

## ***trees don't grow on money. a play for under 12s. burn / gobscore***

three feisty lasses (unicorn, lips and star) share a precious, ancient den across three seasons. an escaped lynx is making it way to this den. the lasses discover a new obs-platform (surveillance) is to be built on their den destroying this ancient piece of wild. learning from nature, from doctor who, and from creative campaigns around the world, the three lasses explore rewilding & fight back. can they save this wild? audiences and performers end up rocking out to patti smiths *people have the power : use your voice!*

**characters.** the three feisty lasses are :

stars who has travelled the furthest to be here, from beyond the fringes.

lips - whose birth-family is from the fringes but her stepdads from here.

unicorn is from here. she grew up with den from birth.

**visual look.** we are internationally exhibited artist and this show will be highly visual.

we will create den - this is the fourth 'character'

an ancient tree with a large space inside.

this is where the three became friends around age ten. they've been inseparable since. they are now fifteen.

remember yr best den? your place of safety. what story would you of told yr den as a kid?? what wouldn't you have done to save it if it was threatened? this den is within an ancient tree. imagine all the stories this den has been told and seen. stories of life, love and change.

**soundworld.**

we are multi-award winning sound artist / composer and will create soundworlds for telling this story across three seasons:

i. autumn (dusk) -nature, the coming night, majestic, unthreatening.

ii. winter (the longest night), sees the obs-platform (surveillance) and its 'belchbruisecrawlers', zoomoculars, starecams and more encroaching.

iii. may day (dawn chorus) is the sounds of noisy protest - pots & pans, before finally nature and its dawn chorus return.

by shows end we'd love to see a megaphone chorus of audiences and performers taking to the streets outside rocking out to patti smiths *people have the power*

**participation / spect-actors.** we've spent time with augusto boal thanks to cardboard citizens and always loved the idea of the spect-actor. this shows about saying to under 12's yu have a voice too. giving young people their voice, encouraging young folx to think about whats happening in their world - esp climate crisis, community and healing. shinrin-yoku or the japanese art of forest-bathing has recently been found by western science to genuinely help heal a range of physical conditions and mental distresses.

**this show is disability-led.** we are an alumni of graeae theatre and part of their beyond talent development scheme. Nickie Miles-Wildin, Associate Director of graeae intends to continue working with us as dramaturg and director on this show. we want it to be creatively accessible and not leave any young person out of these essential conversations.

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**<https://gobscure.wixsite.com/info/current-play>**

**video of the world of this play is at <https://vimeo.com/507306362>**

**video of our worlds / influences is at <https://vimeo.com/507752801>**

**<https://thesparkarts.co.uk/festival/industry-event>**

**on us.** writing as burn, making sound-art-perform as gobscure, we use plural as reflection of our broken mind. we are a multi-award-winning composer and exhibit art internationally. Graeae write to play alumni and part of their beyond talent development programme; several writing awards writer on attachment the Royal Court; Northern Broadsides art squad. last touring play *joey* (testing ground commission, in association with Greyscale, '*experiment of the year,*' british theatre guide); latest solo shows *provoked 2 madness by the brutality of wealth* supported by Third Angels mentoring scheme. way back our touring family shows combined clown and story. we then wrote shows including *cutter* for Half Moon theatre (Time Outs Play of the Year for Young People.). *birdbrained* (film for families) is released by Spot-On / Lancashire Libraries 15th february.

## timeline

(c.e. = common era)

- 29k years ago siberian unicorn dies out. various humans (denisovians / neanderthals / early european modern humans) interacted with them
- 4.5k years ago see 2019 c.e.
- 200 - 100 b.c.e. giant cat geoglyph (37 metres long) etched into peruvian desert. (predates nazca lines of 200 - 700 c.e.)
- 600 c.e. last lynxes in britain die out. (remains in cave off m6 near settle)
- 900 c.e. buttington oak (near welshpool) planted to mark a viking defeat (welsh and anglosaxons fought together) in 893. 2nd largest (not oldest) tree in wales topples in 2018 so after brexit vote. tree was on offas dyke. professor danny dorling, urban geographer, analysed that brrr vote and found that wales / the welsh (yes this distinction is itself tricky) voted remain, it was the english who moved to wales that voted to leave
- 1000 c.e. völuspá. final poetic edda (norse myth) written down at a time of climate change / rising sea levels due to volcanic activity. pagan culture moving to christianity. völuspá is a wise-woman (seeress) who shelters humans in the world tree as ragnarok (death of the gods) rages and then leads them to re-green the earth
- 1600 c.e. - english then british empire - i.e. colonisation occurs
- 1760 c.e. - industrial revolution (& start of new significant human interference in climate) begins
- 1900 c.e. lynx escapes from captivity in exeter area
- 1970 c.e. significant of human-made climate change understood
- 1988 c.e. patti smiths 5th album *dream of life* (including song *people have the power*) is released
- 2010 c.e. 'arab spring' uprisings / climate crisis / worsening mediterranean refugee crisis intertwine
- 2017 c.e. adolescent lynx escapes from zoo near aberystwyth. after 3 weeks of press hysteria this lynx (size of a large tabby) is shot dead because it 'poses a threat'

