



**NATIONAL TOUR 2019**  
Marketing Pack

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# 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 which feeds the imaginations of young people, giving them a memorable theatrical experience. Theatre-Rites has a reputation for working across artforms 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 Manchester International Festival, Z-arts and the Ruhrtriennale Festival (*The Welcoming Party*), the Barbican (*The Thought That Counts*, 2006, *Mojo*, 2011, and *Bank On It*, 2013), Sadler's Wells (the award-winning *Mischief* with choreographer Arthur Pita), the Vienna Festival, the Unicorn and the Salzburg Festival. In 2019 Theatre-Rites will be creating a new large-scale family show for the Schauspielhaus Bochum.

## AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

### 2018 Manchester Arts Awards

Nominated for the Manchester Arts Awards for Best Production (The Welcoming Party, Manchester International Festival)

### 2008 TMA Awards

Winner of Achievement in Dance for *Mischief*

### 2004 Arlyn Award Society

Outstanding Design in Puppet Theatre

### 2002 Honorary President's Award of ASSITEJ

Nominated for excellence in the Profession of Theatre for Children and Youth

# About 20 Stories High

Founded in 2006, 20 Stories High has established itself as one of the leading young people's theatre companies both nationally and internationally 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. It is part of the Arts Council's National Portfolio and is a registered charity. 20 Stories High makes theatre with young people from excluded communities, emerging and world-class artists to tell stories that are... gritty, jumping, melodic, rebellious, contemporary, mashed-up, authentic, original, visual, challenging, lyrical, tender, anarchic, diverse, surprising, booming, political, funny, collaborative and heartfelt. The company believes that everybody's got a story to tell... and their own way of telling it.'

## **AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS**

### **Whole by Philip Osment**

2013 Writers Guild of Great Britain Best Play for Young People

### **Ghost Boy by Keith Saha**

2011 Brian Way Award for UK's Best New Play for Young People

2010 Liverpool Daily Post Arts Award for Best Touring Production

### **Blackberry Trout Face by Laurence Wilson**

2010 Brian Way Award for UK's Best New Play for Young People

2009 Shortlisted for Manchester Evening News for Best New Play

# Brochure Copy

Theatre-Rites and 20 Stories High present

## ***Big Up!***

for 3 to 6 year olds and everybody who looks after them

No matter whether you are Big or Small, the world is full of rules. Sometimes we make our own rules, sometimes we don't know the rules and sometimes we want to play by different rules.

What happens when a Beatboxer, a Singer and a Puppeteer arrive on stage but nothing is ready for them? No set, no instruments, no puppets. No rules.

Come and watch as they create a world full of joy and chaos, where objects come to life and everything is possible.

*Big Up!* is perfect for little people who want to be Big, and Big people who ... just might have forgotten how to play.

After the success of *The Broke N Beat Collective*, the award-winning Theatre-Rites and 20 Stories High join forces again, this time to create BIG UP!, a show especially for 3-6 year olds and the people who look after them.

***"The shows originality and freshness sings out"***  
*The Guardian on The Broke 'N' Beat Collective*

# Short Copy

Theatre-Rites and 20 Stories High present

## ***Big Up!***

for 3 to 6 year olds and everybody who looks after them

No matter whether you are Big or Small, the world is full of rules.

What happens when a Beatboxer, a Singer and a Puppeteer arrive on stage but nothing is ready for them? No set, no instruments, no puppets. No rules.

Come and watch as they create a world full of joy and chaos, where objects come to life and everything is possible.

*Big Up!* is perfect for little people who want to be Big, and Big people who ... just might have forgotten how to play.

# Box Office Information

The show has been created for ages 3 – 6 and their families

The running time is 50 minutes (no interval)

There are 4 performers in the show: 3 men and 1 woman (a Beatboxer, a singer and 2 puppeteers)

We welcome all audiences; however, our audience development work, including workshops, is focusing on young adult parents/carers and their 3 to 6 year old children

Theatre-Rites uses a physical storytelling style, using puppetry, humour and original music to create unique, engaging and memorable theatrical experiences

20 Stories High works with young people from excluded communities, emerging artists and world-class professionals to make gritty, melodic, rebellious and heart-felt theatre.

**NOT TO BE USED IN PRINT:** to give you a sense of the show if you're describing it vocally: think Hip Hop or Beatboxing meets the Muppets, Sesame street, Fraggle rock or Yo Gabba Gabba.

## **What is the show about?**

*Big Up!* is a universal story - we all know how full of rules the world is when we are young but what you do when one of you finds it difficult to follow the rules? *Big Up!* is an exciting and comical exploration of rules and relationships through beat box, hip hop, music and puppetry. Performers open up different boxes across the stage and out of each box a new story emerges and evolves.

