

OUR FATHERS

by babakas,

AVAILABLE FOR TOURING MAY/JUNE 2014

Opportunities to see the work:

Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2013:


Summerhall | Fri 2 – Sun 25 Aug 2013 (not 7, 13 & 20) | 12.30pm (65min)

Online on Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/65091295> (password: ourfatherstheshow)

CONTACT FOR TOUR BOOKING

Pippa Frith | pippafrith@gmail.com | 07500 015298

or Thomas Wildish | thomas.wildish@gmail.com | 07833 380453



August 12th. 1941
November 15th. 1959
January 2nd. 1960
September 21st. 1966
February 12th. 1979
March 25th. 1989
April 1st. 1992
August 12th. 1993

July 26th. 1994

“A rigorously intelligent and innovative piece that delivers home truths about important issues.

This debut production deserves to be seen.”

Joseph Seelig - London International Mime Festival

ABOUT OUR FATHERS

Mike's dead Dad's friend's daughter has asked him to father her child. His boyfriend Bert isn't convinced.

Their housemate Sofia has her own fish to fry. She needs to find a man before it's too late, but her Dad keeps getting in the middle.

A moving and playful portrait of fatherhood by international company Babakas, who mix comedy, contemporary dance and cinema to tell a story that crosses borders and decades.

"This began as a frighteningly personal project: to uncover the father I'd lost at thirteen, and examine how his absence had affected the man, and sexual being, I'd become. But when we incorporated the very different stories of Sofia and Bert, the play opened up to explore the 20th Century European father, and the pressures and myths that governed the ways in which he could (or couldn't) show his love. We hope that the dangerous honesty of the material is balanced by a generous, eclectic performance style that can surprise and implicate the audience, stirring them to reflect on the father figures of their lives."

Mike Tweddle, Artistic Director, Babakas

CREDITS

Devised and written by the Company

Performed by Sofia Paschou,
Bert Roman
Mike Tweddle

Directed by Juan Ayala

Video design by Scott Johnston

Dramaturg Brian Mullin

Sound by Phill Ward

Choreography by Annie Pui Ling Lok
Jean-Marc Serrano Deladoey

Produced by Pippa Frith and
Thomas Wildish

Commissioned by China Plate,
mac birmingham, Warwick Arts Centre
and Warwick Centre for the History
of Medicine.

Supported by Arts Council England and
Kinitiras Studio, Athens.



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RESPONSES TO THE SHOW

PROGRAMMERS

*"I programmed *Our Fathers* after seeing a work-in-progress sharing at Bite Size at Warwick Arts Centre. Even at its early stages this piece felt original and confident. *Our Fathers* deals with an interesting and under-scrutinised subject and builds a friendly, easy rapport with the audience, making it a great piece for venues venturing into booking contemporary performance."*

Allegra Galvin, formally Programme Director, Parabola Arts Centre

"Loved [#ourfathers @Carriagewrx](#) Raw revealing delicate and surprisingly massively playful at the same time. Catch [@Bab kas](#) on tour!"

Porl Cooper, The HUB, Leeds

Winner of Empty Space Peter Brook Award whilst at The Lowry



AUDIENCE MEMBERS

"Fantastic - very gripping, moving and powerful. Made me rethink fatherhood."

"Weird, but really rather wonderful."

"Moving and funny - a perfect combination."

PRESS

The Tab Cambridge ★★★★★: "Astonishingly, they're telling their actual life stories, and are comfortable, funny and startlingly honest about it."

Theatre Fever: "Innovative, surprising and delighting."

Yellow Drama: "A touching and interactive piece of theatre that both challenges and celebrates the notion of fatherhood without ever becoming sentimental".

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SHOW

BACKGROUND

Our Fathers began life in 2010, when the team began researching and sharing initial ideas with audiences in Athens, during a residency supported by Kinitiras Studio. The company won a place in China Plate's First Bite Festival at mac birmingham and shared 20 minutes with audiences in September 2011. Following the scratch, Babakas were commissioned to share a 60 minute work-in-progress at the China Plate's Bite Size Festival at Warwick Arts Centre in March 2012. This stage of development was greatly inspired by a burgeoning collaboration with Warwick University's Centre for the History of Medicine, who joined the team as Historical Consultant. The Centre commissioned further development of the piece, which was presented in June 2012. This led to a national tour March - June 2013, supported by Arts Council England.



PARTNERS

Commissioned by China Plate, mac birmingham, Warwick Arts Centre and Warwick Centre for the History of Medicine. Supported by Arts Council England and Kinitiras Studio, Athens.

TOURING HISTORY

March 2012: **China Plate's Bite Size Festival**
June 2012: **Warwick Arts Centre**
March - June 2013: **National Tour**
Sat 23 & Sun 24 Mar | **mac birmingham**
Thu 28 Mar | **Carriageworks Theatre, Leeds**
Sat 6 Apr | **Rich Mix, London**
Wed 10 Apr | **Cambridge Junction**
Thu 18 Apr | **Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton**
Sat 4 May | **Ilkley Playhouse**
Sun 5 May | **GIFT Festival**
Fri 31 May | **Parabola Arts Centre, Cheltenham**
Thu 6 Jun | **The Lowry, Salford Quays**

Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2013:

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TOURING PERIOD

Our Fathers is available for touring May/June 2014

DURATION

65min

SPACE REQUIREMENTS

Minimum performance space is 8m (w) x 6m (d), ideal setting area is 9m (w) x 7m (d).