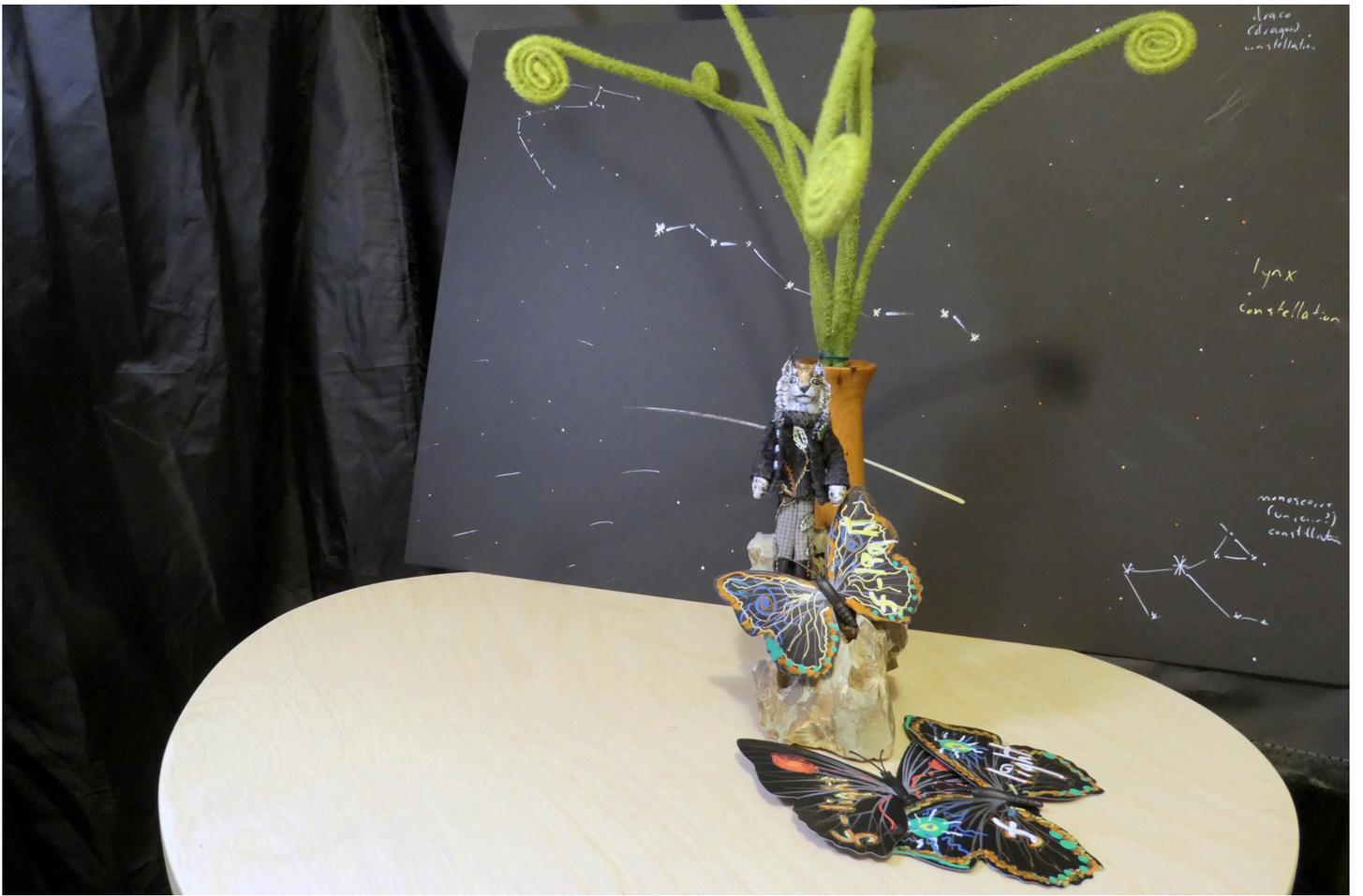
- 2018 c.e. ursula k le guin (born 1929 c.e.) dies. she talks of her writing as imaginative fiction saying the unimaginative (i.e. realist) fiction is mostly a history of defeat
- 2019 c.e. (may). storms reveal forests buried 4,500 years ago at borth beach. (origins of lower cantreth legend from this area?)
- now lips / unicorn / stars have been best friends for around 5 years. they're all aged almost 16.  
see map : stars / mother fled as refugees spending a year travelling across continents. lips moved from the fringes of this island. unicorn was born here and knows only this spot
- a different future across three seasons lips / unicorn / stars and audiences (spect-actors) 'rewrite the future'. imagine a chorus of ?!  
100 young folx and cast exiting the venue - all armed with megaphones and performing *people have the power*.  
use your voice!



the three seasons - autumn, winter, spring







map of this world in the north / plus (some) constellations above

