

OPEN HOUSE

no**fit**state

PROMOTER INFORMATION

Season 2014 - 2015



no**fit**state

We celebrate the contradictions within ourselves and our work.
We create beautiful carnage and organised anarchy.
We are seriously exciting and classically fresh.

NoFit State was founded in 1986 by five friends. During a politically charged time, in a recession and as a creative reaction to the world around, the circus was born.

Where circuses were historically bonded by family ties, we are a community united by our passion for the circus arts, living together, working together and always taking on the world together. Our collective is bound by a unique spirit and complicity which gives our work its exceptional heart and soul.

Today, NoFit State is the UK's leading large-scale contemporary circus company, producing professional touring productions and a wide variety of community, training and education projects for people of all ages.

beautifulcarnage

organisedanarchy





OPEN HOUSE at Four Squares Weekender, launch of Library of Birmingham, 2013

OPEN HOUSE

Available for booking 2014

(working title)

directed by Orit Azaz

Directed by Orit Azaz, OPEN HOUSE is an immersive, ever-evolving large-scale circus installation where anything can happen and everything becomes an excuse for performance and spectacle.

Flowing through the town, setting up in a city square, unfolding washing lines, flags, umbrellas and piles of bric-a-brac, there is no big top but a colony of musicians, acrobats and aerialists exploding out of caravans - a joyous menagerie of circus chaos setting the town alive.

Building on the open hearted approach to collaboration with local communities of Parklife, and the thrilling, large scale spectacle of Barricade, OPEN HOUSE is a daytime circus experience for public spaces, activating the city centre, high street or park for an hour, a day, a weekend or a week and transforming it into a circus village, where passers-by become spectators and communities become spectacle.



OPEN HOUSE, Birmingham, 2013





THE EXPERIENCE

OPEN HOUSE is an unprecedented site-specific project and event, combining high quality circus spectacle, pop up performances, impromptu happenings, open-air public training sessions and workshops and thrilling live music.

A brand new genre of outdoor work, OPEN HOUSE embraces communities and citizens with open arms, activates public space with a dynamic collision of spectacular circus and public participation and responds to the specifics of each context to create a magical, memorable and moving experience that is unique to each place.

OPEN HOUSE has evolved through a trilogy of events in Cardiff and Birmingham in 2013 - the last of which included a high-profile community residency strand as part of Four Squares Weekender, with 80+ local community partners. With new structures, new design and developed dramatic structure, Open House engages thousands of people over the course of an afternoon.

From May 2014, we can offer two versions:

- Standalone: a 1 – 3 day occupation of a street, public square or park.
- Residency: Collaborating with 8 – 10 high skill local groups in advance to integrate, develop and showcase their skills within the performance.



STREETS ALIVE in Cardiff, 2013



GENERAL INFORMATION

- OPEN HOUSE is an immersive, outdoor, daytime, non-seated circus experience accompanied by live-music and combining pop up performances, happenings, audience workshops and public training sessions.
- The experience is suited to audiences and participants of 500 to 2000 people of all ages and all background. Family Friendly.
- OPEN HOUSE is an adaptable and versatile project which can be adapted to suit different contexts (eg: Launch of Library of Birmingham in 2013 – ensemble pieces and solo routines adapted to integrate books and reading within the performance)
- OPEN HOUSE can be delivered as a standalone project over a weekend or integrate a community engagement programme during the weeks that lead up to the public event.
- The experience runs over 2 hours / twice a day with at least a 2 hour break in between the slots. (eg: 11am – 1pm and 3.30pm – 5.30pm)
- The OPEN HOUSE company consists of 25 – 30 people including performers, musicians, technicians, crew, riggers, artistic director and management team.
- The company requires accommodation and catering throughout the residency.
- Risk Assessments and Documentation will be provided on request.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

OPEN HOUSE has been designed as a versatile, adaptable, location-specific project. The information below are minimum and generic requirements, each project will require a site visit in order to prepare specific technical specs for the adaptation of the project.

- Outdoor flat, firm and level space with good visibility and easy access for vans and minibuses.
- 125A 3-phase supply or 100kva generator.
- A sound system capable of filling the space with quality amplified sound and sound technician
- Access to toilets, clean water supply and backstage area with enough space to warm up before the performances.
- Depending on the location or circumstances, we may also require: fencing, site security, licenses and permissions from the local regulatory authorities, event stewards.
- For projects running over several days, it is preferable to leave the set in place overnight and provide night time security. If this is not an option, nearby storage and secured parking for the caravans is essential.
- 1 day set up, tech and dress rehearsals the day before, including all community groups and event stewards.



STREETS ALIVE, Cardiff, 2013



OPEN HOUSE 2 (working title)

directed by Orit Azaz

We are currently seeking partners with an interest in co-producing / co-commissioning the next stage of development of the project.

Building on the concept of OPEN HOUSE, we envisage a larger-scale performance version of the project that would culminate a spectacular dusk to dark finale delivered by NoFit State professional performers, with potential to integrate the participation of community groups and residents through a preceding residency phase.

Imagined as an epic, immersive, durational event unfolding over the course of 6 to 8 hours, OPEN HOUSE 2 begins in the morning with the arrival in town, the installation of the performance environment, and the transformation of the public space into a circus village and festival. Afternoon is OPEN HOUSE: the band begins to play and the public is invited to run away with the circus for a few minutes or hours, train alongside the professional artists, join in the pop up performances and happenings or just sit back and watch as the spectacle unfolds. As the public begins to know the individual circus characters, a narrative starts to unfold and develop, building momentum through the afternoon and culminating in a large-scale performance.

In development for 2015



CREATIVE CONCEPT

Caravan

car·a·van [kar-uh-van] noun

1. *A company of travelers journeying together, as across a desert or through hostile territory.*

The sun begins to set. The circus village of caravans and trucks, together with the surrounding buildings and environment, becomes both setting and stage for a thrilling, provocative and spectacular promenade performance and a maelstrom of powerful and heart-stopping circus images.

Through this new integrated, site-specific and community responsive concept, we hope to imagine projects that will engage, federate and inspire communities as well as transform public space in a unique and compelling way.



GENERAL INFORMATION

- Location-specific, community responsive outdoor event.
- Built around three integrated phases: community celebration / public engagement / performance.
- Culminates in spectacular final performance.
- Suitable for 100 to 200 participants and audiences of up to 2,000.
- Possibility to adapt the engagement process to suit the requirements of partner – long lead up, short intensive sessions, weekly workshops, etc...

BARRICADE, 2011





PEOPLE SAY...

"About as old-fashioned as an iPad"

Birmingham Post on PARKLIFE POD

"NoFit State Circus transformed Southampton's Guildhall Square into an aerial playground, wowing a crowd of more than 5,000 people with their unique brand of theatrical chaos"

The Southern Daily Echo on BARRICADE

"NoFit State's engagement programme is world class, exceeded our expectations of what can be achieved with local groups"

Sharon Hayden, Artistic Director, Dorchester Arts

"We were overwhelmed by the response to Parklife. It literally opened people's eyes to another world – one which they embraced ecstatically. And the legacy lives on, with a new audience keen to experience more."

Angie Dickinson, Area Artistic Manager, Cultural Services, Neath and Port Talbot

"The mood is apocalyptic, the show is a thrilling delight and a dazzling antidote to fiscal gloom"

The Guardian on BARRICADE

CONTACT INFORMATION

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MEDIA LINKS

Please visit our promoters website for our photo gallery and video trailers of OPEN HOUSE.

promoters.nofitstate.org



