

**BRAVE
BOLD
DRAMA**

"Riotous family
theatre...Quality,
innovative
storytelling..."

★★★★★
Backstage Bristol

7+



the **Mexico Mission!**

can you crack a million-dollar case?

Celebrating
10 years of

**BRAVE
BOLD
DRAMA**
THEATRE & COMMUNITY ARTS

TOUR PACK

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Touring
Feb-Oct 2026

Developed as part of a residency at

lighthouse
Arts & Entertainment | Poole

www.bravebolddrama.co.uk

www.companyofinternationalartists.co.uk

About the show

Full of adventure, intrigue and mind-bending plot twists, **THE MEXICO MISSION!** is an energetic, witty and highly-interactive playable family show created for a 7+ audience.

Devised with support from Poole Lighthouse, the show invites audiences to actively investigate an art forgery case. Playable means audiences are actively voting to control the narrative, and discussing theories with the characters throughout the show as they try to crack the case.

The show also encourages intergenerational audiences to engage with ideas around why forgery happens, how money and art is always a very a complicated mix, and how do we every really know who to trust.

Sounds heavy, but “this is a company who know exactly how to write shows for children.” (Backstage Bristol review of **THE MIDNIGHT MISSION!**)

The show is presented by 2 actors, and makes imaginative use of multi-roling, projection and film mixed with live action.

This show works best with an interval, but can be played without.

Legacy

THE MEXICO MISSION is not just an interactive theatre show. Families can recruit their children to the Company of International Artists creative postal subscription service, enabling them to continue interacting with the characters they first met in the show.

Each month children can receive inspiring printed creative missions, art postcards and classified codes direct through their letterbox.

The subscription service introduces children to a wide range of artists from all over the world in a playful, engaging way. It empowers children to interpret artwork and view themselves as artists.

More about the postal subscription service at:
www.companyofinternationalartists.com

Plot Summary

Quirky, eccentric art detectives Agents Dali & Kahlo from the top secret global creative agency The Company of International Artists are summoned to Mexico City to authenticate a newly discovered Frida Kahlo artwork. They take the newly recruited agents (the audience) with them.

On the plane we learn about the three strands of art authentication: science, provenance and connoisseurship.

Once in Mexico City, Agent Dali is obliged to start work on the case alone, because Agent Kahlo has forgotten her ID papers. He meets with the potential buyer, a vacuous American woman with huge inherited wealth, and begins by analysing the paint and X-raying the painting.

Agent Kahlo finally arrives, very late at night, and Agent Dali tells her there's nothing more that can be done on the case tonight, and heads to his hotel. Agent Kahlo, never a very patient woman, decides to ignore his advice and asks the audience to choose between two quite risky options, both involving going undercover into places she shouldn't be.

When Agent Dali calls at Agent Kahlo's guest house the next morning to start work on the case, Agent Kahlo has disappeared. The audience agents know a little more than Agent Dali, but there's no way at this stage of working out why Agent Kahlo has vanished or why she's gone. Frustrated, Dali is obliged to carry on working the case alone, and he heads back to the laboratory to get the paint analysis results.

Just before the interval, the audience catch another glimpse of Agent Kahlo, acting very suspiciously, entirely changing her appearance and posting something in a letterbox.

In the second half, the more Agent Dali and the audience agents dig and discover, the more it looks like Agent Kahlo is actually an art forger and she continues to be entirely elusive.

It takes a keen eye for detail and a refusal to jump to conclusions, in order for the audience, and Agent Dali, to finally discover the truth and end the show. That said, there's a intriguing reference to some unfinished business that encourages the audience keep talking about the show once they leave the auditorium.

About the company

Brave Bold Drama was established in 2013. The company works to dismantle the many intersectional barriers that often prevent people from lower socio-economic backgrounds from accessing a range of cultural and artistic events and from exploring their own creativity.

We create award-winning devised theatre for family audiences, write original music, design and deliver small and medium scale participatory community arts events & projects and facilitate creative workshops for children's centres, schools & care-homes.

We have made nine family shows, one for adults living with dementia and two performance installations, one of which was commissioned by the Royal Society of Chemistry.

We also have a portfolio of community arts commissions including projects with Bristol Business Development District (2024) Bristol Museums (2022), Gingko Projects & Keepmoat Homes (2019), Knowle West Media Centre (2018), Bristol Natural History Consortium (2017), Bristol Harbour Festival (2016) and Bristol University (2015).

