



SPIES LIKE US

# SPEED DIAL

INFO PACK



# ABOUT THE SHOW

**Tone. Dial. Ring.** In the late 1970s a lonely university professor on their morning run can't resist answering a strange phone that won't stop ringing. When the cold-voiced caller demands he follow their instructions to prevent a kidnapping turning uglier, the professor is thrust into a thrilling adventure to find his missing daughter. With only a persistent student along for the ride, the Prof dives into a world of story-hungry editors, dodgy Deans and grumpy groundskeepers, to uncover whodunnit and why in this **gripping and funny thriller.**

**Spies Like Us** take the audience on an **action-packed** journey that addresses contemporary questions of isolation, loneliness and connection in their trademark explosive physical style. **Speed Dial** explores the modern paradox that living in a more connected world doesn't necessarily encourage stronger connections between people, but instead leads to loneliness, a fact only more pertinent in life after lockdown.

Using multifunctional rotary telephones and writing desks to compliment their **dynamic physicality**, Spies Like Us have created a **feel-good** show about the importance of human connection with a tight, playful ensemble.

**Watch our trailer:**

**<https://vimeo.com/468505499>**

**Duration:** 70 minutes (approx), no interval, touring 2021 onwards

**Written by** Ollie Norton-Smith, Hamish Lloyd Barnes & Joe Large with additional material devised by the company

**Produced by** Spies Like Us

**Developed with** Pleasance Theatre, Theatre Peckham and New Diorama Theatre, with the support of Arts Council England

# REVIEWS

(For Work in Progress at VAULT 2020)

**"Singin' in the Rain meets Hitchcock"**

The Reviews Hub ★★★★★

**"Surprising and satisfying in equal measure... it's exuberance is unmistakable"**

The Upcoming ★★★★★

**SHORTLISTED:** Les Enfants Terribles Award 2020

(For previous work)

**"Quite simply, a joy... I've rarely laughed this consistently for an hour long show"**

★★★★★ Broadway Baby

**"One of the most impressive hours of the fringe"**

★★★★★ The List

**"A truly astounding work of theatre... I've seen performances at the Royal Ballet which are less in synch and smoothly choreographed"**

★★★★★ Voice Magazine

# WRAP AROUND ACTIVITIES

## **Ways into Devising Workshop (2 hours - £250, 3 hours - £360)**

Using strategies, attitudes and exercises we have developed to look at playful, collaborative and democratic techniques for creating devised and physical theatre. This workshop works particularly well for participants who have seen the production, providing concrete examples for how these approaches yield creative outcomes.

## **Building A Theatre Company (2 hours - £250, 3 hours - £360)**

Using our 3 years of experience setting up and then running Spies Like Us, in addition to the experience we have gained working with other companies, we offer practical advice and lessons we have learned on our journey from being seven friends with an idea to an award-winning collective of artists. This workshop is aimed at students and young artists who are interested in setting up or developing their own companies.

## **Making It Happen (1 hour - £150)**

So you've got an idea for a brilliant show - congratulations! What comes next? An hour of practical advice on how to produce your own work looking at the practicalities of finance, time and management on your journey to the stage.

## **Road To Edinburgh (1 hour - £150)**

After almost a decade spent making shows for the Edinburgh Fringe we spend an hour covering the basics of how to get to Edinburgh in the first place, as well as some strategies for making sure your run is a successful one. This workshop covers costs, marketing, creative ambitions, press, happiness and some secrets of the festival.

## **Premium Tailor-made Workshop (starting at £400)**

Drawing on our experience as devisers, physical theatre creators, artistic directors and teachers we create a tailor-made workshop to suit the precise needs of the participants. Working practically, with text, more holistically or any combination of the three, this is a custom-designed workshop to cater to specifically desired outcomes.

All workshops are compatible with social distancing measures.

# TECHNICAL INFORMATION

**DURATION:** 75 minutes (approx), no interval.

**LANGUAGE:** The show is in English, but can be performed with subtitling, surtitling or simultaneous translation. The festival/venue must provide the translation. We can provide an English version for translation.

**AUDIENCE:** 8+ (no bad language, but consistent threat of danger). It is suitable for venues from 100 - 500 seats.

**STAGE:** A minimum stage space of 3.5 metres deep x 6.2 metres wide with a 3 metre grid height. The performance is ideally suited to an amphitheatre style setting, minimum 6.2 metres wide at widest point, and 3.5 metres at narrowest point, minimum depth 3.5 metres. We tour a Technical Manager with us who designs and operates the shows.

**GET-IN:** We require a minimum of 6 hours get-in. We require assistance from a minimum of one venue technician.

**LIGHTING:** Where possible a pre rig is preferred. We require the lighting and sound to be operated from the same position. We are always flexible with cuts and changes that have to be made to the lighting plan along with paring and substitutions.

**SOUND:** Sound is outputted from a Macbook via 1/4 inch jack. We require 1 stereo input. If the main PA is hard to hear from stage then we way may require a monitor on stage.

**SET:** The set is a multifunctional writing desk, approx dimensions 1.2m x 0.6m x 1m. In addition, 5 rotary telephones are used throughout the production.

**SCHEDULE:** Maximum of 2 shows per day (maximum 2 days per week), no more than 8 shows per week.

# TO FIND OUT MORE

To find out about availability, costs and for more information speak to Tour Booker **Ollie Norton-Smith**.

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07772714570

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



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# EXAMPLE OF MARKETING MATERIALS

"ONE OF THE MOST IMPRESSIVE  
HOURS OF THE FRINGE"  
THE LIST ★★ ★★ ★

FOR  
WOWZEECH

THEATRE  
PECKHAM

ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND

DRIVE LINE UK

LONDON  
FRINGE

## SPEED DIAL

WORK IN PROGRESS

A FAST-PACED PHYSICAL THRIллер  
ABOUT CONNECTION AND FORGIVENESS



**Speed Dial (Work in Progress)**  
By Spies Like Us  
18:00 6-7th March  
Tickets from £13 | VAULT Festival Members save 10%

THE  
VAULTS  
The Vaults  
Leake Street  
SE1 7NA



VAULT  
VAULTFESTIVAL.COM

Poster from Work in Progress at **VAULT Festival 2020**

# ABOUT SPIES LIKE US

**Spies Like Us** are a **multi award-winning** ensemble physical theatre company that makes dynamic, highly visual theatre that tells great stories. Focusing on **devised storytelling**, using a playful performance style, and with boundlessly energetic enthusiasm, their productions are surprising, funny and tender.

Formed by graduates of **Young Pleasance**, they have toured nationally and internationally and are proud to be **Associate Artists at Pleasance Theatre**, and to have recently been one of **New Diorama Theatre's Emerging Companies**. With a passion for reaching new audiences with genre-busting adaptations and new writing, Spies Like Us are a young company with lots to say and a relentless work-ethic for creating new and exciting theatre for all.

