

Told by an Idiot

Creating the *unexpected* since 1993



Told by an Idiot is a critically-acclaimed theatre company who revel in the artifice of performance. Our work has been seen across three continents from Coventry to Caracas, Berlin to Bristol, Southampton to South Africa.

Since our first show we have collaborated with many of the top UK theatre venues including Young Vic Theatre, Royal Exchange Manchester, National Theatre Scotland, RSC, Barbican Centre and the National Theatre. Artists we have worked with include Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy, Jazz Pianist Zoe Rahman (Mercury Award nominee) and acclaimed novelists Philip Pullman and Michel Faber.

In the past 3 years alone our productions have been seen by 39,265 people. Our work is unpredictable, provocative and highly theatrical. We take our comedy very seriously and at the same time try to move people. We take inspiration from the founder of Pixar Studios who, when asked who his target audience was, replied '*basically anybody who breathes*'.

We are a National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England. However, demand for the company's work far exceeds our funding and our activity and ambition remain high throughout each year.

Our aim is simple; to release peoples' creativity, curiosity and ultimately their desire to play.

'Anarchically inclusive joy...I now believe in the transformative power of theatre' SUNDAY TIMES (ON GET HAPPY)

Patron

Richard Wilson O.B.E

Our productions include:

On The Verge Of Exploding (1993)

I'm So Big (1995)

You Haven't Embraced Me Yet (1996)

Don't Laugh It's My Life (1997/98)

I Weep At My Piano (1998/99)

Happy Birthday, Mr Deka D (1999/2000)

Shoot Me In The Heart (2000)

Aladdin (2001/02)

I Can't Wake Up (2001/02)

A Little Fantasy (2002/03)

The Firework Maker's Daughter (2003/05)

Playing The Victim (2003)

I'm A Fool to Want You (2004/05)

The Evocation of Papa Mas (2006)

Casanova (2007)

Beauty And The Beast (2007/08)

The Fahrenheit Twins (2009)

The Comedy of Errors (2010/11)

The Dark Philosophers (2011)

And The Horse You Rode In On (2011)

You Can't Take It With You (2011/12)

A Midsummer Night's Dream (2012)

My Perfect Mind (2013/14/15)

Too Clever By Half (2013)

Get Happy (2013/15)

Never Try This At Home (2014)

The Ghost Train (2015)

Told by an Idiot



Paul Hunter

Artistic Director/Co-Founder

Paul has worked on all Told by an Idiot shows to date as director/visor/performer.

Other acting credits include:

Tartuffe (Birmingham Repertory Theatre), *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Globe Mysteries*, *Trilus and Cressida*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Shakespeare's Globe), *Rapunzel* and *The Red Shoes* (Kneehigh), *The Play What I Wrote* (West End).

Directing credits include: *Every Last Trick* (Northampton), *The Mouse And His Child* (RSC), *Low Pay*, *Don't Pay* (Salisbury Playhouse), *Senora Carrar's Rifles* (Young Vic).

Film and TV credits include: *Cinderella* (dir. by Kenneth Branagh), *Pan* (dir. by Joe Wright), *Alice Through The Looking Glass*, *Marvellous* (BBC).



Hayley Carmichael

Co-Founder

Hayley trained at Middlesex Polytechnic and has worked on almost all Told by an Idiot productions.

Other acting credits include:

Forests (Birmingham Rep), *Hamlet* (Young Vic), *Fragments* (Theatre des Bouffes du Nord) *Bliss* (Royal Court), *Cymbeline* (Kneehigh/RSC), *Theatre Of Blood* (RNT), *The Street Of Crocodiles* (Theatre de Complicite/RNT).

Film and TV credits include:

Our Zoo (BBC1) *Little Robots* (Cbeebies) *Viva Blackpool*, *Life's A Bitch And So Am I*, *National Achievement Day* (Channel 4). *Tale of Tales* (dir. Matteo Garrone), *Emperor's New Clothes* (Bonaparte Films).



John Wright

Associate/Co-Founder

John is an internationally renowned teacher and director, teaching workshops all over the world. His book *Why is that so funny?* is a must buy for actors, directors, students and teachers.

John was also a founding member of Trestle Theatre Company. His version of *Dr. Faustus with III Party* won the Peter Brook Award and Coal Theatre's *Fragility of X* won a Spirit of the Fringe Award at the Edinburgh Festival. He is currently working on a new book provisionally titled *Acting Without The Bullshit*.

'Told by an Idiot have always been a crazily imaginative bunch'

INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

Board of Trustees (as at February 2015):

**Justin Audibert, Andrew Comben, Tori Dance,
Louise Jeffreys, Chris Martin and Jacqui O'Hanlon.**

'A company with a gift for inventive physicality'

EVENING STANDARD

'Theatre about as inventive, imaginative and fantastical as it gets'

TIME OUT

'Their work is never less than sublime'

INDEPENDENT

'The most exciting, enthralling and energising presence in British Theatre'

CAROL ANN DUFFY, POET LAUREATE

'Wonderfully nutty and inventive'

TIMES

'It's been an honour to watch Told by an Idiot evolve their quintessential spirit of anarchic, generous, imaginative comedy'

ROXANA SILBERT, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, BIRMINGHAM REPERTORY THEATRE

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Our TAUGHT BY AN IDIOT participation and outreach work has reached over 13,000 people in the past 4 years

Throughout the year we run workshops, activities and projects for artists, schools and members of the community

'I am very excited that Told by an Idiot are Creative Associates of RADA. Together we share a commitment to education at all levels, a spirit of inquiry and a delight in making theatre immediate.'

ED KEMP, DIRECTOR, ROYAL ACADEMY OF DRAMATIC ART

'It was brilliant! I'd give it a 10 out of 10. There are too many words to describe it'

JOSHUA, AGED 12, TAUGHT PARTICIPANT

'This participation work should be rolled out as an example of excellence... exhilarating and empowering'

HEAD OF CREATIVE ARTS, LEEDS CITY COLLEGE.

'I haven't laughed so much in all my life and laughter is the best medicine'

MY PERFECT MIND RESIDENCY PARTICIPANT

Recent Taught support:

The Garrick Charitable Trust:
Emerging young musician
(Get Happy, Barbican Centre)

The Foyle Foundation:
Regional community residencies
(My Perfect Mind, UK tour)