Awards

Bristol Life Awards

Arts Category: Winner (2017)

Arts Category: Finalist (2018)

Arts Category: Highly Commended (2019)

Arts Category: Highly Commended (2021)

Best Children's Show for 'Alf the Highwayman'

Swindon Fringe 2017

Shaftesbury Fringe 2016

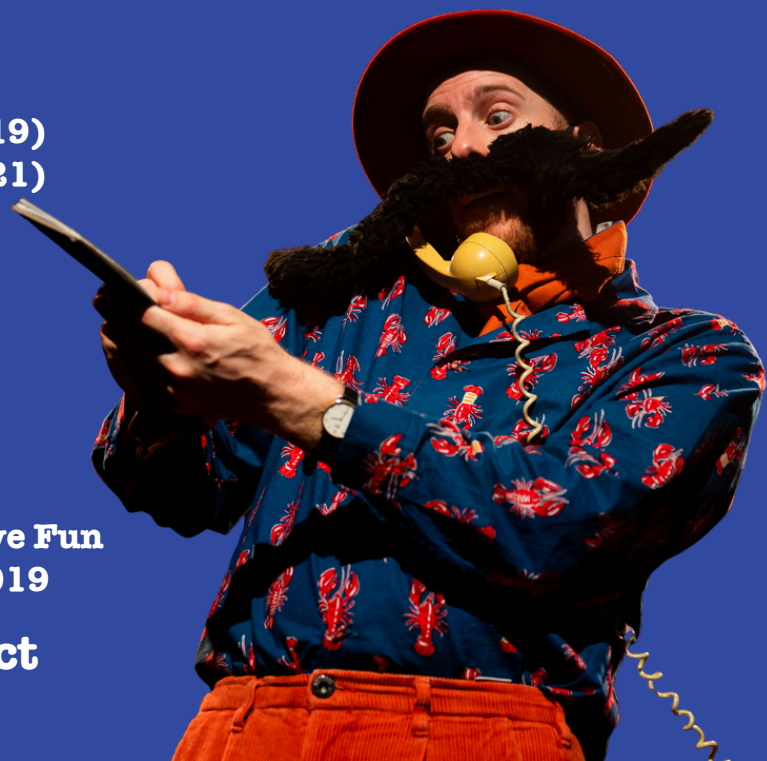
Hoop Awards

Best Family Entertainment & Best Creative Fun

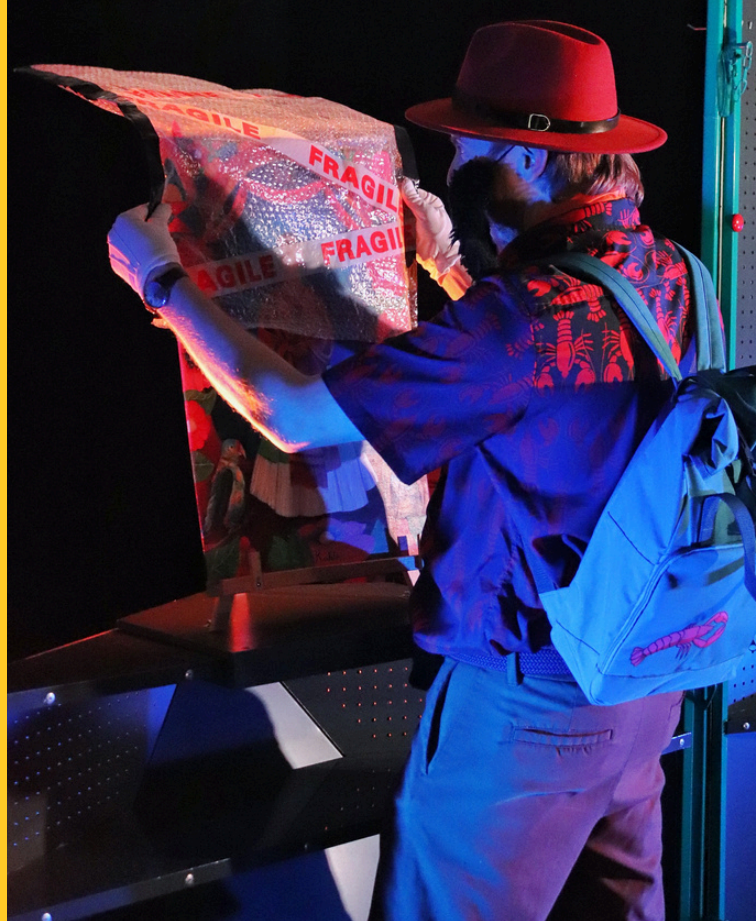
Bristol Hoop Awards Finalists 2018/2019

Voscurs: Bristol Social Impact

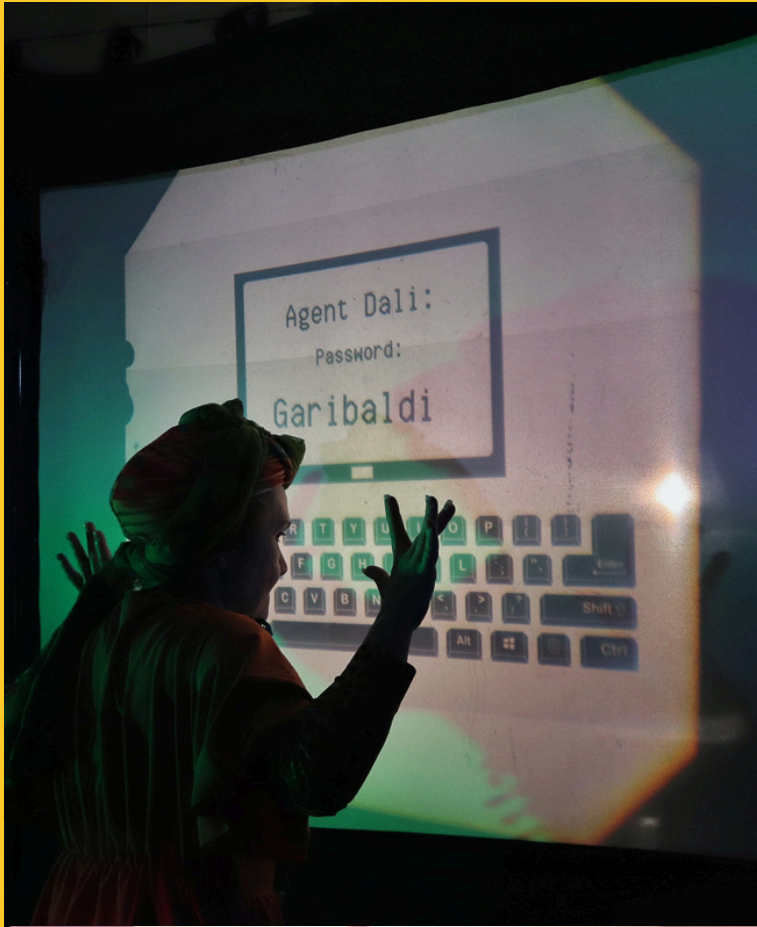
Finalist 2019



The Mexico Mission Show Stills



The Mexico Mission Show Stills



Partners and supporters



The initial research and development week for *The Mexico Mission!* was supported with in-kind rehearsal space from Lighthouse, Poole in August 2023 as part of their Sanctuary programme. Read more about this in their blog post: [A Mission Forged at Lighthouse Poole.](#)



We are grateful for the support of Stornaway who have given us in-kind support for the development of this show. As the narrative is playable, there are alternative scenes and routes through the show depending on how the audience vote. Their software is a great way for us to digitally map the multi-strand narratives.



Gill Simmons received a Creative Freelancer grant from West of England Combined Authority which supported her to have one-to-one tutoring in advanced features of sound design software Logic Pro, and paid for one week of sound design work on *The Mexico Mission!*



The pilot tour of *The Mexico Mission!* was funded by Dorset Council Community & Culture Project Fund and Dorset Libraries.

Reviews for previous shows:

