



One performer and three stories  
about young people's relationship  
with stuff...

Written by **Billie Collins**  
Directed by **Neil Bettles**

Alice is done with fast fashion. Ben can't stop buying trainers. And Charlie just wants to sell out... one organ at a time. Peak Stuff presents three fast-paced, funny, f\*\*\*ed-up stories, taking a deep-dive into consumer culture. In an age of thrifting, retail therapy, climate crisis and click and collect – how does 'stuff' define us? And do we know when to stop?

Award-winning theatre company **ThickSkin** have teamed up with the writing talents of **Billie Collins** (Too Much World at Once) to produce one of the most visually thrilling and inventive shows you will see this year.

Underscored by live drumming and featuring a spectacular video design, one actor performs multiple stories to chip away at the role consumer culture plays in shaping our identity. Directed by ThickSkin's **Neil Bettles** (How Not To Drown, The Unreturning), Peak Stuff is a tale for modern times.



## COLLABORATORS:

**WRITER - BILLIE COLLINS:** Billie is a writer based in Manchester. Her debut play, *Too Much World At Once*, is touring the UK in spring 2023 produced by Box of Tricks Theatre. She is also Literary Associate for Box of Tricks. She is currently writing *Rathbone's Antiques* – an original children's animated series with Toastie Animation, funded by the BFI's Young Audiences Content Fund. Billie is an Associate Artist at the Oldham Coliseum Theatre, and has previously written audio drama for BBC Sounds, been shortlisted for the 2021 Papatango Prize and selected for Film Hub North's 2020 Script Lab.

**DIRECTOR - NEIL BETTLES:** Neil is a director, choreographer and movement director. As co-founder and Artistic Director of ThickSkin his directing credits include: *How Not To Drown*, *Chalk Farm*, *The Static*, *Blackout*, *Boy Magnet* and *White Noise*, and for ThickSkin's *Walk This Play* series: *Keep Going Then Vanish* and *Your Time Now*. Other directing credits: *The Unreturning*, *This Will All Be Gone* and *No Way Back* (Frantic Assembly). As Choreographer: Disney's *Bedknobs and Broomsticks*. As Movement Director: *Private Peaceful* (Jonathan Church Theatre Productions & Nottingham Playhouse), *Carmen* (Opera Wuppertal, Germany); *James IV* (Raw Materials & Capital Theatres) and *The James Plays* (National Theatre of Scotland and National Theatre); *Blood Wedding* and *The Bacchae* (Royal & Derngate). As Associate Movement Director: *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* (Sonia Friedman, worldwide); *Heisenberg* (Wyndhams Theatre); *The Light Princess* (National Theatre) and *The Full Monty* (Sheffield Theatres & West End). As Associate Director: *Disco Show* (La Mama, New York). Neil's work for ThickSkin has received multiple awards.

**MUSICAL DIRECTOR - MATTHEW CHURCHER:** Matthew is a professional drummer, percussionist and music teacher. Matthew began drumming at a young age, gaining entry to the Northampton Music & Performing Arts trust where he played Drum Kit with the Big Band and percussion for the Youth Orchestra, Brass Band and Percussion Ensemble. Through his professional music career, he has played with various line-ups both Nationally & Internationally at venues including Ronnie Scotts, the Royal Albert Hall and most recently Latitude Festival on the BBC Music Introducing Stage. Matthew is also an actor, most recently performing as Squealer in *Animal Farm* (UK Tour), amongst other credits including, *Wolves in the Walls* (Little Angel Theatre), *Pippi Longstocking* (Royal & Derngate), *Peter Pan* (National Theatre), *White Teeth* (Kiln Theatre) and *War Horse* (New London / National Theatre). He runs workshops in devising and Actor/Musicianship, often guest lecturing at Mountview on their Actor/Musicianship course.

**VIDEO DESIGNERS - IDON'TLOVEYOUANYMORE:** A Manchester based, digital arts studio. They specialise in VR, AR, and performative video technology. They are supported by Sky Arts and BFI. [idontloveyouanymore.org](http://idontloveyouanymore.org)



Available for  
touring from  
January 2024

ThickSkin is reinventing theatre for the next generation. We are reimagining what theatre can be and looking to share human stories through quality, future-facing, multi-disciplined formats. We're developing 360° artists of the future for a hybrid world where physical and digital collide in more ways than ever before.

