

LIGHT BOXES



SUMMERHALL



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL



Many thanks to Beecraigs Country Park, West Lothian Council, for our trees.



WITH THANKS

Mull Theatre, Catherine Wheels Theatre Company, Traverse Theatre, National Theatre of Scotland, Magnetic North, Nestival, JSP, Mr Hugh Savage, The Royal Lyceum Theatre, Vision Mechanics, Tortoise in a Nutshell, Tracey Smith, the Quinns, Brian Ferguson, Matthew Barker, Oliver Emanuel, Lynda Radley, Kieran Lynn, Amy Gwilliam and Studio 180, Kirsten Wright, Anna Andresen and Chris Storey (for giving Finn the book in the first place).

And special thanks to Shane Jones, all at Summerhall, TechCube and the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society.

  www.gridiron.org.uk


Cover Image: Laurence Winram

LIGHT BOXES

Director's Note

I first came across *Light Boxes* in 2011, during a particularly cold and snowy January in Glasgow. The book came at the recommendation of a friend and I remember very clearly that I devoured it in one sitting as soon as I had opened it. I immediately recognised shades of authors and genres I loved, but despite wearing these influences on its sleeve, the book had a quality all of its own. I don't think it's an exaggeration to say that it was there and then that I started to see the book on stage.

In the four years that have passed since then I have read it many times over, recommended and given it to numerous friends and have lost track of which copy I now personally own (I'd like to think I'm at least partially responsible for driving its price up on Amazon!).



I've fallen in and out and back in love with the book several times and often question what possessed me to even attempt to adapt it for the stage. But attempt it I did, and when Grid Iron approached me to ask if there was anything I would like to make with the company, there was no question that this is what it would be.

Adapting a novel is always a challenge and with a novel such as this it's nearly impossible to recreate the sumptuousness of the artefact itself. It is perhaps more accurate to say that what we present to you is "based on" or "inspired by" *Light Boxes*. We have taken what made the book sing for us - in terms of content but also in terms of tone, style and even its unique format - and tried to recreate that using the modes and the vocabulary of theatre and performance. The book is an experience all of its own and I highly recommend reading it for yourself.

I was lucky enough to meet Shane Jones last year. We met in a small town two hours train ride from New York City, had lunch and then went for a pint in a bookshop. In the end we discussed his novel very little, but Shane said something that I keep coming back to. He simply said - "It's yours now."

In the process of turning *Light Boxes* into a piece of theatre I have been fortunate to have the help, insight and encouragement of a huge number of people and each one has played an invaluable part in making it come to life. However what is key for me is that you play a part too. This play exists in your imagination as much as it does on the stage and I hope the images, the words, the sounds and the smells will stay with you as the novel did with me. So, to echo the simplicity and generosity of Shane's sentiment, **it's yours now.**

FINN DEN HERTOG



CAST

Melody Grove
Keith Macpherson
Vicki Manderson
Michael John McCarthy

Selah
Thaddeus
Bianca
Musician

CREATIVE TEAM

Director/Adaptor
Producer
Composer/Sound Designer
Set & Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Video Designer
Dramaturg
Production Manager
Technical Manager
Stage Manager
Deputy Stage Manager
Technician/Operator
Associate Lighting Designer
Design Assistant
Finance & Development Manager
Print design
Print Image
Other support:

Finn den Hertog
Judith Doherty
Michael John McCarthy
Karen Tennent
Simon Wilkinson
Lewis den Hertog
Jake Jeppson
Fiona Fraser
Roy Fairhead
Mickey Graham
Anne Page
Dave Cooper
Eleanor Taylor
Emily Bates
Deborah Crewe
Emma Quinn
Laurence Winram
Guy Colletta, Lee Davis,
Andy Gannon, Rob McDonald,
Chris Richardson,
and Beata Zemanek.