"The tone of the show is fun, inclusive and interactive in a way that the youngest audience members are engaged with from the off, and carried along in a way that never patronises...The cartoony and gleefully ridiculous Simmons and Lawless are a hoot to watch, both as the central duo, and in subsequent multi-roling. They're clearly having fun on stage, and it's irresistible...My six year old laughed at the jokes, whooped at the slapstick, jumped at the spooky bits, and talked about it all the way home."

Bristol 24 / review of The Midnight Mission

"This clever, multi-layered children's show entertained an enthusiastic family audience with its Scooby Doo meets Cluedo mystery story...The Midnight Mission is an interactive piece of theatre, bringing audiences into the heart of the action...created and staged by Brave Bold Drama, a company who knows exactly how to write shows for children... The Midnight Mission is a bright and fun piece of immersive theatre for families. It entertains, informs, allows youngsters to make decisions and brings quality and innovative storytelling to the stage."

Backstage Bristol review of The Midnight Mission

"For the audience at which this show is aimed, the pitch is damn near perfect... The on-stage chemistry between Lawless and Simmons crackles with creative energy... a larger than life production with big-hearted performances that make, bend but never break the magic, and reaches outrageous heights of precious silliness."

DAN LENTELL, "GET YOUR COATS ON"

Review of The Munch Mission , Rating: 4 Stars (Outstanding)



Audience response for The Mexico Mission!

"Fabulous acting. I loved it! A big plot twist and an excellent storyline. Pitched brilliantly for my 8 year old. I enjoyed it a lot. I was inspired. The best I have been to so far. So wonderful to see the children enthusiastically taking part."

"Amazing! I really loved it! So funny I want to watch another! So engaging, really wonderful acting. Keep doing what you do! Would love to see more."

