



Justine de Mierre

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An accomplished, experienced performer, director and facilitator of live performance, working across storytelling, improvisation, music and theatre. A passionate and energetic creative practitioner, with a driving vision across a 30 year career to create, perform and facilitate work that has accessibility and connection at its heart, reaching those who would not normally engage with performance. A proud autistic advocate, highlighting the neurodivergent experience through performance, facilitation and consultancy

Skills

Storytelling – selected highlights

- Professional storyteller with over fifteen years' experience performing shows and running workshops at schools, pupil referral units, festivals, prisons, community events, arts centres; locally, nationally and internationally.
- Featured performer, session host and workshop leader at The Marrakech International Storytelling Festival Feb 2023
- Featured performer and panellist at the StorySeed festival Timisoara, Romania Oct 2023, European Capital of Culture event
- Co-Founder, First Chair and Artistic Director of The East Anglian Storytelling Festival 2015-2018, performing, hosting, setting artistic vision and programming

Improvisation – selected highlights

- Performer, director and facilitator of improvised performance since 1995, including improvised interactive performance in car parks, on trains, in hospitals, in shopping centres, on South Bank, and in street performances
- Founder and Artistic Director of Ladder to the Moon (2000 – 2005) interactive theatre company, devising, directing and performing improvised work in public spaces and community settings
- Founder of The Unqualified Yes improv company, running classes in person and online and directing/performing in showcases since 2018.

Facilitation, Direction and Coaching – selected highlights

- Running drama and performance based workshops, projects and directing performances for children and young people in a variety of community and educational settings since 1995. Including extensive work with those facing challenges including young offenders, excluded and at risk of exclusion young people and learning disabled pupils and those with additional needs.
- Storytelling workshops in a variety of settings including at festivals (e.g. Folk East, Primadonna) and in prisons – supporting prisoners to connect with children on visits through storytelling
- “Make your own show” commissioned projects, devising and directing performances from the passions and interests of young people and adults facing challenges including Green Mystery House for Lapwing Education at The Riverside Theatre Woodbridge (2017), and three projects for The Papworth Trust (Ipswich and Cambridgeshire) (2022 – 2023)
- Coaching and training librarians in delivery of multi-sensory storytelling for children with profound and multiple learning difficulties, for Bag Books
- Devising and delivering online courses for neurodivergent artists in storytelling and improvisation for Mainspring Arts (2022, 2024)

Other Performance – selected highlights

- Host and MC as ‘Lady J’ for festivals, open mic nights and showcase events inc online events (2013 – present)
- Various acting roles since 1995. Recent work includes Aphra Benn in The Muse of Newmarket for Black & White productions (2022), MedeAUDHD, Lakeside Theatre, University of Essex (2023)

Experience

Storytelling Experience – selected highlights

- *Festivals*

Marrakech International Storytelling Festival, 2023 – Storyteller, workshop leader, session host

Primadonna Literary Festival 2019 to present – Storyteller, workshop leader, session host

Harlequin Fayre Festival 2013 to present - Storyteller, session host

Folk East Festival 2014 – 2022 to present – Storyteller, workshop leader, session host

Tales in Trust at the National Centre for the Folk Arts 2018 – Storyteller, workshop leader

Artistic Director of The East Anglian Storytelling Festival 2015 – 2018 (and co-founder)

Leigh Folk Festival 2017 – Featured Storyteller

Cambridge Folk Festival 2014, 2017 – Storyteller

Maui Wauai 2013 – 2017 – Storyteller

Hay Literary Festival 2009-2010 – Storyteller and Workshop Leader

Edinburgh Literary Festival 2009-2010 – Storyteller and Workshop Leader

Bath Literary festival 2009-2010 – Storyteller and Workshop Leader

Cheltenham Literary Festival 2009-2010 – Storyteller and Workshop Leader

- *Other Storytelling Performances*

The Mermaid's Song 2016 to present

Solo storytelling show at Arts Centres and venues across UK

Darklove Show 2013 – present

Solo storytelling, poetry and music performance at arts centres and festivals

Tales 'n' Tunes monthly spoken word and acoustic club – 2013 – present

Storyteller, organiser, host

Performances in the community 2008 to present:

Regular bookings at: schools, nurseries, fetes, care homes and celebratory events

Online Storytelling 2020 - present

Inc: World Storytelling Café (Morocco). Artists Standing Strong Together (USA), Spinning Yarns (South Africa)