INFORMATION ABOUT THE SHOW



MARKETING: TARGET MARKETS

- An alternative theatre going audience, one whose notion of what theatre must be is not too traditional or formal
- Attenders of new devised theatre, dance work and interdisciplinary arts
- Parents and those considering parenthood
- Local fathers groups and parenting groups
- Gay audiences
- Young people, future parents

MARKETING: MATERIALS

- A dedicated marketing pack will be provided
- A pre-agreed quantity of flyers and posters will be provided
- Support for e-marketing will include e-flyers and video trailers
- Production shots of the show are available
- Marketing and Box Office teams can view a full video of the performance to understand the piece, although this video is not for public consumption

LEARNING & PARTICIPATION

Babakas place learning and participation at the heart of their work, actively seeking out dialogue and discussion with audiences through a number of channels. The spring / summer 2013 tour included post-show discussions, working in partnership with Dr Laura King (Arts Engaged Research Fellow, University of Leeds), with a range of panelists and discussion taking place across the tour. In addition Babakas delivered a number of workshops, including a 6 week programme with unaccompanied asylum seekers, and one off workshops with university students and Ideas Tap members.

"Awesome guys - an honest and generous approach allowing for fun and development. A very well-constructed workshop. It allowed me to explore activities and methods I can apply to my own practice."

Laura Markham, Ideas Tap member

Babakas are keen to work with venues to support learning & participation initiatives. Please contact Pippa or Thomas for further details.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Personnel

Four people on the road: One Production/Stage Manager and three performers (two male one female)

Set

- 4.5m x 5m projection screen on a roll. (Depending on the venue this is rigged by 2 x Manfrotto floor standing winch stands, or a hemp bar)
- 3 x rolls of 2m x 8m dance floor
- 1 table and 5 chairs.
- A few small boxes of props and set.

Equipment toured by the company

- 1 x projector, which projects onto the screen (front projection) which is set downstage centre to the screen
- Relevant cables/ converters/ splitters to link from control room to projector.
- 1x slide projector
- 1x monitor for backstage

Operation

We tour with a show control laptop which operates sound and AV through QLab
In house technician required to operate the lighting desk

Running time

65 minuts with no interval



BABAKAS' NEXT PRODUCTION: THEY COME OVER HERE (WORKING TITLE)

They Come Over Here addresses bold global themes: the history of European colonialism and its repercussions today. This subject emerged from the make-up of the company itself. Their own friendly arguments – full of translations, cultural assumptions, and misunderstandings – play out the same rivalries that have dominated Europe for centuries. Babakas includes representatives of the historical great powers that colonized most of South America, Africa, and the Indian subcontinent.

The company want to explore the millennia-old process of one nation taking over another, not only historically but as it occurs today. Using a mix of autobiography, intensive research, and creative playfulness, four performers – a Belgian, a Brit, a Spaniard, and a Greek – will journey back into their own colonial pasts, uncovering crimes, conquests, and forgotten figures. From Brussels, the current seat of EU power built off the sweat of African labourers, to the plantations of post-colonial Kenya, and onto the streets of Athens and Madrid, where once powerful nations feel subjugated by a new 'economic colonialism' of debt and austerity, rather than military force.

Babakas will complete two stages of research and development for *They Come Over Here* at **mac birmingham** and **Ovalhouse, London** in Nov 2013 and Apr 2014 respectively. They intend to take the show to full production in summer 2014. Research & Development is funded by Arts Council England.

"Babakas are an exciting international ensemble whose work demonstrates the confidence to play with form, challenge audiences' expectations and use physicality, humour and playfulness to tell stories. We're really excited to be continue working with them to support their new project. It will tackle a highly interesting and contentious subject matter, and the company intend to employ a bold and adventurous form to explore it."

Louisa Davies, Performing Arts Producer, mac birmingham

"Babakas' work mixes theatrical modes in innovative ways and has a direct engagement with audiences that is both challenging and accessible. We believe that Babakas' work sits well within Ovalhouse's commitment to support work that reflects contemporary political questions in formally inventive ways. We have wanted to address issues surrounding diversity in Europe, as well as the ongoing crisis of debt and austerity. We think that Babakas is the right company to tackle these questions in insightful, entertaining ways and we've pledged our support in developing the project."

Rebecca Atkinson-Lord, Director of Theatre, Ovalhouse



SOLID FEATHERS



ABOUT babakas,

Babakas was founded in 2010 by Mike Tweddle, Juan Ayala, Brian Mullin, Miguel Oyarzun, Sofia Paschou, and Bert Roman. Having collaborated on a host of projects across Europe together since 2006, including Birmingham's BE FESTIVAL, the company formed with a view of making entertaining, experimental work that puts social questions at its heart. The company use multiple languages to explore the universal, incorporating their love of organised chaos, vulnerable simplicity, mischief, honesty and ideas that come from unexpected places.

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Producers: Pippa Frith & Thomas Wildish



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