



A&E COMEDY PRESENT
ENTER THE DRAGONS

“Abigail Dooley and Emma Edwards are a brilliant comedy coupling: the writing is sharp as a witch’s nose, the performance as sparkly as Cinderella’s silver slippers. A fabulously entertaining evening.” Total Theatre.

- **Winner of Best of the Brighton Fringe 2017 (Broadway Baby 5*)**
- **A 60 minute two-hander for studio to mid-scale venues**
- **Unique comedy drama for everyone 14+**
- **Now booking for Spring 2018**
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Enter The Dragons is a funny, frank and fearless show about the pressures facing women as they age. It takes the archetypal Hero’s quest and reframes it for the mature woman in the modern world. In doing so it unashamedly subverts prevailing ideas about beauty, sex and feminism in 60 minutes of action-packed, hilarious, tightly written performance. It’s a knock-out combination of joy and dissent for anyone who is considering ageing.

Watch the trailer here:

<https://vimeo.com/214691040>

CONTACT

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BACKGROUND TO ENTER THE DRAGONS

Enter The Dragons began as an R&D project, funded by Arts Council England, in 2016 and was shown as work in progress at the Hub Theatre, Haywards Heath. A&E were invited to present at The Works, Brighton Dome and also to HOUSE Theatre's Pitch Up sessions at The Gulbenkian, Canterbury. A further grant by ACE brought the show to full production and an initial tour taking in The Marlowe Studio, and c/o BAC's Collaborative Touring Partnership to Ramsgate with Looping The Loop Festival and sell out shows at Brighton Festival and Brighton Fringe.

"As two women in our late 40's and early 50's we are personally experiencing the transition from young to old and all the taboos, fears and joys it brings. There is a lack of positive, empowering voices for woman 50 + in society and we are excited to use our experience and knowledge in physical theatre to explore this subject; there are very few mature female performers using bouffon or clown."

Written and performed by Abigail Dooley and Emma Edwards.
Directed by Toby Park (Spymonkey) and Will Kerley.
Design by Lucy Bradbridge (Spymonkey).

REVIEWS

"They marry hilarity and sincerity with such remarkable precision, it had the audience in both fits of laughter and heartfelt tears" *****Broadway Baby

"Both performers joyously play and are excellently responsive to their packed, appreciative audience" **** Reviews Hub

"Dooley and Edwards are gripping. They are dually metaphorically inventive and utterly hilarious – their innovations add to the lengths of their storytelling and some ideas are simply ingenious." **** Reviews Hub

"A delightful show which challenges us and our societal norms regarding mature women whilst making us laugh, and will be enjoyed by women and men of all ages." Highly Recommended Fringe Review.

AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

"If you are looking for a piece to engage, enrich and delight an audience, look no further. Enter the Dragons was handpicked by our community steering committee for our inaugural *Your Place* programme. Performed in one of the communities not readily engaged in the festival they took the audience on a hilarious heart-warming journey that quickly became the highlight of the weekend and is still being talked about in the community!"

Beth Burgess, Director Brighton Festival

I loved how you weaved in hilarious off the cuff comedy that had me laughing hysterically with my head back! I loved the spoken under the breath comments, they gave such a great layer of naming what one is thinking. I loved the very deep authentic parts that made me well up and really deeply feel.

Audience Member, Hangleton

TARGET AUDIENCES

- Woman 40+
- Comedy audiences
- Physical theatre/clown audiences
- Audiences who like physically and emotionally rich pieces of visual storytelling.

Performance/Touring Information

Enter The Dragons best suits a studio style theatre in end-on configuration. It runs for 60 minutes without an interval.

Ideal playing size 8m width x 5m depth.

Minimum playing size 5m width x 4m depth x3m height

Venue to supply:

13A hard power upstage left for toured smoke machine

Treads from stage to auditorium as required

A good PA suitable to the size of venue

Control desk situated within reach of the lighting control position

XLR line to down stage right

All lighting equipment to be from house stock.

Lighting will be programmed and operated by the technical manager.

Company to tour:

Mac book running Qlab

Focusrite 6i6 soundcard

2 x Jack cable output from soundcard to desk

SM58 microphone and stand

Effects pedal

3 people on the road, travels in a Transit van, can get-in and play in a day.

BIOGRAPHIES

Abigail Dooley

Abigail has written, devised and performed work with many companies including, Trestle Theatre Company, Told by an Idiot, Compagnie Philippe Gaulier, Keith Johnstone, The Gate Theatre. She co-wrote, devised and directed "For the Love of Chocolate" with Amanda Waring who was nominated for Best Actress at the Brighton Festival.

Other theatre credits include research workshops for Theatre de Complicite and Peepolykus Theatre Company and assistant director for Cambridge Footlights.

She devised and directed "The Magic of Christmas" at the NEC. A live Christmas Event with five performance areas including street theatre, UV puppet show, and a promenade pantomime.

She teaches extensively at drama schools and universities, including LISPA, Mountview, ALRA, Royal Court Young People's Theatre, Middlesex University and City and Islington College.

She trained at East 15 drama school, Ecole Philippe Gaulier and LISPA.

Emma Edwards

Emma was joint artistic director of Facepack Theatre Company since 1991. creating shows and education throughout Britain and Europe. The award-winning company has been featured in The Guardian and Times Educational Supplement for our outstanding work with young people. She recently wrote and directed *Mischief and Mysteries in Moominvalley*, a unique interactive puppet show, commissioned by Moomin Characters and performed at The Southbank Imagine Festival and in residence at Kew Gardens.

She is a freelance teacher, director and dramaturg offering a variety of skills-based workshops for universities, schools and colleges. She specialises in a range of skills, particularly Clown, Commedia del Arte, Mask and script-writing.

After studying Creative Arts at Manchester, she trained in Clown at Ecole Philippe Gaulier, London. She also trained with Trestle, Commotion, Improbable, Theatre de Complicite, David Glass and Moving Picture Mime.

A&E Comedy

Together Abigail and Emma studied Scriptwriting for Film and Television at the University of Sussex and also attended Robert McKee's legendary Story Seminar. They have gone on to write a number of scripts for television and film. Our sitcom "What Next", directed by Cal McCrystal, won the prestigious Sitcom Mission Competition, and was optioned by Hat Trick Productions.

Their short film "Flaws" has been entered for several festivals, and they have filmed a pilot for a new series "Fleapit", created in collaboration with Spymonkey Theatre Company.