This is the second time we've seen one of your shows. Absolutely fabulous! We really enjoyed the storytelling. Very exciting! Loved the interactivity and voting choices."

"I thought the whole show was fabulous! Funny and engaging, felt included, the kids and I were both totally entertained. And we learned a lot about some artists too!"

"Really good! Funny silly bits and exciting bits too! We really enjoyed it - and we appreciated your access talk in advance, that really helped my son connect with the show. That was brilliant!"

Creative Team



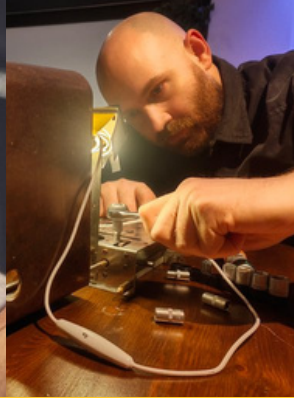
Gill Simmons



Paul Lawless



Evan Lordan



Mike Knight



Isa Vargas

Gill Simmons: Actor, Writer & Sound Design

Gill established Brave Bold Drama in 2013 and is Artistic Director. She has continued to develop the company's community and education outreach workshops, through an impressive amount of public and private fundraising and developing partnerships with local and national organisations. In addition to her work as a theatre maker, Gill also works freelance as a composer and musician. She has worked as Musical Director for Bath-based Kilter Theatre Company, Producer for Soap Soup Theatre Company and was recently selected as one of Tobacco Factory Theatres resident theatre makers. Gill is a visiting Lecturer at Bristol University and Weston College.

Paul Lawless: Actor, Deviser & Producer

Paul is a professional Actor, Theatre Maker & Arts Producer (www.paullawless.co.uk). He has toured nationally, performing at the Pleasance Dome (Edinburgh Fringe), Greenwich Theatre & VAULT Festival. Alongside his work with Brave Bold Drama he also runs award-nominated events company Frenetic Fox Productions. Paul is an Associate Performer with The Bristol Improv Theatre and acclaimed Bristol-based theatre company The Delight Collective. He also wrote his debut solo show 'Appily Ever After' which was shortlisted in the Best Spoken Word category as part of The Greater Manchester Fringe, 2017.

Evan Lordan: Director/Dramaturg

A graduate of Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, Evan is a Freelance Director and Theatre Maker based in the UK and Ireland. During lockdown he directed 62 Sperm Whales (2020) on the Bristol Arts Channel. Previously he was the Associate Director on Touching the Void (2018/20), working with David Greig & Tom Morris. Opening at The Bristol Old Vic, the show toured globally, before moving to London's West End. He has directed and devised with Conflicted Theatre & co-wrote their recent show, Fiji (2019), which received a Commendation from Off West End/The Offies.

Mike Knight: Prop maker/Set Builder

Mike has a degree in Spatial Design, and a wealth of practical skills that mean he can make just about anything. Mike started making for us in 2021, creating, among other things, a haunted bookshelf for The Midnight Mission! He built the lighthouse for The Keepers and has also created a ton of interesting things for The Mexico Mission!

Isa Vargas: "Agent Modotti"

Isa Vargas is an actor and teacher originally from Spain. She first worked with the company playing Frida Kahlo in our PAINTSTRIPPER MONOLOGUES back in 2015, and returns to feature through pre-recorded sound and film as the character "Agent Modotti" in this show.

Market:

- Families with children aged 7+ (KS2 upwards)
- Fans of the spoken word, devised theatre & improv
- Fans of Frida Kahlo, visual art & Mexican culture
 - Fans of interactive theatre /playable form
- People with an interest in child development

Education & Community Engagement:

A 60-90 minute post-show workshop featuring improvisation, traditional Mexican Day of the Dead arts & crafts and singing are available. The workshop is directly connected to the show's content and will incur an additional charge.

Technical Specifications:

In a theatre space:

A full tech rider will be presented in advance of the tour date.
We can be flexible in this regard, as we understand each venue/festival has varying technical capacity

In a non-theatre space (e.g. school, library, festival stage):

We can present this work without a rig and can bring our own P.A. and lighting, but need access to power for lighting and sound both backstage and within the audience space.

Playing space:

Flexible, but ideally a minimum of 5m x 4m

Duration:

90 minutes (presented with an interval)

Touring company:

2 Actors, 1 Technician

Guide fees:

Please contact the company

Recommended Ticket Price:

Between £10-£16

Support Materials:

- Social media marketing support
 - Hi-res images
 - Press release
- Posters & flyers available if required
 - Show trailer
- Social media marketing 'take-over'
(video content introducing audiences to the world of the show)
for Instagram, Tik Tok and Facebook