Development Workshop:

Matthew Barker, Brian Ferguson,
Melody Grove, Finn den Hertog,
Lewis den Hertog, Vicki Manderson,
Michael John McCarthy & Anne Page.



BIOGRAPHIES



Melody Grove Selah

Training: RCS, Glasgow. Theatre: *Farinelli and the King* (Globe), *In Lambeth* (Southwark Playhouse), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Old Vic), *The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart* (National Theatre of Scotland) *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Lyric Belfast), *Of Mice and Men* (Lyceum Edinburgh), *2401 Objects* (Analogue), *Snow White and the Seven De'Wharffs* (Macrobert Arts Centre), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Lyceum Edinburgh), *Room, One Night Stand, One Thousand Paper Cranes* (Tron Theatre), *The Girls of Slender Means* (Stellar Quines/Assembly Rooms). Film: *Re-enactors* (Roseline Entertainment), *A Stately Suicide* (Flyboy), *Venus and the Sun* (Ruby), *Sisters* (Red Curtain). Radio includes: *Sovereign*, *The Antiquary*, *Tender is the Night*, *Vincent in Brixton*, *Lanark*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *The Great Gatsby*, *The Call of the Wild*, *The Voyagey Inheritance*, *A Case for Paul Temple*, *The Vanishing*, *Of Mice and Men*, *La Princesse De Cleves* and many short stories for BBC Radio 4. Audio books include: *Desperate Remedies*, *The Child Inside*, *A Little in Love*, *Ann Veronica*, *Amy Snow*, *The Earth is Singing*, *The Ship*, *The Looking Glass House*, *Completely Cassidy* and *Ballet Stars*. Melody is also a singer and sings with her family band The Groves.

Keith Macpherson Thaddeus

Training: RSAMD, École Lecoq. Theatre includes: *James and the Giant Peach* (Dundee Rep), *The Yes No Plays* (Traverse Theatre); *Henry V* (Bard in the Botanics); *Bauble Trouble*, *Museum of Dreams*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Waiting for Godot*, *Peter Pan*, *Desire Under the Elms* (Citizens Theatre); *Rogue Herries* (Theatre by the Lake); *The Monster in the Hall*, *Yellow Moon* (NTS/Citizens Theatre); *Mother Courage*, *Clutter Keeps Company* (Birds of Paradise); *A Christmas Carol* (Cumbernauld Theatre); *Funny* (Reeling and Writhing); *4.48 Psychosis* (Sweetscar/Cumbernauld Theatre/Tramway); *Para Handy* (Warehouse Theatre); *Faust*, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Edinburgh Royal Lyceum); *Trojan Women* (Theatre Cryptic); *Private Agenda*, *Factory Girls* (7:84); *The Lost Child*, *One Snowy Night* (Minerva Theatre, Chichester); *Invisible Man* (Vanishing Point); *Brave* (Communicado); *Decky Does a Bronco* (Grid Iron); *The Canterbury Tales* (Rejects' Revenge); *Making Room for Camille* (Lemon Tree); *El Quijote* (The Gate); *Little Victories*, *Dead Heroic*, *Sunset Song* (TAG); *Timeless* (Suspect Culture); *Macbeth* (Chester Gateway); *Media Star* (Edinburgh Theatre Workshop); *Bloodknot*, *Piaf*, *Twelfth Night* (Brunton Theatre). TV: *Silent Witness*; *The Culture Show* (BBC); *Taggart* (SMG). Radio: *The Chronicle* (BBC).

