

tilly branson

director, dramaturg & theatre-maker

Personal Details

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Practice and approach

My work is underpinned by my interest in women's voices in theatre – as writers, directors and strong central characters; as well as my interest in new writing and dramaturgy, work that challenges the conventions of the theatre/audience relationship, site-specific theatre and making work for unusual spaces. I have a Research Masters in Theatre, and I am currently working on an AHRC funded Collaborative PhD with New Perspectives Theatre Company and the University of Nottingham titled 'Re-imagining the Rural Tour'. I am a member of the Young Vic Directors Program. I have over ten year's experience of education work ranging from lecturing to youth theatres and schools workshops in a wide variety of contexts. I am a qualified Arts Award adviser.

Selected current and recent directing work

Acting Alone by Ava Hunt. (As director and dramaturg). Wirksworth Festival, September 2014; Derby Theatre, Nottingham Playhouse and Buxton Fringe July 2015. National and international touring 2015-2016 including academic conferences in Ireland (Sept 2015), New Zealand (Nov 2015) and New York (May 2016 TBC).

Getting Better Slowly. R&D supported by Déda Derby and Arc Stockton Nov 2015, opening Lincoln Drill Hall July 2016.

Soi Disant by Marilyn Ricci. Workshop week at Y Theatre Leicester, Nov 2015.

Man to Man by Manfred Karge, Mercury Theatre Colchester, Autumn 2013; transferred to Park Theatre, London, Autumn 2014

Due Course, New Perspectives Theatre Company, Summer 2013, mini East Midlands theatre and rural tour.

Entertaining Angels by Brendan Murray, New Perspectives Theatre Company, Spring 2013. Lakeside Arts Centre, Nottingham (opening) and UK rural tour.

End to End, The Gramophones. Originally devised Summer 2012, Buxton Fringe 2012 (Nominated for Best New Writing and Best Theatre Show), Edinburgh Fringe 2012, national tour Spring 2013.

Goldfish, New Perspectives Theatre Company, Summer 2012, mini East Midlands theatre and rural tour.

TiG by Imogen Joyce, Arletty Theatre, December 2011. Rehearsed reading at Nottingham Contemporary.

Skybus by Andy Barrett, Derby LIVE, October 2011. Assistant Director. (Director: Esther Richardson).

Always in the Afternoon by Cathy Grindrod, Theatre Writing Partnership Momentum Festival, September 2011. Rehearsed reading at The Guildhall, Derby.

Those Magnificent Men by Brian Mitchell and Joseph Nixon, New Perspectives Theatre Company, January 2010 (rural tour), July-September 2011 (Edinburgh Fringe and national theatre tour). Assistant Director (Director: Daniel Buckroyd).

Selected current and recent roles

Associate Director, New Perspectives Theatre Company, Nottingham **2011-2014**

Leading on strategies for audience engagement and talent development opportunities for emerging regional artists; mapping walks for audio promenade drama *The Falling Sky*. Directing annual New Perspectives training ensemble touring production showcasing emerging artists and new writing from the East Midlands.

Freelance Education Practitioner, Curve, Leicester **Feb 16 –**

Designing and delivering workshops on behalf of Curve.

Teaching Affiliate, University of Nottingham **Sept 15 –**

Weekly teaching on undergraduate Drama Theatre Performance module.

Script reader, Fifth Word Theatre Company **July 2015**

Part of first-round judging panel for Fifth Word's Promising Playwright competition, in association with Nottingham Playhouse.

The Gramophones, Nottingham **Aug 11 –**

Director and dramaturg, development, direction and stage management of *Anything to Declare* prior to run in Edinburgh as part of Free Fringe and future rural touring; and *Wild Duck* for Norfolk schools tour, Feb-March 2012. Directed *End to End* Summer 2012. Dramaturgical support on *Playful Acts of Rebellion*, Jan 2015.

Theatre Reviewer, Left Lion, Nottingham **Apr 11 –**

To read my reviews, please visit <http://tillybranson.com/reviewsivewritten/>

Founder/Co-Chair, Nottingham Emerging Companies Network **Dec 11 – Oct 12**

Network of emerging Nottinghamshire based theatre companies, with a focus on producing shared events; sharing resources and skills; and representation and advocacy.

Director/Workshop leader, Fifth Word Theatre Company **Sept 11 – Mar 12**

Directed devised performance *Prospero and the Spirits*, based on *The Tempest* with primary school drama after-school club in Derby. Directed devised performance *Talkin' Bout My Generation* as part of intergenerational project working with teenagers and care-home residents in Alfreton.

