

# THE MIDNIGHT MISSION!

(SLIGHTLY SPOOKY)  
PLAYABLE ADVENTURE  
THEATRE FOR FAMILIES



**TOUR PACK**  
**TOURING WINDOW:**  
**OCT-NOV 2022**

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BRAVE BOLD DRAMA ARE RESIDENT AT



Pervasive  
Media Studio

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# About

## CONCEPT:

Full of mystery, family-friendly spoof horror and a broad streak of quirky comedy, THE MIDNIGHT MISSION is a mystery adventure which explores the literary history of Mary Shelley's novel 'Frankenstein'. Set in Villa Diodati by Lake Geneva, the show is inspired by the 'haunted Summer' of 1816 when Mary Shelley & John Polidori were challenged by Lord Byron to see who could write the best horror story. Quirky, affable Agents Dali & Kahlo from the Company of International Artists (a top secret global agency that solves artistic mysteries) are summoned to investigate strange goings-on in Villa Diodati. The show has no 'baddies' or blackouts.

## LEGACY:

THE MIDNIGHT MISSION is not just an interactive theatre show. It has a powerful legacy. Families can recruit their children to the Company of International Artists 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](http://www.companyofinternationalartists.com)



# Plot Summary

The audience in role as new creative agents of the Company of International Artists (CIA) are summoned to the CIA HQ to investigate a spooky art mission with CIA creative agents Kahlo and Dali. But before the mission can get underway, Agent Kahlo takes an urgent phone call from Adam, the perturbed elderly caretaker of Villa Diodati, Lake Geneva, Switzerland. Adam informs the agents of a 'code red: art in peril' incident. Kahlo (a keen pilot) immediately jumps in her bi-plane and arrives at Villa Diodati slightly ahead of Dali, who does not fly well and prefers boats and trains.

Adam informs Kahlo of mysterious goings-on within the house. He shows Kahlo three very important portraits of writers Mary Shelley, John Polidori and Lord Byron, and explains that every night at midnight since October 1st, the door to the room in which the portraits are hung, slams unexpectedly, wine stains appear on the rug and books appear to fly across the room. Recently one of the flying books hit the Polidori portrait, which makes this an official 'code red: art in peril' incident. The Company of International Artists is of course committed to protecting art for the common good, so the stakes are high for Kahlo and Dali to solve this mystery.

Eventually, Dali arrives at Villa Diodati and Kahlo brings him up to speed. Together with the audience, they investigate the house to try to work out what is causing the disturbance. Could it be Adam, who suffers from sleepwalking? Could it be someone sneaking in to cause mischief? Or is it actually, something supernatural?

The audience are required to make decisions about which rooms to investigate, to notice clues that Agents Kahlo and Dali have missed, and to give possible interpretations of the evidence as the clues gradually reveal themselves.

The audience learn about the Lost Summer of 1816, the writing challenge posed by Lord Byron which resulted in first vampire novel (THE VAMPYRE, John Polidori) and the first science fiction novel (FRANKENSTEIN, Mary Shelley). They also learn about the rivalry between Lord Byron and John Polidori.

The stakes are heightened by the arrival of Allegra Gordon-Byron, an entitled descendant of Lord Byron and owner of Villa Diodati. She turns up unexpectedly to issue Adam with a deadline: he must sort out who is making this mess and make it stop within the next 12 hours or she will take back Villa Diodati for a private pop-star poetry holidays, Adam will have no job, and the public will no longer be able to visit Villa Diodati to see the amazing art and learn the history of the house.

The agents double down on their efforts and, with the help of the audience, just in time solve the mystery.

# Show Stills



To view more show stills [click here](#).

Click on the image below to view the promotional trailer for sister show "The Munch Mission":



# Creative Team



Gill Simmons



Paul Lawless



Evan Lordan



Rebecca Plant

## **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 and is a resident artist at Tobacco Factory Theatres.

## **PAUL LAWLESS: ACTOR, DEVISER & PRODUCER**

Paul is a professional Actor, Theatre Maker & Arts Producer ([www.paullawless.co.uk](http://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, 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.

## **REBECCA PLANT: DESIGN ASSISTANT**

Rebecca studied design for theatre, film and performance at the University of the Creative Arts, and graduated with a first class degree in 2020.

She has worked on productions at Tobacco Factory Theatres (OZ, Pins and Needles Productions, 2021), with Footprint Scenery and at Pound Arts Centre.

# Reviews & Testimonials

"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. The Munch Mission is 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**

"It was brilliant to welcome Brave Bold Drama to The Theatre on the Downs with their fun, educational and interactive show, The Munch Mission. Part mysterious art heist and a film noir aesthetic, this is a show that engages children in the wonders of the art world through an exciting adventure across the world."

**EMILY GREENSLADE, THE WARDROBE ENSEMBLE ON "THE MUNCH MISSION"  
CHILDREN'S THEATRE PROGRAMMER FOR THEATRE ON THE DOWNS, BRISTOL**

"Brave Bold Drama's The Munch Mission, brought new visitors to The Roman Townhouse in Dorchester. It was wonderful to see Agent Kahlo and Agent Dali bring art to life (sometimes literally) for our young visitors.

The show demonstrates art in a playful way, it encourages curiosity and engagement in a subject that children often find has a lot of barriers. They incorporated artefacts found at The Roman Townhouse in their workshop and narrative, which made the audience think of the space in a whole new way. Very cleverly curated and very well received!"

**GEORGINA BOLT, ARTS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY ON "THE MUNCH MISSION"**



## Audience comments

### FOR THE MUNCH MISSION

"It was really funny and inventive. We loved the voting options."

I love the interaction with the audience and the voting. I also loved the performers' vibrant energy."

"It was brilliant! Very fun and got your brain thinking!"

"Fantastic interactive show for all the family. A great way to get children into art!"

"Great show! We loved the cleverly planned audience interaction."

"Amazing and exciting! Would definitely recommend this show to anyone with kids!"

# 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 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



## **MARKET:**

- Families with children aged 6+
- Teachers with an interest in child development
- Fans of the spoken word, devised theatre, live music & improv
- Fans of detective fiction, art & horror genre
- Fans of interactive theatre

## **SUITABILITY:**

Age 6 to adult

## **EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:**

A 60-90 minute post-show workshop featuring improvisation, 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 4m x 4m

### **DURATION:**

60 minutes

### **TOURING COMPANY:**

2 Actors, 1 Technician

### **GUIDE FEES:**

Please contact the company.

### **RECOMMENDED TICKET PRICE:**

Between £8-£12

### **SUPPORT MATERIALS:**

- Social media marketing support
- Hi-res images
- Press release
- Posters & flyers available if required

