



Get Lost

Hat Fair, Winchester



Lyn Gardner

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Imagine Alice in Wonderland crossed with a Greek myth and you have something of the flavour of this piece of movable outdoor drama created by street theatre specialists Dot Comedy. This is essentially walkabout theatre in an enclosed space (a maze constructed from a plastic privet hedge), but it is extraordinary how both enclosure and context combine to up the intensity and dramatic impact of the experience.

Dot Comedy pull the threads together beautifully: depending on your age and inclination, you can view it as a bizarre and enormously entertaining game, or a meditation on the nature of loss (of either your way or your marbles); the sad man in a purple suit who keeps coming up and introducing himself is clearly suffering from amnesia.

The joy of this is that you can cast yourself as the central character in your own epic and take it entirely at your own pace. You can be Theseus in search of the Minotaur, who turns out to be an exceptionally noisome and dirty beast. Once in, the idea is to find your way out, although perhaps finding yourself is the point. How much you interact is up to you: you can simply watch as Peter, Jane and their parents indulge in a 1950s-style picnic with Tupperware and jolly skipping, or you can join in and see what happens. But take things slowly or you could find yourself ejected from Eden. Remember, the hedges have ears, and the woman knitting or the kindly gardener may not be all that they seem.

dotMaze: Get Lost! Streets of Brighton Festival, 2006

"dotcomedy appeared at the Brighton Festival in May 2006 as part of Streets of Brighton with their show The dotMaze – 'Get Lost'. The show was a huge success. It disrupted the usually sedate environs of Pavilion Gardens for two days and thrilled, confused and delighted audiences.

The show was a great addition to the programme for the 40th Brighton Festival. The only problem I realised as I watched the queues snake around Pavilion Gardens was that perhaps we should have programmed the show in for longer!

The company were very professional and their high production values meant that the maze looked fantastic on the lawns of Pavilion Garden. They dealt with the high demand for the show in a very efficient and understanding manner – it was a very hot weekend, people did have to queue and they also had to factor in rest times for the company, not an easy situation to manage but they dealt with incredibly well."

- Jane McMorrow
Creative Producer
Brighton Festival



dotMaze: Get Lost! Streets of Brighton Festival, 2006

Get Lost! from dotComedy is a giant portable maze populated by a range of somewhat bizarre though friendly characters from myth, legend and fairy tale.

Whilst the maze itself is not particularly confusing, and you would have to be fairly spatially challenged to actually get lost, the characters are more than baffling enough to make up for this.

The queue for entry consisting of adults and children of all ages was at least 50 deep all afternoon. Deservedly so - those fortunate enough to get in were treated to a surreal and wonderful experience for the young and young at heart.

Old crones, single minded pieces of a giant tea set, and a very scary sounding monster, all in the beautiful setting of the Pavilion Gardens on a sunny afternoon. You'd be a fool to miss it.

- Shella Davis
Audience Member
Brighton Festival



Barbican Weekender Festival 2010

It was fantastic to see one of the Barbican's outside spaces so majestically brought to life by the fantastic dotMaze installation. The contrasting spectacle of the fairytale-like dotMaze rising up within the concrete, urban setting of the Barbican made a stunning visual statement on our Lakeside, and offered a very special and unexpected treat for our visitors throughout the weekend. Not to mention the fact that - what with its weird and wonderfully strange inhabitants - it beautifully matched our Surrealist theme for the weekend. Thanks so much, Richard - and all at dotMaze - for helping to make Barbican Weekender 2010 an extraordinary experience for our audiences.

- Jenny Mollica
Theatre & Cross Arts Producer
Barbican Centre

