



**Do Geese See God?  
Paper People Theatre  
Information Pack**



# Do Geese See God?

## About the Show

Do Geese See God? is an exploration of the ongoing development in humanities relationship with fact, how we understand and explain the universe around us and our place within it. The show examines the effects of the rise of Post Fact and Alternative facts, the effect that they have on humanity and if facts can be ignored or rewritten.

Despite being a show that explores a crucial and current issue, Do Geese See God is fun. It is energetic and silly. The audience see four performers attempting to define fact, establish its relationship with the world around us and what happens if facts become irrelevant. We are attempting to do something that is either very difficult or perhaps impossible. It is full of interesting, fun and bizarre facts and interlaced with unexpected moments and poetic writing.

Four performers onstage perform several moments that explore the world of facts - their fragility and their equally transient and immovable nature. Each moment is epitomised in a material or object and at the end of each moment that material or object is sealed in a glass jar, as evidence. These are presented as exhibits ranging from A - G and exist to support the argument and as evidence in the case of fact - until there seems to be nothing supporting it. Each moment also leaves a mark on the stage; a pile of sugar, strewn pieces of paper, chalk circles etc.

The moments that are explored include; the nature of fact itself (as it was originally a word used to refer to a crime), the origins of marriage, the definition of planets, the nature of light, what happens to the body when a person dies. The facts explored are a combination of those currently true, facts since proven to be untrue, facts believed by the general populace to be true that are in fact false (and vice versa).

As the work progresses it becomes harder and harder to define a fact and differentiate between what is true and what is not. The performers begin to realise that it is not easy to define what a fact is and the performance begins to fall apart. They find it harder to differentiate fact from past fact and find it hard to trust where the information has come from, who can they believe, what they can believe and even if the space they inhabit can be relied upon.

As the performers begin to lose control, the performance breaks down, as it does, the theatre space begins to fight against the performers whilst they desperately try to pin down a definition of fact. The show begins to dictate what the fact of our show is, and tries to take it away from the performers, forcing scene changes and recreations of moments in the show out of the performer's control. This invites the audience to examine if what they have been presented with is true, and if the performers have information that can be relied upon.

To fight back, the performers build their own world, built on facts that do not and cannot change. At the end, they are left naively accepting this simple, new world, presenting only what we can be sure of.

Do Geese See God? is created to be captivating, exciting, interesting and most of all fun. It explores the very nature of our existence and our understanding of where we fit within it but it does it with huge amounts of energy, a sense of humour and a fair amount of irony. This show is silly, because the world can be a dark place, and we should be able to contemplate our place within it without falling into a pit of despair.



## Paper People Theatre

Paper People Theatre are a multi-disciplinary company based in Manchester. We work together to create beautiful theatre that explores the relationships between people and between people and the world around us. Our work is visually rich and vibrant. Paper People Theatre is interested in the beauty of failure. We believe that there is nothing more beautiful to see than a moment of uncertainty, there is nothing more captivating than a moment of failure and there is nothing more heart-warming than to see that failure transformed into a victory. Previously Paper People Theatre has made a silent, movement based performance, 'Uncanny Corner' which has toured across England as well as two live art installations, 'Here We Remain' and 'Rosemary' and a short, audience interactive festival piece 'Stories from The Wild West' which was created in response to a commission by Nozstock festival. They have been supported by Contact Theatre, Lancaster Arts and Z-Arts. The core members of Paper People Theatre are;

### Lowri Jones



Lowri Jones is a Welsh performance artist now based in Manchester. As part of Paper People Theatre her live art background informs her work as a performer and dramaturg and her interests lie in work which is physical, often silent and which takes the audience through the visual landscape created on stage.

### Jon Coleman



Jon is a theatre maker, writer and performer based in Manchester. His work explores the nature of storytelling, focusing on the mechanics of telling stories rather than the stories themselves. In 2016 he finished touring his solo show, 'How to be a Man' supported by Arts Council England. He is currently developing a new solo performance, 'I'm Building a Spaceship'.

## Hannah Mook



Hannah Mook is a contemporary performance maker based in Manchester. Her work seeks to explore the interplay between a performer's body and what surrounds them. Her past works have been heavily prop and movement based and are often silent. Hannah is constantly preoccupied with the formal and visual aspects of theatre, her work is often uncanny or displaced.

## Jake Walton



Jake Walton is a Northwest based performance artist currently living and working in Manchester. He has background training in a variety of performance techniques working in a range of professional and semi-professional companies. Jake is also a core member of Powder Keg and works as a writer, performer and musician. He is currently touring a political satire performance, *Morale is High (since we gave up hope)*

## Audiences

The target audiences for *Do Geese See God* are;

- Families
- Audiences engaged with contemporary politics
- Audiences interested in science and the arts
- Audiences with an interest in language
- Philosophy students and academics
- Language students and academics
- New writing audiences
- Contemporary theatre audiences

Key themes;

- Alternative facts/post truth
- Etymology
- Human culture and history
- Human significance

Copy and marketing materials for *Do Geese See God* are targeted at these audiences as well as general theatre audiences.





## Reviews and Feedback

“...Paper People Theatre’s brilliantly titled *Do Geese See God?* Posing the conundrum of how we really distinguish fact from fiction in a world where facts are always being changed or replaced... consistently engaging exploration of what we know – or don’t know – and how we explain the world to ourselves. And while the tone is light and teasing, the show’s interrogation of our attitude towards facts has a dark undertow in the wake of the EU referendum and the “facts” thrown about during the campaign.”

(Catherine Love, Exeunt Magazine)

“*Do Geese See God* has a clear world and Paper People bring the audience with them from the very beginning. There is a nice balance between the serious and silly elements. The show is beautiful and clever and accessible for people who do not often go to the theatre.”

(Alice Booth, Lancaster Arts)



# Information for Venues

Availability	March 2018 onwards
Space	End-on. Minimum floor space 10m(w) x 6m(d)
Get-in	1 hour 30 minutes
Show length	50 mins
Age recommendation	8+
Touring company	Four performers + One technician
Technical Information	Venue to provide two microphones and stands. through a basic PA system. Music played through PA system from a Laptop. General wash (6/9 x Fresnels), 6 x Profile spots, Back lighting (4 x Source 4 Zooms/Fresnels with gels) Lighting plan can be provided on request.*
Standard fee	One show £600; two shows £900 (B/O Splits and B/O splits with guarantee can be negotiated)
Documentation	Footage of a Work in Progress performance** (02/2017): <a href="https://vimeo.com/211380145">https://vimeo.com/211380145</a>

\* These technical specifications are likely to change.  
\*\* For venue/programmer reference only

**For bookings or enquiries, contact:**

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