



# International Touring Pack



## About Us

20 Stories High are led by Co-Artistic Directors Julia Samuels and Keith Saha.

We make theatre with young people from excluded communities, emerging & world-class artists to tell stories that are...

**gritty, lyrical, melodic, rebellious,  
contemporary, mashed-up, authentic, original,  
visual, challenging, youthful, tender  
anarchic, diverse, surprising, booming,  
political, funny, collaborative and heart-felt.**

We bring young people into theatre venues and go out into their communities.  
We hail from Liverpool, but our reach is national and international.

*We believe everybody's got a story to tell...and their own way of telling it...*

Founded in 2006, 20 Stories High has established itself as one of the leading young people's theatre companies nationally, and has won a series of prestigious awards and commissions. 20 Stories High tours to theatres, schools venues and community spaces and run a range of participatory projects. We have a range of touring productions and participatory projects available for international opportunities.

# Shows Available for Booking

## The Broke 'N' Beat Collective



hip-hop puppetry like you've never seen before.

*Sometimes when I can't stand on my own two feet  
Or the voices in my head feel cracked and incomplete  
I turn up the volume of my Broken Beats  
The Big Heavy Bass sends moves flowing to my feet  
Melodic rhymes fill my head and make me feel oh-so-sweet  
Cos my Broken Beats help me feel alive  
And not so Broke and Beat.*

### Production Details

Co-Writers/ Co-Directors:	Keith Saha & Sue Buckmaster
No. of Performers:	4
No. in Touring Co:	6 (4 performers, 1 Stage Manager, 1 Technical Stage Manager)
Freight:	Luton Van
Touring availability:	(subject to negotiation)
Scale of Venue:	Small scale.
Min. Perf. Space:	5m x 5m
Text-Based:	Light – many visual elements to the production.. Poetry could be adapted
Also Contains:	Live music, puppetry, dance

### Press & Feedback

*...arguably the most innovative piece of theatre to hit Liverpool since The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time. \*\*\*\*\* – Liverpool Echo*

Link: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=TV9HS1BUAnE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TV9HS1BUAnE)

20 Stories High and Theatre-Rites join forces to create a unique mash up of hip-hop, theatre and puppetry bringing together 4 amazing artists: beat-boxer **Hobbit**, b-boy Ryan **LoGisTic** Harston, singer/rapper **Elektric** and puppeteer **Mohsen Nouri** to form **The Broke 'N' Beat Collective**.

Come and spend an evening with the Collective; a raw, gritty, funny and moving gig that explores the hardships faced by young people in the UK today.

Gripping tales, transfixing poetry and

# Black



Nikki lives on an estate on the outskirts of Liverpool. She doesn't think that her dad is a racist...He just cares deeply about his community...

But when a Zimbabwean family move in over the road, the dog won't stop barking...The local kids start lobbing stones....And her dad starts laying down the law.

This provocative and engaging new show digs deep at the heart of racial tensions in the UK and beyond.

**Black** is written by award-winning playwright Keith Saha. **Black** originally toured the UK for 6 weeks in spring 2015.

## Production Details

Writer:	Keith Saha
Director:	Julia Samuels
No. of Performers:	2
No. in Touring Co:	3 (2 performers, 1 stage manager)
Freight:	Transit van
Touring availability:	(subject to negotiation) February-June and September-December in 2016, 2017 and 2018.
Scale of Venue:	Small scale. Community space version also available.
Min. Perf. Space:	6m x 4 m
Text-Based:	Dense (important for audiences to have a good understanding of English)
Also Contains:	Live DJing

## Press & Feedback

This highly effective combination of music, monologue and design – under Julia Samuels's astute direction – locks the audience into Nikki's turmoil as her world is completely upended. Saha's play is sharp, funny and honest. He provides no easy solutions yet does allow a glint of hope as to the future. **Paul Foley, Morning Star \*\*\*\*\***

**@LonginToBeLazy** Well-written, visually exciting with cool tunes and overall excellent performances by @20StoriesHigh of #blacktheplay @ContactMcr #MustSee

Link: [20storieshigh.org.uk/show/black/](http://20storieshigh.org.uk/show/black/)

# Tales from the Mp3



Tales from the Mp3 is a gritty, honest and transformative piece of verbatim theatre. When tensions within the company ran high, the Young Actors decided to interview each other to find out the stories that made each member who they are today. Armed with Mp3 players, they created a play that tells the story of a group of ordinary – and extraordinary – young people.

