labelled a domestic extremist.

Preview: Derby DEparture Lounge, Saturday 25 July, 4.30pm

World Premiere: Pleasance Jack Dome, Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Wednesday 5 to Sunday 30 August (not 17 or 24), 3.50pm.

Director, Michael Bryher said 'Dumbshow is making a stand. We want to be part of a political debate about what kind of country we want to be, because if we don't, soon it might be too late.

'In *The Shock Doctrine*, Naomi Klein challenges the myth that over the past decades free-market capitalism triumphed across the globe democratically, and considers whether often its advancements have been forced on populations unwittingly when they were too shocked or distracted to realise what was happening. *The Shock Doctrine* was published in 2007 before the financial crisis. We're applying Klein's ideas to a post-financial crash Britain. Was Britain in a state of shock in 2008?

'We've been exploring this question, which has made us question Klein's thesis as well as our own ideas and values, and it is a question that we are still trying to answer. *Electric Dreams* certainly feels like the most political piece we have made, forged in the fires of anger at the current political situation. We want our audiences to reconsider both where we've come from and where we're going. But we are still asking questions - and I suppose that's the point.'

Dumbshow was **established** in 2007 at The University of Warwick and creates fabulous and visually inventive theatre that asks questions about the world through telling stories.

Dumbshow's **previous shows at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe** include *The Pearl* (2013), *Roar* (2011), *Clockheart Boy* (2008), *The End of the World* (2007).

Electric Dreams is created in **collaboration** with Camden People's Theatre and supported by the Wellcome Trust Arts Award, the Arts Council and the University of Warwick.

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Notes

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Please get in touch to arrange interviews, photos, and tickets.

Press tickets available for the world premiere run at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

<http://www.dumbshow.org/>

Dumbshow

The Dumbshow ensemble was established in 2007 by Artistic Director Michael Bryher and has been working together ever since. We have a shared history, complicity, a common language and confidence in each other. We love playing games together (which sometimes get dangerous), we eat together and enjoy each other's company. We share a belief in the power and importance of telling stories as a way to understand ourselves and the world around us, but we have a variety of skills and backgrounds, all of which go towards making a Dumbshow show what it is.

Dumbshow make visually arresting and textually rich storytelling theatre. Our aims are:

- to tell stories that fire our imaginations, that are important and that need to be told in the theatre;
- to create live events that celebrate the collective experience;
- and make plays that are intellectually and emotionally challenging.

The stories we tell might be out-of-this-world, or based on a real life true story; they might be accessible for children or strictly for adults; they will always entertain and hopefully stimulate your mind; they might make you laugh and they might make you cry, but we hope that having experienced our work you will feel more alive and ready to face the world.

We believe in the power of live theatre - where an audience gathers together to sit and be told a story. For everyone at Dumbshow, we think that this collective experience is a unifying force that deeply enriches our society. So for us, making theatre is a serious business (but we like to have some fun along the way).

Composer Rollo Clarke is writing an original piano score for the show, which he will be playing live on stage. Rollo's previous music can be found on his website here:

<http://rolloclarke.com/music>