



# THE BUTTERCUP & THE CRUTCH

A brand new, electric double bill from award-winning choreographer and performer **Karla Shacklock**

Tour pack

Co-commissioned by Pavilion Dance South West, Ferment at Bristol Old Vic, Theatre Bristol and Swindon Dance, with support from Tobacco Factory Theatre and Arts Council England



SWINDON  
DANCE



TOBACCO  
FACTORY  
THEATRE

Bristol Old Vic  
FERMENT



Supported using public funding by  
ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND

# THE BUTTERCUP

Raw, charged and universally resonant, **THE BUTTERCUP** is a simple yet powerful story about hope - expressed through the body and a series of everyday, continuously transforming, objects.

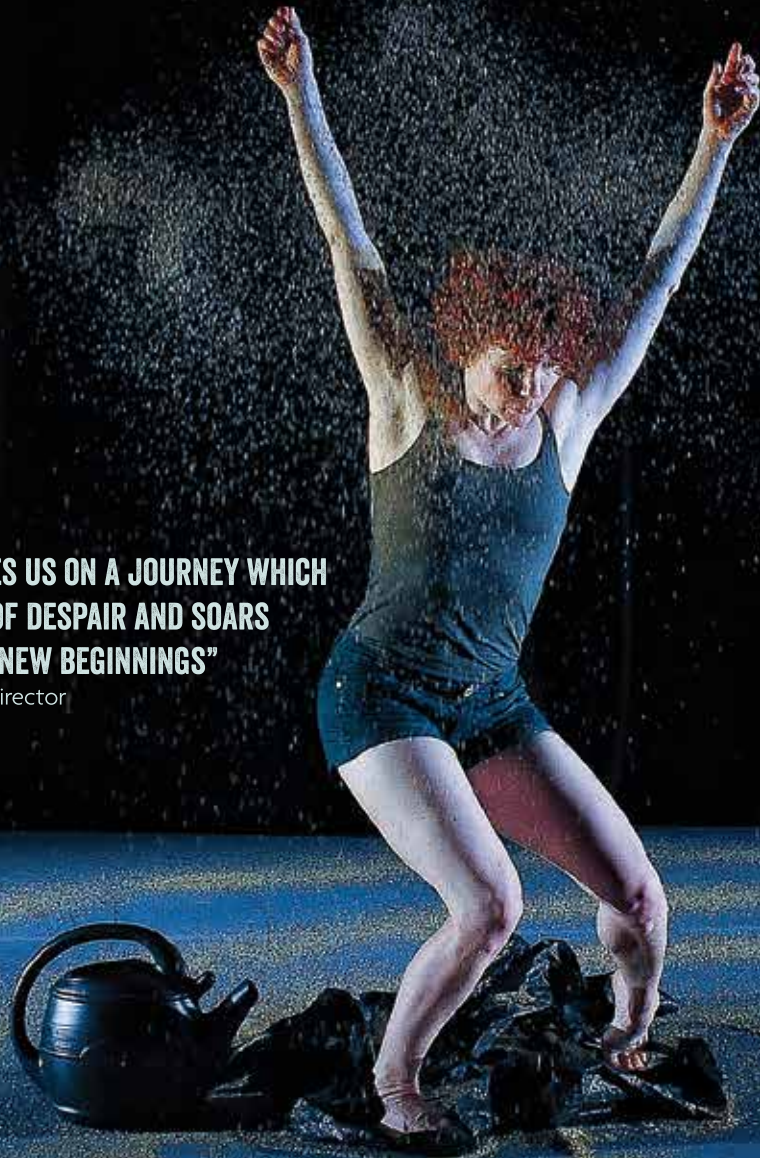
Using live music and set against a constantly shifting visual landscape, Karla gives a physical and evocative performance and bravely bares her soul as she breathes life into **THE BUTTERCUP**.

**THE BUTTERCUP** is a solo performed by Karla Shacklock with live music by Caspar Riis and lighting by Matt Graham.

It was developed at the end of 2012 whilst the company was in residence at Swindon Dance, Tobacco Factory Theatre and Pavilion Dance South West, with work-in-progress performances at each of the venues.

