

My Son & Heir

a search party performance



“a phenomenal show about the complexity of parenthood.”
Total Theatre

About

My Son & Heir is an anarchic celebration of the everyday heroism of parenthood, set amongst a never-ending mess of plastic, flashing-beeping, bubble-blowing chaos.

Search Party are parents, they have a son born in the same year as ‘Baby Cambridge’, and that’s where the similarities end. My Son & Heir confronts the spectacle of the ‘New Royals’ and their strategic attempts to appear just like us. In a playful examination of the relentlessness of raising children, and the guilt-ridden one-upmanship of mainstream baby culture, Search Party consider what sort of man *their* son and heir will become.

This new studio performance is part of Search Party’s *Growing Old With You* series, a life-long performance project exploring their changing perspective of age, as they grow old together.

My Son & Heir was commissioned by The Showroom Projects, Bristol (UK), made with support from the University of Chichester, (UK). A Pulse, Mayfest, Sprint & Nightwatch co-commission.

Mayfest

**CAMBRIDGE
JUNCTION**

PULSE
FESTIVAL IPSWICH

University
of Chichester

cpt
camden people's theatre

Press

“...beautiful and excoriating, a show which hit me over the head and made my noggin ring like a bell...This is a phenomenal show about the complexity of parenthood.” **Total Theatre**

“It’s angry, it’s painful, it’s beautiful, and it almost made me wee myself with laughter.” **Dan Hutton (Exeunt)**

“Unexpectedly funny, moving, amongst a sea of early learning centre toys bleeping and honking, *My Son & Heir* was brave, honest and despite not being a parent, I am more prepared for the fears and more understanding of my parents own.” **Ellen Waddell**

“I didn’t want it to end.” **Joy Martin**

Links

<http://totaltheatre.org.uk/search-party-my-son-heir/>

<http://dan-hutton.co.uk/2014/05/28/mayfest-2014/>

<http://mirrorlamp.co.uk/?p=223>

Trailer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ajOTigvIVLM>

Technical Information

Info

- *My Son & Heir* is a two-handed studio performance.
- Toured with 2 on the road (performers)
- 1 hour (no interval)

Playing Space:

- The piece is performed in traverse, with audience in rows on two sides. Usually 2 rows of 15 chairs on either side. Further rows can be added but need to be raked.
- We perform on a carpet (toured), which is **10m x 4m**.

Tech:

- LX plan and focus notes available on request
- 5 tracks played from CD through venue PA system
- Get in: 6 hours (with pre-rig)
- Get out: 1 hour

Venue to provide:

- 2 x technicians for get in and to operate show
- Mic with long cable (mic stand is toured)
- 2 x stage weights
- Mirror ball (can be toured)
- Access to plug sockets at either end of the carpet (For TV, Vacuum Cleaner and small Amp – all toured)
- Large Vacuum cleaner for get out
- Parking for a transit size van

Search Party

“...unique storytelling that feels absolutely of the place.” **The Guardian (UK)**

Search Party is the collaboration of artists Jodie Hawkes and Pete Phillips. Since 2005 Search Party have created performances for theatres and public spaces throughout the UK and internationally. Search Party's work has playfully explored ideas of sport, ageing and the relationship between people and places. They are committed to making immediate, hopeful performances that engage diverse audiences. Search Party's work attempts to re-negotiate the relationship between artist and audience, creating temporary communities, inviting spectators to become co-collaborators in the live event.

Search Party make duo performances for theatres, galleries and public spaces, and have performed in venues and festivals in the UK and Internationally, including Culturegest (Lisbon, Portugal), The National Review of Live Art (Glasgow, UK), ANTIfestival (Kuopio, Finland), Plateux (Frankfurt, Germany), Nuit Blanche (Amiens, France), PAD (Mainz, Germany), InTacto (Vitoria de Gadiz, Spain) and Junction Arts Festival (Launceston, Australia).

Praise for Search Party

“It was really smart and brilliant how the piece (*My Son & Heir*) took something so intimate and specific and biographical but translated it into these vivid, visceral, abstracted images and movements and actions - sequences that fizzed or stung or skittered out of control in a way that was first funny and then unsettling and then devastatingly sad.”

Andy Field, Co-Director of *Forest Fringe*

“(Search Party vs...) is playful, humorous and oddly moving... a truly entertaining and innovative work... the showing was incredibly successful, attracting the attention of local and national media along with a huge amount of audience interest and involvement.”

Gregg Whelan: Co-artistic Director of *Lone Twin* & ANTIfestival (Finland).

“...moments of emotional beauty dotted about an arid landscape of salt and smoke.”

Realtime magazine (Australia) on *Growing Old With You*.

Contact Us

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