



RAUCOUS

Ice Road

Summary

Raucous and Artspace Lifespace are working together to create a new immersive production for Jacob Wells Bath Centre for Autumn 2017. Over the period of 3 months, the building will be taken over by a cross collaborative team of visual artists, theatre makers, technologists and digital creatives. We will have an open doors policy so that the community can witness the production unfold.

The Idea

Ice Road and is set in Russia in 1942 during the Winter of Starvation in Leningrad (St Petersburg).

Ice Road tells the story of four young people as they face a long cruel winter during the Siege of Leningrad. It is a story of how they find each other, how they rely on each other to survive and what they have to do to stay alive.

It is also a story of what part culture plays when a society is breaking down. In Leningrad, in that terrible year, the only institution that kept functioning, that people flocked to, was the theatre. Even though hope was scarce and people were dying of hunger, music and theatre was more urgent than ever. A country on its knees still needs to remember what keeps it human. The story will be a weave of historical accounts of that time, King Lear and Russian folk story. The music/score for the show will be influenced by the work of Shostakovich, who wrote his Symphony No 7 in C major in honour of the bravery shown during Leningrad's siege.

Aims & Legacy

Raucous is a collective of artists who live in Bristol for audiences who live in Bristol. We firmly believe in siting our work in the heart of this city. We aim to place our work in areas of the city that has no identifiable cultural provision and we believe that helping to transform Jacob Wells Bath Centre, will have a real and lasting impact on the use of the building. It will attract audiences but also artists, both regionally and nationally, due to a scarcity of mid-scale performance spaces in Bristol at the moment.

- The premiere of a new play
- The introduction to Bristol of a new theatre space in a new development
- A new design by an award winning international opera designer
- An original score of music and sound installation that runs throughout, inspired by the work of Shostakovich.

Inventive use of:

- Robotics
- Projection mapping - projecting film onto the architecture of the church
- Film
- Handheld technology that responds to the audience
- 3D printing
- Directional sound
- Smell

Engagement and participation

Neighbours Nights

We are committed to working within the community in which we make our work. With Ice Road we are offering Neighbours Nights where local community members can get together for free backstage tours, talks and discounted tickets. We will also be offering this to neighbouring schools. We are also committed to offering certain paid roles (such as front of house staff) to local people.

University of West of England

Raucous is hosting a Creative Producer MA Placement from September 2017

Bristol University

Raucous are hosting 4 Independent Placements in Community Outreach, Production, Producing and Communication.

We are also discussing the possibility of hosting a paid researcher intern.

Celebrating the space

This is a pilot project that will test if Jacob Wells Bath could be a permanent arts and performance space for Bristol, at a time where capacity for producing live art is limited.

Our work is created to respond exactly to the architecture and ambiance they are placed in. Through the use of projection mapping we also change and alter those spaces in order to deliver our narrative. We take an unused space and give it a story and a character as well as giving it an audience who are often being in that space for the first time.

Our last show was in partnership with Artspace Lifespace under Bristol Temple Meads station, no-one had been inside their red-bricked vaults for nearly 70 years, since we performed there, the space is being utilised once more.

Website and short film

Raucous website: www.raucous.org.uk

Stick House trailer : <http://www.raucous.org.uk/whats-next>

Stick House short film : <https://vimeo.com/155404948>
(Password : StickHouse2015)

Previous work

In 2015 Raucous produced its first show, **The Stick House**, with Artspace Lifespace in red-brick tunnels under Bristol Temple Meads station. The tunnels had not been opened to the public for over 75 years.

There were 66 performances of the show with over 4000 audience members attending.

- 48 of the performances were completely sold out.
- All of the shows in the final three weeks were sold out.
- The show achieved 93% of ticket capacity
- The show achieved a financial Box Office target of 153%
- Raucous employed 34 people for a period of 12 weeks.
- The 3367 tickets sold generated £53751.50 of gross income.
- The average ticket yield was £15.92
- By and large, the majority of attendees came as part of a group of two or more.
- 33% of audiences had booked with Watershed previously but the remaining 67% were new to that organisation. This led to a cross-fertilisation between the theatre and media
- 86% of people booked their tickets online
- 71% paid full price for their tickets
- 33% of audience members came from outside Bristol, including Edinburgh, London and Cardiff
- 33 BS postcodes districts were represented
- Although the highest number of bookers came from BS6 at 14%, this was closely followed by BS3 at 11% and BS5 at 8% showing that it attracted a different audience from the demographics usually seen for theatre work.
- The majority of tickets were bought one week before the show opened.
- 82% felt the pricing was just right for the experience
- 62% go to theatre less than once a year
- 34% had not been to the theatre in the last five years
- Gender split was equal.
- Average age range for attenders was 25 - 35 years.
- 95% said that it was an engaging and creative way of experiencing a play
- 93% thought it was innovative
- 96% said the production looked distinctive

The Stick House was also re-structured to provide a team day for Google's internationally renowned Innovation Hub.

"We were contacted by Raucous to share their view of theatre re-imagined. We were really impressed by their intention to push the boundaries of live performance for audiences, and spent some time with them exploring the potential of digital and creative technology in theatre... they have a compelling story and the ambition to create something truly new." Steve Vranakis, Executive Creative Director, Google Creative Lab

Raucous was shortlisted for the BBC's Space Prize, The UK Innovation Awards and The Stick House was voted best theatre production by 24/7 magazine for 2015.

'The extraordinary imagination and impressive execution of this fantastical environment for both actors and audience makes this event unmissable. The Stick House needs to be added to the roster of this year's 'must see' events. It is theatre like you've never experienced before.' 24/7 Magazine

'The production piles on atmosphere, and the mingling of performance with technology is brilliantly unobtrusive and effective. Sharon Clark's script is poetically powerful. The Stick House is cleverly conceived; distinctively different.' Lyn Gardner, The Guardian (4 stars)

'Its ambition, its execution, its passion and soul, its variety, this really is as good as theatre gets.' The Fix magazine(5 stars)