



# MATT RUDKIN

## Theatre maker and teacher

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**Born:** Nottingham UK, 1968

**Lived in:** Newark, Nottingham, Manchester, Edinburgh, London and Brighton

## SUMMARY

Following an Art School education, I have worked in puppetry, cabaret, street theatre and devised performance as a performer, writer, director and maker. I created and compered Edinburgh's original *Bongo Club Cabaret*, and performed over 200 times in the street theatre show, *'The Incredible Bull Circus'*, throughout the UK and internationally. In 2009 I began making indoor work as *'Inconvenient Spoof'* with Silvia Mercuriali, also co-writing her audio tour *'Wondermart'*. I have performed throughout the UK and Ireland, in France, Belgium, Holland, Finland, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Japan and China. I have created a large variety of theatre work, including 4 Arts Council funded shows, of which the most significant pieces are listed here (below right).

I have also taught Theatre Arts in HE and FE, predominantly as a Senior Lecturer for 17 years at the University of Brighton. I have designed and delivered critical and creative programmes of study and developed a wide range of exercises for training skills in improvisation, acting, writing and puppetry. For eleven years I worked as a Level 4 coordinator, and for two years as the Student Experience Coordinator for the School of Media I am currently an external examiner for Middlesex University. My academic knowledge generally relates to the history of contemporary Fine art and theatre practice, with particular interests in early modernism, postmodern theories of language, evolutionary psychology and Flow theory. My performance practice was successfully included in the Research Excellence Framework (2014).

In the last 10 years I have proactively fostered my mental and physical wellbeing. I have undertaken courses in Transcendental Meditation, Mindfulness Based Cognitive Therapy and Landmark Education personal development training. I am a regular runner, cyclist and gym-goer.

## HIGHER EDUCATION and TRAINING

UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON	Higher Education Academy Teaching Fellowship D2	2014
UTRECHT UNIVERSITY	Summer school for researchers in 'Games and Play'	2014
THE ACTORS SPACE (BARCELONA)	Physical Theatre & Clown training	2002
CENTRAL SCHOOL OF SPEECH AND DRAMA	MA Performance Studies	1997–98
ECOLE PHILIPPE GAULIER	Physical theatre & Clown training	1995
NOTTINGHAM. TRENT UNIVERSITY	BA (hons) Creative Arts (1st)	1988–91
	Art & Design Foundation Course	1987–88

## TEACHING PRACTICE

MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY (CHICKENSHED)	External Examiner	2015 – on going
UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON	Senior Lecturer (0.5)	2002–2017
CITY COLLEGE (BRIGHTON)	Acting tutor (FE)	Jan–Mar 2016
GOLDSMITHS UNIVERSITY	Visiting lecturer	Spring 2005
EDITH COWAN UNIVERSITY (Australia)	Artist in residence	Aug–Oct 2004
ROSE BRUFORD COLLEGE	Visiting lecturer	Oct–Dec 1999

## THEATRE PRACTICE

Since graduating in 1991 I have continued to create theatre pieces and work for others as a performer, writer, director and puppet maker. Since 2002 this has been alongside my role as a Senior Lecturer in a 0.5 post. The work listed on the following page is divided into Devised Theatre (shows I created as *'Inconvenient Spoof'*), Street Theatre, Puppetry, Directing and Cabaret. In each category the work is listed chronologically, but is not comprehensive. For more information, photos, video & reviews about all my work, visit [mattrudkin.co.uk](http://mattrudkin.co.uk)

**DEvised THEATRE** as *Inconvenient Spoof productions***'FAKE HIP GNOSIS'** 2016-17

A 50-minute, absurdist show based on extracts from Hypnotic tracks and Self-development seminars, created with Meredith Colchester and Joe Mulcrone. Shown at The Marlborough Theatre, Brighton Fringe 2016, and Rialto theatre, Brighton '17.

**'THE ROOM IN THE ELEPHANT'** 2015-17

A highly self-referential hour-long indoor show created with M.Colchester and J.Mulcrone. Shown at the Marlborough Theatre, Chats Palace, Camden People's Theatre, Hen and Chickens (London), Heroes of Fringe (Ed.) and Carlisle fringe.

**'BUDDHISM: IS IT JUST FOR LOSERS?'** 2013-14

An ACE funded indoor show concerning the limitations of conceptual thought. Made with Meredith Colchester and Joe Mulcrone - Shown at the Nightingale & Marlborough Theatres (Brighton); Mimetic festival & Camden Peoples Theatre (London)

**'NAÏVE DANCE MASTERCLASS'** 2011-16

An ACE-funded 50-minute show created with Silvia Mercuriali, with direction from Liz Aggiss and Petra Massey. Appearances include: Old Market & Nightingale Theatres (Brighton), 'Peraspera' festival (Bologna), Soho Theatre & Canada Water Cultural Space (London), The Edinburgh Fringe and London Clown Festival. Cabaret appearances including Duckie (London)

**'DEAN GIBBONS AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF DEATH'** 2009-11

An ACE-funded show exploring links between Evolutionary Psychology and 'Peak Oil' theory, made with Silvia Mercuriali with direction from David Woods (Ridiculusmus). 9 venue UK tour.