Other performance experience – selected highlights

Co-Founder and teacher at The Unqualified Yes – Improvisation Company – www.theunqualifiedyes.com

Running courses in improvisational performance and showcase events 2018 – present

Freelance Singer-Songwriter - www.justinedemierre.com

Solo gigs and gigs with Lady J and the Troublemakers in pubs and at festivals around East Anglia plus radio play on BBC Radio Suffolk, Actual Radio Colchester and Felixstowe Radio. 2 EPs released and 'Pocket' track featured on Suffolk Acoustic Showcase charity CD

Book themed Storyplaytime sessions – Creator, Storyteller and Session Leader

Interactive sessions for under 5s touring book festivals throughout the UK, including Bath Literature Festival, Edinburgh Literature Festival, Hay Festival. Commissioned by Puffin Books.

Storytelling and Drama sessions for Lapwing Education – Creator, Performer and Session Leader

Sessions for young people excluded or at risk of exclusion from mainstream education

Storytelling and Drama sessions for Scamps – Creator, Storyteller and Session Leader

Sessions for children with learning disabilities

Hip Hop Theatre Project for PASTEL – Workshop Leader, Director and Devisor

A project for young people with learning difficulties.

Scratch performance with Oily Cart – Performer and Devisor

A group devised piece in a hydrotherapy pool.

Bag Books Telling Tales Project – Storyteller and Trainer

A project to train and mentor librarians in telling multi-sensory stories to children

Directing and Performing work 1995 – 2005 – selected highlights

As Artistic Director of Ladder to the Moon – selected interactive performance work

The Dreamcatcher - title role - Solo interactive, part structured, part improvised show

Devised with and directed by Andrew St John

Astron and Zetron – Astron – Interactive hospital residency

Devised with and directed by Tracy Bargate

The Elves and the Incredible Interactive Story Show – Ellie – Shopping Centre Residency & Schools tour

Devised with and directed by Tracy Bargate

Wandsworth-on-Sea - Mandy the Mermaid – site specific interactive character

Self-directed

As Artistic Director of Ladder to the Moon – selected directing work.

The Princess and The Sprite, Gert & Mafeeno – Interactive Character Hospital Residencies

STAR Project – Workshops & Devised Performance with children of refugees, age 2 - 15

PaNTS (Piratical & Nautical Training School) & Superhero School - Interactive workshops

Sent and Ebe – Interactive street performance for Black History Month

Dance with Me - Interactive Character Residency in Elderly Care Mental Health

As freelance performer – selected work

Rough Island Story - Director and Performer – Devised – performer and co-director with Andrew St John,

Killer Question – Helena (Short film) Dir. Matt Carter

Young, Gifted & Broke – Julie (Short film monologue) Self-directed, Sky TV

The Little Prince - lead puppet; Performed at The Red Room, Kentish Town; Dir. Caroline Childs

Museum of the Moving Image Actors Company - various characters in 1939 and 1946; Dir. Andrew Ashmore

The Alchemist - Dol Common; Small scale tour around North West for Dead Earnest; Dir Ashley Barnes

Jolly Jack's Big Adventure – Various characters; for Solent People's Theatre; Dir Mary Swan

Romeo & Juliet – Juliet; Athena the Huntress – Athena; at The People Show for Empty Space Theatre, Dir. Andrew Holmes

Sitelines – Shanna; Devised solo piece on trains across South London for State of Space. Dir Simon Bell

Stand up comedian - Regular performances on the London Circuit

Professional Memberships

Society for Storytelling - since 2008

Royal Society of the Arts – since 2005

Equity – since 1996

Education & Training

Improvisation courses and workshops with The Showstoppers, &Also Improv, Katy Schutte

Clore Cultural Leadership Fellow (2005 – 2007) Including research into Interactive Theatre

BA Honours in Economics and Psychology (2.1), University of Cambridge

Postgraduate Diploma in Acting, Drama Studio London

Diploma in Voluntary Sector Management – University of East London

Child Protection Training – Peabody Trust

Basic Reminiscence Training – Ladder to the Moon

Additional Skills

Singer, Songwriter

Instruments played – Basic Keyboard, Renaissance Recorder (Grade 8), Basic Guitar, Basic Bodhran

Circus Skills - Poi (flag and ball)

Driving Licence

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