



new writing  
by Andrew McMillan

# dorian

A contemporary re-telling of the Wilde classic

tour pack

# The Trilogy



Medusa



Nosferatu

photo: Richard Mulhearn

After the success of *Nosferatu* (2015) and *Medusa* (2017), award-winning storytellers and theatre makers, Proper Job Theatre Company embark on their final venture in their **Monster Trilogy**.

We have been in a process of research and development with University of Huddersfield and the brilliant poet, **Andrew McMillan**, since January 2018. This final piece which began life with the title *Changelings* has now become *Dorian* and will complete the final part in the trilogy.

“

I really enjoyed the show and ended up seeing it twice!

It was uncomfortable and challenging but addressed some very relevant topics.

Nancy Taylor

*Producer, The Carriageworks on Medusa 2017*

“

Interesting insights and twists to the familiar story and some beautiful imagery.

Hauntingly beautiful...

British Theatre Guide

*on Nosferatu, 2015*

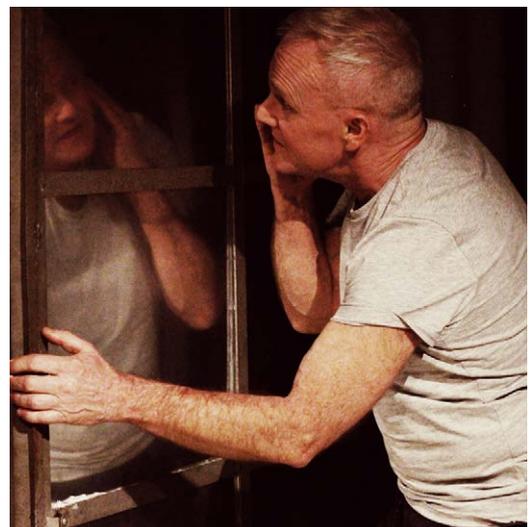


# dorian

What if a portrait didn't accurately reflect the life you've lived, but could be manipulated to show the life you wish you'd lived? What if your body was changing, but the image you saw of yourself wasn't?

Following on from *Medusa* which hit the stage right at the start of the #metoo campaign, **Proper Job Theatre Company** and **Andrew McMillan** have now created an inspired contemporary re-telling of Wilde's *Dorian Gray*, exploring male vanity, gym culture, masculinity and body dysmorphia.

In a society where genre is becoming fluid, how do men deal with the airbrushing, catfishing and online beautification?



**"The black mirror is gradually getting darker and darker..."**

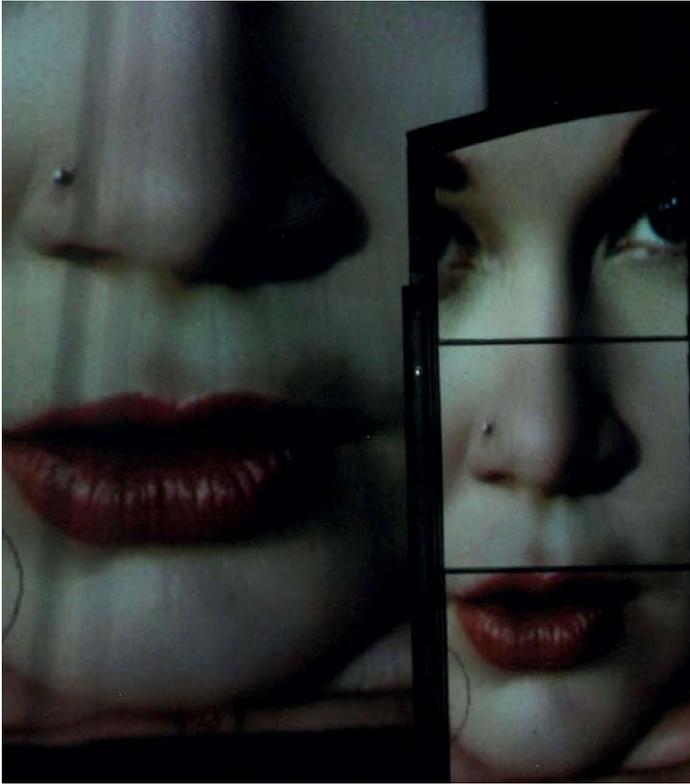
**We are all a modern day Narcissus reaching into our own pool, but our pools are in our pocket, one click away."**

**Helen Mort, Poet**



Behind every exquisite thing that  
existed, there was something tragic.

