

## <mixtape>

### <introduction>

Anyone who's ever made one knows the care and love that goes into the process. Choosing songs that you think the person you're going to give the tape to will really love. Or that they *should* love. Because you always have. Or because they make you cry. Or you heard it for the first time together. Or the lyrics communicate something to that person that you simply couldn't. Or just because they *really fucking rock*. And ordering them. Making a random collection of songs into some sort of a cohesive whole that takes the listener on a journey that inspires, thrills, moves them.

So it's a simple premise, really. Since December 2008, we've been working with some of our favourite writers, directors, theatre companies and a comedian - each of them has chosen a song that they hope you'll love as much as they do. And they've made a performance in response to it.

### <tracks made so far...>

*JON SPOONER and BEN PACEY in response to*  
"You Are The Moon" by The Hush Sound

*STAN'S CAFE in response to*  
"Come Together" by Primal Scream

*PHIL KAY in response to*  
whichever song Phil particularly wants to dance to at the time

*THIRD ANGEL in response to*  
"The First Big Weekend" by Arab Strap

*LUCY ELLINSON and VICTORIA PRATT performing as NORTHSTAR in response to*  
"A Million Love Songs Later" by Take That

### <proposal>

Having made a first side's worth of tracks, we've been wondering how to introduce an audience to them. Here's what we thought...

We'd going to create a walk through Leeds during which an audience encounters each of the tracks in different locations (e.g. a theatre space, Millennium Square, the crypts in the Town Hall, City Square, a shop window in H&M) before ending up in a club for more music, a big party and audience sharing of their own mixtapes.

We'd also intend to:

1. create a new event/track ourselves to take place in a bar
2. commission another artist to make an interactive <mixtape> event that would run during the party
3. Invite new/emerging artists to submit a proposal for another event/track to fit into the walk, which we would then help/mentor them to produce.

### <thinking>

We embarked on this project for several reasons.

A mixtape, for us, is a brilliant way to be introduced to new music by artists we might not have heard before. Some of it we'll love, some of it we won't. Some of the songs will inspire us to listen to a whole album by that artist and possibly explore their entire back catalogue. Other songs might not be to our taste, but it's only short and there'll be another one along in three or four minutes.

We wanted to make a performance mixtape of work by artists we love but that audiences might not have had the opportunity or the inclination to actually come and see yet. To encourage them to take a risk on something a bit new.

The premise for an audience to walk together through the city stems from several impetuses...

- We're increasingly interested in how we can create theatre performances or events that are truly *social* – where people are invited to come together and feel like they've participated in the creation of something together. Walking in a group and having a performance to interact with and talk about as you walk, is a very social thing to do.
- The city and the route we'll take through it will probably be a very familiar experience for many of the participants. By performing unfamiliar events along that route and against this familiar backdrop, we hope to inspire our audience with new memories (and relationships) they can carry through the city with them in the future.
- We thought it might be fun

### <world changing fun>

We're massively excited about creating a fun and world changing experience for an audience.

Yes, we said world changing. That's our business. We're not claiming that this event will change the world in the sense that *everything* will be changed. But it will change or shift or inspire the thinking of everyone who participates. And they will have something new to take back out into the world with them. And thus the world will be changed. We don't want to *just* create an entertainment. We absolutely want to change the world. For the better.

In early 2010 we're intending to launch a dedicated website/blog-space that will be the focus for audiences/artists to engage and create their own responses and mixtapes. This online element of the project will allow people to engage with and experience the work beyond the live event and will be the longterm legacy of the project.

We'd love to work with partners cities beyond Leeds to create local versions of our <mixtape>. If you'd like to know more or have any questions, please feel free to get in touch.

Welcome to the show. We hope you can make it.

**UNLIMITED THEATRE December 09 [www.unlimited.org.uk](http://www.unlimited.org.uk)**

Contact: Jon Spooner, Artistic Director +44 (0) 7930 547729 [j@unlimited.org.uk](mailto:j@unlimited.org.uk)