## **What does the set look like?**

When the audience arrives, the stage will be bare except for a selection of freight cases/boxes (the kind bands use to transport their equipment). There is a backdrop which will light up at the end of the show with the words Big UP.

As each performer arrives on stage they will explore the contents of each freight case and objects and light will be produced from each box. The objects will be animated by the performers to create a number of different characters.

## **Is there any music or song?**

Yes. Hobbit will provide a live beatboxing soundtrack and Dorcas will sing a number of songs throughout the production.

## **Are there any loud bangs or strobe lighting?**

The show has a lot of noise, but there are no loud bangs or strobe lighting effects.

### **Is the show suitable for younger and older siblings?**

The show has been created to particularly appeal to 3 – 6 years olds and to also appeal to the people who care for them – whether they be young adult parents, carers, grandparents or middle-aged parents.

It is inevitable with this age group that slightly younger / older siblings will come along. Due to the highly engaging nature of the show, we believe *Big Up!* will be entertaining for these groups despite having been created with 3 – 6 year olds in mind.

## **MASH UP & Audience Development Activities**

Theatre-Rites & 20 Stories will be resident at venues for performances of *Big Up!* as well as a range of targeted workshop and community engagement activities. Alongside this is a Mash Up performance, available at Unity Theatre, Oldham, The Albany and The Grand.

See separate marketing pack for Mash Up.



# Selling Points

*Big Up* has been created by award-winning companies Theatre-Rites and 20 Stories High.

Theatre-Rites is renowned for making work for this age group. 20 Stories High are celebrated for making work with and for young adults.

The show will appeal to adults as well as children. The beauty of this production is that it can be enjoyed by the whole family.

A company of 4 exceptional performers, including:

- Hobbit, world-renowned and award-winning beatboxer
- Young emerging singer and actor, Dorcas Sebuyange
- Leading puppeteer, Iestyn Evans, supported by emerging talent, Clarke Edwards

High-tech, visually stunning and creative set designed by Verity Quinn.

An imaginative and playful show about family life that children and adults will engage with.

The show features beautiful puppets full of character and brought to life by skilled puppeteers, designed by Michael Fowkes and Sue Buckmaster.

There is a lot of music and beatboxing alongside animated lyrics. As such, *Big Up!* is also suitable for children with English as a second language.

# Inspiration for the Production

We are looking at rules, how we follow them, who makes them, and what happens when rules are unknown, broken or simply don't exist.

The show asks how we play, when we can play, and what happens when you play by different rules.

The unset stage is a metaphor for a playground, the artists are the people playing; who is making up the rules? Who is the parent? Who is the child? And whose rules are we playing by?

As parents we are often so preoccupied with setting rules, being strict, being a certain kind of parent, or not knowing how to parent that we sometimes forget how to play.

# Social Media and Links

## Company Website

Theatre-Rites [www.theatre-rites.co.uk](http://www.theatre-rites.co.uk)  
20 Stories High [www.20storieshigh.org.uk](http://www.20storieshigh.org.uk)

## Facebook

Theatre-Rites [www.facebook.com/TheatreRites](http://www.facebook.com/TheatreRites) | @TheatreRites  
20 Stories High [www.facebook.com/twentystorieshigh](http://www.facebook.com/twentystorieshigh) @twentystorieshigh

## Twitter

Theatre-Rites [www.twitter.com/TheatreRites](http://www.twitter.com/TheatreRites) | @TheatreRites  
20 Stories High <https://twitter.com/20StoriesHigh> | @20StoriesHigh  
Cast @beatboxhobbit | @DorcasSeb

## Instagram

Theatre-Rites [www.instagram.com/theatrerites](http://www.instagram.com/theatrerites) | @theatrerites  
20 Stories High [www.instagram.com/20storieshigh](http://www.instagram.com/20storieshigh) | @20storieshigh

## YouTube

Theatre-Rites [www.youtube.com/user/TheatreRites](http://www.youtube.com/user/TheatreRites)  
20 Stories High [www.youtube.com/user/20storieshighTV](http://www.youtube.com/user/20storieshighTV)

**Social Media hashtags** #theatrerites  
#20storieshigh  
#BigUpShow

**20 Stories High & Theatre-Rites' The Broke 'N' Beat Collective:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLnRCBVNMFc>

**Examples of previous Theatre-Rites family shows:**  
Beasty Baby (3 to 6 year olds):  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rmuGe\\_nS1PM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rmuGe_nS1PM)

Rubbish: (5 plus)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9k6wSLT1Gu4>

Mischief: (5 plus)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=4kcNVsxmGKQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4kcNVsxmGKQ)

