

Bear Pit Theatre **A Compendium of Lost Things** by the company



A man collects stories of lost keys and dreams gone astray, wayward wallets and absent loved ones, abandoned playthings and misplaced memories. Verbatim tales woven together in a whirl of song, puppetry and playful theatre

In a room a man collects stories – stories of all the things that have been lost. He builds his compendium and tries to make sense of how our lives are constructed around these manifold absences. In his book are tales of lost keys and dreams gone astray, wayward wallets and absent loved ones, abandoned playthings and misplaced memories. He wonders if we are defined by the things we have lost, the importance we ascribe to these things and the reserves we draw on which can liberate or imprison as we negotiate new paths and continue the journey. The gaps where things once were define the landscape. Sometimes the absence is a desert where we wander, looking for an oasis and sometimes an un-weeded garden where we just sit, hoping that something might once again flower. Sometimes we'll lose a thing and be driven to find something better, to climb a bigger mountain. Or maybe we just shrug and keep on strolling.

Our collector of verbatim records of lost things meets a troupe of players – he wants to share his collection and so the players pluck tales from his compendium and weave them together, seeking some kind of theatrical truth, moving from song to puppetry to physical theatre to naturalism, finally focusing in on the simplicity of a single voice on stage.

A Compendium of Lost Things is devised by the company from verbatim transcripts and footage from a great range of people recalling their stories of the things they've lost. From misplaced cars to a lost box of childhood treasures and from the deepening estrangement of a boy and his father to the ravages of bereavement and dementia, these stories range from the comically banal to the profoundly moving. They are simple stories of human experience, which drive us to consider in this whirling consumerist world, what it is we really value.

'Rich, honest and touching... the company don't miss a beat'

NewCurrent.com on Verbatopolis

'Devising at its best'

BroadwayBaby.com on Verbatopolis

Listings Information

Venue C, Adam House, Chambers Street, EH1 1HR, venue 34
 Dates 20-27 Aug
 Time 13:40 (0h55)
 Ticket prices £8.50-£10.50 / concessions £6.50-£8.50 / under 18s £4.50-£6.50
 C venues box office 0845 260 1234 /
 www.CtheFestival.com/2017/a-compedium-of-lost-things
 Fringe box office 0131 226 0000 / www.edfringe.com

C venues

vibrant vivacious variety

general manager
Shannon Steele
artistic director
Hartley T A Kemp

year round administration

C venues London

5 Alexandra Mansions
Chichele Road
London NW2 3AS

during the Fringe in August

C venues Edinburgh

Press office at C royale
22 George Street
Ticket collection at any C venue

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fax 0845 260 1061
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