

the  
**GAIETY**

EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL  
**science**  
**festival**

**BORDERLINE**  
THEATRE

2016 CATS award winner – Available to tour in 2017

## **UNCANNY VALLEY**

A Borderline Theatre and The Gaiety Theatre Co-Production

Commissioned by Edinburgh International Science Festival in partnership with Imagineate  
Supported by the Scottish Government's Edinburgh Festival Expo Fund.



**Critics Award for Theatre in Scotland (CATS) Award-Winning  
'Best Production for Children and Young People' 2016**

Created by Rob Drummond // Directed by Emily Reutlinger

Interactive, Educational Science Theatre for Ages 7 and Over.

**| TOURING MARCH - JUNE 2017 |**

### **ABOUT THE PRODUCTION**

An interactive show aimed at eight to twelve year olds (and their parents), Uncanny Valley asks you, the audience, to interact with a 'live' robot and help a futuristic science teacher tell the story of Ada and her best friend OKAY (Outstandingly Knowledgeable Android Youth).

[www.borderlinetheatre.co.uk](http://www.borderlinetheatre.co.uk)  
[www.thegaiety.co.uk](http://www.thegaiety.co.uk)

@BorderlineCo  
@ayrgaiety

[facebook.com/borderlinetheatreco](https://facebook.com/borderlinetheatreco)  
[facebook.com/ayrgaiety](https://facebook.com/ayrgaiety)

You see OKAY is under threat of being terminated and the only way to stop this is to prove that he or she is exactly the same as you or me. Watch as Ada creates and improves OKAY, join in by playing the role of Ada's classmates, ask your very own questions to the robot and try to decide whether you think OKAY is nothing but electrical impulses and computer codes or...something more. Something almost human.

Whether you enjoy interacting, performing on stage or just sitting back and watching an exciting story unfold, this show will offer an insight into the past present and future of Artificial Intelligence and empower the audience to ask and answer some very big questions in an exciting and safe environment.

### **CREATIVE TEAM**

Writer - Rob Drummond  
Designer - Fergus Dunnet  
Production Manager - Doug Paisley  
Producer - Jeremy Wyatt

Director - Emily Reutlinger  
Lighting Designer - Kate Bonney  
Stage Manager - Natalie Welch  
Assistant Producer- Lauren Mclay

### **REVIEWS**

*"Issue-based theatre is rarely as witty, thought-provoking or as open to audience reactions as this piece for children and young people. Drummond's interaction with young audiences encourages them to explore, and voice, their own ideas about our relationship with technology and ongoing advances in artificial intelligence."*

#### **CATS JUDGES 2016**

#### **Winner – Best Production for Children and Young People**

★★★★ "Uncanny Valley is perfectly pitched as an educational piece aimed at young people, about the rise of Artificial Intelligence, which offers complex, challenging-for-all-ages moral questions." // [THE LIST](#), David Pollock

★★★★ "this fine and timely piece of interactive theatre for audiences aged eight and over deserves a long life, and an interesting one." // [THE SCOTSMAN](#), Joyce McMillan

★★★★ "this cannily crafted show is a gift to teachers, going where many young minds are keen to explore. It should be out on tour." // [THE HEARLD](#), Mary Brennan

★★★★ "A fascinating, thought provoking production that speaks as much to grownups as it does to children." "Uncanny Valley demonstrates that if you understand the underlying form, then science and theatre are great bedfellows, just as young children and big ideas can be." // [ALL EDINBURGH THEATRE](#), Thom Dibdin

★★★★★ "This was a cracker of a show, for older kids and adults alike. I can't find a way to fault it." "It opened up an entire world of new conversation with my 12 year old son on the walk home. "...a highly engaging and thoughtful show." // [THE MUMBLE](#), Lisa Williams

★★★★ “a highly engaging, child-friendly exploration of what AI actually means.” // [BROADWAY BABY](#), Paul F Cockburn

★★★★ “Drummond has created a direct, immersive, thought provoking and entertaining show...” “...a combination of wackiness and brilliant inventiveness” // [EDINBURGH GUIDE](#), Irene Brown

### **SPACE AND TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**

**Uncanny Valley** was designed to work with approximately 150 audience members, but we would like to explore revising the piece for larger audiences. It can also be adapted for schools performances. The setting should allow for audience interaction and for audience members to come into the performance area.

We can supply a detailed **Technical Tour Pack** which outlines all of our technical requirements, should this be of interest.

### **DATES**

**Uncanny Valley** will be remounted at the Edinburgh Science Festival 2017 from the 1st - 16th April. It will be available to tour from March until June 2017.