**Examples of previous 20 Stories High family shows:**  
Bandcamp  
[www.20storieshigh.bandcamp.com](http://www.20storieshigh.bandcamp.com)

## Suggested Tweets and Posts

Who makes the rules in your house? You or your young children? Catch @theatrerites and @20StoriesHigh #BigUpShow at #[venue] on [date]

Don't miss out on this lively new show #BigUpShow on [date] by @theatrerites and @20StoriesHigh. Tickets available now [link]

Looking forward to the arrival of #BigUpShow. Coming soon! Catch the show trailer here [link]

Ever wondered what a world with no rules would be like? @theatrerites & @20StoriesHigh new show #BigUpShow will open a world where anything is possible... Coming to #[venue] soon

Catch a glimpse of the fantastic trailer for #BigUpShow. Coming to #[venue] soon

Look who's in the building! [image link to Big UP] #BigUpShow  
Tag: @theatrerites @20StoriesHigh @beatboxhobbit @DorcasSeb

#BigUpShow has arrived! Can't wait to see @TheatreRites & @20StoriesHigh perform tonight / tomorrow / on [date] (image/link)

# Target Markets

## 1 | FAMILIES

*Big Up!* has been created specifically for 3 – 6 year olds, but as with all Theatre-Rites' shows it can be enjoyed by the whole family. 20 Stories High works with young people from excluded communities, emerging artists and world-class professionals to make gritty, melodic, rebellious and heart-felt theatre for people of all ages.

### **Selling to Family Audiences**

- Past attendees of Theatre-Rites' productions
- Exit leafleting with all your children's shows, no matter what age, on the basis that the children are likely to have siblings, relatives and friends in our target age group
- Wildlife parks, zoos, city farms
- Weekend arts and crafts projects
- Target family ticket buyers or ticket buyers who have included a child ticket in their party over a wide range of shows
- Fun and theme parks such as Chessington, Alton Towers, Legoland
- Indoor play centres

## 2 | SCHOOLS

### **Selling to School Audiences**

- Class teachers: Foundation Stage, Reception, Key Stage 1
- School administrators, governors
- Schools with an interest in arts and imaginative play
- Local authority education departments / officers
- PTAs

## 3 | FANS OF PUPPETRY

Puppetry is at the heart of every Theatre-Rites production and led by Artistic Director Sue Buckmaster, acclaimed puppetry director and designer.

*Big Up!* demonstrates an array of puppets, with most objects, as well as light, in the show coming to life.

## 4 | FANS OF BEATBOXING

*Big Up!* features live beat-boxing from the internationally renowned beatboxer and performer, Hobbit, who is two-time UK Loopstation Champion. He is also part of the Beatbox Collective, 2015 World Beatbox Champions.

## 5 | ADULTS AND CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

*Big Up!* has little dialogue but lots of music and visual art, making it particularly accessible to people with learning disabilities. The former Head of Learning Disability Development for NHS London, who is very familiar with Theatre-Rites' work, commented:

*“It is not often that people with learning disabilities can truly engage with mainstream drama or dance events and this is why I think the work that Theatre-Rites produces is so exciting. The way in which Theatre-Rites tells stories is so visual and relevant to everyone that it enables people with learning disabilities to meaningfully share in the joyful experience. While there will always be a need for disability specific theatre it is refreshing to see such inclusive work and I think that this is what promoting equality for people with learning disabilities is all about”*

#### **ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES**

Theatre-Rites and 20 Stories High are committed to providing opportunities for all families to be able to attend the theatre. We frequently hold Relaxed Performances aimed at children with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder or learning disability. If you are interested in, or planning to organise, a performance of this sort for *Big Up!*, we would be delighted to work with you on it. We can provide a visual guide to the story for Relaxed Performances. Please contact John at [john@theatre-rites.co.uk](mailto:john@theatre-rites.co.uk) to discuss any aspect of this.

# Press Release

**Theatre-Rites and 20 Stories High present the World Premiere of BIG UP!**

**A unique new show for children aged 3 – 6 and everyone that looks after them  
Written by Sue Buckmaster, Keith Saha and the company. Directed by Sue Buckmaster and  
Keith Saha**

**from xx – xx February/March .../**

touring until 30 March 2019 to Oldham Library; Albany Theatre, Deptford; The Grand, Blackpool; Stratford Circus Arts Centre; z-arts, Manchester.

**Theatre-Rites, renowned for creating work for family audiences and 20 Stories High, celebrated for their work for and with young adults, reunite** following the success of their hip-hop puppetry show for young people *The Broke 'N' Beat Collective* (which premiered at Unity Theatre in 2016). Their brand new show together ***Big Up!*** is for 3 to 6 year olds to share with everyone that looks after them, combining hip-hop, puppetry and live music.

