

Illustrated by:
@t.j.m98creator

AWAKENINGS



Presented by Pebbling Vagabonds

ABOUT THE SHOW.

Awakenings is a show that has been made by Babbling Vagabonds, working alongside students from a range of creative degrees at Sheffield Hallam University. The focus has always been on making a show (it's what Babbling Vagabonds are experts at), but it has also had an extra layer of meaning and importance for everyone involved. That's

We never thought that we took opportunities like this for granted, but after the disruption of Covid, we now recognise that we did... and it has made the experience richer because of it. Being creative, being part of a community, making something together, pushing yourself out of your comfort zone and then standing in front of an audience and saying "look what we have made" are all precious things, to be valued and fought for. They are some of the things that make us feel alive.. and connected... and purposeful. And that is why we felt strongly that, despite the on-going challenges of Covid and continuing social distancing, we needed to press ahead and make this project happen.

We hope you enjoy the show, but are also able to simply revel in being here.

This is a project that has been organised and run by the Department of Humanities, but wouldn't have been possible without the great support of colleagues in our partner Colleges of Art & Design and Media Arts and Communication.

The show has been made thanks to the commitment and input of students from the following degrees:

Dept of Humanities
BA (Hons) Acting & Performance
BA (Hons) Creative Writing
BA (Hons) English
BA (Hons) Screenwriting & Film
MA Creative Writing

Department of Art & Design
BA (Hons) Fine Art
BA (Hons) Illustration

Department of Media Arts & Communications
BA (Hons) Photography
BA (Hons) Film & Media Production
BA (Hons) Game Art
BA (Hons) Animation
MA Public Relations
MA International Journalism
MA Digital Media Management

CHINESE FOLKLORE - THE DRAGONS PEARL.

Awakenings has been devised from a traditional folk tale, called The Dragon's Pearl. We took this as a starting point and changed much of the story. However, we also thought it important to look into it's Chinese origins. Therefore we asked Hantian Zhang, Lecturer in Media in MAC, to help us understand some of the references.

The significance of dragons.

The dragon is an extremely important symbol in China. It symbolizes good luck/fortune, success, and kindness. We have a traditional saying called "hoping one's child will become a dragon" which means parents hoping their children to be successful in their career when they grow up. It also symbolizes power, strength, and justice. In Chinese folklore, dragons are powerful, magical, and mythical beings, who can control the weather and the sea. They can fly and swim.

The origin of the folk tale that was our starting point

The version you sent me was an adaptation written by French author Gilles Ragache. The portrayal of Chinese dragons is more fitting with Western culture, as traditional Chinese dragons do not have wings. They fly through the clouds using pure magic power. It is likely that Ragache wrote this story combining many different ideas from the Chinese folklore and tradition, and his own imagination/understanding.

"The God from the West"

The direction "West" in Chinese Buddhism means the movement toward the Buddha or enlightenment. The concept of the "West" is mainly portrayed in the Chinese novel Journey to the West, which is an adaptation of the real story of the Buddhist monk Xuanzang who traveled to the "Western Regions" (Central Asia and the Indian subcontinent) to obtain Buddhist sacred texts. But in the novel, the Buddhism god Xuanzang met in the West is not the same as the one in this story. In this Dragon's Pearl story, the god is not a Buddha, but more like a Taoism god.

Ancient Chinese stories seldom talk about North and South. Mainly East and West. East means where they live, as the ancient Chinese think they are living in the world's east. West to them is a mysterious land that few people have explored. Most folk tales, when referring to the West, mean central Asia or India.



Photography by Katie Bott, Connie Fiddament and Iqra Memon.

THE AWAKENINGS COMPANY

Actors

Lauren Bannister
Jessica Blues
Jeff Denya
Chris Seven
Connie Fiddament
Lauren Johnson
Antonia Nadragila
Jodie Robinson
Annabel Shirley

Writers

Adam Falcon
Iqra Memon
Hope Rowden
Saskia Welch

With thanks for the contribution of:

Max Barker, Matt Skelton & Jo Purvis

Social media & photography

Katie Bott
Rukewan Madegua
Iqra Memon (also a writer)

Poster designed by
Thomas Mills

Film-makers
Shay Bonilla-
Allard
Abdullah Khahil

With special thanks for the help and support of:
Sophie Parkes-Nield, Liz Noble, Hantian Zhang, Sam Jackson, Claire Smedley, Steve on the front desk of HPO and the many people from TORS who supported us at HPO and Harmer

The show also wouldn't have happened without the further support of the following people:
Humanities: Charles Mundy, Sophie Bush, Jo Stafford & Jon Drabble
Art & Design: Roger Bateman and Gordon Young.
MAC: Geff Green and Dean Naidoo

Music

Nicholas Pratt
With thanks for the contribution
of Thomas Mariott

Artists & Designers

Kaitlyn Halsall
Harrison Joyce-Carr
Emily Kempster
Callan Swain (also appearing as the dragon)