thickskintheatre.co.uk

## The Scotsman on How Not To Drown

- Studio theatres or found spaces – 8m wide x 7m deep x 6m height to rig.
- Suitable for end on/ semi-thrust/ thrust configurations.
- Get in and up same day, get out following morning.
- Will need to screw into stage floor.
- Self-sufficient rig and projection.
- Creative captioning integrated in design.
- 6 on the road. 3 dressing rooms.
- Small to mid-scale: 150 – 450 seats.
- Suitability for age 14+



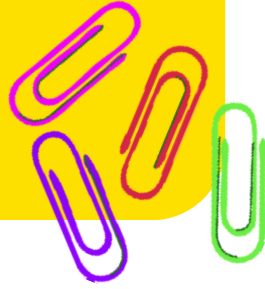
**ManchesterTheatres.com on Blood Harmony**

'ThickSkin have found a recipe for contemporary theatre that really works.' **Broadway Baby**



## EDUCATION OFFER:

- Post-show discussions
- Free on-site Devising Physical Theatre workshops
- Workshops in schools
- Zoom Q&As
- Digital Learning Resources



### Free Workshops – Devising Physical Theatre

We're offering two free workshops led by experienced ThickSkin artists and members of the cast, for young people seeing the show. The workshop is movement based, guiding participants through some of the creative processes used by the company to devise work. A fun, active and collaborative session in a creative and supportive environment.

Length: 2 hours

Location: Theatre or local setting

No. of participants: max 20 per workshop

### Digital Learning Resources

For teachers, students, and interested audiences, we're developing a range of FREE digital learning resources that can be accessed through our website. This will include a behind-the-scenes documentary film, a series of creative tasks, and a deep dive into the creative process. Aimed at drama and performing arts students at GCSE upwards with curriculum links, allowing students to develop a knowledge of understanding of how theatre is developed and performed. Following the tour, a full-length film of the production will also be available to stream via our website. This is the perfect bundle of resources to support students.

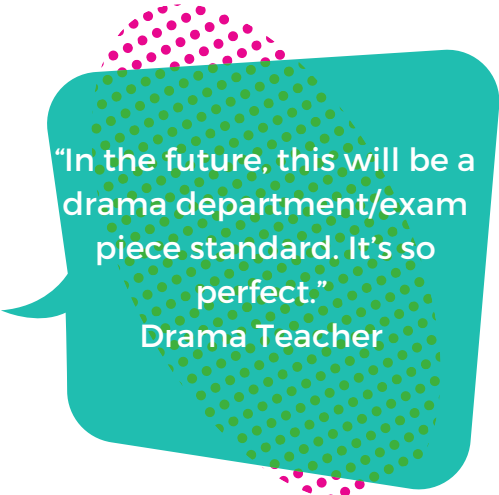
### Workshops in Schools

Devising Physical Theatre workshops can also be delivered in school/college settings and are led by ThickSkin's Associate Artists. A physical session, exploring devising techniques used by the company. These workshops have a strong link to GCSE and A-Level learning objectives, encouraging students to create and develop ideas to communicate meaning for theatrical performance. These workshops are designed to inspire students to develop their own material and become confident with physical devising.

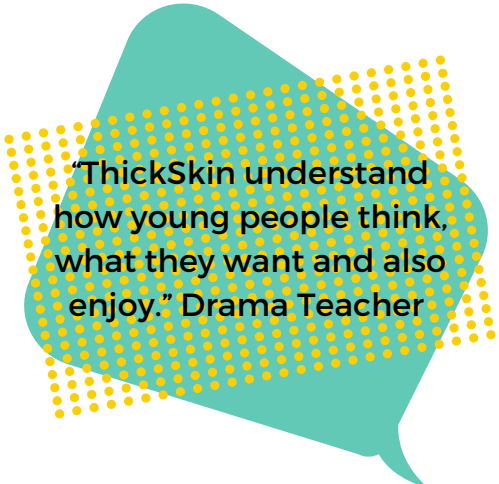
Length: 2 hours

Location: In schools/colleges

No. of participants: max. 20 per workshop



"In the future, this will be a drama department/exam piece standard. It's so perfect."  
Drama Teacher



"ThickSkin understand how young people think, what they want and also enjoy." Drama Teacher

'all the ingredients to inspire a new generation in theatre.'★★★★★

The Good Review on The Static



**'Neil Bettles' superbly  
physical production'**

★★★★★

**The Scotsman**

**For more information or tour booking enquiries  
please contact Executive Director Laura Mallows at  
[laura@thickskintheatre.co.uk](mailto:laura@thickskintheatre.co.uk) or (+44) 07838762767.**

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