*No matter whether you are Big or Small, the world is full of rules. Sometimes we make our own rules, sometimes we don't know the rules and sometimes we want to play by different rules. A Beatboxer, a Singer and a Puppeteer arrive on stage but nothing is ready for them. No set, no instruments, no puppets. No rules. A world full of joy and chaos erupts, where objects come to life and everything is possible.*

*Big Up!* will be accompanied by a residency at Unity Theatre featuring an extensive programme of outreach and activities, both for children and for Young Adult Parents and Young Carers. This includes workshops for children and a Mash Up gig event for their parents and carers, featuring performances from the *Big Up!* company, local artists and audiences in an open-mic live jam.

**Sue Buckmaster (Artistic Director, Theatre-Rites):** *'Big Up! is a universal story - we all know how full of rules the world is when we are young. We wanted to explore the subtle and not so subtle differences in family dynamics – who sets the rules? The five year old or the parent? And what do you do when one of you finds it difficult to follow the rules?'*

*We hope Big Up! will enthrall and provoke everyone in its audience, regardless of whether they are Big or Small. We delight in the shared experiences parents have with their children at any Theatre-Rites show and are thrilled to reach out to an audience of young adult parents and young carers who may not have had this experience or opportunity before. We look forward to sharing our Residencies, this show – and hopefully a future theatre-going tradition – with them. It is brilliant to be working with 20 Stories High again to recreate the magic we discovered together through The Broke 'N' Beat Collective.'*

**Keith Saha (Co-Artistic Director, 20 Stories High):** *'One of the strongest and most recurring themes during our research was the memory of being young, but desperately wanting to be Big and yet for most of us once we became Big, we forgot how to play. This production plays with the notion of who is the parent and who is the child and how as parents we are often so preoccupied with setting rules, being strict, being a certain kind of parent, or not knowing how to parent that we sometimes forget how to play. It is exciting for us at 20 Stories High to team up with Theatre-*

*Rites again and experience making theatre for young children for the first time, whilst also engaging with the young people who are always close to 20 Stories High's heart.'*

The cast is: beatboxer **Hobbit**, puppeteer **Iestyn Evans**, shadow puppeteer **Clarke Joseph-Edwards** and singer/songwriter **Dorcas Sebuyange**.

**PRESS CONTACT: Nancy Poole / 07957 342 850 / nancy@nancypoolepr.com**

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

##### **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 which feeds the imaginations of young people, giving them a memorable theatrical experience. Theatre-Rites has a reputation for working across artforms 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 Manchester International Festival, Z-arts and the Ruhrtriennale Festival (*The Welcoming Party*), the Barbican (*The Thought That Counts*, 2006, *Mojo*, 2011, and *Bank On It*, 2013), Sadler's Wells (the award-winning *Mischief* with choreographer Arthur Pita), the Vienna Festival, the Unicorn and the Salzburg Festival. In 2019 Theatre-Rites will be creating a new large-scale family show for the Schauspielhaus Bochum.

##### **20 Stories High**

Founded in 2006, 20 Stories High has established itself as one of the leading young people's theatre companies both nationally and internationally 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. It is part of the Arts Council's National Portfolio and is a registered charity. 20 Stories High makes theatre with young people from excluded communities, emerging and world-class artists to tell stories that are... gritty, jumping, melodic, rebellious, contemporary, mashed-up, authentic, original, visual, challenging, lyrical, tender, anarchic, diverse, surprising, booming, political, funny, collaborative and heartfelt. The company believes that everybody's got a story to tell... and their own way of telling it.'

##### **Sue Buckmaster**

Sue Buckmaster is Artistic Director of Theatre-Rites. Sue is the fourth generation of theatre practitioners in her family and has many years of experience as a director, puppetry specialist and teacher. She has worked with a wide variety of companies including the National Theatre, Royal Shakespeare Company, Young Vic, Sadler's Wells and Complicité.

Sue's puppetry technique is known as Puppet Whispering and she has delivered masterclasses for opera singers, dancers and aspiring puppeteers at Festivals and Universities. Sue directed *Chotto Desh*, a family version of Akram Khan's award-winning production *Desh* which has toured world-wide over the last three years.

For Theatre-Rites she has directed 14 theatre and 11 site-specific productions including *The Welcoming Party* (co-produced by Manchester International Festival, Theatre-Rites, Z-arts and

the Ruhrtriennale Festival) which received a special commendation at the inaugural Manchester Cultural Awards in 2018.

In 2018 Sue was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Essex University for her outstanding contribution to theatre.

