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PROFILE

Alan Lyddiard is an award winning theatre and film director, producer and writer working across the UK, Europe and beyond. Alan is best known as an advocate of the community arts movement, international collaborations and ensemble theatre practice. He was Artistic Director of The Northern Stage Ensemble, Newcastle upon Tyne (1992–2005), Artistic Director of TAG Theatre Company, Glasgow (1988–1992) and Associate Director at Dundee Rep (1984–1988). His stage adaptation of George Orwell's *1984* has been produced in theatres world-wide, including long runs across USA, Germany and France.

CURRENT

Artistic Director - The Performance Ensemble. Since 2014

The Performance Ensemble is an ensemble theatre company of older performers, 60 years and older, from different cultural backgrounds, creating contemporary theatre for audiences of all ages. The Ensemble works in the space between professional, community and amateur arts, aspiring to create world class theatre performance that emerges from the heart of communities.

Associate Artist - Mind The Gap Theatre. Since 2015

Mind the Gap is England's largest learning disability theatre company that creates work for UK and international audiences.

Current Productions

Anniversary - Devised Theatre Piece with older performers.

The Performance Ensemble & West Yorkshire Playhouse co-production September 2016

Contained - Mind the Gap. Devised Theatre Piece. Touring production 2016/2017

Recent Productions for The Performance Ensemble

Remembering Witch's Blood - Ignite Dundee May 2016

Anniversary - Work in Progress - West Yorkshire Playhouse July 2015

In The Kingdom That Danced - Luminate Festival, Dunfermline October 2014

Dancehall of Dreams – Hebden Bridge Arts Festival, West Yorkshire Playhouse July 2014

Dancing Days Luminate Festival, Kirkcaldy October 2013

RECENT

Creative Producer at The Cyrenians (Homeless Charity now Changing Lives)

January 2011 – July 2013 Newcastle upon Tyne,

Directing an arts and media programme across the Cyrenians Homeless Charity's 29 projects and working with local communities. Creating artworks, performance, installation, theatre and films. Art as Action

2008 – 2011

Freelance

Dramaturg/Adaptor of *Wings of Desire* from the film by Wim Wenders for International Dance Festival Birmingham. A large scale free performance in Victoria Square, Birmingham involving drama, music, circus, dance, aerialists and projected digital mapping imagery on Birmingham's Town Hall. Large scale epic production May 2012.

Adaptation of George Orwell's novel *1984* touring theatres throughout France since 2008. The production has been seen in USA, Germany, Canada, New Zealand and the UK. It recently completed a five year run at Théâtre de Ménilmontant in Paris.

A leading actor in the feature film "*The Passage*" directed by Roberto Minervini, filmed in Texas. Presented on the Film Festival circuit including Brussels Film Festival, Houston Film Festival, Lincoln Centre New York, Montreal Film Festival, Jerez International Film Festival and Raindance Film Festival London.

Artist-in-Residence at Crisis/Skylight Newcastle, The Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture and the Cyrenians where he created two theatre installations, '*Turning On A Sixpence*' and '*100 Faces, 100 Stories*' and one short film, '*Virginia House*'.

Artist-in Residence with "The September Collective" in Jerez de la Frontera, Spain developing a range of Arts, Film and Community Projects.

2006 – 2008

Arts Council England - Bursary Research Project

Completed a two-year bursary from Arts Council England to develop a range of Creative International Collaborations and develop new working methods, travelling across South East Asia and China

Filmmaker

Studied filmmaking and made a series of short films projects reflecting life in South East Asia seen in film festivals across the world from New York and Manila. Worked on first feature film, *Going Somewhere*

APRIL 1992 – DECEMBER 2005

Artistic Director Northern Stage Ensemble Newcastle

Artistic Director and Chief Executive of Northern Stage, Newcastle upon Tyne. A building based Theatre Company producing, presenting and developing participatory projects throughout the year. Established an Ensemble Performing Company based at the theatre that toured nationally and internationally with productions including *Animal Farm* (Spain, France, Israel, Holland and throughout the UK) *1984* (Spain, France and throughout the UK) and *Clockwork Orange* toured throughout the UK for five years.

Established an international programme of work at Northern Stage starting with *'The Man Who ...'*, devised and directed by Peter Brooks in April 1994. Other productions included work from Lev Dodin, Robert Lepage, Calixto Bieito, Simon McBurney, Yukio Ninagawa, Alain Platel and many others. Produced the first Newcastle/Gateshead Gypsy Festival. A two-week celebration of Romany lifestyle and history through theatre, story telling, music dance, visual art and film.

JANUARY 2000 – DECEMBER 2005

International Work

Devised & Directed *'1001 Nights Now'* a contemporary re-telling of the Arabian Nights stories by writers from North Africa and the Middle-East for the Betty Nansen Theatre, Copenhagen.

Devised and Directed *Black Eyed Roses* a theatre piece based on Gypsy/Roma stories for The Hungarian State Theatre, Cluj, Romania.

Directed *Himlen Over OS*, based on the film *Wings of Desire* by Wim Wenders for The Betty Nansen Theatre in Copenhagen.

Co-Artistic Director with Calixto Bieito of *Homage to Catalonia* by George Orwell touring UK and to Barcelona and Paris.

OCT 1988 – MAR 1992

Artistic Director TAG Theatre Company Glasgow

Created work across Scotland in schools, theatres and community centres. Commissioned by Glasgow's European City of Culture programme in 1990 to produce *CITY* written by Tom McGrath at Tramway.

1984 – 1988

Associate Director Dundee Rep

Witches Blood, They Fairly Mak Ye Work, Moby Dick Rehearsed, Entertaining Mr Sloan, Sailor Beware, The Price and many more productions. Was responsible for developing a community arts programme at the theatre, directing Youth Theatre productions and Adult Community productions. Worked with Royston Maldoom on the setting up of Dundee Rep Dance Company after establishing the first Community Dance Festival

Awards

Awarded best touring production 2003 for '1984' Manchester Evening News

Barclay/TMA Regional Awards -Special Achievement in Regional Theatre 2000

Barclay/TMA Regional Awards - Nominated Theatre of the Year 2001

Barclay/TMA Regional Awards - Nominated Best Touring Production 1998 for 'A Clockwork Orange'

Northern Electric Arts Award - Nominated Best Touring Production 1998 for 'A Clockwork Orange'

Barclay/TMA Regional Award - Nominated Best Director 2002 for 'The Ballroom of Romance'

Nominated for Award for Excellence in International Theatre 2002

Other

Six month Artist Bursary Award from Creative Scotland 2015

Member of the Drama Panel and Advisor – Scottish Arts Council

Member of the Scottish Arts Council Working Party on 'New Writing'

Member of Scottish Arts Council Working Party on 'Theatre for Young People'

Member of Scottish Arts Council Working Party on 'Arts for a new Century'.

Artistic Director of Dundee Community Festival. Mounted two very successful large-scale community plays, 'Witch's Blood' 1 and 2.

Founding Chairman of Scottish National Association of Youth Theatres

Co-deviser/director of eight week television series '*Parent & Teenagers*'.

Co-director of five-week television series, '*Starting Out*'.

Director of '*Adam's Story*'. Half hour television drama for Tyne Tees Television.

Winner of Arts Council of England Bursaries 1976 and 2006

Look At Me Señor short film presented at film festivals in New York and Manila

Referees

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