



Karla Shacklock  
COMPANY  
presents

# The Happiness

# HAPPINESS

A brand new show from award winning choreographer Karla Shacklock  
Available for touring from January 2015

## Tour Pack

Co-commissioned by Pavilion Dance South West and Theatre Bristol,  
with support from Swindon Dance and Arts Council England



Supported using public funding by  
ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND



Fast, fun, thoughtful and physical, **The Happiness** is a brand new dance theatre work which sweeps its audience into a provocative and entertaining adventure... and it also includes a good old fashioned sing along!

Using the company's trademark combination of breakneck choreography, spoken word, live sound and ever transforming images, The Happiness is an emotional and colourful explosion of joy, grief and confusion, which has been made, and will be performed, through the company's unique artistic practice.

Combining first person stories, case studies from across the globe and referencing a whole host of philosophers and self-proclaimed happiness gurus, the work throws happiness up for all to question, see, experience and, ultimately, feel.

The work is being made whilst the company are in residence at Pavilion Dance South West, Bristol Old Vic, Swindon Dance and Bath Spa University in Spring/Summer 2014, and will be performed by Karla Shacklock, Ed Rapley and Michael Spencely, with original live music by Caspar Riis.



## The Company

Karla Shacklock Company, currently based in Bristol, is run by Artistic Director and Choreographer Karla Shacklock and Executive Director Jan Winter. The company is Associate Company at Pavilion Dance South West, works closely with a number of South West partners and venues, and is supported by Arts Council England.

### Karla Shacklock

Artistic Director

Since graduating with a 1st class BA (Hons) in 2002 and a PhD in Dance in 2005, Karla has toured her own work extensively throughout Europe and performed internationally with various dance, circus and physical theatre companies.

She has delivered masterclasses throughout Europe, held a senior lecturing post at Bath Spa University, published her own book and various articles, been commissioned to choreograph works for dance, theatre, opera and youth groups and trained extensively in trapeze and Bodyweather/Butoh.

Karla was also the Co-Founder and Artistic Director of multi-award winning physical theatre and multimedia company 'Precarious', which produced and toured works for five years.

### Our Practice

Our practice is highly physical, visual and visceral and predominantly concerned with liveness, authenticity and truth. Our own sense of self and our audience are at the core of our work and both are dealt with sensitively and in equal measure. Through accessing a state of being, in the most truthful manner we can find, we always aim to allow our audience to have an experience, to feel, to be with us, rather than to sit back and watch us. Sometimes our work makes people cry, sometimes it makes people laugh, sometimes we are strong and sometimes we are fragile, but we are always feeling and our audience experiences that too.

We try to keep things simple and stay with the body and voice. When necessary we work with ordinary everyday objects which find their own life and, through a series of transformations, can become extraordinary and shift the architecture of the body and/or the space. Live sound is equally as important as the bodies and our musician is always part of the action. Sometimes as part of our practice, to ensure a sense of liveness and spontaneity on stage, we decide the order and length of each section live in the moment, meaning each performance is unique and that the performers and audience experience something new together. We make work only if we have something to say, and only if we really care.

# Reviews and Testimonies

Over the past 8 years Karla's work has received much critical acclaim from national and international press.

She has also been recipient of a TOTAL THEATRE AWARD, finalist for the OXFORD SAMUEL BECKETT THEATRE TRUST AWARD, shortlisted for further Total Theatre Awards and the THREE WEEKS EDITOR'S CHOICE AWARD.

For further details and press quotes for previous work please see company website

[www.karlashacklock.com](http://www.karlashacklock.com)

The creative process for **The Happiness** is currently underway. It has been performed as a work-in-progress only. As such, there are currently no press reviews of the work.

## Sample quotes from previous work

"Karla is an exemplar of the next generation of entrepreneurial dance artists who has worked with determination, passion and energy to establish herself and her work on a very fragile infrastructure and funding."

*Marie McCluskey, Artistic Director, Swindon Dance*

"Karla is an artist with an extraordinary capacity for plumbing the depths of human experience and communicating those experiences with rare combination of commitment and intensity, playfulness and simplicity."

*Carrie Rhys Davies, Tobacco Factory*

"Karla is an instigator and a magnet and has the ability to connect and communicate with the professional, educational and public spheres with a generous human spirit."