### **Keith Saha**

Keith Saha is Co-Artistic Director of 20 Stories High. He started performing as a teenager at the Everyman Youth Theatre in Liverpool in the 80s before going on to be an actor, working for companies including Theatre Royal Stratford East, Contact, Graeae, Red Ladder and Birmingham Rep. He then became a composer and Musical Director for theatre before focusing on being a playwright and director.

Since 2006 he has been focusing on writing and developing wide variety of plays using different forms – spoken word, verbatim theatre as well as pioneering the form of Hip-Hop Theatre with Puppetry and Mask.

In 2010, he was awarded The Brian Way Award for the UK's Best New Play for Young People for his play *Ghost Boy*, a co-production with Contact and Birmingham Rep which championed this form. More recently *The Broke 'N' Beat Collective*, jointly written by Sue Buckmaster and a co-production from 20 Stories High and Theatre-Rites, won the young critics award at the Assitej - On The Edge Festival.

His writing is often informed by his own personal experiences fused with the experiences of young people he works with in Liverpool and nationally. Other writing credits include *Babul And The Blue Bear*, *Melody Loses Her Mojo* and *Black*, a play about the racial tensions in the UK today which is currently being developed as a TV drama.



# Press Quotes for Beasty Baby, a Theatre-Rites' production for a similar age group

Top 10 shows of 2015 (Lyn Gardner, The Guardian)

“Who says that theatre for the very young can’t be great art? Not me, and certainly not Theatre-Rites, who have been creating shows as good as anything made for adult audiences for more than 20 years. Designed for the very youngest members of the family, this gorgeous, inventive show delved with psychological acuity and playfulness into the disruptions wrought by the arrival of a new baby. The puppetry was terrific and it was a multi-layered show with something to offer the under-fives but also parents and grandparents”

“a genuinely shared experience for the whole family”

The Guardian ★★★★★

“this hilarious celebration of the good, the bad and the beastly bits of family life... an imaginative and resourceful reflection on the rollercoaster ride that is bringing up baby, this production is a bundle of joy”

The Stage ★★★★★

“A beautiful wintery tale”

Culture Whisper ★★★★★

“a celebration of all the chaos wrought by the arrival of a little one, animating for parents and kids alike the complicated joy of what it means to be a family”

Exeunt

“This show is a hidden gem ... It is beautifully gentle, highly memorable and a must-see for the whole family”

Surrey Life

“Utterly engaging and charming dance puppetry for younger children”

Reviewsgate.com

“The production reminds you that mums, dads and siblings, not just toddlers, take time to find their feet. It’s a hushed, unostentatious show, with never a dull moment: it unfolds rapturously”

Sunday Times ★★★★★

“This delightful piece for 3- to 6-year-olds is wonderful in its simplicity and will captivate grown-ups as much as its target audience”

British Theatre Guide

## Other Press Quotes

"No matter your age it should leave you feeling stimulated, rib-tickled, lighter than when you walked in and glad to be alive"

The Times ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ (Theatre-Rites, Mischief, 2007)

"This is a joyous show about finding yourself and the things that you love, retaining the wonder of life as you move from childhood into the adult world, and remembering what it felt like to be a child. An exhilarating family show, and a mischievous life lesson for all ages"

The Guardian ★ ★ ★ ★ (Theatre-Rites, Mojo, 2011)

"Theatre-Rites is such a brilliant company, the fact that it is dedicated to work for children is by-the-by. This is a company that has the level of invention that other more grown-up companies should envy"

Guardian Guide 2007 (Theatre-Rites)

"It's magical, murmurs a little chap behind me. It is. It is also beautiful, innovative and the best of children's theatre around"

Total Theatre (Theatre-Rites, The Thought That Counts)

"Arguably the most innovative piece of theatre to hit Liverpool since The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime."

Liverpool Echo ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ (Theatre-Rites & 20 Stories High, The Broke 'N' Beat Collective)

"Its empathy and even-handedness, its sense that that small details have the biggest emotional impact."

The Guardian (20 Stories High, She's Leaving Home)

"Liverpool theatre at its best"

Liam Porter, Urbanista (20 Stories High, HEADZ)

## Audience Feedback - The Broke 'N' Beat Collective

"Everyone can take something from this"

"Never seen a play like it in my life before"

"What a show! A fantastic mash-up of puppetry, music, dance and theatre. Current and magical!"

"Superbly inventive show, made me laugh, cry and want to become a beatboxer"

## Q & A with Sue Buckmaster and Keith Saha, Co-Directors

**Q: How did the idea for *Big Up!* first come about?**

We were inspired by the success of our last collaborative show, *The Broke N Beat Collective*, which was aimed at young adults. We wanted to develop a new show which used these forms specifically for 3 to 6-year olds and the people that look after them.

