

ANNOUNCING THE WINNER OF THE OXFORD SAMUEL BECKETT THEATRE TRUST AWARD 2004

The Oxford Samuel Beckett Theatre Trust is pleased to announce the winner of **The Oxford Samuel Beckett Theatre Trust Award 2004**. A panel of leading theatre experts: **Tom Morris** (National Theatre), **Graham Whybrow** (Royal Court), **Julia Bardsley** (experimental theatre director/artist), **Jon Fawcett** (Riverside Studios), **Romily Walton Masters** (The Oxford Samuel Beckett Theatre Trust), chose **The Pink Bits** by **Mapping 4D**.

Mapping 4D is an exciting young company that make immediate and intimate theatre exploring the needs and rituals that underpin our society. Their award-winning proposal is for a production that explores History, and how it is manufactured, distorted and used. Played out in a classroom installation, it will invite the audience to encounter a world of disintegrating facts and multiple versions of events, where truth is subject to a constant re-writing.

Mapping 4D consists of **Sarah Levinsky, Wendy Hubbard, Mamoru Iriguchi, Ben Pacey** and **Lucy Ellinson**.

They write 'Our work is political, not polemical. It deals in encounters, images and personal experiences whilst being actively engaged in difficult debates. The stage should not provide an escape from what matters, but a seductive invitation back into the arena. Our work propagates theatre as a site of provocative communal experience and imaginative debate. As such, we create total environmental experiences and focus on catalysing unfamiliar and dynamic relationships between audience and performance.'

The Pink Bits will have a three week run at **Riverside Studios, Hammersmith** in **November 2004**.

The final short-listed candidates were: **Black Sheep, Sally Gibson** and her company **Goat & Monkey, Jessica Hartley**, and **Dominic Leclerc**.

At **£30,000** for the production, venue costs at Riverside Studios covered and a mentor attached to the project, **The Oxford Samuel Beckett Theatre Trust Award** is the largest award of its kind. The award promotes bold, innovative and challenging work and has already been called the theatrical equivalent of The Turner Prize.

Romilly Walton Masters, Director of **The Oxford Samuel Beckett Theatre Trust** comments: 'British theatre needs its bold experiments and the award is there to promote artists, in the early stages of their careers, who are engaged in pushing forward creative boundaries. In Britain we have a tradition of nurturing playwrights. With this award the Trust hopes to broaden the arena and to give a voice to those engaged in other areas of theatrical exploration. Too often they operate on the margins. Like Beckett, the Trust is keen to foster innovation and to support individuals or companies committed to evolving theatrical practice. **Mapping 4D** with **The Pink Bits** are worthy winners and the Trust is delighted to be able to support the development of their groundbreaking work.'

For further information contact **Romilly Walton Masters** (07740 426 328, info@osbttrust.com)

Alternatively log onto The Oxford Samuel Beckett Theatre Trust website at www.osbttrust.com

COMMENTS ON THE OXFORD SAMUEL BECKETT THEATRE TRUST AWARD 2004

‘The award is a brilliant initiative to encourage imagination and risk taking by the new generation of theatre practitioners’

- **Graham Whybrow**

‘The award is a welcome and important development’

- **Nicholas Hytner**

‘Live art, performance arts, physical theatre, whatever you call it, British theatre needs it, and The Oxford Samuel Beckett Theatre Trust Award is ideally placed to act as a catalyst in years to come. It is so important as it allows an exciting, upcoming director or company to take their work to the next level.’

- **Mark Ravenhill**

‘The range of applications for The Oxford Samuel Beckett Theatre Trust Award 2004, in terms of form, style approached to the exploration of theatre is really exciting. It’s reassuring to know that there are so many groups out there wanting to challenge themselves and audiences, and that there is a foundation like The Oxford Samuel Beckett Theatre Trust to help them realise their aspirations.’

- **Julia Bardsley**

‘Being the winners of The Oxford Samuel Beckett Theatre Trust Award gives us time, resources and a structure in which to really develop our work. It is an extraordinary opportunity for artists like us to reach out to a different audience.’

- **Mapping 4D**