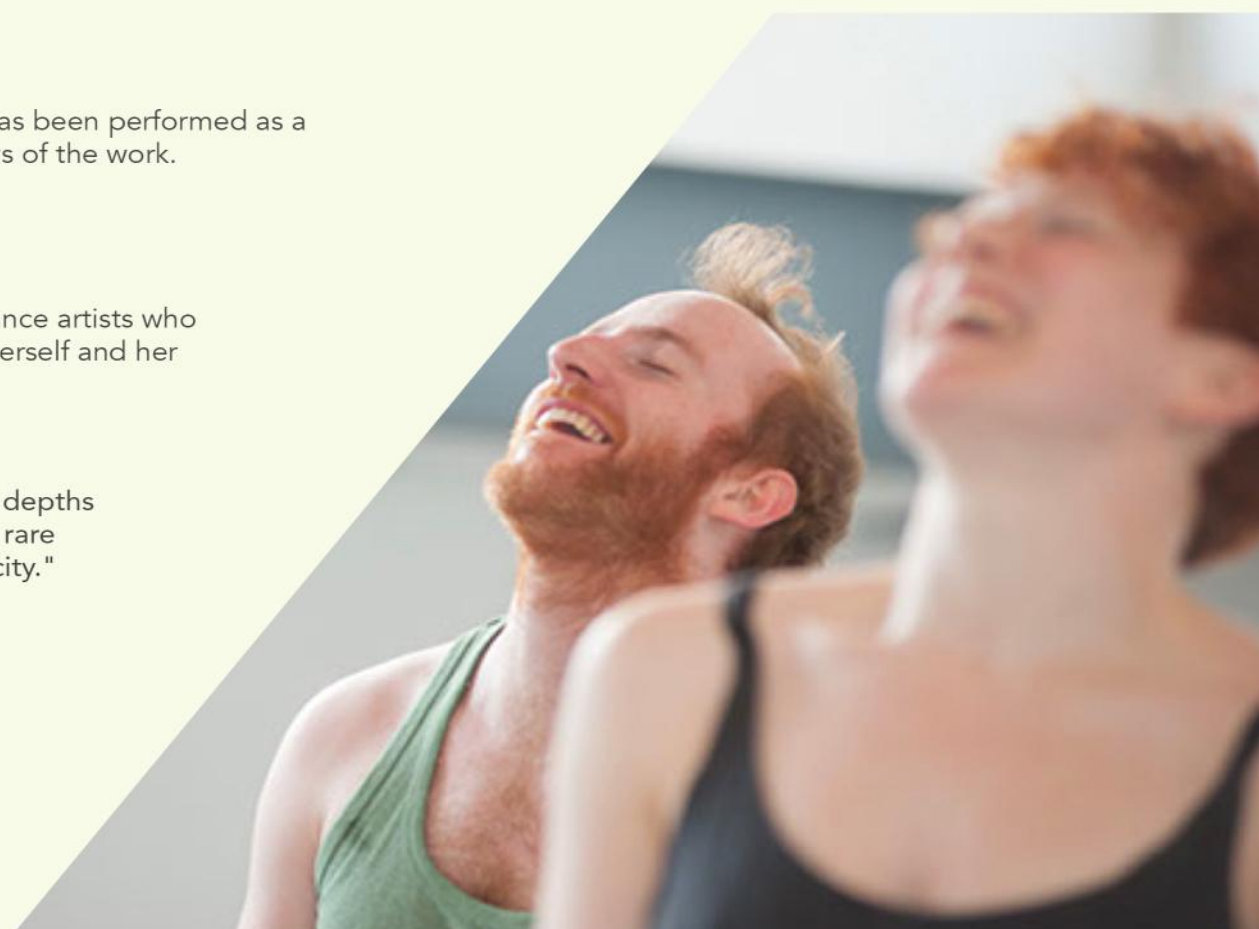
*Ian Abbott, Pavilion Dance South West*

"Beyond is a truly extraordinary, powerfully unique theatrical experience"

*Bristol Culture Magazine*

"Karla and her team are energetically redefining theatre in dynamic terms: anarchic, intimate and unpredictable."

*Plays International*



# Touring Information

## Tech Spec

A full technical spec will be available on request

### Minimum depth of stage

6 metres

### Minimum width of stage

8 metres

### Type of stage

Work to be presented end on

### Height to grid

Any

### Floor

Dance floor preferable

### Tabs

Wings or black tabs preferable, but not essential

### Lighting

Simple lighting rig with booms required

### Sound

Ability to play live sound through the PA. Instruments supplied by the company. Sound mixed onstage by musician. (only 1 PA channel required). 2 monitors preferred but not essential.

### Set / Props

8 x rolls of plain wallpaper, 6 x bags of nails

### In-house technician

Required

## Production Information

### Get in time

1 hour

### Pre-rig

Required

### Tech rehearsal time

3 hours

### Performance running time

1 hour

### Interval

No interval

### Get out time

1 hour

### Age Guidance

12+

### No. on stage

3 physical performers, 1 musician

### No. on road

4 performers, 1 technician

## Availability & Suitability

Available for touring in spring/summer 2015

Suitable for small/mid scale venues and adaptable for rural touring

## Marketing Resources

Copy and image to be provided by the company

Full marketing pack will be available from autumn 2014

Video trailers will be available from autumn 2014

# Workshops

Karla Shacklock Company has a strong reputation for delivering high quality workshops, masterclasses and residencies to all age groups (youth companies, school groups, undergraduate / post-graduate students, professionals) across the UK and Europe.

The content of the workshops is negotiable and can be tailored to suit the needs of the venue and the participants.

Workshops will always be highly physical and provide insight into the company's unique working process.

## Sample Menu

### Choreography Workshop

Suitable for school groups, youth groups, undergraduate students and recent graduates, this workshop allows participants to explore the choreographic approaches used by the Karla Shacklock Company. The workshop will comprise a structured warm up, improvisation, exploration of a range of choreographic tasks and, dependent on the length of the workshop, the opportunity to make and perform a short work.

Playful and explorative.

### Repertoire Workshop

Suitable for dance groups, undergraduate/post-graduate students and professionals, this workshop is an opportunity for participants to learn some of the repertoire from the current touring work. The workshop will comprise company class and stretch, the deconstruction and learning of between one and four phrases (dependent on length of workshop) and the opportunity to re-construct and perform the material.

Fast, fun and highly physical.

### Karla Shacklock Company Masterclass

Suitable for artists from all disciplines (dance, theatre, live art, circus, music), this masterclass offers a unique opportunity to go beyond what participants think is physically, vocally and emotionally possible.

The masterclass will explore Dr Karla Shacklock's highly innovative approach to accessing the performers' consciousness in order to reveal the true self, and provide an in-depth insight into the choreographic approaches and repertoire of the Karla Shacklock Company.

The masterclass will comprise company class and stretch, the deconstruction and learning of material from current touring work, improvisation, exploration of a range of choreographic tasks and, dependent on the length of the workshop, the opportunity to make and perform a short work.

Interrogative, highly physical and jam packed full of discoveries and openings.



# Contact

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