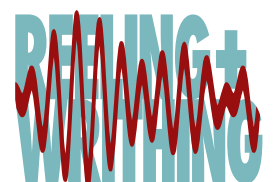




The show that never stops changing,
picking up new stories as it rolls along.

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SNOWBALL

*We stood and watched as the
Batman tumbled through the air,
down and down, faster and faster.*

*And there, outside the door, was
an elephant!*

*My mother could never sleep with
my fathers watch in the bedroom.
Every night he would take it and
leave it outside the door.*

*Salt on apples. My father always
put salt on slices of apple.*

*We went to see Flash Gordon
at the cinema and I screamed all
night, for three nights.*

*My school report said that I needed
to get a better grip on reality. I was
only seven.*

*I was doing recorder classes at
school when one day I went into
the Advanced Class instead of the
Beginners.*

*I thought he was dead. He was
cold and still. But then someone
pointed out that hamsters are like
that when they're hibernating.*

My father kept pigeons.

My brother died in the war in Iran.

*One day we went to see Grannie
and she carefully poured us all full
glasses of undiluted cordial.*

*Every day I walk past the tallest tree
in Scotland on my way to school.*

'Snowball'

from Reeling & Writhing

Snowball is a show with a big difference. Every performance of 'Snowball' is different from the one before, and the next one will be different from this one.

'Snowball' is a show of stories from many different places. It might be about a school report or it might be about elephants in Zimbabwe. Or it might be about Irn Bru or eating apples seasoned with a little salt. Or pigeons.

'Snowball' often happens in libraries but always to a small audience, around a big table and with two actors. Sometimes there is tea.

At the end of every show there is a chat when members of the audience will react to the show, tell matching anecdotes and stories of their own.

When the audience eventually goes home the company sits and swaps notes about all that chat. They pick the ripe cherries from the stories and anecdotes and bring them to life.

The chat finds its way into 'Snowball' for the next performance and some of the old 'Snowball' is lost. And at the next show there will be more chat, and more cherry picking, and so on and so on.

Eventually the show that started it all has gone completely.



SNOWBALL



So What Can You Expect To See?

'Snowball' is funny, sad, surprising, dramatic and sometimes a bit strange. It is born from all kinds of stories that are re-told with the skills of physical theatre, puppetry, improvisation as well as oral storytelling. The show is likely to include smell and sound as much as words. The company also have a vast library of music to draw upon to keep the soundtrack relevant as the show changes.

'Snowball' is performed by experienced and skilled actors supported by the Artistic Director during the constant devising and rehearsal.



What Is It Really About?

As we've progressed through making 'Snowball' we've talked about all kinds of things:

memory, heritage, pride, sharing, things that makes us what we are, mementos, truth, lies, boasting, embellishing, inventing, listening, filtering, being entertained, being bored, being young, being old, forgetting, guessing, filling in the gaps, knowledge, learning, and making things your own.

It is some or all of those things, plus it's a good deal of fun.



SNOWBALL

The Archive

Because each show is different we thought we should record them all. We will make that archive available as downloadable MP3s (you can call it a podcast if you like) from our web site.

Learning Potential

We are very happy to perform 'Snowball' for schools audiences, upper primary and older. We see a great deal of potential in 'Snowball' for engagement in:

drama, history,
creative writing, english,
heritage research, & citizenship.

Pupils coming to see 'Snowball' will benefit from some preparation. Everyone coming to see the show will benefit from knowing how it is made and changes. With other audiences this will be achieved through marketing. Teachers may also run exercises for pupils to research stories to bring to the show. Stories may come from families, local history, on-line, radio or tv archives, or even brought to the surface from personal experience. Remember that stories can be about anything.

If a series of shows is organised we may be able to organise a planning meeting with a group of teachers. We will always be happy to give ideas or other support as best we can.

How Does It Happen?

'Snowball' was conceived to happen in libraries. We loved the idea of being surrounded by books first and foremost - stories on paper. Libraries are also often places where local heritage is stored or referred to or both. It just felt like a good place to do the show, and when we asked librarians they agreed.

Having said that, all we really need to do 'Snowball' is a reasonable size room and a large table (or a couple pushed together). We don't need theatrical lighting and we'll bring a small sound system for the music.

Audiences usually number around 30 for 'Snowball'. More than that and the chat with the audience can become difficult to achieve. We might have different approaches in schools, however, so please talk to us if you ideas of doing things differently.

Audiences can be young or old, an established group (a club, a school class or an history society) or brought in by publicity and ticketing. Any of these will work.

The best way for 'Snowball' to be programmed is in a local series, perhaps six or ten, that follow on from each other with enough of a gap between each for us to devise the new material and rehearse it. They needn't be different venues each time, just different people.

And there is the option that at the end there could be a closing performance for a larger audience, that could include all those who participated in earlier shows.