*Tales from the Mp3* used the 'recorded delivery' technique in performance. In this, the group listened to the original MP3 recordings live on stage, repeating the words they heard

played through their headphones. This gave the performances a raw authenticity – and an incredibly spontaneous energy. The show also features live music, poetry and spoken word created by the group, and a simple but striking design. *Tales from the Mp3* originally toured to Edinburgh and UK venues in 2014.

## Production Details

Writer & Director:	Julia Samuels
No. of Performers:	8
No. in Touring Co:	11 (8 performers, 2 stage managers, 1 pastoral support worker)
Freight:	Transit van
Touring availability:	Short tours only (up to 2 weeks' duration). (Subject to negotiation) February-June and September-December in 2016, 2017 and 2018.
Scale of Venue:	Small scale.
Min. Perf. Space:	7 x7m
Text-Based:	Dense (important for audiences to have a good understanding of English)
Also Contains:	Live music, poetry

## Press & Feedback

@lyngardner@20StoriesHigh Tales From the MP3 @Summerhallery essential verbatim snapshots of the lives of Liverpool teenagers. Smart work. **The Guardian (via Twitter)**

a production that ends up being far fresher and more insightful into the lives of young people than most recent productions focusing on youth... Verbatim theatre might have become a bit passé, but Tales is a breath of fresh air. It's authentic, feels immediate and has an energetic company that many supposed seasoned performers currently acting on the Fringe could learn a thing or two from. Bravo! **Michael Cox, Arts:Blog at Edinburgh Fringe**

Link : [www.20storieshigh.org.uk/show/tales-from-the-mp3-2014/](http://www.20storieshigh.org.uk/show/tales-from-the-mp3-2014/)

# Headz Monologues



**Headz** is a series of Contemporary Urban Monologues.

Inside every HEAD lies a secret... a story waiting to unravel.

Mikey's Mum and Dad still haven't forgiven him for what he did when he was six... Jamie is keeping her pregnancy under wraps... and David is having an affair with his teacher.

With 11 different monologues... **Headz** offers a gritty, challenging and humorous

insight into the lives of young people in Liverpool 2015.

These stories are all based on real events. Keith Saha (20 Stories High's Co-Artistic Director) felt inspired by Alan Bennett's 'Talking Heads' monologues and felt compelled to write contemporary monologues for our Young Actors Company.

Keith Saha says: "The stories are really different from each other but also connected, funny, moving and raw. And they hopefully shine a light on the lives of a group of people that don't often get represented on the stage"

**Headz** was originally performed by our Young Actors Company at the Liverpool Playhouse in 2014 and was also presented in library spaces in St Helens, Merseyside. It is due to do a short festival tour in England and Scotland in autumn 2015.

## Production Details

Writer:	Keith Saha
Directors:	Julia Samuels and Keith Saha
No. of Performers:	Between 1 and 3 Upto 3 Monologues
No. in Touring Co:	4 (3 performers, 1 stage manager)
Freight:	Hand luggage
Touring availability:	(subject to negotiation) February-June and September-December in 2016, 2017 and 2018.
Scale of Venue:	Small scale.
Min. Perf. Space:	2 x 2m
Text-Based:	Dense (important for audiences to have a good understanding of English)

## Press

The short monologues of *Headz* are captivating, emotional, relevant, humorous and manage to create a personal atmosphere that enhances the success of the performance. (**What's On Stage**)

Link : [www.20storieshigh.org.uk/show/headz/](http://www.20storieshigh.org.uk/show/headz/)

# Coming Soon 2017

## "I told my Mum I was going on an RE Trip"

### A Co-Production with Contact



What do you know about abortion? What do you think about it? Why can we debate about it as an idea but not talk about it as an experience?

With live music and poetry, 20 Stories High has brought together diverse voices in a new verbatim theatre piece about abortion.

We present the real voices of a host of different people: those who are new to thinking about abortion; young women who have had abortions; young parents; sexual health clinicians and educators; campaigners and religious leaders. We explore young people's ideas and perspectives within the framework of broader cultural, religious and political contexts.