**STREET THEATRE****'YOU'RE GETTING WARMER'** - Performer. 2016

Appearing as the meteorologist, 'Dr. Lockheed' in this semi-scripted Street theatre / Art trail experience for family groups by Pebble Gorge performed in Norwich, Oxford, Maidenhead, Bournemouth, Reading, Farnham. 2015-16.

**'THE TERRIBLE SHAMAN'** - Director & Performer. 2012

Commissioned by the Nightingale theatre as part of the 'Dip Your Toe' and created with Annie Brooks and Orlando Britts. Performed at Milton Keynes, Brighton and Amiens fringe festivals.

**'WONDERMART'** - Co-Writer. 2009

Made with Silvia Mercuriali, this interactive audio takes place in any supermarket. Appearances include: 'Burst' festival (London), Dublin festival, Edinburgh fringe, *Mois Multi* Festival (Quebec), Colorado Springs; Brisbane Powerhouse and Melbourne Arts House (Australia); Welsh Millennium Centre (Cardiff); and Kampgnagel (German translation).

**'INSIDE OUT'** - Performer & deviser. 2007-08

A silent clown show for family audiences made with Fraser Hooper; toured the indoor venues and Street Arts festivals.

**'THE SHOP'** - Performer & writer. 2006

A street theatre show presented at Winchester Hat fair, 'Watch this Space' (National Theatre) and Brighton Street Festival.

**'THE INCREDIBLE BULL CIRCUS'**-Performer & Deviser. 2003-07

A street theatre clown show performed with Mikey Martins. Over 200 appearances including: Winchester Hat Fair (UK), 'Just for Laughs' (Montreal), 'World Buskers festival' (New Zealand); 'Feste de Ville' (France); 'Humourology' (Belgium) and Melbourne Comedy festival.

**PUPPETRY****'THE TIME MACHINE'** – Writer, Performer & Puppet maker. 2018

A Creative Scotland funded adaptation of H.G.Wells' sci-fi tale - premiered at the Scottish Storytelling Centre and performed on a 7 venue Scottish tour. Appearing next at the SSC during Edinburgh fringe. 2018.

**SHANGHAI PUPPETRY FESTIVAL** - Workshop leader. 2014

Working with Rick Conte to lead teenagers through puppetry workshops and direct shows during a 4-day festival.

**'BEAUTY SPOT'** – Co-deviser & performer. 2006

A short film was commissioned for Whitstable Biennale and made in collaboration with Edwina Ashton.

**PUPPET INTERVENTIONS** - Writer & performer. 2005-06

Puppetry sketches written with Rick Conte for EU alcohol-policy conferences presented at Warsaw '05, and Helsinki '06.

**THE EDINBURGH PUPPET COMPANY** – Performer. 1993-2001

Working on various projects ranging from 2-month national tours to 2-week community carnival projects.

**PUPPET & PROP MAKER**

For various companies, including the Emporium Theatre, Il Pixel Rosso, Showtime Productions and Boogaloo Stu.

**DIRECTING****'THE WORKS', 'CURIODDITY' and 'MYSTERIUM'** 2010-18

Working for Jon Hicks during development of these prop-based, visual comedy shows - various venues including Jackson's Lane.

**'LITTLE HONKEY'** 2012-14

An irreverent 60-min Nativity Pantomime co-written with Joe Kenny and performed annually for 3 years at the Marlborough Theatre.

**'FUNNY PECULIAR'** 2014

Direction for Red Herring, during development of this street theatre tour based on eccentric Brighton characters, shown at Brighton Fringe.

**'SITTING BEAR and the MAN in the MOON'S REFLECTION'**. 2008

A 50 min. puppet-based show shown at 'Shunt Lounge (London), The Komedia & The Basement (Brighton).

**'THE TWISTED LADDER'** for W.A.A.P.A. (Perth, Aus.). 2004

An 80-minute devised show made over 8 weeks in residency at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts with students from the Contemporary Theatre Arts degree. Presented over a five-nights at Edith Cowan University, Perth. 2004.

**'TO DO ONE DOES' and 'QUITE VERTICAL'** 1993

Devised theatre shows created with Allie Cohen.

**CABARET****'THE HAPPY CLAP TRAP'** - Coordinator & Compere. 2012-14

An alternative arts cabaret that appeared quarterly at the Marlborough Theatre (Brighton).

**'THE BONGO CLUB CABARET'**- Coordinator & Compere. 1994-01

A late night Arts Cabaret that ran annually throughout the Edinburgh Fringe festival at Out of the Blue Arts, New Street.

**PERFORMER**

I have hosted various others events, and also performed extracts from my devised shows as cabaret acts on numerous occasions.