

Theatre Re presents

# Blind Man's Song

## Promotional Pack

Runs 60 mins / no interval / age guidance 8+

Funded by National Lottery through Arts Council England

Supported by Haringey Council, The French Institute in London and Vocal-Eyes

Produced in association with the Greenwich Theatre and South Hill Park Arts Centre



# The Show

## ► History:

The show premiered as part of the 2015 London International Mime Festival at Jackson's Lane and toured to Bracknell (South Hill Park Arts Centre), Lincoln (Lincoln Drill Hall) and Halifax (Square Chapel Arts Centre).

*Blind Man's Song* will next be performed as part of the Latitude Festival on July 18th, the Departure Lounge Festival (Derby Theatre) on July 23rd and The Pleasance London on July 25th before transferring to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2015 with The Pleasance (KingDome).

## ► Copy:

*"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched – they must be felt with the heart".*

Helen Keller

After a sell-out run at the London International Mime Festival 2015, Theatre Re presents a wordless tale about the power of imagination that blends together physical theatre, mime, sounds, illusions and a beautifully lyrical live musical score. "Superb... like a Beckett play designed by Magritte." (The Stage)

While a blind man walks around his room with unsteady steps a story of love, hope, courage and unquenchable vision unfolds.

## ► Reviews

### ★★★★★ London Theatre 1

*"An extraordinary and emotionally charged glimpse into the mind and imagination... This is a tremendous show."*

### ★★★★★ The Stage

*"Superb... Full of fear and tenderness. It looks like a Samuel Beckett play designed by Magritte."*

### Disability Arts Online

*"Supernatural, fragile and transient... The performances are as moving as they are disturbing."*

## ► Feedback from professionals

### Nina Steiger, Associate Director - Soho Theatre

*"I thought the work was absolutely gorgeous, such incredibly accomplished and imaginative work. Articulate, eloquent and riveting."*

### Adrian Berry, Artistic Director - Jackson's Lane Theatre

*"I just wanted to congratulate you on a successful run at the London International Mime Festival at Jackson's Lane. We enjoyed your work very much and I was pleased to see such demand for tickets also!"*

### Simon Hollingworth, Creative Director - Lincoln Drill Hall

*"Theatre Re's new piece 'Blind Man's Song' is an extraordinary & beautiful piece of physical theatre that is absolutely mesmerising to watch. The music deserves a special mention – stunning!"*

► Statement of intent:

*“If you are looking for infinity, just close your eyes”.*

Milan Kundera

When we close our eyes, doesn't it seem that everything becomes possible?

We conjure up fantasies and our thoughts start to flirt with the surreal and the unbelievable. The world becomes strange and dangerous; the everyday connects with the past, future and present. Darkness unlocks the doors of imagination and arouses the wildest and most mysterious sides of our minds.

With *Blind Man's Song* we take that leap of the imagination to an extreme. We want to respond to the supernatural, the magical and the emotional sparks that seep into us when the eyes are closed.

Our main character is a blind musician who has never seen the light.

As endless sensations distract, inform and amuse him, we follow his dreamlike journey travelling at the speed of memory to a place where some things become more visible in the dark.

In the end what moves us most; what we see or what we imagine we see?

► The making of the work - partnership with VocalEyes and Haringey Phoenix Group

One of the key questions at the centre of our project is: what does it mean to live in a world with sight loss?

As part of our exploration we have been engaging a meaningful dialogue with the blind and partially sighted members of the Haringey Phoenix Group in North London. Through regular interviews and discussions since January 2014, we have been able to collect information and material that helped us have a better grasp of the subject that we were dealing with.

We also worked in collaboration with VocalEyes, in order to make the result of our explorations accessible to the people who helped us shaping the piece.

All our performances to date have been audio-described by VocalEyes.

The responses so far has been excellent and we are looking at ways to build on that first experience to keep making our work accessible to the blind and visually impaired, as well as enjoyable, engaging and meaningful for other audiences.