One of the things that came up when we were exploring, was that when we were all younger, we all wanted to be big! When we did eventually get to be big, sometimes we forgot how to play.

**Q: The often-hard-to-answer question: What's it about?**

This production plays with the notion of who is the parent and who is the child and how, as parents we are often so preoccupied with setting rules, being strict, being a certain kind of parent, or not knowing how to parent that we sometimes forget how to play. It is a universal story - whether or not you are a parent or carer - and something that most people experience.

Regardless of our age, we can still remember being young and recall how the world seemed to be full of rules. As parents ourselves, we were drawn towards exploring the subtle, and not so subtle, differences in family dynamics; who really sets the rules: the 5-year old or the parent? What do you do when you, or your child, finds it difficult to follow the rules? *Big Up!* explores all these questions through music, puppetry and theatre.

**Q: Can you tell us a little about what it's like to create a show with Beatboxing for such a young audience?**

We are feeling privileged to be working with a fantastic and eclectic team of Hip Hop artists, puppeteers and designers to create something we think is completely unique. A show we hope will reach out to new audiences as well as offer surprises to regular theatre goers.

As part of the development process we have also enjoyed bringing artists and children into the room to play, to beatbox, to dance, and to get a hands-on experience with some objects from a live music world. And we're really looking forward to introducing some of these elements into the show.

**Q: What's an average day in your rehearsals like?**

In no particular order, any of the following can happen.... and I love it:  
A thorough warm up, an essential coffee, an interesting debate, a playful game, making a discovery, getting blocked, repetitive practice, a reworking of a mechanism, a laugh, a heartfelt connection, more and more questions, feedback, timing, searching for the truth and responding and guiding with honesty.

**Q: And how will *Big Up!* appeal to 3 to 6 year olds?**

There are a lot of struggles and challenges at the moment for little people and big people, and with *Big Up!* we hope that there will be some time for reflection and chill, to have some fun and also make space to put some tunes on and party!

I love that for 50 minutes both adult and child can reflect, laugh and emotionally recognise what is relevant to them at that particular moment in time – it's important that they can do that together.

# Biographies – Creative Team

## **Sue Buckmaster – Co-Director**

See Press Release

## **Keith Saha – Co-Director**

See Press Release

## **Verity Quinn – Designer**

Verity graduated from Nottingham Trent and has worked with a broad range of artists and companies. Design credits include: Theatre-Rites' *Beasty Baby*, *Polstead* (Eastern Angles); *What Once Was Ours* (Zest Theatre & Half Moon); *The Borrowers* (Polka Theatre); *How to Win Against History* (Seiriol Davies & Aine Flanagan Prods); *Getting Dressed* (Second Hand Dance); *Baby Show*, *Laika*; *Once Upon A Christmas*; *The Fourth Wise Man*, *Seesaw*, *Dora* (Unicorn Theatre); *Dame Nature* (Tim Bell & Havoc Theatre); *Under the Rainbow* (Polka Theatre); *Holy Mackerel* (Eastern Angles); *Alpha Beta* (Finborough Theatre); *Free* (Half Moon); *Blue Boy* (New Writing North & Northern Stage); *Apples* (Company of Angels & Northern Stage); *The Girls from Poppyfield Close* (Live Theatre); *Heartbreak Soup* (The Empty Space & Laura Lindow).

## **Joe Hornsby – Lighting Designer**

Joe has worked extensively with theatre and dance companies for the past ten years, creating shows as both lighting designer and production manager and touring works internationally. Recent lighting design credits include: *BREWBAND*, *Nocturne*, *Remember When* (Marc Brew Company, UK & international tours); *K*, *Subliminal Effects* (Pell Ensemble, The Place); *Balloon* (Carolyn Defryn, Chelsea Theatre); *Elegies for Angels*, *Punks and Raging Queens*, *Jack and the Beanstalk* (Shaw Theatre); *Kerry Ellis – On The Edge* (UK tour); *Up and Over It* (Puck, UK & European tour); *The Joy of Politics* (Black Sheep, UK tour); *Heartbreak Beautiful* (National Theatre Olivier). Joe holds a first class honours degree in Drama and Theatre Arts from Goldsmiths, University of London.

