



Outdoor Arts and Street Theatre

Storytelling Portfolio

Stories of our natural world

Hotch Potch have been making performances for outdoor audiences since 2012. We are passionate about making accessible arts experiences for a wide range of outdoor and indoor events and venues. We have found that Street Theatre has a magical way of inviting audiences into the performance- they can really be part of the art, feel seen and heard.

Storytelling is one of the oldest art forms and an important part of our companies roots and culture.

Over the years we have explored many ways of delivering storytelling indoor and out but always keeping in line with the theme of our natural world.



Intimate Performance to Mass Gathering

Our storytelling shows have gathered large audiences and been part of wider community projects. In 2021 we brought our show Detritus and the Mermaid to Portreath beach following a series of community workshops with the local school and nursery, commissioned by Portreath Improvements Committee. The children's recycled plastic creations featured as part of the shows decor and relayed a strong message of saving our seas.



As emergent artists in 2014 we received support from ACE to develop our first storytelling show. Cafe Petite invites audiences of 5-12 at a time into a short theatrical experience - where tiny cups of tea are served and a live musician serenades your stay. The audience are led in by Bertie the stilt walking butler and waited on inside by Doris who tells stories of Cornish piskies and giants. For part of this project we also worked with the University of the 3rd age to gather insight into the old tales and folklore of Cornwall

Storytelling shows and solo storytellers

We love to create storytelling experiences for audiences and have created a number of storytelling shows over the years. Further information about these works can be accessed by following the linked titles below;

Tiny Tour is a one man storytelling show which brings audiences on a journey exploring different miniature installations in natural spaces.

Cafe Petite is a static show inviting small groups of audiences in at a time.

Detritus and the Mermaid our current work in development, is a larger scale storytelling show for indoor and outdoor audiences.

We have also been commissioned to create solo storytelling characters that fit within a specific theme or event. Storytelling in itself is a very versatile art form that can fit well within and (in our opinion) should be at the heart of any great community event. Stories gather, unite and connect us to the place we call home.



Detritus and the Mermaid for National Maritime Museum, Cornwall 2021



Tiny Tour for Eden Arts Festival, Eden Project 2017



Cafe Petite for Shambala Festival 2014



Holly the Elf for Christmas at the Zoo-Newquay Zoo 2025



Bespoke, tailor made and site responsive

Our stories are often accompanied by hand crafted fairy installations. These are placed carefully in nature and offer audiences to imagine the tiny beings who use these doors, houses and dwellings. During the pandemic we received funding from FEAST to develop one of our existing shows into a (social distance friendly) audio trail. This was placed at world heritage site Heartlands and invited audiences to enjoy the installations and stories at their own pace. Although the site is currently closed the fairy doors can be visited in the Diaspora Gardens which is still open to the public. The story of the Diaspora Fairies can be listened to here [Tiny Audio Tour](#)



“We had so much fun spotting the hidden fairy doors while listening to the story about how these doors connected to other worlds. We had some great conversations afterwards about the plants in the gardens, Cornwall’s mining history and its connections to other parts of the world” - Local Parent

Meet our Storytellers !

Laura Wheeler

Originally from Belfast, N.Ireland Laura has a background in street theatre and outdoor performance. A passionate singer and storyteller and currently studying an MA in Arts, Health and Wellbeing.

‘Storytelling is a way for me to connect with my Irish roots and Celtic culture and Cornwall has been a great place to explore that’



Ross Wheeler

Born and raised in Cornwall Ross has a background in Circus Arts and studied a BA in Street Arts alongside Laura, where they met in 2009. He is often seen on stilts at many festivals and events in Cornwall and the wider South West.

‘I grew up listening to stories and Cornish folklore, now as a parent, artist and Cornishman, I can really see the value in it and love to be able to share it with others. ’