# The company :

## ▶ who we are:

*'Theatre Re has a gorgeous aesthetic quality that enchants the audience'*

A Younger Theatre

Established in 2009, Theatre Re is a London-based international ensemble creating vibrant and emotional work on the edge of mime and theatre.

Its two previous productions, *The Gambler* and *The Little Soldiers* have both toured nationally and internationally following successful Edinburgh Fringe seasons.

Apart from touring *Blind Man ' Song*, Theatre Re is currently planning its next project for 2016.

Theatre Re is an associate company of South Hill Park Arts Centre.

[retheatre.com](http://retheatre.com)

## ▶ Awards:

*The Little Soldiers* was nominated for two OFF WEST END Theatre Awards (2013) and for The Brighton Fringe Pick of Edinburgh Award for Emerging Artists (2013). *The Gambler* was ranked in the top 3 best reviewed shows at the Edinburgh Fringe 2012 and *Comme un Gant* was nominated for the ARTE TV Award at the Avignon Off Festival 2009.

## ▶ Creative team:

Conceived and directed by Guillaume Pigé

Devised by the company

Performers - Alex Judd, Guillaume Pigé & Selma Roth

Original Music - Alex Judd

Lighting Designer & Technical Manager - Katherine Graham

Costume, Props & Set Designer - Malik Ibheis

Dramaturge - A.C. Smith

External Advisor - Mary Lang (Haringey Phoenix Group)

External Curator - Andrew Visnevski

Photos - François Verbeek, Deniz Kavali & Léa Tirabasso

Carpenter - Peter Bennett

Graphic Designer - Rebecca Pitt

# Wrap around activities:

Since 2009, Theatre Re has been creating and touring its own brand of strong physical and visual theatre both in the UK and internationally.

Corporeal Mime is at the base of all the creative work of the company. We are placing the actors' entire body (including voice) and it's ability to communicate at the centre of our exploration.

Our aim is to create direct and vibrant performances that will inspire, challenge and move our audiences. Our work is often described as being poetic and tender as well as disturbing and haunting.

Alongside our critically acclaimed productions, we have developed and delivered a high quality Skills Development Programme, ranging from one off workshops to year-long physical theatre and corporeal mime modules.

All our activities are tailored to the group we are working with, so every workshop is different. We are open to the possibility of working with all groups, including those with disabilities - please contact us to talk in more detail about how we could work together.

Theatre Re has previously engaged with performers, actors, dancers and students at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, Fourth Monkey TC, Louisiana State University, London International Mime Festival, the Conservatory of Villeurbanne, Berkshire County Dance Company Youth and South Hill Park Young Actors Group.

▶ Workshops for professional and semi-professional performers, students and community groups:

We offer an exciting and inventive insight into the work of Etienne Decroux (father of modern mime) and his assistants, and on how the company uses corporeal mime to create new material for theatre, in conjunction with music, scriptwriting, improvisation, object manipulation and physical characterization.

For more details about our workshops, please email us at: [info@retheatre.com](mailto:info@retheatre.com)

▶ Talks for practitioners and emerging artists:

Building on successful experiences of making work with groups at risk of social exclusion, local community groups, local residents and groups of people with disabilities, we give talks for artists and practitioners to develop engaging and relevant projects in a community focused way where non-regular arts participant take an integral part in the devising process.