## **Jonathan Everett – Sound Designer**

Previous Sound Designs include: *Aladdin* (The Theatre Chipping Norton); *Spamilton*, *Pack Of Lies* (Menier Chocolate Factory); *The Bear*, *Flies* (Pins & Needles); *The Wedding* (Gecko); *The Scarlett Pimpernell*, *I Wish I Was A Mountain*, *Legacy*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Robin Hood*, *The Snow Mouse* (The egg); *Burkhas And Bacon Butties* (Vaults Festival); *The Tempest* (Bristol Old Vic Theatre School); *Broke 'N Beat Collective* (Theatre Rites / 20 Stories High); *I Told My Mum I Was Going On An RE Trip*, *Black* (20 Stories High); *Cinderella - A Fairytale*, *101 Dalmatians* (Travelling Light / Tobacco Factory Productions); *Walking The Chains* (Show Of Strength); *World Cup Final 1966*, *The Last Days Of Mankind*, *Does My Society Look Big In This* (Bristol Old Vic); *Twelfth Night* (Moving Stories); *The Grimm Brothers' Circus* (Theatre Royal Bath); *A Pure Woman* (Poonamallee Productions).

Associate Sound Designs Include: *Goodnight Mister Tom* (Fiery Angel, West End & UK Tour); *My Perfect Mind* (Told By An Idiot, 59E59 New York); *Albion* (Almeida Theatre); *Kiss Of The Spider Woman* (Menier Chocolate Factory); *Song Of Lunch* (Edinburgh Festival); *Twelfth Night* (Edinburgh Lyceum / Bristol Old Vic).

## **Michael Fowkes - Puppet Designer**

Michael trained at Wimbledon School of Art. He is a respected puppet maker, puppeteer and director of puppetry. Michael was puppetry director and maker for The Royal Shakespeare's

production of *Arabian Nights* (2009) and *The Mighty Boosh* live tour (2008). He has his own show in development. He has created characters for, among others, The Royal Shakespeare Company, Theatre-Rites, Punchdrunk, Sadler's Wells, The Unicorn Theatre and The Little Angel Theatre including *The Giraffe*, *The Pelly And Me*, *Angelo* and *Stuff And Nonsense*. His television work includes *The Mighty Boosh* (BBC), *Harry Hill's TV Burp* (ITV), and the Comedy Lab's *Penelope*, *Princess of Pets* (C4).

## Biographies – Cast



**Hobbit** is an internationally renowned beatboxer and performer. Starting beatboxing in 2003, Hobbit has performed both intimate gigs and stadium tours internationally. He is a part of the World Champion beatboxers, The Beatbox Collective, and has won numerous prestigious beatboxing championships. Alongside his work as a world-renowned beatboxer, Hobbit has been involved in music and performance productions, including 20 Stories High's *Ghost Boy* and *Melody Loses her Mojo*, 20 Stories High and Theatre-Rite's *The Broke'n' Beat Collective*, and *Jarred Christmas* at Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Hobbit is also the voice of 'Juke' on Cartoon Network's 'The Amazing World of Gumball' and features in Domino's Pizza's advert sponsoring 'The Voice'.



**Dorcas Sebuyange** is a Congolese Creative Artist based in Liverpool. She specialises in drama, music, poetry and dance. She started acting at 15 and has trained with 20 Stories High, Frantic Assembly, PurpleCoat Productions and Collective Encounters. Her recent credits include *Black Men Walking* (Eclipse, Royal Exchange - 2018), *I told my Mum I was going on an R.E. trip...* (BBC 2 Performance Live, 2018 and 20 Stories High, Contact Theatre, 2017). She has also been writing and performing music and poetry since she was 10 and has supported the likes of Akala, Lady Leshurr, Yasmin, Sway, Bashy, Lowkey, Cherri V, Mz. Bratt and was part of a young writer's group nominated for a BeMOBO award in 2010.



**Iestyn Evans** began his career puppeteering animatronic animals made by Jim Henson's Creature Shop in the West End musical, *Doctor Dolittle*. He went on to work on *The Fimbles* (CBeebies) as an assistant puppeteer, was promoted to his own character on spin off series *The Roly Mo Show*, and has been working mainly in television, film, and commercials ever since. In 2005 he co-founded Talk to the Hand Puppets. In 2012 they won the Royal Television Society Award for the puppets and puppetry on BBC comedy series, *Mongrels*. *Big Up!* is his first show with Theatre-Rites and 20 Stories High.



**Clarke Edwards** is an actor/puppeteer and has been working in the industry for 4 years following his graduation from The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. Clarke has been fortunate enough to travel with his work and has recently performed in Saudi Arabia. Clarke has an improv-comedy troupe which he performs in. This will be Clarke's second Theatre-Rites show, having previously working on *Bank On It* in 2013.

# Sample Direct Mail Letter - Families

Next Feb/March [Venue Name] welcomes **Big Up!**, a funny and lively show full of beatboxing, puppetry and music!