Vicki Manderson Bianca

Vicki works as an actress, dancer, movement director and theatre practitioner. Her work as an actress includes *No Way Back* (Frantic Assembly/Corby Cube), *In Time O' Strife*, *Knives in Hens* and *Home Inverness* (NTS), *Beautiful Burnout* (Frantic Assembly/NTS), *Dr Dee* (English National Opera/Manchester International Festival), *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Royal and Derngate), *(in)visible dancing*, *LOL*, *To The Bone* (Protein Dance). As a Movement Director Vicki's work includes *Details* (*Letters Home* - Grid Iron), *Housed* (Old Vic New Voices), *Loaded*, *I Do Believe In Monsters* (Central School of Speech and Drama), *Vertical Transmission*, *Juicy and Delicious* (NT Studio research), *The Drowning Pond* (Youth Music Theatre), *The Silence of The Sea* (Donmar: Trafalgar season). As an Associate Movement Director her work includes *The Twits* (Royal Court), *Let The Right One In* (NTS/Royal Court/West End/St Ann's NYC), *In Time O Strife*, *Black Watch* (NTS) and *The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night Time* (National Theatre/West End).

Michael John McCarthy Composer and musician

Michael John is a Cork-born, Glasgow-based composer & musician. He has previously worked with Grid Iron on *Letters Home* (*England in a Pink Blouse*) and *The Authorised Kate Bane*. Other work for performance includes *Into That Darkness*, *Fever Dream: Southside & Sports Day* (Citizens Theatre) *In Time O' Strife*, *Blabbermouth*, *The Tin Forest* & *The Day I Swapped My Dad for Two Goldfish* (National Theatre of Scotland), *The BFG* and *Steel Magnolias* (Dundee Rep), *Right Now* (Traverse Theatre), *Bondagers* (Royal Lyceum Edinburgh), *Under Milk Wood* (Tron Glasgow) and *Glory* (Janice Parker Projects). Other companies he has worked with include The Arches, Lung Ha's, Macrobert, Platform, People's Light & Theatre Philadelphia, Playgroup, Poorboy, Theatre Uncut, Utter, Vox Motus and Youth Music Theatre UK. He has toured internationally with Zoey Van Goey, Aidan Moffat and Lord Cut-Glass and played on records by RM Hubbard, Jo Mango, Alasdair Roberts and Trembling Bells/Bonnie Prince Billy.

Songs - arranged by the Company

Green Grass by Tom Waits

Hard Times by Stephen Foster

When that Helicopter Comes by The Handsome Family

Sunflower by Low

CREATIVE TEAM

Finn den Hertog Director & Adaptor

Finn trained at RCS, graduating in 2007. Directing credits include: *Squash* (Traverse/Play Pie Pint - winner CATS Best New Play 2015) *Five Plays: Ten New Messages* (Young Vic) *The Last Dictator* (Play Pie Pint) *Brief Encounters: Banyan Trees*, *An Employees Guide to Scotland*, *What Do We Do Next?* (Dundee Rep/Atlas Co.). As Assistant Director: *Once Upon A Christmas*, *You Once Said Yes* (Look Left Look Right) *The Arabian Nights* (The Tricycle) *The Authorised Kate Bane* (Grid Iron). He was one of five emerging artists chosen to be part of the National Theatre of Scotland's Auteurs Project in 2013 - 14 and has worked as a guest director for Playwrights' Studio Scotland, University of Edinburgh MSc Playwriting Degree and with second year actors at RCS, Glasgow. Finn also works regularly as an actor across theatre, television and radio, most recently appearing in *Outlander* (Starz) *Shetland* (BBC) and as a young Vincent Van Gogh in *Vincent In Brixton* (BBC Radio 4). He first worked with Grid Iron as an actor in 2010 on *Decky Does A Bronco* and *Spring Awakening*. He lives in London, where he can be found selling overpriced brownies at market stalls across the city.

Judith Doherty Producer

Judith is the Producer, Chief Executive and Co-Artistic Director of Grid Iron. She founded the company in 1995 and has produced all the company's shows. Since 2000 she has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and she has also sat on the boards of the Independent Theatre Council and NVA. She is a member of the Scottish Drama Training Network Management Team and the Creative and Cultural Skills Advisory Group. Freelance work has included Edinburgh International Book Festival, Edinburgh International Festival, Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society, Unique Events, Universal Arts and BBC Scotland. In 2003 Judith received the Jack Tinker Spirit of the Fringe Award for her services to the festival.