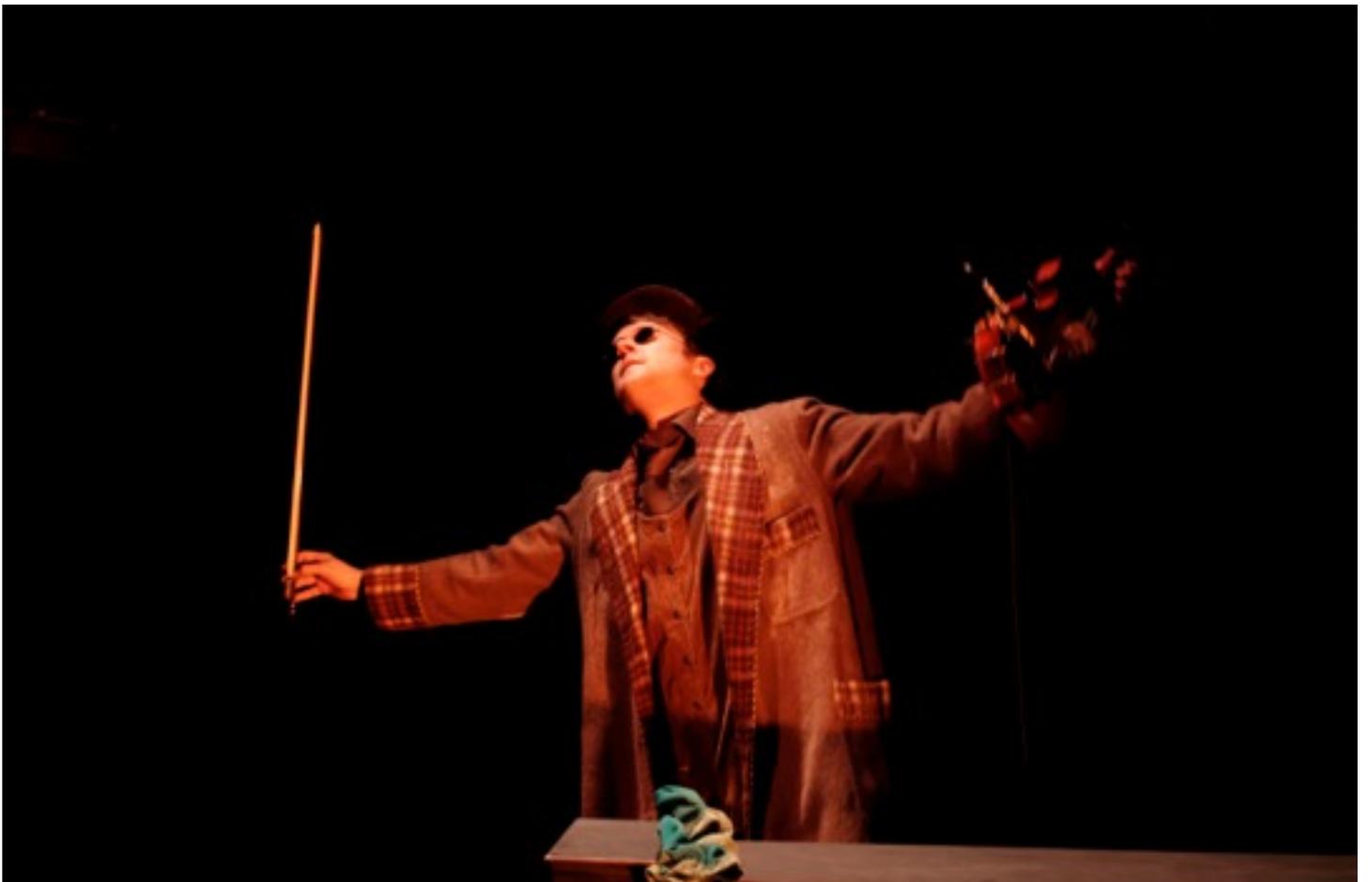
We also engage with emerging artists and share our experience of 'getting started' as a company (producing, touring, fundraising and Edinburgh Fringe Festival).

▶ Post show discussions:

Post show discussions with the creative team will include an open conversation about how we went about making *Blind Man's Song* and where this piece fits within the rest of the company's work. This will be followed by a Q&A with the audience.

▶ Activities for the the blind and visually impaired:

Theatre Re can organise a 'Touch Tour' before each performance and provide a script in English (created by VocalEyes) for a live audio description of *Blind Man's Song*.