Selected previous work

Co-Artistic Director, Escapade Theatre Project, Vancouver	Nov 10 – Apr 11
Co-founder of project exploring the nature of making work in Canada as a non-Canadian. Directed reading of <i>Elisa's Skin</i> by Quebecois playwright Carole Frechette; dramaturgy and workshopping of <i>Pretty Golden Cage</i> by Ecuadorian artist Angie Descalzi; live-blogger/reviewer for PuSh International Performing Arts Festival.	
Fundraising and Administration Assistant, Pi Theatre, Vancouver	Nov 10 – Apr 11
Assisted with projects including <i>Catalan Connection</i> – readings of three plays by Catalan playwrights; co-presentation of Polish production of Bernard-Marie Koltès' <i>In The Solitude of Cotton Fields</i> as part of PuSh Festival; fundraising research and applications; general office administration.	
Usher, Artist Services Co-ordinator, Vancouver International Fringe Festival	Sep 10 – Apr 11
Contacted and researched artists selected to perform in the 2011 Fringe Festival.	
Drama Lecturer, Castle College, Nottingham	Sep 09 – Mar 10
Sessional role within Pre-Foundation Division.	
Youth Theatre Assistant/Director, Lakeside Arts Centre, Nottingham	Nov 06 – Mar 10
From Nov 06 – Dec 08: assistant trainee progressing to director with 3 groups aged from 8-18; from Sep 09 – Mar 10: director of Little Lakesiders for 5-7 year olds.	
Youth Theatre Director/Schools Workshops leader, Nottingham Playhouse	Jul 08 – Feb 10
Director for week-long half term youth theatre groups on projects including <i>Eclipse</i> by Simon Armitage, <i>Macbeth</i> , <i>My Name is Stephen Luckwell</i> by Nick Wood, <i>Fear and Misery of the Third Reich</i> by Brecht and <i>Blood Wedding</i> by Lorca. Direction Support for <i>The Visit</i> by Friedrich Durrenmatt, performed on Nottingham Playhouse main stage April 09, Director Sarah Stephenson. Assistant director for <i>Hotel</i> by Caryl Churchill, performed at 2009 East Midlands Youth Theatre Festival; and <i>Sir! Miss!</i> , devised performance at 2008 Big Youth Theatre Festival, Director Sarah Stephenson.	
Assistant Artist, NHS Arts in Reach	May 09 – Dec 09
Facilitating drama workshops on adult mental health wards.	
Education Consultant, Kazzum Theatre Company, London	Jul 09 – Nov 09
Created KS1/2 teacher's pack and schools workshop for <i>Beginning with Blobs</i> tour.	
Director, The Nottingham Emmanuel School	Mar 09 – May 09
Directing performances of <i>Teachers</i> and <i>Shakers</i> by John Godber, and <i>Too Much Punch for Judy</i> by Mark Wheeler for GCSE Edexcel Paper 2 examined performances.	
Other work as a freelance theatre director/practitioner	2006 – present
Including work for Ignite; Creative Partnerships; William Farr Comprehensive School, Lincoln; Guthlaxton College, Leicestershire; Redhill School, Nottingham; Python Hill Primary School, Nottinghamshire; Nottingham City Council Gifted and Talented; William Sharp School, Nottingham; Lenton Abbey Literacy Initiative.	

Education

The University of Nottingham	2012-2015
PhD (AHRC funded Collaborative Doctoral Award): 'Re-imagining the Rural Tour: New Forms for New Audiences'	
The University of Nottingham	2007-2009
Masters of Research in Theatre (with Merit)	
New College Nottingham	2005-2006
CIPD Certificate in Training Practice (with Merit)	
The University of Birmingham	1999-2003
BA (Joint Hons) 2:1 English and Cultural Studies	

Selected other training/qualifications

Leicester Spark Children's Arts Festival	Jun 09
Two day practitioner development course on Making Theatre for Children	
Arts Award	Oct 08 / Feb 16
Discover, Explore, Bronze and Silver Award Adviser training	
NSPCC	Aug 08
Child Protection Awareness	
Artsplan	May 08
Using the Arts to Consult with Young People	
University of Nottingham	Sep 05
Disability Awareness, Disability Discrimination Act and Producing Materials in Alternative Formats	
I-to-I	Jun 01
Certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language	
Grimas	Feb 99
Stage Make-up: face painting, character make-up and casualty make-up	