

Escape was on Everyone's MindThe Tale of Jack SheppardPaper theatre by Otherstory

Puppetry, devising & design Sarah Green, Trevor Houghton, Emma Byron

Live music & sound Song lyrics
Paul Walker Emma Byron

Recorded music
Jimmy Aldridge & Sid Goldsmith (Jack's song)
Heather Summers (mandolin)
Anna Riggs (fiddle)
Jack Humphreys (bagpipes)
Jane Milo (Guitar and vocals)

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This show was sparked by conversations with Bristol Radical History Group, who first suggested the story to us, and gave us a copy of Peter Linebaugh's The London Hanged. Linebaugh's account of Jack's life – and analysis of the political and economic times he lived through – has been a major inspiration. Another is the work of VVilliam Hogarth, whose faces are used on many of our puppets. We are excited by his picture-storytelling: his vibrant detail, sly satire, the way he uses one character's story to map and critique a society on many levels. We are also inspired by the work of political paper (and cardboard) theatre-makers such as Great Small Works, & Bread and Puppet.

Otherstory is a coming together of puppeteers, musicians, activists and artists – storytellers of all kinds, in the recognition that we are all storytellers. We want to tell stories that feed and sustain our sense of possibility, that connect us to each other across place and time. Stories that run counter to the narratives of the powerful and their project of erasing other histories – other ways of thinking, living and being. Our work reflects a tradition of storytelling which belongs to everyone, that is a continuing conversation between us about our imaginings and realities.

We are a collective of independent artists based in Bristol and have been working together since 2010.