

## Award-winning artistic collaboration takes British young people's theatre to an international audience

**20 Stories High** and **Theatre-Rites** join forces once again to revive their 2016 award-winning show **The Broke 'N' Beat Collective** - a unique mash up of hip-hop, theatre and puppetry.

The collaboration, winner of the ASSITEJ Young Critics Award\* last year, is being presented at The Bristol Festival of Puppetry and the annual Ruhrtriennale Music and Arts Festival in Germany, this September. This marks Theatre-Rites' 3<sup>rd</sup> collaboration with the Ruhrtriennale and is the first international presentation of work by 20 Stories High.

**The Broke 'N' Beat Collective** takes the form of a live gig. Gritty, moving and funny, it combines gripping tales, transfixing poetry, and is animated with imaginative hip-hop puppetry, to explore the hardships young people currently face in the UK.

Building on the initial success and incredible reception from young audiences in the UK, Keith Saha (Co-Writer and Co-Artistic Director of 20 Stories High) said:

*"20 Stories High has been making work by and for young people in Liverpool for over 10 years and we've been honoured to share their stories and voices on the national stage over that time. Taking this show to Germany offers us a unique opportunity to extend our dialogue with young people to an international audience, allowing them to explore and express their concerns, hopes and fears in a post-Brexit Europe."*

And **Sue Buckmaster** (Co-Writer and Artistic Director, Theatre-Rites) agrees:

*"Theatre-Rites has benefited from a strong international presence. We know that artistic collaboration strengthens political, community and cultural exchange and is increasingly important in a politically divided Europe. We are delighted to be making a first visit to the Bristol Festival of Puppetry and to be returning to the Ruhrtriennale Festival for the third time."*

Described as *'breathtakingly inventive'* (The Times) and with *'beautiful storytelling told with passion and energy'* (Sound and Vision), the show brings together four acclaimed artists: beat-boxer **Hobbit**, b-boy **Ryan LoGisTic Harston**, singer/poet **Elektric** and puppeteer **Mohsen Nouri** to form **The Broke 'N' Beat Collective**.

The revival takes place as Theatre-Rites celebrates 21 years of high quality cross art-form theatre for young audiences. It also follows a hugely successful year for both companies that has included highly celebrated work including: **The Welcoming Party** (a Theatre-Rites co-production with Manchester International Festival, Z-Arts and the Ruhrtriennale Festival) and **She's Leaving Home** (20 Stories High with Phelim McDermott) part of Sergeant Pepper at 50, Liverpool's extraordinary celebration of the seminal Beatles' album, and a television broadcast of 'I Told My Mum I Was Going on an R.E. Trip...' (20 Stories High and Contact, Manchester) this autumn as part of the **BBC Performance Live** series.

\* ASSITEJ On The Edge Festival of Theatre for Young Audiences Young Critics Award 2016

## NOTES TO EDITORS

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### Contacts

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### About the show

20 Stories High and Theatre-Rites  
Present...

### **The Broke 'N' Beat Collective**

By Sue Buckmaster and Keith Saha

6 September 2017, 8pm  
Tobacco Factory Theatres - Bristol Festival of Puppetry, UK  
[www.bristolfestivalofpuppetry.org](http://www.bristolfestivalofpuppetry.org)

16 - 23 September 2017  
Jahrhunderthalle - Ruhrtriennale Festival, Bochum, Germany  
[www.ruhrtriennale.de/en](http://www.ruhrtriennale.de/en)

### Running time

Approx. 70 minutes

### Age guidance

13+

### Social media handles/hash tags

@20StoriesHigh  
@TheatreRites  
#brokeNbeatcollective

### Credits

Writing and Direction	Sue Buckmaster and Keith Saha
Set Design	Miriam Nabarro
Lighting Design	Douglas Kuhrt
Puppetry Design	Sue Buckmaster, Paul Vincett of Stitches and Glue and Matt Hutchinson
Music	Hobbit and Elektrik
Sound Design	Jonathan Everett
Musical Director	Keith Saha
Puppet Makers	Paul Vincett and Becky Johnson of Stitches and Glue and Matt Hutchinson

## About 20 Stories High

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 theatre venues and community spaces and runs a range of participatory projects. We are part of the Arts Council's National Portfolio of funded organisations, and are a registered charity.

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

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

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

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

[www.flickr.com/photos/20storieshigh](http://www.flickr.com/photos/20storieshigh)

[www.youtube.com/20storieshighTV](http://www.youtube.com/20storieshighTV)

## About Theatre-Rites

Theatre-Rites was formed in 1995, and is considered one of the UK's leading theatre companies making work specifically for children. Influenced and inspired by its audiences, it creates work that feeds the imaginations of young people, giving them a memorable theatrical experience. Theatre-Rites has a reputation for working across art forms and creating work with the same high quality production values and integrity of content as the best adult theatre. The company's first production, **Houseworks** (1996), was a seminal moment in children's theatre; the first site-specific performance created for under 5s. It was commissioned by LIFT and referred to by Lyn Gardner of the Guardian as "a show that would certainly make my list of desert island theatrical experiences."

The company creates small and middle-scale theatre and site-specific productions which tour nationally and internationally. Its commissioners have included the Barbican (The Thought That Counts and Bank On It), Sadler's Wells (the award winning Mischief with Arthur Pita), the Vienna Festival, the Young Vic, Ruhrtriennale Festival, the Southbank Centre, the Unicorn, Theater der Welt and the Salzburg Festival.

[www.theatre-rites.org.uk](http://www.theatre-rites.org.uk)

[www.youtube.com/theatrerites](http://www.youtube.com/theatrerites)

## About the artists

### **Hobbit – Sonic Artist / Beatboxer**

Hobbit (Jack Hobbs) is a world-renowned beatboxer, winning numerous titles including UK Loopstation and 2015 World Crew Champion. Passionate to push the art form as well as himself has meant his career has been full of variety, performing all around the world from Glastonbury Festival to Times Square.

[www.hobbitbeats.co.uk](http://www.hobbitbeats.co.uk)

### **Mohsen Nouri - Puppeteer**

Mohsen trained as a puppeteer at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and has a long-established relationship with Theatre-Rites. Outside of theatre his credits include the Argos Aliens advert and Muppets Most Wanted (Disney)

### **Elektric – Singer / Poet**

Elektric's music fuses R&B, Indie & Hip Hop, telling stories through a British melodic rap songwriter style. Born in Leamington Spa and raised in Birmingham, she has been creating music for the past 12 years. Her debut EP Not Another Love Song, supported by Baby People, toured the UK and Europe at venues such as 02 Academy, 02 Institute, Rough Trade, The Jam Café, and Nottingham Playhouse. The East Midlands 'Say It Loud' tour with "Floetry's" The Floacist highlighted Elektric as a rising star. Elektric has also been supported frequently by BBC WM, BBC Radio 1 and BBC 1XTRA, and local radio stations.

[www.thisiselektric.com](http://www.thisiselektric.com)

### **Ryan LoGisTic Harston - Dancer**

Ryan is a versatile performer, actor and director specialising in movement and physicality. Since starting his professional career at 18 he has travelled the globe working internationally with such companies as Cirque Du Soleil, Wired Aerial Theatre and Full Circle Productions. Now the artistic director of his own award winning creative arts company 'URBAN conceptz', Ryan splits his time between film and theatre production.

[www.uctheatre.co.uk](http://www.uctheatre.co.uk)