### **POTENTIAL AUDIENCES**

Although **Uncanny Valley** is aimed at family audiences and originally targeted at an 8-12 year olds, we've discovered that people of all ages have found it entertaining, engaging and though provoking. The piece has a wide potential audience; from fans of new writing, interactive theatre, Rob Drummond, Scottish theatre, science theatre, robotics and puppetry. The piece has particular appeal for school, youth theatre and family groups.

Our **Educational Resource Pack** would be of interest to school and youth groups, with the possibility of running **workshops** and **post-show discussions** in tandem with performances.

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND BOOKING**

To note interest for booking please contact, Lauren McLay at Borderline Theatre.

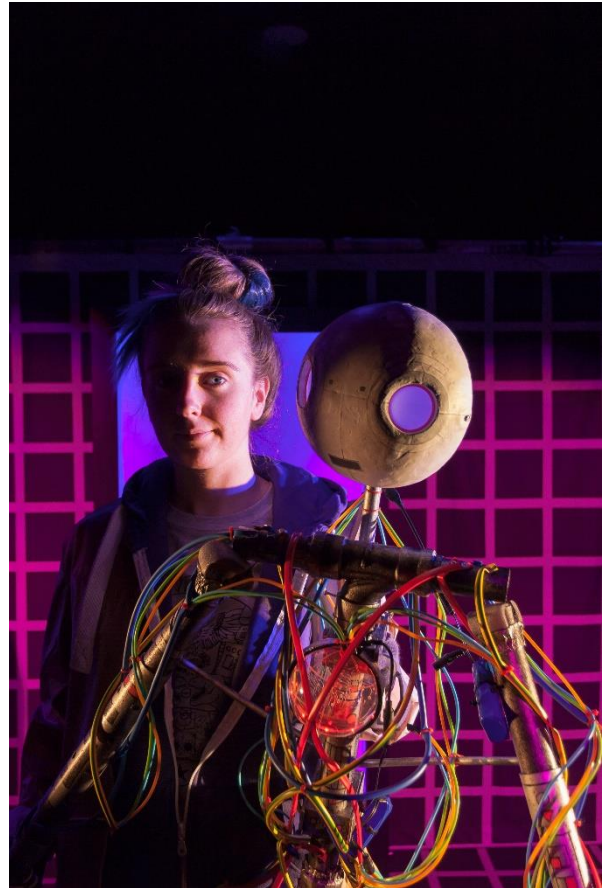
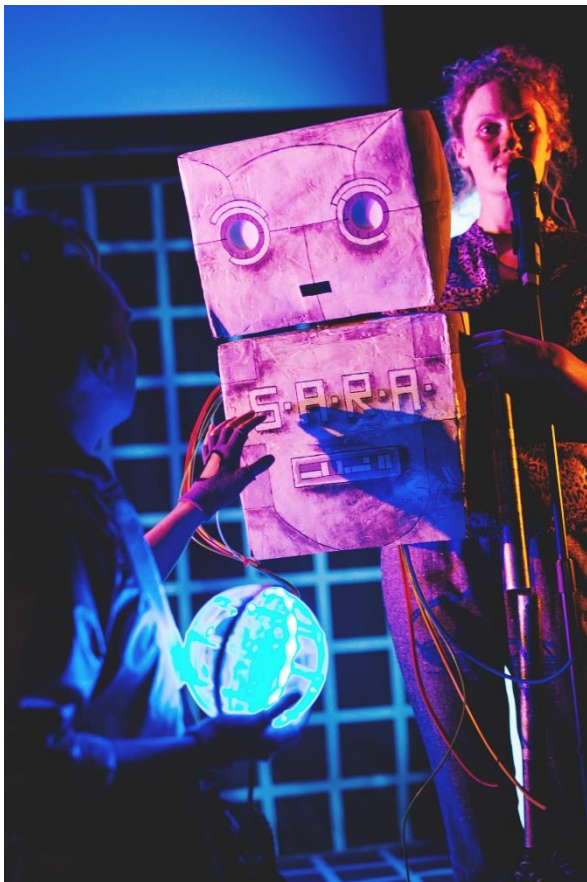
[lauren.mclay@ayrgaiety.co.uk](mailto:lauren.mclay@ayrgaiety.co.uk)  
01292 288 235 / 07712485056

*“It was fantastically brilliant and everything should have the same rights as others, even artificial intelligence!” – Aged 10*

*“I loved it. I want to see it again with my brother.” – Aged 7*

*“I did not expect the show to be so philosophically engaged and to have so much respect for its audience – genuinely challenging them, beautifully and patiently handled.” - Parent*

PRODUCTION IMAGES





Images: Louise Anna Photography.