Karen Tennent Set & Costume Designer

Karen is a graduate of Edinburgh College of Art. Her work has toured all over the UK and abroad from village halls to Sydney Opera House. Theatre credits include: *Lifeboat*, *Martha*, *Kes*, *Something Wicked This Way Comes*, *Hansel and Gretel* (CATS Best Design 2006) and *The Voice Thief* (CATS Best Show for Children and Young People 2015) for Catherine Wheels, *Caucasian Chalk Circle* The Royal Lyceum (CATS Best Production 2015) *This Wide Night* for The Tron, *Chalk About* for Curious Seed, *Un Petit Moliere* and *The Hold* for Lung Has, *Guide Gods* for Claire Cunningham, *Aladdin*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Peter Pan*, *The Happy Prince* and *Sonata for a Man and a Boy* (CATS Best Show for Children and Young People 2013) for Macrobert, *Flat Stanley* for West Yorkshire Playhouse/Polka, *The Little Mermaid* for York Theatre Royal/Polka. Dance credits include: *Sanctuary*, *Wee Home from Home*, *Double Helix* and *Parallel Parallels* for Plan B; *The Ancient Mariner* for Tabla Rasa; *Code Butterfly*, *Found*, *Push* and *Chalk About* for Curious Seed. Karen was nominated in 2011 for the Drama Desk Theatre Awards in New York for Outstanding Set Design for *Hansel and Gretel* at The New Victory Theatre New York.

Simon Wilkinson Lighting Designer

Simon designs lighting for theatre in all shapes, sizes and locations. For the National Theatre of Scotland, he lit *Dragon* (with Vox Motus and Tianjin People's Art Theatre, China), *The Day I Swapped My Dad for Two Goldfish*, *Roman Bridge*, *Truant* and *A Sheep Called Skye*. For Vox Motus, his designs include *Dragon*, *The Infamous Brothers Davenport* (with the Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh), *The Not-So-Fatal Death of Grandpa Fredo*, *Bright Black* and the multi-award winning *Slick*. He is associate artist of Magnetic North - work for them includes *Kora* (with Dundee Rep), *Sex and God*, *Pass the Spoon*, *Wild Life* and *After Mary Rose*. Other theatre designs include *Hedda Gabler*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *The BFG*, *Bondagers*, *A Christmas Carol* and *Cinderella* (Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh); *The Lost Things* and *Feral* (Tortoise in a Nutshell); *After the End* and *Topdog/Underdog* (Citizens Theatre, Glasgow); *This Wide Night* (Tron Theatre, Glasgow); *13 Sunken Years* (Stellar Quines and Lung Has); *Endurance* (A Moment's Peace): *Chalk Farm* and *The Static* (ThickSkin); *HeLa* and *Skewered Snails* (Iron Oxide); *Whatever Gets You Through the Night* (The Arches); *My Name is Rachel Corrie* (Mull Theatre); *The Mark of Zorro* and *The Hunted* (Visible Fictions); *PUSH* (Curious Seed); *Honk!* (Royal & Derngate) and *Encourage The Others* (Almeida Theatre). He lit the 2010 season for Pitlochry Festival Theatre. Simon won, with Jamie Vartan, the 2015 CATS Award for Best Design for *Bondagers*, after nominations in 2014, 2012 and 2009. Over the years, his lighting has created a Guinness World Record, brought 30,000 people to a windswept Highland Forest, and caused reports of an alien invasion.



Lewis den Hertog Video Designer

Lewis is an artist who lives and works in Glasgow. He has programmed, edited, and designed video for various theatrical productions including *Woman In Mind* (Dundee Rep), *In My Father's Words* (Tron/Dundee Rep), *Scale* (Scottish Dance Theatre), *The Authorised Kate Bane* (Grid Iron), *Time And The Conways* (Royal Lyceum Theatre/Dundee Rep), *The Tempest* (Dundee Rep) and *Anna Karenina* (Dundee Rep). He recently provided sound design and music supervision for the production *Squash* at A Play, A Pie and A Pint (Oran Mor/Traverse). Last year he had a solo exhibition of new work at Edinburgh's Embassy Gallery.