*(if a venue has had Beasty Baby) The company who brought the joyful Beasty Baby return, in collaboration with Liverpool's 20 Stories High, to bring you another new show for 3 to 6 year olds and the people who look after them.*

*(if a venue has had The Broke N Beat Collective) The companies who brought the lively Broke N Beat Collective return to bring you a new show for 3 to 6 year olds and the people who look after them.*

If you have children aged 3 - 6, you'll know they're always hungry for new experiences, welcoming fun ideas that entertain, stimulate the imagination and inspire new games to play with friends and family.

Well, here's the perfect production for you all to discover together: one that mixes puppetry, beatboxing, song and beautiful visuals in a wonderfully surprising and fun stage show that's been specially created for this age group.

No matter whether you are Big or Small, the world is full of rules. Sometimes we make our own rules, sometimes we don't know the rules and sometimes we want to play by different rules.

What happens when a Beatboxer, a Singer and a Puppeteer arrive on stage but nothing is ready for them? No set, no instruments, no puppets. No rules.

Come and watch as they create a world full of joy and chaos, where objects come to life and everything is possible.

**Using an inspired mix of puppetry and live music, Theatre-Rites and 20 Stories High create a funny and magical shared experience for the whole family.**

**Big Up!** has been created by award-winning theatre companies, Theatre-Rites and 20 Stories High.

You can visit Theatre-Rite's website at [www.theatre-rites.co.uk](http://www.theatre-rites.co.uk) and follow [this link to their YouTube page](#) where you can find short clips of some of their recent shows.

You can visit 20 Stories High's website at [www.20storieshigh.org.uk](http://www.20storieshigh.org.uk) and following [this link to their YouTube page](#) where you can find short clips of some of their recent work.

**"The show's originality and freshness sings out"**

*The Guardian on The Broke 'N' Beat Collective*

**Big Up!** plays at [venue name] for just [number] performance[s] only, so don't hesitate: book now on [box office number] or online at [web address].



# Sample Direct Mail Letter - Schools

We are delighted to announce that acclaimed theatre companies, Theatre-Rites and 20 Stories High are joining forces to bring a fantastic new production to [venue name] on [date].

**Big Up!**, for ages 3 – 6, is an exciting and comical exploration of rules and relationships through beat box, hip hop, music and puppetry for little people who want to be Big, and Big people who ... just might have forgotten how to play.

It's been made specifically for Foundation Stage, Reception and Key Stage 1.

No matter whether you are Big or Small, the world is full of rules. Sometimes we make our own rules, sometimes we don't know the rules and sometimes we want to play by different rules.

What happens when a Beatboxer, a Singer and a Puppeteer arrive on stage but nothing is ready for them? No set, no instruments, no puppets. No rules.

Come and watch as they create a world full of joy and chaos, where objects come to life and everything is possible.

**"Most exciting and imaginative performance... what incredible memories this has given the children!"** *Teacher on a previous Theatre-Rites touring show*

**Big Up!** has been created by the award-winning children's theatre company, Theatre-Rites, one of the UK's leading theatre companies making work specifically for children, in collaboration with renowned theatre company 20 Stories High who make work with and for young adults.

You can visit Theatre-Rite's website at [www.theatre-rites.co.uk](http://www.theatre-rites.co.uk) and follow [this link to their YouTube page](#) where you can find short clips of some of their recent shows.

You can visit 20 Stories High's website at [www.20storieshigh.org.uk](http://www.20storieshigh.org.uk) and following [this link to their YouTube page](#) where you can find short clips of some of their recent work.

**"The show's originality and freshness sings out"**

*The Guardian on The Broke 'N' Beat Collective, Theatre-Rites' and 20 Stories High's previous collaboration*

To reserve your tickets for **Big Up!** and to talk to us about the show at [venue name], please call [phone number] today.

We hope you can join us.

# Promotional Images

Photographer Helen Murray should be credited wherever possible.

These and other images can be downloaded from SharePoint by clicking [HERE](#).



# Tour Dates

## **Unity Theatre, Liverpool**

8-9, 11-13, 15-16 February

[unitytheatreliverpool.co.uk](http://unitytheatreliverpool.co.uk)

## **Oldham Library**

19, 21-22 February

[oldham.gov.uk/liveatthelibrary](http://oldham.gov.uk/liveatthelibrary)

## **The Albany, London**

5-7 March

[thealbany.org.uk](http://thealbany.org.uk)

## **The Grand, Blackpool**

w/c 11 March

## **Stratford Circus Arts Centre, London**

22-23 March

[stratford-circus.com](http://stratford-circus.com)

## **Z-Arts, Manchester**

28-30 March

[z-arts.org](http://z-arts.org)