

Bear Pit Theatre The First Love Project devised by the company



Whether it's a soaring passion or fleeting infatuation, you'll only know first love once. Using verbatim memories of people aged 75 to 105, we explore the regrets, the joys, and the transience of that universal experience.

At some point of your life you're going to fall in love. Let's face it, you'll probably fall in love more than once. You might be the kind of person who falls in love on a regular basis. But whoever you are, you'll only know first love once. Maybe that first love will always be your greatest love, never to be eclipsed. It could be a fleeting infatuation, an embarrassment, or a prologue to something more defining. It could lead to eternal passion or to poetry, to great or terrible sex, to a peck on the cheek or a polite 'no thank you', to tragic heartache or a quiet fizzling out. Is it the first attempt at something you'll reach for your whole life or something that slips through your fingers, a transient dream you spend the rest of your life chasing?

At a time when society is examining sexual politics and the thorny business of when one person is attracted to another and the whole thing seems a sorry mess, **Bear Pit Theatre** went in search of hope. The company of 17 year olds, starting out in life, navigating this complex global landscape and hoping to forge a better one, went looking for entirely true tales of first love. They have interviewed people who have lived a lot of life already and may know a thing or two. The show is constructed from verbatim conversations with a range of interviewees all over 75, all looking back on the experience of first love through the prism of old age. As well as the examination of a universal theme, this is an oral history project, a vision of a vanishing world which was far from perfect but needs to be remembered. It's not a nostalgia trip, but a vibrant collision of age and youth, loss and hope, transience and eternity.

The First Love Project is devised by the company. We weave our stories focusing on truth and simplicity, merging the verbatim material with physical theatre, dance, Bunraku puppetry, and an original score. The action ranges from the inter-war years to the heady days of the 60s, from Australia to Aberdeen and from India to Canada, from axe-murderers to aristocrats. There are farcical mishaps and poignant farewells, banal crushes and forbidden loves. From the tragic to the absurd, all the tales speak to our shared humanity and perhaps tell a story that even when the world is crumbling around your ears, there's always good stuff out there. **Bear Pit Theatre** is a sixth form theatre company from **Alleyn's School** in south-east London. The young people of **Bear Pit Theatre** are responsible for all aspects of their production: they are actors, devisers, producers, designers and technicians. The company is committed to creating inventive, heartfelt and truthful theatre.

'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	19-26 Aug
Time	13:15 (1hr00)
Ticket prices	£7.50-£9.50 / concessions £5.50-£7.50 / under 18s £3.50-£5.50
C venues box office	0131 581 5555 / www.CtheFestival.com/2018/the-first-love-project
Fringe box office	0131 226 0000 / www.edfringe.com

C venues

vibrant vivacious variety

general manager

Rosie Wake

artistic director

Hartley T A Kemp

year round administration

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C venues Edinburgh

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Ticket collection at any C venue

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