*The Picture of Dorian Grey*



**Now I know what others have suffered from me, for I burn with the love of my own self. And yet how can I reach that loveliness that I see mirrored in the water?**

**But I cannot leave it.  
Only death can set me free.**

*Narcissus*



# Building Audiences

- **87.5% of audiences** who gave feedback thought Medusa was ‘**worthwhile**’ and ‘**good value for money**’. **Over 45%** of audiences at venues were either new to the venue or to the company.
- Across the tour we reached **over 75,000** people through social media.
- Spent **less than 1p per person** (online engagement) and 6p per audience member.
- We performed to **over 2,000** audience members in **13 different venues**.

Throughout this tour, we were able to build audiences in new areas of the country thanks to our bespoke marketing strategies. Due to the multi-faceted nature of our work (using live music and song, poetry, innovative digital components and physical theatre), we tailored the marketing to appeal to different demographics, depending on the venues needs.

## **We consistently saw two types of demographics:**

### **1. 18-26 year olds**

Often students, who were new to either the company or the venue. Many of these engaged in free theatre/ Biomechanics workshops to gain a deeper insight into the company’s actor training methods.

### **2. 35-60 year olds**

Traditional theatre audiences, who would book the show based on their knowledge of the company, or due to the programming at the venue.

**We increased our mailing list by 25% and increased our online engagement rate (open rates, click rates) by 30%.**

**Something that really helped this was our ability to release exclusive content to our subscribers only. This included company research into the piece, extra text and poems from the writer Helen Mort.**



**Proper Job tackle good narratives in interesting ways using contemporary, multi-skilled storytelling and I very much look forward to what they get up to next.**

**Matthew Eames**

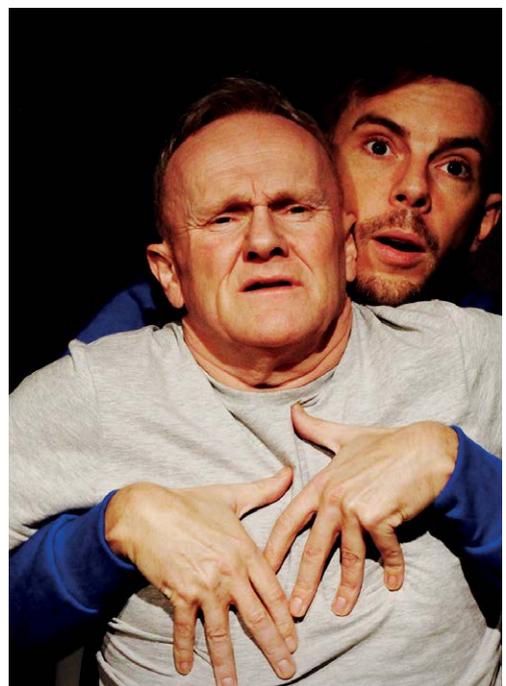
*Theatre Programmer & Producer at The Lowry, Manchester*



**Compelling, unsettling and mesmerising  
...ancient but horribly topical.**

**David McQuillan**

*Artistic Director of Square Chapel for the Arts, Halifax*



# Autumn Tour 2019

Tue Oct 15	Square Chapel Arts Centre, Halifax
Wed Oct 16	The Brewery Arts Centre, Kendal
Thu Oct 17	Lawrence Batley Theatre, Huddersfield
Fri Oct 18	The Brindley Arts Centre, Runcorn
Tue Oct 22	CAST, Doncaster
Wed Oct 23	Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham
Thu Oct 24	The Civic, Barnsley
Sat Oct 26	Queens Hall, Hexham
Mon Oct 29	Rose Theatre, Ormskirk
Tue Oct 30	The Lowry, Salford
Wed Oct 31	The Lowry, Salford
Wed Nov 1	The Lowry, Salford



We want audiences to think, to be divided to have an experience that will sit in their consciousness for days following the performance. We will strive to be bold and tell stories that are unusual and comment on contemporary issues even if they have an ancient inspiration.

