

Cross The Sky Theatre Company

Up in the Attic

THE
CIVIC
BARNSELY



*Up in the attic, dusty, cold and dark,
she spins in the shadows, with a lonely heart.*

Cross The Sky is a theatre company of talented performers who have additional needs. The aim of the company is to devise work, tell stories and showcase people's talents and creativity. We share skills, encourage creativity, develop confidence and enhance lives through performance, song, poetry, movement and visual art.

The company was originally formed by Mary Turner and Becky Newbould. In 2002, the pair began to run creative sessions for autistic adults and people with learning disabilities in day centres across the Barnsley. They quickly realised that there was a real creativity and talent from people who just wanted to share their work and perform in front of an audience – and Cross The Sky Theatre Company was formed.

Over twenty years later and still going strong, we present our show 'Up in the Attic'. The performance was inspired by cast member Coleen's rediscovery of an old music box. The story caught our imagination as we too remembered and discussed important toys from our past. These items, originally intended as children's toys, have a much greater significance in our personal histories. They represent feelings and memories of safety, love and happiness. They remind us of our friends, people we no longer see and those we have lost along the way. These items make connections with important places and times in our lives.

During the devising process, cast members were eager to share their own special interests with the group. Cast member Matty brought us a book about the trainlines of Barnsley and prompted discussion that individual interests and passions can be shared and connect people. Dan shared his love of spinning and SJ showed us her beloved Tintin and Snowy – lifelong friends that help her when she feels low.

We reminisced about the founder Mary Turner's remarkable attic holding a collection of creative content and memories. We realised that this was the perfect setting to connect many special items and memories – to share their stories.

We began to appreciate through replaying our past and sharing, that our passions make us unique and special. We celebrated our talents and quirks which gave us greater understanding of ourselves, embracing our future.

A project of Barnsley Civic, Cross The Sky work with Artistic Director Becky Newbould, Musical Director Simon Grainger, specialists, support staff and visiting artists. They all share the same passion and vision of creating exciting theatre to share with a wider audience – showcasing people's talents and promoting inclusivity.







CAST

Rose - Billie Jo Bright

Great Uncle Archibald - Luke Glossop

Tobias - Matty Gamble

"The Shadows"

Colleen Johnstone | Dianne Molyneaux

Georgina Harman | Laura Gregory

Lily Sunderland | Loraine Burgin

Melissa McDade | Meg Gummerson

Sarah Doncaster | Stefanos Vogiatzis

Terri Walker | Chris Hammill | Terry Swift

Beth Harrison | Cath Smart | Leanne Sims

Boy - Jacob Martin

Girl - Violet Hudson

Artistic Director - Becky Newbould

Musical Director - Simon Grainger

Technical Manager - Craig Lomas

Costumes - Lucy Roberts

Film - Mike Krufft

Trailer - Huw Wahl

Photography - James Mulkeen & John Slemensek-Thorne - Studio Bokehgo



Up in the attic, where no one can see. She spins in the shadows, dances only for me. Brought to life, by a shard of light.

'Up in the Attic' is a new production inspired by personal experiences of autism and childhood memories of play, telling the story of a man who goes on a journey of self-discovery and acceptance as he learns to let go of his childhood and to embrace his independent adult life and his place amongst the neurotypical rat race.

Cross The Sky Theatre Company have devised a unique and inspiring coming-of-age story that incorporates elements of ghost stories and musical theatre. It was developed through improvisation, workshops, exploring disability pride, repetitive behaviours and overcoming the negative experiences of being an autistic adult.

Cross The Sky, a Barnsley-based theatre company for learning-disabled and autistic adults, is a project of the Barnsley Civic, whose programme includes educational and engagement activities with schools and local community groups.

As well as the opportunity to develop key performing arts skills, Cross The Sky members also write and perform original songs and theatre work, inspired by their own experience of being disabled adults living in South Yorkshire.

Supported by Creative Minds and the Better Barnsley Bond.



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