# Technical information:

## ▶ Staging requirements:

- A minimum performance space of 7m width x 7m depth

## ▶ Sound:

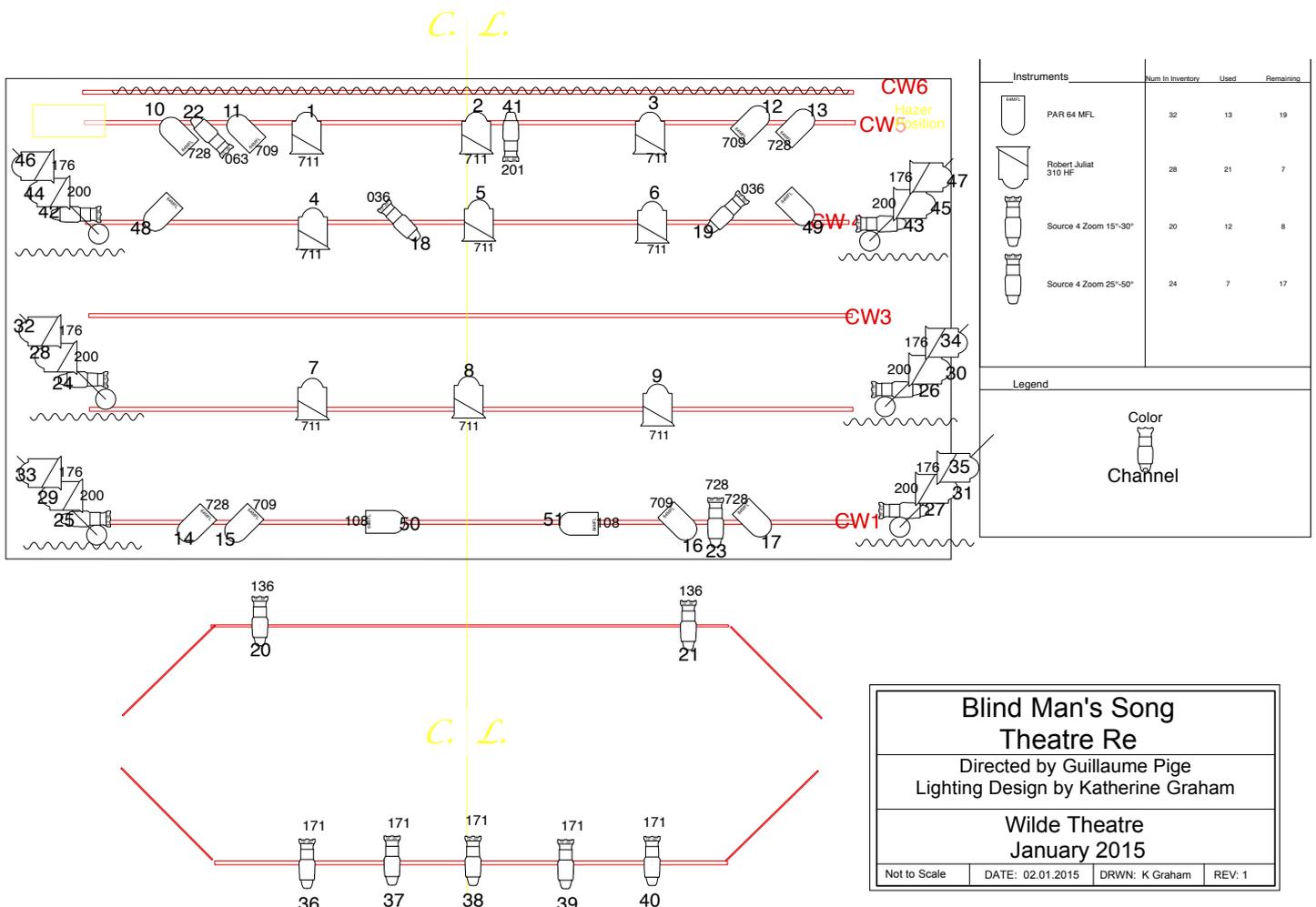
- Standard PA and Speakers
- A stereo output
- 1 x DI

## ▶ Effects

- DMX controllable Hazer

## ▶ Light:

- Minimum of 52 ways of dimming
- 9 point over head wash
- 5 point front of house wash
- 2 front of house specials (S4 15-30 or similar)
- Overhead specials as per plan
- 3 fully masked booms per side, each with 2 IK fresnels and 1 source 4 25/50 (or similar)



# Contacts:

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