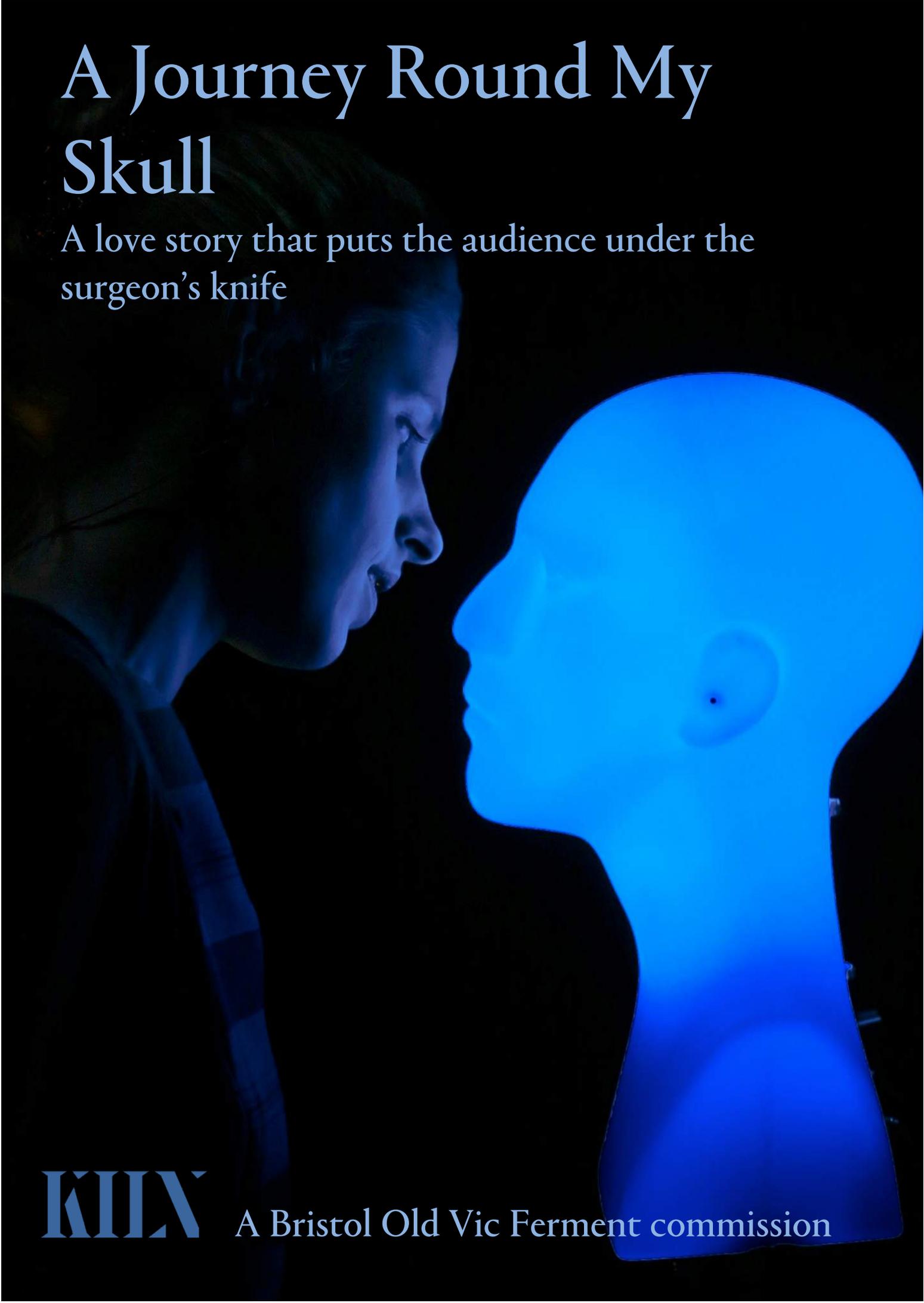


A Journey Round My Skull

A love story that puts the audience under the
surgeon's knife

KILN

A Bristol Old Vic Ferment commission



What's it about

A Journey Round My Skull is an examination of how the state of our brain affects our experience of reality. It's a performance that casts the audience as silent patient, addressed by neurosurgeon, Julia who gently and playfully interweaves a medical procedure with a dissection of a passionate love affair.

“deliberate and controlled, smart and witty”****

Daisy Bowie-Sell, Time Out

The title is taken from the Hungarian writer Frigyes Karinthy's account of the removal of his brain tumour during experimental surgery in the early twentieth century, but our version tells the story of an intoxicating but doomed love affair between a neurosurgeon and her patient. *A Journey Round My Skull* has been created in collaboration with an anaesthetist, neurosurgeon and auditory neuroscientist enabling us to realise the poetic simulation of awake brain surgery experienced via wireless headphones as part of the central section of the production.

