

Wassail!

Richard Crowe
in association with Wassail Theatre Company
presents



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*It's no laughing matter –
but it will make you laugh*

...a brilliantly written and performed show that gets to the heart of so many
aspects of mental health.

Disability Arts Online

Touring 2019-2020

Writer & performer Richard Crowe
Director Ged Stephenson
Producer Nick White
Designer Kasha Miller
Safeguarding Consultant Viv Gordon

Happily married with a lovely house on the Somerset Levels, Richard could have settled down to life as a witty weaver, cider maker or llama farmer. But then the fish tank started singing to him –the same song over and over, day after day. It was enough to drive him mad.



This is the story of Richard's response to all this: his admission into the mental health service, a diagnosis of bipolar disorder, medication (the highs...the lows) and making sense of a lifetime lived over the wall picking apples.

Join Richard on his emotional roller-coaster as he squares up to the frightening, the furious and the funny sides of mad.

'There are plenty of autobiographical one-person theatre shows about the lived experience of mental ill-health or related conditions. OVER THE WALL PICKING APPLES sets itself apart from others of this ilk'
Disability Arts Online

'really thought provoking, well-staged and executed'
'...a great piece of theatre, a brave and emotional performance, and a privilege to have shared'
'...brave, emotional, moving, truthful'
Audiences

Available for touring into intimate studio theatres and arts centres

OVER THE WALL PICKING APPLES tours with three on the road:

- performer Richard Crowe
- Richard's minder
- 1 x stage manager

It is available for single performances or a run of dates from March 2019 - December 2020.
Please note that the show cannot be performed on consecutive days.

Our preferred deal is a fee of £400-600 per show or a 70/30 box office split in our favour. Please discuss this with us if it is not within your resources. We will be applying to Arts Council England for a project grant to keep the show as affordable to promoters and audiences as possible.

For more information please contact nick@wassailtheatre.co.uk

A static camera film of the production is available.

Publicity print, production photos and audience quotes will be supplied.



OVER THE WALL PICKING APPLES is theatre, not therapy.

It is an autobiographical piece, and we're aware that it covers incredibly sensitive material that will hold a broad relevance to audiences with their own different experiences of mental health.

It's a high quality piece of theatre aimed at audiences from all walks of life. Your audience might have existing mental health problems, they may develop them in the future, or they could have family or friends with problems. They might be a regular member of your theatre audience. They might be coming to you for the first time. We make no assumptions and the piece is designed to speak to all sorts of audiences.

If it's helpful, we've prepared some statistics to enable you to put **OVER THE WALL PICKING APPLES** into context.

In 2014 The Mental Health Foundation published the Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey (APMS). This survey, carried out every seven years since 1993, offers some of the most reliable data for the trends and prevalence of many different mental health problems and treatments.

Its findings state, in the UK:

- every week, one in six adults experiences symptoms of a common mental health problem, such as anxiety or depression
- 20% of adults has considered taking their own life at some point.
- nearly half of adults believe that, in their lifetime, they have had a diagnosable mental health problem, yet only a third have received a diagnosis.
- 19.7% of people in the UK aged 16 and older showed symptoms of anxiety or depression – a 1.5% increase from 2013. This percentage was higher among females (22.5%) than males (16.8%).

OVER THE WALL PICKING APPLES has been developed with attention to the mental health needs of Richard, the creative team, promoters and audiences. Our approach to safeguarding people with mental health conditions includes:

- A post-show discussion after every performance
- Sign posting information in the programme notes
- A trigger warning sheet, available online and in venue, that identifies any potential mental health triggers and challenges for audiences*
- Coordinating volunteers from The Samaritans present at every show

*if you'd like to see this before booking the production please ask.



Richard Crowe has worked in the arts since 1982 as a writer, performer and high-profile creative producer, notably as the south west lead for the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad. His most successful work, *Cock and Bull Story*, has been performed continuously somewhere in the world since 1985. Richard is working on his first novel, *Under a Different Sky*.

Ged Stephenson has worked as a director both in the UK and internationally. Recent work includes *A Commotion in The Ocean* for Wassail/Mooney Stories, *Sister Act* for the Theatre Royal Windsor and *Library of Lost Memories* which will be touring in 2019. Ged is also co-host of a new improvisation festival, *Hullabaloo*.

Kasha Miller graduated from The University Centre Weston in 2016. She now continues to ignite her passion for the arts by working with local creatives in the South West of England, be it either doing stage management, performing herself or making set and props. She has recently worked for *Scary Little Girls* for their show *Before I Wake*.

Joe Rockett has been working in the Entertainment and Events industry for over a decade covering all forms of Theatre, Corporate Events and Live Festival Production. Clients include *The Happy Mondays*, *Ocean Colour Scene*, *Ministry of Sound*, the *International Darts Federation* and *Samsung*.

Viv Gordon is a writer, performer and arts activist making theatre work about her lived experience of mental health, abuse and trauma. She advocates for increased access/inclusion for artists and audiences with mental health needs working with a range of artists and organisations. www.vivgordon.com

Nick White is a producer, writer, performer and occasional director. He runs *Wassail Theatre Company*, a charity based in Somerset. *Wassail* unites communities through stories that inspire them by giving people unexpected, surprising and uplifting experiences of theatre. www.wassailtheatre.co.uk