Jake Jeppson Dramaturg

Jake Jeppson is a London-based American theatre-maker. He is the former associate producer at the Yale Cabaret and co-creator and director of apprentice companies at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center and the Orchard Project, where he led college-aged artists in the making of devised work. As a playwright, Jake was a 2013/14 Jerome Fellow at the Playwrights' Center, a member of the Ars Nova Play Group (NY), and a winner of the Cole Porter Prize at the Yale School of Drama, from which he holds an MFA in playwriting. His work has been produced and developed in New York, Chicago, Latvia, and London. More info: www.jakejeppson.com



Fiona Fraser Production Manager

Fi has worked with many companies including: The Traverse, Perth Rep, SDT, Mull Theatre, Pitlochry Festival Theatre, The Citizens, The Byre, Unique Events, Stellar Quines, Suspect Culture, Licketyspit, Visible Fictions, Scottish Opera, Dundee Rep, Vox Motus (*How to Steal a Diamond*, *SLICK*, *Bright Black* and *The Not-so-Fatal Death of Grandpa Fredo*), ThickSkin, NTS (inc *Extreme*, *Black Watch 2006* & *The Day I Swapped My Dad for Two Goldfish*) and Vanishing Point (*Interiors*, *Saturday Night*, *Wonderland*, *Tomorrow* & *The Beautiful Cosmos of Ivor Cutler*). Fi has production managed for Grid Iron since 2002 heading the Stage Management team who won the 2004 SMA excellence in Stage Management Award. She was also part of the team who conducted workshops in Lebanon and Jordan, returning to Beirut with *Those Eyes*, *That Mouth* and creating a new show as part of a capacity building and skills transfer project developed by Grid Iron for the British Council. Most recently Fi has undertaken her most ambitious production, *Martha*, aged 8 months.

Roy Fairhead Technical Manager

Roy trained at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and graduated in 2006. Previous work with Grid Iron includes *What Remains*, *Leaving Planet Earth* and *Letters Home*. He has worked with numerous theatre companies including *Birds of Paradise*, 7:84, Theatre Workshop, Scottish Opera, Scottish Ballet, Forced Entertainments, Visible Fictions, Stellar Quines and many others. He works on various projects from local, small-scale work to large scale theatrical and musical productions. Roy is based in Glasgow and therefore a large portion of his time is spent in Scotland and the UK. However the nature of the industry, particularly touring, takes him all over the world. The majority of his year is occupied within the live music industry, and he spends a lot of the year touring with bands and at festivals.

Mickey Graham Stage Manager

For Grid Iron Mickey has worked on *Letters Home*, *Leaving Planet Earth*, *Barflies*, *Huxley's Lab*, *Tryst*, *Yarn*, *Once Upon a Dragon*, *Roam*, *Those Eyes*, *That Mouth*, *The Houghmagandie Pack* and *Gargantua*. He has also worked with many Scottish companies including: National Theatre of Scotland, Firebrand, Vanishing Point, Macrobert, Visible Fictions, The Tron, Magnetic North, NVA, Janice Parker Projects, Vox Motus, Dundee Rep, The Gaelic Arts Agency, Stellar Quines, Mull Theatre, Catherine Wheels, Benchours, Traverse, Wee Stories, Boilerhouse and Edinburgh International Festival. He has also worked for Walk The Plank (Turku European City of Culture 2011), The Bush Theatre (London), and The Lyric Theatre (Belfast).