**James Beale**

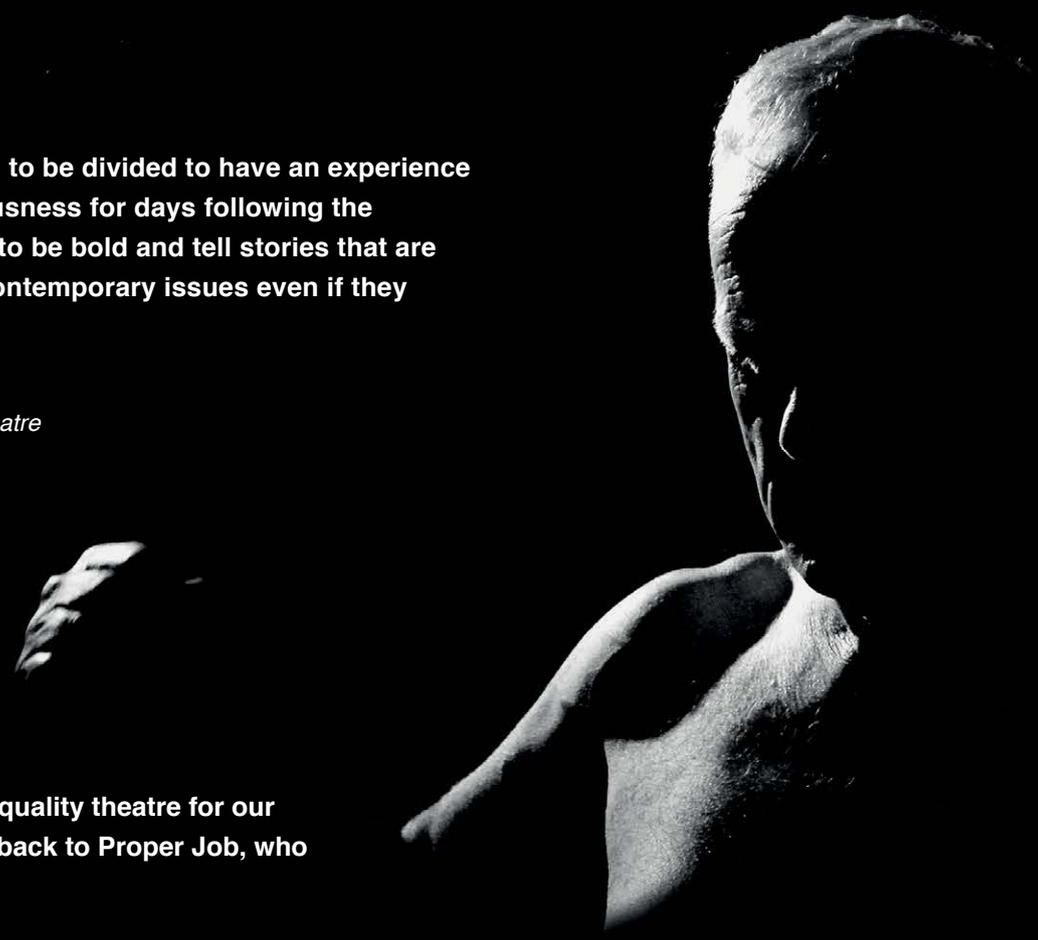
*Artistic Director of Proper Job Theatre*



I am always looking for high quality theatre for our audiences and keep coming back to Proper Job, who go that bit further.

**Charlie Studdy**

*Junction, Goole*





## Audience reactions from our studio tour:

“Each character was entirely credible and they worked as a team bringing home their message strongly. The music was appropriate to create a serious and sinister atmosphere and encouraged me to really examine the subject. Very well acted and performed.”

“Very enjoyable. Different from a normal Dorian.  
Oscar would have enjoyed it.”

“Very absorbing. Great poetry amidst thought provoking theatre.  
Great music. Great visuals.”

