

Francesca Millican-Slater, in association with Pippa Frith supported by
mac birmingham Present:

Me, Myself and Miss Gibbs

Part detective noir, part lecture, part personal biography, artist
Francesca Millican-Slater investigates the message on a postcard sent
100 years ago and finds herself obsessed by the life of the woman
that received it. What happens when she starts tracing a history that
isn't her own?



'Clever and touching'

The Guardian, Lyn Gardner

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In 2003, Francesca bought a second hand postcard for 50p in a knick knack shop in Devon. The postcard, sent from Lincoln to London was addressed to a Miss L Gibbs of 62 Douglas Buildings, Marshalsea Road, Borough. Sent on July 15th 1910, the message on the back reads:

'Be Careful Tomorrow. A.C.'

Francesca began re-tracing the steps of the postcard, travelling from Lincoln to London searching for A.C., Douglas Buildings and why Miss Gibbs should be careful tomorrow. She documented her journey; the people she met, the things she found, and the stories she heard.

Part lecture, part personal biography, part detective noir this performance charts the changes that have been made in research, researching and Francesca herself since she began trying to find Miss Gibbs over seven years ago.

With the release of the 1911 census she found out more than she ever thought possible about Miss Gibbs; why she had to be careful, what happened to her and where she went.

In *Me, Myself and Miss Gibbs* Francesca takes the audience with her on this intricate, fascinating journey, gently questioning how we remember those that went before us and how we might like to be remembered ourselves.

Francesca's compelling writing style and humorous presence makes this an engaging and highly enjoyable one-woman show that offers something for everyone.

'On a stage that slowly becomes encircled with maps, photographs and marriage certificates, Millican-Slater traces a history of early deaths, orphanages and suffragette protest, creating a capsule of Edwardian London. She ends with a quiet surprise that it would be unjust to reveal.'

The Observer, Susannah Clapp

'Francesca Millican-Slater has produced a life-affirming piece of work, fuelled both by her subject matter and her own infectious personality, that gives hope to all: that somehow, in some way, we will be remembered.'

Fringe Review

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Development and History of the Project



Me, Myself and Miss Gibbs was originally developed through research, in 2003 and then performed at the Way with Words Festival in 2004, before achieving a sell out run at Brighton Fringe Festival in 2005.

With the release of the 1911 census in 2010 the twists in the story meant Francesca revisited the project, returning to the studio to rework the old and develop the new material. She produced a new show that was performed to packed audiences at Better Bankside and later at Lambeth Library in 2010.

In 2011 *Me, Myself and Miss Gibbs* was previewed at *Trestle Theatre*, St Albans, *Chelsea Theatre*, London and *mac*, Birmingham, before a successful run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival with Remarkable Arts at Hill Street Theatre.

Programming Information

Duration: 1 Hour (with optional Q+A)

Scale: Small scale, ideal for studio spaces seating between 70 – 150. Suitable for Rural Networking venues and non-traditional theatre spaces

Performance Space: Minimum playing space 6 meters by 6 metres. We are happy to discuss smaller and larger spaces. Suitable for proscenium stages, black box and non-theatre spaces such as community centres, church halls etc...

Technical Requirements: Minimum technical needs, access to mains plug points. Performance uses digital and overhead projectors (can be provided by the company).

Lighting requirements: Theatre lighting not essential, minimal rig requirements in theatre spaces. Lighting plan will be available closer to the tour period.

Costs: £600 per performance, please contact Pippa Frith, Producer, if you wish to discuss fees



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Workshops



As part of this Arts Council funded phase we are developing workshops to offer alongside *Me, Myself and Miss Gibbs*, supported by mac birmingham. These have already been trialed with university students and with the general public successfully with excellent feedback and responses. We are keen to work in partnership with promoters, programmers and venues to tailor the offer to specific groups including secondary school students, community groups, college and university students, and more general open workshops for members of the public.

Workshops will take participants through the process of creating and telling stories based around an object, exploring their creative skills through devising, writing and performance. Objects can be brought in by participants, or provided by the artist depending on the specific needs of the group. Francesca will support individuals in a research led process with the ultimate outcome of creating a 2 – 3 minute story or performance.

