



Press Release

For Immediate Release

Oily Cart presents

JAMBOREE

Touring March – April 2020

For young people (12+) labelled as having profound and multiple learning disabilities

IT'S TIME TO MAKE SOME NOISE WITH OILY CART'S JAMBOREE



Jamboree is a vibrant and fully interactive experience, created for and with young people with profound and multiple learning disabilities. The show features Balkan-inspired tunes that can be heard in surround sound and a series of sensory events, all within a colourful *Spiegel tent*-inspired set.

At each location on the tour, sousaphone player Aaron Diaz from Balkan band *The Destroyers* and Serbian folk singer/percussionist Dunja Botic will work in a school and improvise with young people who have different ways of

communicating. The resulting music and creativity will feed into the gig-performances in that location so that young people with complex needs have an opportunity to influence an Oily Cart show where no two performances will sound the same.

Jamboree is a touring production and the first conceived by new Artistic Director Ellie Griffiths. It is a part gig and part sensory theatrical 'riot' that premiered at the *bOing! Festival* in Kent. It will tour schools and venues across the UK from 9 March.

Artistic Director Ellie Griffiths comments:

"Jamboree is the first time Oily Cart have really explored how the young people we make theatre for can have influence on the content of our shows. It's given us fresh ideas we could never have imagined. This project gives an opportunity for the young people we work with to have their voices heard. In a world where the roots of knowledge and power are verbal, this show celebrates a wider spectrum of communication. I hope *Jamboree* goes a tiny way towards shifting people's expectations about what young people who are labelled as being non-verbal have to offer."

Jamboree features performers Mark Foster and Griff Fender who have worked for Oily Cart for 33 years between them. Griff Fender was a singer and songwriter in the British chart band *Darts* who had six top ten singles and three top ten albums and touring in Europe, Asia and USA.

Audience reaction: *'Another stunning performance, Jamboree was multi-sensory, exciting and engaged everyone. Truly emotional powerful stuff and just wish I could take my daughter to something like this every weekend!'*

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS:

PR: For interviews and further information please contact:
Binita Walia on 07734 507799 binita@thespaceinbetween.co.uk

Images: Credit Suzi Corker
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/oilycart/albums/72157712913735512>

PUBLIC TOUR DATES

13-14 March 2020: Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry

20- 21 March 2020: Stratford Circus Arts Centre, London

7-8 April: Derby Theatre, Derby

Running time: The show is approximately 55 minutes

Age range: Young people age 12+ with profound and multiple learning disabilities

Musicians: Dunja Botic, Aaron Diaz, Daniel Gouly, Robyn Steward

Hosts: Griff Fender, Mark Foster

Lead Artist: Ellie Griffiths

Music Director & Co-composer: Max Reinhardt

Co-composers: Jovana Backovic, Aaron Diaz, Daniel Gouly, Robyn Steward

With Sound Design contributions from: Daniel Gouly

Thank you to all the student musicians and staff at Linden Lodge School

Designer: Flavio Graff

Lighting Designer: Andy Hamer

Choreographer: Genevieve Say

Dramaturg: Rhiannon Armstrong

CAST & CREATIVE TEAM Biographies:

ELLIE GRIFFITHS – Lead Artist

Ellie is a theatre artist who specialises in making sensory performances for and with young people labelled as having complex needs. She is the lead artist of the [Upfront Performance Network](#) that connects and supports sensory artists and practitioners internationally. In 2017, Ellie completed a Winston Churchill Research Fellowship, where she travelled abroad to explore new approaches to making sensory shows for and with audiences with diverse needs.

FLAVIO GRAFF – Designer

London-based designer and multimedia artist Flavio Graff creates different kinds of interactive performances combining installation, music and dramaturgy. Won the awards: ANCINE for the script *Drowned Gloria*. GOLDEN TRIGA for stage design for the Perfect Cook for the Souls of this World; SHELL for stage design, APCA and QUALIDADE BRASIL for best drama, and FUNARTE for *There must be something in me that's enough*. His most recent project is the installation and performance *Five Years* based on *Ziggy Stardust, by David Bowie - in development process*. Designed the installation *Theatrical Giant Puppets* at the Horniman Museum and Gardens. Directed and designed the opera *Thorstein Shiver* at the ENO warehouse. Designed the Iford Arts' *Madam Butterfly* directed by Bruno Ravella.

ANDY HAMER – Lighting Designer

Andy Hamer is a lighting designer working largely for the contemporary dance world but has had the pleasure of working with Oily Cart on a number of

projects. Hamer originally started out in fine art as a sculptor and then further studied an MA in Scenography at Central Saint Martins School of Art, London and DAMU Prague. Hamer collaborates with numerous choreographers, directors as well as composers on projects, Marc Brew company, Sally Marie and Sweet Shop Revolution, Dame Evelyn Glennie, Jean Abreu, Kesha Raithatha, Subhash Vitman, Hamer has also worked on a number of educational programs in schools working with young children.