# The Company

Proper Job Theatre Company is based in the North of England and have been successfully creating and touring new work to theatres UK-wide since 1985.

Recent touring highlights include:

*Medusa* (2017)

*Fewer Emergencies* (Spring 2016)

*Grimm's Faerie Feast* (December 2015)

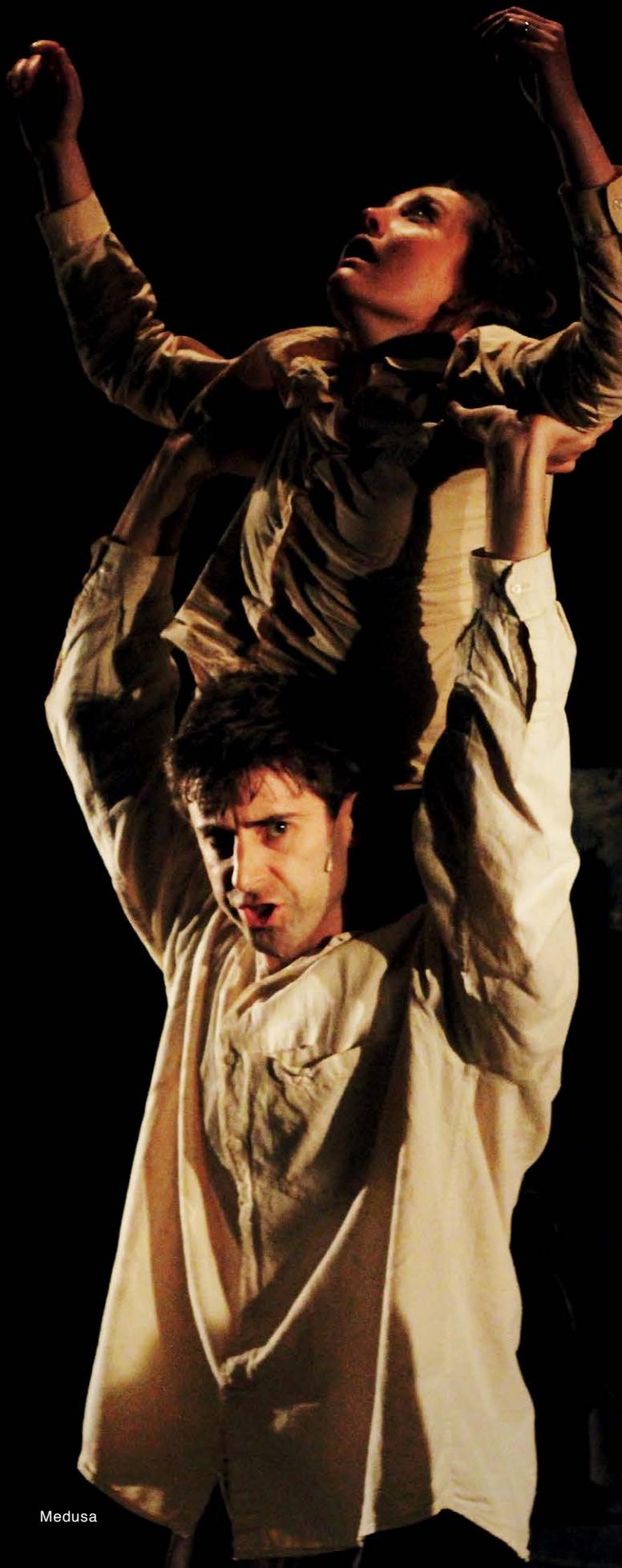
*Nosferatu* (Autumn 2015)

*The Shape of Things to Come* (Spring 2015)

We tell stories through music, poetry and physical theatre; stories that you may already know but might not know much about.

We are passionate about continuously developing projects that excite us, fire our curiosity and expand our imagination, thereby creating work that will do the same for our audiences.

We're keen to work closely with venues to establish a relationship, challenge and develop their audiences and bring new and exciting theatre to the forefront.



Medusa

# Contact

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All photos by **Anna Taylor**  
(except where indicated)