

Phoenix Tapes with musician James Gow

Workshop to accompany Dead Dog in a Suitcase (& other love songs)

Context

Dead Dog in a Suitcase uses Kneehigh's signature mixture of live music, physical performance and puppetry to tell a contemporary anarchic story of corruption, greed and love. The show is a reimaging of John Gay's *The Beggars Opera*, which in 1728 was ground breaking in its use of popular tunes aimed at a mass audience. *Dead Dog in a Suitcase* also uses familiar musical themes alongside new compositions performed by a multi-instrumental group of musicians and performers.

The Workshop

Using a mixture of sounds and collaged news headlines this practical and inclusive workshop will explore the relationship that words, music and sound have within a theatrical context and offer an insight into the Kneehigh creative process. Attendees will create unique scrapbook style poetry and explore different means of performing them in and amongst discussion of pertinent news themes and themes from the show. No musical or writing experience is necessary.

The workshop will be led by James Gow, musician and music supervisor on *Dead Dog in a Suitcase*. James has also performed as musician in *The Flying Lovers of Vitebsk*, *Brief Encounter*, *Tristan & Yseult* for Kneehigh and is a regular with bands including Lunch Money, Cocos Lovers and Three Cane Whale. He also performs as a solo artist under the moniker Flames Pow.

James has an enhanced DBS and public liability through the Musicians Union.

Who is it for?

Drama and music students/groups.

Age range 14 upwards.

Group size maximum 30.

Also suitable for CPD and practitioners.

*The development of this workshop is supported by the Kneehigh Kitchen.
A new skills development strand, inspiring & training the artists & theatre makers of the future.*