MAX REINHARDT – Music Director & Co-Composer

Long-time co-founder and musical director of Oily Cart returns to Oily Cart for Jamboree. Max is currently musical director / recomposer of *This Time*, Ockhams Razor's new show; composer and MD on *Stranden*, Tim Webb's new show for Swedish audiences with complex needs; and continuing to explore the lesser known sonic byways and musical backroads as a regular presenter of BBC Radio 3's Late Junction. He's also an associate artist with Oxford Contemporary Music, where his ongoing projects include The Instant Orchestra and *Playing the Curriculum*, a fast-growing exploratory music project for primary schools

DUNJA BOTIC – Musician

TBC

AARON DIAZ – Musician

Aaron is a member of *The Fair Rain*, a nationally acclaimed touring and recording ensemble, and the quartet *DRAWLIGHT*, which debuted at the Surge in Spring festival in Birmingham, April 2016. From 2011-2013 Aaron lived in Göteborg, Sweden, studying with such musicians as Arve Henriksen (*Supersilent*, *Trio Medieval*), Anders Jormin (*Don Cherry*, *Bobo Stenson*) and Jonas Simonson (*Groupa*), appearing in free improvisatory projects such as Gino Robair's *I*, Norton opera for improvisers and performing at *Worldlysfestivalen 2013* in Tromsø, Norway. He has performed and appeared with *FOOD* (Iain Ballamy & Thomas Strönen), The Neil Yates & Mike McGoldrick *Undivided* big band, composer and 'conductionist' Sid Peacock's *SURGE* featuring Django Bates, *Beats & Pieces Big Band*, *Waste Paper Opera Company* and balkan-folk festival favourites *The Destroyers*.

<https://soundcloud.com/aarondiazify>

DANIEL GOULY – Musician

Daniel is an experienced professional clarinetist, educator and electronic music composer and performer with a Masters in Music (Ethnomusicology and Performance) from SOAS, University of London. He specialises in performing in world music styles from across Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean, and has studied with, and played alongside, legendary Klezmer musicians such as Alan Bern, Frank London, Merlin Shepherd, Christian Dawid, and Joel Rubin. Currently he is performing with Don Kipper, a successful group playing festivals and concerts across the UK and Europe. He loves connecting music and theatre through his work with [Bubble Schmeisis](#) and writing a diverse range of music for [Puppetry](#). He is also an experienced performer for silent film and has experience with studio and television work.

GRIFF FENDER – Host

Griff came into theatre after being engaged by Oily Cart as Company Stage Manager for a complex needs play, *Blue* (2006), going on to play characters in

several Oily Cart productions since. Before that Griff had several careers starting with some years as a singer and songwriter in the British chart band Darts clocking up six top ten singles and three top ten albums and touring in Europe, Asia and USA. In the years after Darts Griff managed and produced bands and was also a live sound engineer, returned to education gaining a BA and MA, then worked in the cultural arts sector facilitating collaborations between musicians and bands from Europe and Africa for recorded and live performances before his current stint with Oily Cart.

MARK FOSTER - Host

Mark is the longest-serving performer with Oily Cart, having first appeared with the company over 20 years ago. Mark trained at Eltham College, before going on to perform at venues such as the Royal Festival Hall and The Old Vic. In addition to acting, Mark is a gold medallist swimmer and 100 metres gold medallist in the Special Olympics Great Britain. With Oily Cart, he has performed in hydrotherapy pools and on trampolines, and toured both nationally (with shows such as *Pool Piece*, *Hippity Hop* and *The Bounce*) and internationally, taking *Light Show* to Lincoln Center, New York as part of Big Umbrella Festival.

About Oily Cart

Since 1981 Oily Cart has been taking its unique blend of theatre to children and young people in schools and arts venues across the UK. Challenging accepted definitions of theatre and audience, we create innovative, multi-sensory and highly interactive productions for the very young (under 5s), and for children and young people with profound and multiple learning disabilities, who are on the autistic spectrum, and / or who are deafblind / multi-sensory impaired.

By transforming everyday environments into colourful, tactile 'wonderlands' we invite our audience to join us in a world of the imagination. Using hydro-therapy pools and trampolines, aromatherapy, video projection, and puppetry together with a vast array of multi-sensory techniques, we create original and highly specialised theatre for our young audiences. All sorts of shows for all sorts of kids!

www.oilycart.org.uk

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