'I attended this as a confidence booster...This workshop was just what I needed and I found in particular the friendly atmosphere very encouraging and helped me overcome anxieties when engaging in something that was out of my comfort zone' Workshop Participant, Public Workshop at mac



'The workshop has been great, it really helped me to think about an object in ways I'd never thought possible and it was exciting to come away with leads identified that I could take forward on my own' Workshop Participant, Public Workshop at mac

'It was great. Really informative. Helpful, well guided, inspiring and encouraging.' Workshop Participant, Public Workshop at mac

'Great workshop last night. Really useful, thoroughly enjoyed it' Workshop Participant, Lincoln University

'You can make theatre out of owt' Workshop Participant, Lincoln University

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What People Say

**** The Scotsman

**** Fringe Review

**** Hairline

**** Three Weeks

'Beguiling...a perfect antidote to over production' The Observer, Susannah Clapp

'Francesca is clearly obsessed with Miss Gibbs. She describes herself as a "historical stalker" and looks visibly tearful at a certain discovery, as if reliving it again for the first time...We are ultimately left as hooked as Francesca, desperate to find out more about a long dead stranger.'

The Scotsman

'The audience are engaged throughout, caught up in Francesca's determination to find out who the mysterious Miss Gibbs was, and why she had to be careful. It is well worth seeing the show to find out.'

Hairline

'A confident and likeable performer, Millican-Slater immediately engaged the audience, and there was a real sense that she was sharing part of herself.'

Fringe Guru

'She's very likeable, and at times this is less like a piece of theatre and more like going round to a friend's house for a chat. Her story, punctuated by photos and videos of herself eight years ago, is fascinating, as she details her investigations of the mysterious Miss Gibbs.'

Three Weeks

'She has produced a really beautiful and heart warming show about lives lived and lost and what kind of a mark we leave on the world when we've had our time.'

China Plate Theatre

'Thoroughly enjoyed me myself and miss Gibbs - lovely musings on life & story.'

Steve Johnstone, Artistic Director, Black Country Touring

Contact Information

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About the Artist

'I don't write plays but I do write stories to tell people, I don't make visual art but I do make my own sets, I'm not an actress but I do like dressing up.'

Francesca graduated in Theatre from Dartington College of Art in 2004 and completed a postgraduate MA in Contemporary Performance Making at Brunel University in 2009.

Francesca has performed her own work in a wide variety of settings, platforms, festivals and venues. A full CV is available on request. Highlights include:

Me, Myself and Miss Gibbs

- 2004, Way With Words Festival, Dartington
- August 2005, Brighton Fringe Festival
- 15th July 2010, revised version, in collaboration with Better Bankside and South Tower Social
- 26th September 2010, revised version, Lambeth Library
- 28th June 2011, Work-in-Progress Sharing, Trestle Theatre, St. Albans
- 21st July 2011, Edinburgh Fringe Preview, Chelsea Theatre, London
- 28th and 29th July 2011, Edinburgh Fringe Preview, mac, Birmingham
- 19th – 29th August 2011, Remarkable Arts, Edinburgh Fringe

Instructions for Heartbreak

A Power Point presentation on how to break your own heart.

- 6th & 7th March 2010, Sprint, Camden People's Theatre
- 24th March 2010, The London Word Festival at Bethnal Green Working Men's Club
- 9th June 2010, Pulse Festival, Ipswich
- 28th August 2010, (Cabaret version), Duckie, Vauxhall Royal Tavern
- 1st December 2010, Salisbury Arts Centre

Let Me Take You By The Hand

Stories told from a hand-built cardboard London

- 25th November 2009, The Scene Pool, Camden People's Theatre
- 19th September 2010, Turning Point Festival, Roundhouse, Camden.

Those Little Words

A love lap dance for a mannequin

- 26th April 2008, 'I am Still Your Worst Nightmare', Arnolfini, Bristol
- 26th September 2009, Kiss Me, Miss Me by Fifteen Minute Factory at The Rag Factory Brick Lane
- 30th October 2009, Chelsea Theatre's Sacred Late Night Cabaret Nights

I Told It To A Mannequin

Doctor Milican Miligan's own brand of mannequin therapy

- 22nd-26th May 2008, (Parts 1 & 2), Fierce! Festival, Birmingham.

In addition Francesca has collaborated with artist Lindsey Price, worked as a performer participant for Station House Opera's *Dominoes* Project, for H Plewis's *Hen Night* as part of Gay Shame and as a production assistant for Ursula Martinez's *My Stories, Your Emails*.

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