“powerfully formed leaving a lingering sense of vulnerability and violation.”

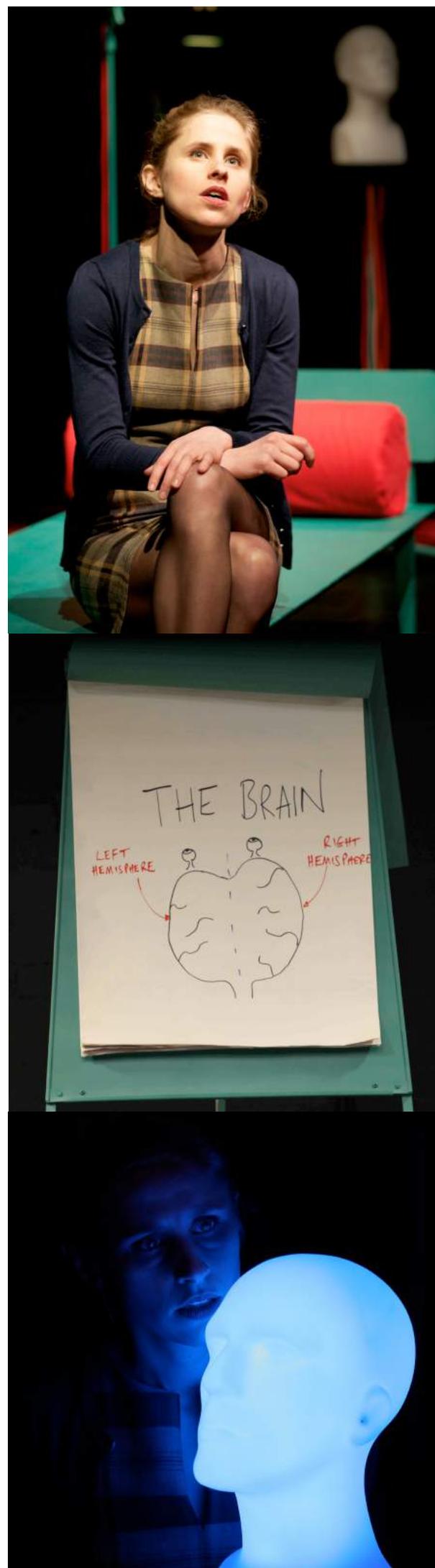
Beccy Smith, Total Theatre

A Journey Round My Skull is not a documentary about illness, or brain surgery it's the backdrop to a love story, which, at it's heart remains the pursuit about our relationship to those things, or those people, or those activities, which can take us to profound places but which might terrify or ultimately destroy us.

View the teaser here:

<http://vimeo.com/94825883>

Video of full show is available please contact Olivia@kilnensemble.org for link and password





Reviews

TIME OUT ****

"Deliberate and controlled, smart and witty"

<http://www.timeout.com/london/theatre/a-journey-round-my-skull-review>

THE GUARDIAN

"It's the careful interweaving of the patient's auditory hallucinations that most impresses"

<http://www.theguardian.com/stage/2014/mar/18/lady-gogo-goch-journey-around-my-skull-kindle-theatre-review>

TOTAL THEATRE

"The tale is a compelling one of obsession, intimacy and dysfunction"

<http://totaltheatre.org.uk/kiln-a-journey-round-my-skull/>

THE LIST ****

"a beguiling and beautiful story, but bears no sentimentality"

<https://edinburghfestival.list.co.uk/article/63211-a-journey-round-my-skull/>

POSTCARDS FROM THE GODS

"Christ. Journey Round My Skull by @KILNensemble at @Summerhallery is just stunning" (via twitter)

<http://postcardsgods.blogspot.co.uk/2014/08/a-journey-round-my-skull-summerhall.html>

A YOUNGER THEATRE

"With stunning auditory clarity we hear every slice of the knife, every murmur of machinery, every whisper around the ear"

<http://www.ayoungertheatre.com/edinburgh-review-a-journey-round-my-skull-summerhall/>

BROADWAY BABY *****

"a superb piece of theatre: intense, in-depth, and thoroughly compelling throughout"

<http://www.broadwaybaby.com/shows/a-journey-round-my-skull/702435>

TV BOMB ****

"the touching and emotive narrative results in a powerful and tactile theatrical experience"

<http://www.tvbomb.co.uk/2014/08/a-journey-round-my-skull/>



Marketing

Copy:

A Journey Round My Skull by KILN

A love story that puts the audience under the surgeon's knife

A Bristol Old Vic Ferment commission.

A Journey Round My Skull is a beguiling and beautiful love story put under the surgeon's knife. Told by a neurosurgeon who casts the audience as her silent patient, this show gently and playfully transports you to the streets of continental Europe, to a scrap over profiteroles, into neurosurgery and onto the tracks of a ghost train. With poetic storytelling and an extraordinary binaural sound design experienced via wireless headphones, *A Journey Round My Skull* operates on the ears as well as the heart to dissect our most intimate relationships.