This provocative and engaging show challenges assumptions and ideas about abortion and gets us talking about something that 1 in 3 women in the UK will experience in their lifetimes

20 Stories High is an award-winning theatre company with a passion for pushing the boundaries to create dynamic and challenging theatre for new, young and diverse audiences.

Created and Directed by: Julia Samuels

No. of Performers: 4

No. in Touring Co: 5 – 4 Actors 1 Stage Manager

Freight: Hand luggage

Touring availability: From March 2017 – Subject to Availability

Scale of Venue: Small scale.

Min. Perf. Space: 6x 4m

Text-Based: Dense (important for audiences to have a good understanding of English)  
Could be adapted and developed with non English Speak actors .

# Participation Activities



The 20 Stories High team can offer a range of workshops, residencies and training programmes for young people, or those who work with young people. The workshops and projects focus on the development of dynamic, relevant new work through creative collaboration between artists and young people from culturally diverse and socially disadvantaged communities. All activities can be tailor-made for the interests of international partners.

We are also interested in opportunities

for our own Liverpool-based participants to take part in international cultural exchanges and collaborations.

## Overview

**Workshops** – Professional artists will lead workshops that explore the themes and stories within each production using a number of different art forms, including Hip-Hop Theatre & Spoken Word, Verbatim Theatre, Puppetry, Movement and Beat-Boxing. For up to 30 young people per workshop.

**Post-Show Jams** – 20 Stories High in partnership with host schools / venues can set up exciting Post-Show Jam events for local young people. Each Post-Show Jam is bespoke, working alongside local young people to organise the event. Young people and artists from the show can collaborate on stage together. Young people are also encouraged to perform as individuals or groups. For up to 100 people.

**Programme and Signposting** – A free programme will be handed out at the end of every performance, with information about the show and information about key support organisations and services.

**Resource Pack** – This free pack will be available online for any school or community group. It will feature key information about the show, company and production team. The pack will also offer activities and ideas for groups to explore in the classroom or during session time. Each resource pack is tailored to the show.

**Bronze Arts Award Resource** – We are passionate about leading young people through their Arts Awards, so we have recently created a bespoke booklet that can be filled in completely after attending one of our workshops and seeing the show.

## What People Say

## Partners

“...an outstanding combination of quality writing and production with a stellar cast of new local talent .I was astounded it was the first professional production that Abby Melia and Craig Shanda had appeared in. [...] The play is relevant and will resonate with young people because of the clever script and creative interpretation” Bernie Brown, Assistant Director Social Care, Liverpool City Council (BLACK)

“WOW! Thank you so much for today. Our students LOVED the workshop and as well as being fun it was so relevant for their A-Level studies. I can't thank you all enough. We are all looking forward to making our own Verbatim plays now... it was just the experience our students need to inspire them. Keep up your good work, this was one of the best in school experiences I have ever had in over 15 years of teaching. You've got it just right” Sian, Drama Teacher, Thorpe St Andrew School and Sixth Form, Norwich (Tales from the MP3 workshop)

“I have two very disengaged students who are EAL (English as an additional language) who really came alive after being made to do a student workshop before the show. They boys are really into their hip hop and rap and they were able to engage with the staff from the company. The boys were supposed to be coming to watch the show so that they could write their GCSE live evaluation course work neither boy was planning on bothering but after the work shop they both came and one even performed at the post show jam! Result!” Teacher, Voyager Academy, Peterborough Young People (Melody Loses Her Mojo)

## Young People

“I just wanted you to know how your theatre is inspiring and motivating and challenging. I loved the actress and how honest she was in her performance, plus the live music added a real bit of attitude and flavour to it. Overall a really great piece which I will remember for years to come, because it forced me to think about things going on in society and people's attitudes. Thank you for a great night of theatre” Student at ALRA North, Wigan (Black)

“It was lovely how they [20SH] made it all work for young people, because not many young people sit down and watch the theatre, so the way they conveyed the audience was actually amazing, they were hooked into it, they were in there. Yeah it was amazing.” Young Person, Studio 79 Dance College (Tales from the MP3)

“Loved the performance. Very informing – I can relate to the actors performance and the things she said” Young Audience Member (Headz)

## Contact

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