

Inspector Sands

IF THAT'S ALL THERE IS

Commissioned by Lyric Hammersmith & co-developed at South Street, Reading and The Nightingale Theatre.

A couple are teetering on the brink of marriage. As the happiest day of their lives approaches, panic begins to rise. And everybody's watching.

Through the eyes of the couple, a jaded therapist and an awkward teenage girl we witness a hilarious case study of longing, envy, disappointment and violent urges, examining our obsession with seeking fulfillment at any cost.

For anyone's who's ever wanted to stand on a windswept plain, howling for lost love. Inspired by the Peggy lee song, 'Is That All There Is?', this is the new show from Inspector Sands ('a young company with a big talent' The Times), recent winners of the Edinburgh International Festival fringe prize 2009.

'The terrific thing about this show is that it works on many levels and always underpins the comedy with real emotion. Brilliant, slippery. Deliciously sharp and witty.' **** **The Guardian**

'Distinctly classy' ***** **The Scotsman**

'The excellent Inspector Sands... a wickedly funny and reassuringly well-honed piece in which situation comedy veers from everyday banality to surreal imaginings' ***** **The Herald**

HYSTERIA

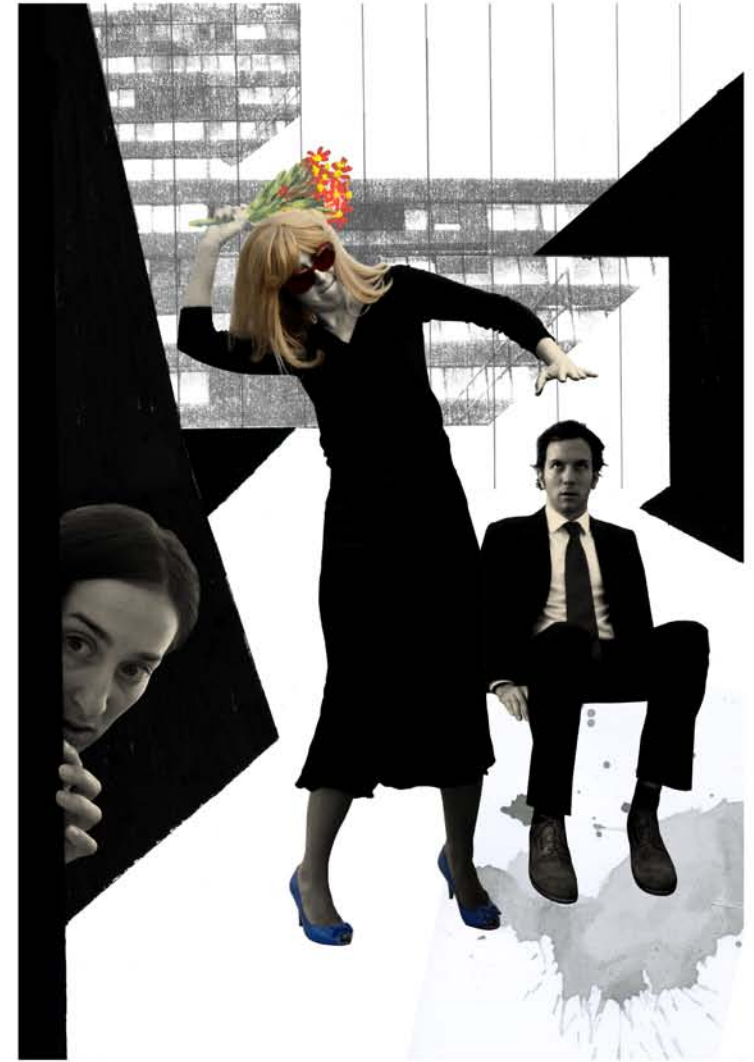
a play about panic, the apocalypse and table manners:

The world is ending. And it's happening at table 9...

Inspired by TS Eliot's poem of the same name, Hysteria makes us witness to a painstaking attempt at social interaction: a man and a woman are on the most awkward dinner date of their lives. He is an academic whose research into modern day neuroses is threatening his sanity. She is an events manager who's terrified of missing the party. Caught in the middle is their ghost-like waiter, who is fast running out of places to hide.

The evening soon disintegrates into awkward conversation, unwanted revelations and rising physical panic. As the action progresses, each character finds themselves spiralling towards a personal apocalypse.

With irreverent humour, a visceral soundtrack and a vivid physical style, Hysteria draws the audience into an arresting world where a cocktail party is a fight for survival and a banana can reduce you to tears.



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The Company

Inspector Sands is an award-winning theatre company founded in 2005 by Ben Lewis, Giulia Innocenti and Lucinka Eisler.

The company's first production, *Hysteria*, was developed at BAC and the Nightingale Theatre (Brighton) and premiered at Aurora Nova at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2006. The show sold out its run, gaining exclusively four and five star reviews, won a Total Theatre Award "for the integration of space, sound, light and physical performance" and was shortlisted for the Carol Tambor Award. It was selected to play at the South Bank Centre's Purcell Room as part of the London International Mime Festival 2007 and was invited back to Edinburgh 2007 by the Assembly Rooms where it was part of the British Council Showcase recommended programme.

The show has since toured extensively around the UK, including two national tours and dates at the BAC, Bristol Old Vic and Brighton Komedia, where the show won an Argus Angel Award. Further UK touring is planned for 2010 and 2011. *Hysteria* has also toured internationally to Armenia, Germany, Romania, Russia and, most recently, China, as part of the British Council 'Best of Edinburgh Festival' Showcase.

Following the success of *Hysteria* the company was commissioned by the Lyric Hammersmith to create their second show, *If That's All There Is*, co-developed with South Street, Reading and the Nightingale Theatre, Brighton.



REVIEWS

'Beautifully observed...Inspector Sands and Stamping Ground Theatre throw some light on the age of anxiety in this wonderfully witty show...I laughed until I cried.' - **Lynn Gardner, The Guardian 'Pick of the Day'**

'the wordplay is as nifty as the body language - and so well done that, even as you howl with laughter, you can't help but feel the edge of genuine anguish that underlies the comedy cantrips.' - **The Herald**

'dish of the day... a gripping production' - **The Scotsman**

'Painfully real and very, very slick, the hilarious Hysteria deserves to win Inspector Sands and Stamping Ground a raft of new fans' - **The Metro**

'...it is almost impossible to do justice to the fine intricacies of this play A charming and quite frankly hilarious blend of modern day mania and cringe comedy, 'Hysteria' combines a strong plot with extraordinary and slightly deranged performances from a symbiotic trio This really is side-splittingly magical and something quite special.' - **Three Weeks**

'This is a remarkable show.. the dialogue is witty, intelligent and the comedic timing perfect. The perversity of the situation is perfectly exploited. A superb production, a Fringe must.' - **Edinburgh Guide**

'a funny, innovative and at times disturbing exploration of how humans hang on to their sanity.' - **The Financial Times**

"We feel the 'Hysteria' team is without a doubt amongst the most talented in the new generation of UK physical theatre performers." **Joseph Seelig, Director, London International Mime Festival**

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