Inspired by the auditory hallucinations experienced by satirist Frigyes Karinthy as described in his extraordinary 1938 medical memoir.

*“deliberate and controlled, smart and witty” *****

Daisy Bowie-Sell, Time Out

“It was beautifully performed and the sound design for the operation exceptional, I closed my eyes and forgot who I was”

Tom Morris co-director War Horse

Development supported by: Arts Council England; the Wellcome Trust; Bristol Old Vic, Ferment; The Basement, Brighton and The ShowRoom, Chichester through east.by.south.east; mac birmingham and National Theatre Wales: WalesLab.



KILNensemble.org



@KILNensemble #ajourneyroundmyskull



KILN Birmingham

About KILN

KILN was formed as Kindle Theatre in 2005, a company creating ensemble led performance made in collaboration with a range of artists, makers and professionals. We reinvent familiar narratives through a collision of art forms, plundering epic stories to create *“a heady brew, of the sweetly inventive and the brazenly original”* (Metro). We create *“ambitious projects to ignite the imagination”* (Birmingham Post) and our productions are playful, made with passion and are *“wildly imaginative”* (The Guardian).

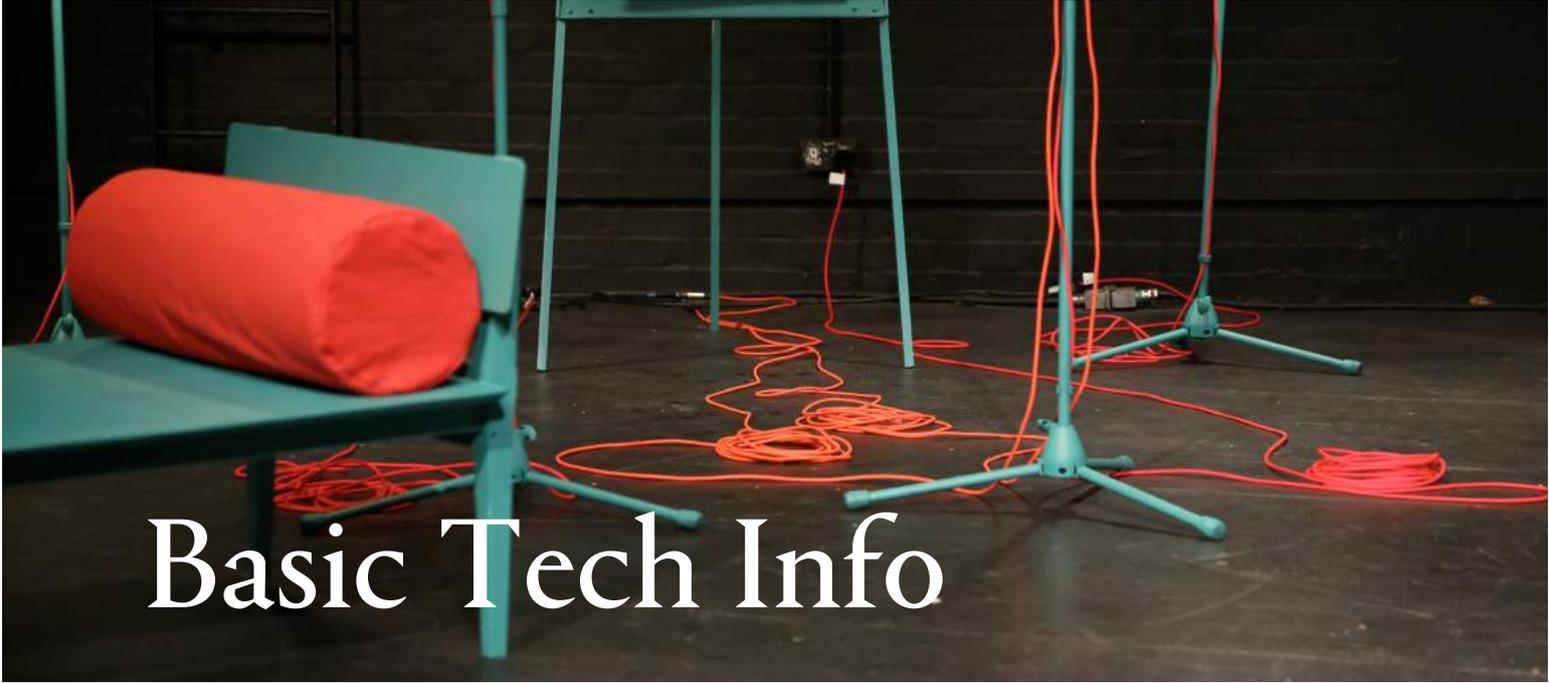
Our performances are always made in collaboration with a range of artists working in both theatre and the wider arts community. Previous collaborations have seen us work with digital artist, food designers, ballroom dancers, and sculptors in a wide variety of spaces including 100ft underground in an ancient iron ore mine, decommissioned factories and the back of transit van. The variety of forms involved in each process is what makes the work uniquely KILN.