**“THE BUTTERCUP TAKES US ON A JOURNEY WHICH  
PLUMBS THE DEPTHS OF DESPAIR AND SOARS  
WITH THE DELIGHT OF NEW BEGINNINGS”**

Deryck Newland, Artistic Director  
Pavilion Dance South West





## THE CRUTCH

An empathetic nod to all those in the challenging position of a support/carer role, **THE CRUTCH** depicts an intense relationship between two bodies, two beings.

Through physical contact work, a vocabulary which swings from violence to tenderness, a pounding live score and a huge pile of crutches, this duet explores what it means and how it feels to be there for someone at a time of crisis.

**THE CRUTCH** is a duet performed by Karla Shacklock and Michael Spenceley (Rosie Kay, Protein, Parlor Dance), with live music by Caspar Riis and lighting by Matt Graham.

It is being developed whilst the company are in residence at Swindon Dance, Tobacco Factory Theatre, Pavilion Dance South West and Bath Spa University between April and July 2013.

# THE COMPANY

Karla Shacklock Company, currently based in Bristol, is run by Artistic Director and Choreographer Karla Shacklock, Creative Producer Katie Dunn and Executive Producer 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 Co-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 simply 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 web-site

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

The creative development process for **THE CRUTCH** is currently taking place and **THE BUTTERCUP** been performed at two of the commissioning venues as work-in-progress.

As such, there are currently no press reviews of the work.



*Anyone who has lived the emotional rollercoaster of life will relate to Karla Shacklock's **The Buttercup**. What a joy to have a dance theatre solo work which really connects directly and unambiguously with all of us. Karla is a riveting performer exuding presence, fragility and joy. **The Buttercup** takes us on a simple journey which plumbs the depths of despair and soars with the delight of new beginnings. Evidently therapeutic and cathartic for the performer, it also delivers that in spades for her audience. Result!*

**DERYCK NEWLAND, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, DANCE SOUTH WEST**

*Karla is an artist with an extraordinary capacity for plumbing the depths of human experience and communicating those experiences with a rare combination of commitment and intensity, playfulness and simplicity. Karla is an artist who can create work that means something in the world. This is all evident in **The Buttercup***

**CARRIE RHYS-DAVIES, TOBACCO FACTORY THEATRE**

*Karla is a charismatic performer with great skills in movement as well as voice and this solo showed off her skills as a director of this solo which communicated in a convincing and believable way her 'simple story'. **The Buttercup** is an excellent collaboration between dance and music, a simple but creative production with clever use of costume and props. It was a special performance that left a trace / resonance and a feeling that I had just seen an artist who knows how to communicate in a clear, thoughtful and delightful way with an audience*

**MARIE MCCLUSKEY MBE, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, SWINDON DANCE**

## SAMPLE QUOTES FOR BEYOND

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

**BRISTOL CULTURE MAGAZINE**

*A unique theatrical event. Charming, engaging, funny and devastating. Its genuine beauty, physical punch and superior storytelling make for an evening that will last with you long after the performers leave you*

**GUIDE TO BRISTOL**

*Karla and her team are energetically redefining theatre in dynamic terms: anarchic, intimate and unpredictable. **Beyond** offers an exploration of audience-led theatre that anyone with a real interest in theatre will find too exciting to miss*

**PLAYS INTERNATIONAL**

# TOURING INFORMATION

## TECH SPEC

**Minimum depth of stage**  
6 metres

**Minimum width of stage**  
8 metres

**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.

**Set / Props**  
10 x crutches, 2 x watering cans, 1 x  
green cotton sheet, 1 x black  
tarpaulin, 20 x rubber gloves, grass seed.  
All props supplied by the company

**In-house technician**  
Required

## PRODUCTION INFORMATION

**Get in time**  
1 hour

**Tech rehearsal time**  
3 hours

**Performance running time**  
The Crutch – 40 minutes  
The Buttercup – 30 minutes

**Interval**  
15 minutes

**Get out time**  
1 hour

**Age Guidance**  
12+

**No. on stage**  
The Crutch – 2 dancers, 1 musician  
The Buttercup – 1 dancer, 1 musician

**No. on road**  
3 performers and 1 technician

## AVAILABILITY

The double bill is available for touring from autumn 2013  
into spring / summer and 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 performance 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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## TECHNICAL

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