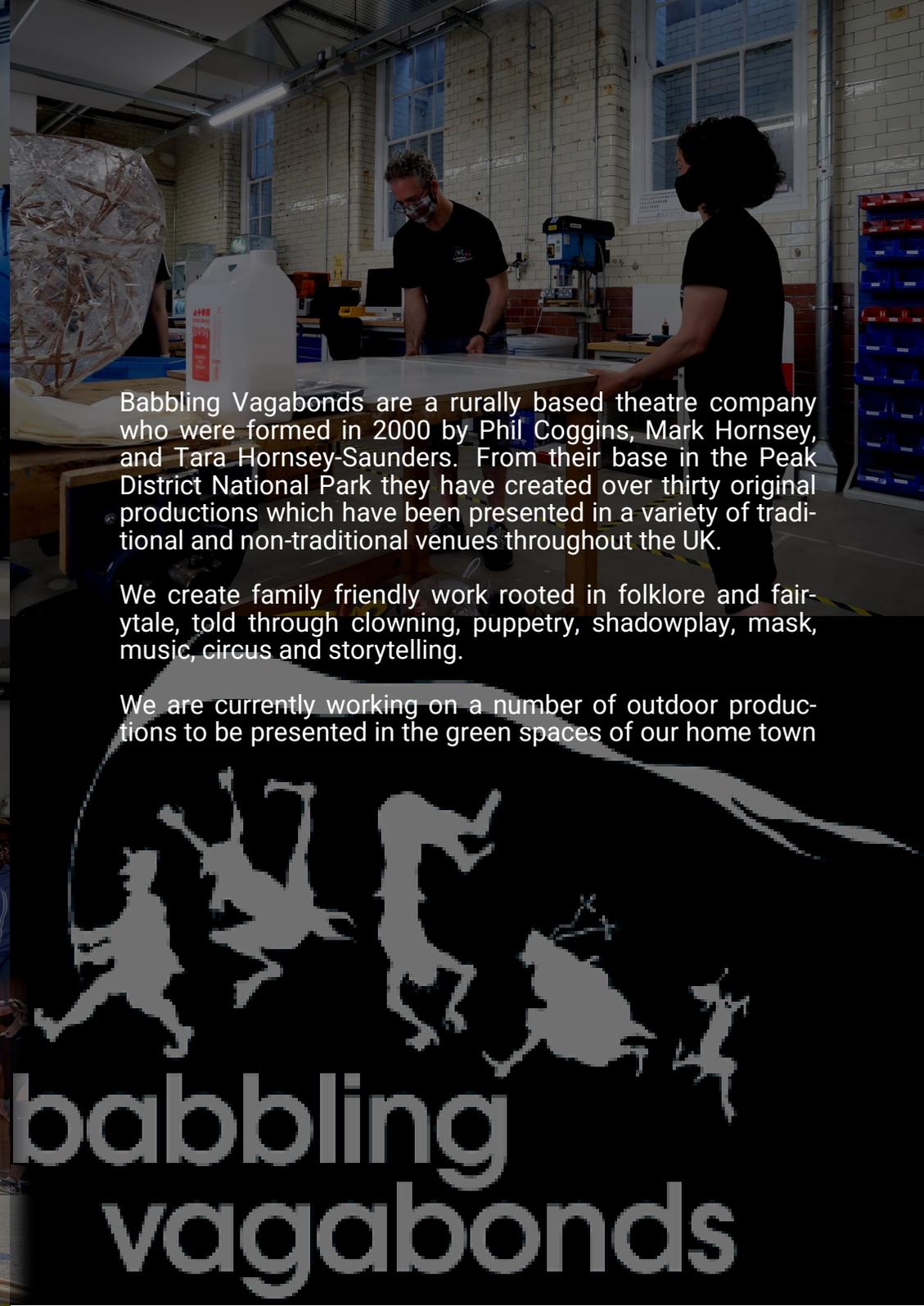
With thanks for the contribution of:
JJ Eteson, Lois Shelley & Chelsea Marie Bellham

Babbling Vagabonds

Phil Coggins - Director
Mark Halsey - Designer
Tara Halsey-Saunders - Designer

Sheffield Hallam Staff

Ashley Barnes- Production manager
Tom Payne - Social Media & photography
Sara Saunders (Estates) - Part of the art & design team



Babbling Vagabonds are a rurally based theatre company who were formed in 2000 by Phil Coggins, Mark Hornsey, and Tara Hornsey-Saunders. From their base in the Peak District National Park they have created over thirty original productions which have been presented in a variety of traditional and non-traditional venues throughout the UK.

We create family friendly work rooted in folklore and fairytale, told through clowning, puppetry, shadowplay, mask, music, circus and storytelling.

We are currently working on a number of outdoor productions to be presented in the green spaces of our home town

**babbling
vagabonds**