A Journey Round My Skull is KILN's first largely text based play. It can be performed as a double bill with music-theatre production *Lady GoGo Goch*. Please visit our website to find out more about our music-theatre projects: *The Furies*, *Lady GoGo Goch* and *Come Heavy Sleep*.

A Journey Round My Skull has previously toured to

Summerhall, EDINBURGH
Latitude festival, SUFFOLK
The Arena, WOLVERHAMPTON
Norwich Arts Centre, NORWICH
mac birmingham, BIRMINGHAM
The Junction, CAMBRIDGE
Camden People's Theatre, LONDON
Contact, MANCHESTER
Bristol Old Vic, BRISTOL





Basic Tech Info

A full technical rider is available via our website

http://kilnensemble.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/KILN_A-Journey-Round-My-Skull_Tech-Rider_14_15_V1-1.pdf

Get-in, Fit-up and Get-out

The show, if not part of a double-bill, will get-in in one day. We assume a get-in start time of 10am, providing the LX has been pre-rigged. We require at least one technician to be available during the get-in, fit-up and get out. The get-out takes approximately 1.5 hours.

Storage:

We require a lockable storage area for our headphone (124 sets in 2 crates)

Space / Layout

Audience capacity:

Ranging from one on one – 300 (extra headsets can be hired for capacity above 124)

Layout:

End-on

Venue:

Theatres / Arts Centres / Site-specific/ medical or science festivals and conferences

Context:

Standalone / Double-bill with *Lady GoGo Goch* / Festival show



Front of House

Age Guidance

12+ contains mild sexual reference

Target Audience:

A Journey Round My Skull has broad audience appeal and has received very positive responses from the following groups

- Professionals working in medicine, psychology, psychotherapy, psychiatry and neuroscience
- A Level, undergraduate and postgraduate students of Theatre, English and Biomedical subjects
- Patients and family members affected by brain cancer
- Lovers of new-writing, text based plays and adaptations of biography
- Sound artists and sound designers with particular interest in binaural recording
- Experimental theatre goers

Online

Teaser Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/94825883>

Running Time:

60mins approx, no interval

Booking Information

A Journey Round My Skull is a love story told by a neurosurgeon. The performance is text based and playfully tells the story of a passionate but short-lived love affair between the neurosurgeon and her nameless patient, a role occupied by the silent audience. The shows take a neurosurgical procedure as its structure – pre-op consultation, operation and recovery to simultaneously chart a romantic relationship. The central section of the performance is experienced via wireless headphones to provide the audience with a poetic, almost dream-like and immersive simulation of awake brain surgery.



Additional Info

Post-show discussion:

KILN is happy to offer a post-show discussion. Should the venue wish to include contributions from the medical or creative collaborators an additional fee and travel expenses would need to be discussed. Otherwise there is no charge. Please advise the company as soon as possible if you would like a post-show discussion.

PRS:

The music used in the production is no longer in copyright with the exception Zoltán Kodály: *Adagio for Piano and Cello* where permission for use has been granted by Boosey & Hawkes.

International Shows:

A Journey Round My Skull is available for international touring. The show is performed entirely in English and where appropriate subtitling can be made available. Please contact us in the first instance.



Contractual

Please quote KILN's registered office address on contracts:

KILN
Birmingham Repertory Theatre
Centenary Square
Broad Street
Birmingham
B1 2EP

Please email contracts to General Manager Jo Salkild at:
jo@kilnensemble.org

Or by post to the following correspondence address:
72 Underwood Road
High Wycombe
HP13 6YA

Please also send a final box office return to the General Manager for evaluation purposes.

Financial

Please pay any fees or box office percentages by BACS to:

Nat West
Account name: KILN ensemble
Account number: 80590284
Sort code: 51-70-32

KILN is registered for VAT. Registration number: 180154332



Contact

Booking queries, Press and Marketing

Co-Artistic Director: Olivia Winteringham

Email: olivia@kilnensemble.org

Phone: +44(0)77229 55 638

Skype name: olivia.winteringham

Contractual and Financial queries

General Manager: Jo Salkilld

Email: jo@kilnensemble.org

Reference

Producer, Bristol Old Vic Ferment: Emma Bettridge

Email: ebettridge@bristololdvic.org.uk

Social Media

Website: KILNensemble.org

Facebook: KILN Birmingham

Twitter: @KILNensemble | #ajourneyroundmyskull

KILN