

Forced Entertainment present
SPECTACULAR
UK Premiere:
16 October 2008
Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
With a UK tour to follow

Spectacular is an extraordinary new performance from Forced Entertainment adding to their unique and remarkable body of work and following recent acclaimed shows *The World in Pictures*, *Exquisite Pain* and *Bloody Mess*.

A lone performer takes to the stage, explaining that the show we're watching is somehow different tonight. The atmosphere is different, his entrance was off, the lights are wrong, some scenery is missing, some performers are absent. The tone is all wrong. Things are somehow falling to pieces, or maybe things are just now falling into place. The audience reaction, our protagonist says, is not quite what he expected, not quite what he's used to. Perhaps the fact he is dressed as a skeleton has something to do with it.



Intimate and comical, Forced Entertainment's *Spectacular* slowly and seductively winds the audience into the world of a missing performance. Our skeleton host seems relaxed about it, cracking jokes, staying chatty and amiable. But still something's wrong. The fact that the next performer who comes on-stage is caught up in some long, melodramatic and agonised death scene may also explain the shift in tone.

In development since last year with the core team of Forced Entertainment and following work in progress showings in Bergen, *Spectacular* has now found its final form as a show for two of the group's performers - Robin Arthur and Claire Marshall. Having toured to Essen, Paris, Toulouse and Berlin, to popular and critical acclaim, the show will premiere in the UK this autumn touring to Coventry, Lancaster, London Manchester, Taunton and Glasgow.

Spectacular is about the now of the performance moment, the trembling edge of laughter, possibility and invention. It's about death and playing dead, about the strange contact between two performers on-stage and an audience caught between what they are watching and what they're being told.

Led by Artistic Director, Tim Etchells, Forced Entertainment have over the last 24 years continually strived to find new performance and theatre forms with which to describe contemporary urban life. Their trademark collaborative process - making work through long months of improvisation and discussion - draws not only on theatre but on cinema, music, culture, literature and fine art. They continue to tour widely and to great acclaim throughout the world.

Simple, logical, absurd, impossible and humorous by turns, *Spectacular* is Forced Entertainment's provocative and playful new work.

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forced entertainment

Credits

Conceived and devised by Forced Entertainment:
Robin Arthur, Tim Etchells, Richard Lowdon, Claire Marshall, Terry O'Connor and
Cathy Naden.

Direction	Tim Etchells
Designer	Richard Lowdon
Lighting Designer	Nigel Edwards
Performers	Robin Arthur and Claire Marshall

Co-production Partners

BIT Teatergarasjen (Bergen)
Hebbel am Ufer (Berlin)
PACT Zollverein (Essen)
Les Spectacles vivants - Centre Pompidou (Paris)
Theatre Garonne (Toulouse)
Tramway (Glasgow)

Forced Entertainment is regularly funded by Arts Council, England and Sheffield City Council.

Duration

1 hour 15 minutes (no interval)

Tour Dates 2008

Thursday 15 - Saturday 17 May 2008 *World premiere*	PACT Zollverein, ESSEN, Germany
Wednesday 28 - Saturday 31 May 2008	Pompidou Centre, PARIS, France
Tuesday 17 - Saturday 21 June 2008	Theatre Garonne, TOULOUSE, France
Tuesday 1 - Thursday 3 July 2008	Hebbel-am-Ufer, BERLIN, Germany
Tuesday 7 - Thursday 9 October 2008	Brut, VIENNA, Austria
Saturday 11 & Sunday 12 October 2008	Vie Scena Festival, MODENA, Italy
Thursday 16 & Friday 17 October 2008 *UK premiere*	Warwick Arts Centre, COVENTRY, UK
Tuesday 21 & Wednesday 22 October 2008	Nuffield Theatre, LANCASTER, UK
Thursday 6 - Saturday 15 November 2008 (excluding Monday 10 November)	Riverside Studios, LONDON, UK
Tuesday 18 November - Saturday 22 November 2008	Contact, MANCHESTER, UK
Friday 28 & Saturday 29 November 2008	The Brewhouse, TAUNTON, UK
Thursday 4 - Saturday 6 December 2008	Tramway, GLASGOW, UK
Tour Dates 2009	
Friday 13 & Saturday 14 March 2009	Kaaitheater, BRUSSELS, Belgium

More dates TBC.

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