Anne Page Deputy Stage Manager

Anne graduated from the RSAMD, Glasgow in 2006 with a BA in Technical and Production Arts. Her recent credits include: Scottish Opera Education - *KidO'* (2015), National Theatre of Scotland - *The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart* (2012 and 2014), *Dragon* (2013) and *Rites* (2015), Citizens Theatre - *The Libertine* (2014), Imagine Theatre - *Aladdin* (2104) and *Vox Motus - Slick* (2013). She is delighted to be able to add *Light Boxes* to her Grid Iron credits to join *What Remains* (2011), *Leaving Planet Earth* (2013) and *Letters Home* (2014).

Dave Cooper Technician & Operator

Dave is a full time production technician for a corporate event company but previously worked with Grid Iron on *Leaving Planet Earth* for the Edinburgh International Festival in August 2013 and *Letters Home* for the Edinburgh International Book Festival/Edinburgh Festival Fringe in August 2014.



Elleanor Taylor Associate Lighting Designer

Originally from New Zealand, Elle moved to Scotland with a scholarship to study at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland on the BA Production Technology and Management programme, specialising in lighting technology. Upon graduating and receiving two university awards, she has worked here in the United Kingdom and overseas as a lighting and special effects technician, as well as some lighting designer roles. It is through both her student and professional work that she has developed a keen interest in lighting design and its influence on live performance. Her recent projects within the lighting design field have involved working with Creative Scotland, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Platform and Iron Oxide. This is the first project Elle has had with Grid Iron and a first as part of the lighting design team with Simon. She is very excited about both opportunities and is looking forward to what *Light Boxes* will bring!

Emily Bates Design Assistant

Emily has recently graduated from the Performance Costume course at Edinburgh College of Art with a First-class honours, winning the John L Paterson award for Design. She is delighted to be working with Grid Iron again this year having had such a great time working on *Letters Home* last August. Previous work has included placements with the National Theatre, Glyndebourne Opera House, Opera Holland Park and Opera North. Next year Emily looks forward to studying Set Design on the MA Design for Performance course at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

Deborah Crewe Finance & Development Manager

Deborah has worked part time and full time with Grid Iron since 2003 although she has been closely involved with the company, as a member of the Board of Directors, since it began in 1995.

GRID IRON

"Grid Iron is not just a Scottish national treasure but one of the companies that has shaped British theatre over the last 20 years" *The Guardian*

Grid Iron is an Edinburgh based new writing theatre company which specialises in creating site-specific and location theatre although we also produce work for the stage. In our 20 years, we have received 28 awards and a further 20 nominations covering all aspects of our work from acting, writing and use of music to stage management, design and technical expertise.

Our adventures have taken us to extraordinary places; from a boat-builders island in a Norwegian fjord, to the former General Security building in Beirut, a working cancer hospital in Jordan, the old City Morgue in Cork, the largest climbing arena in Europe and parks, housing estates, playing fields and bars (for performances as well as recreation) around Scotland and Britain.

We have made co-productions with many partners including the National Theatre of Scotland, the Traverse Theatre, Dundee Rep Theatre, The Almeida Theatre, London and Lung Ha Theatre Company and we have delivered two European Capital of Culture Commissions (Cork 2005 and Stavanger 2008). This will be our thirteenth time performing at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. We have also had two productions at Edinburgh International Festival and been part of both Edinburgh International Science Festival and Imagine, Edinburgh's international festival of performing arts for children and young people. In 2014, we were delighted to become the first theatre company to work in co-production with Edinburgh International Book Festival on *Letters Home*, which was also part of Culture 2014, Glasgow's cultural celebration of the Commonwealth Games.

For more information, to join our mailing list or to find out how to support our work, please visit www.gridiron.org.uk

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Board of Directors: **Rob Conner, Deborah Crewe, Judith Doherty, Ben Harrison, Chris Hunn, Kath Mainland, Neil Weir** (Chair).

Patrons: **Owen Dudley Edwards, Jim Haynes, Emma Quinn**

