

Exceptional & Extraordinary

Unruly bodies and minds in the medical museum

Since humans first appeared on Earth, no two have ever been the same. Yet somewhere along the way, certain bodies and minds came to be highly valued whilst others became viewed as problematic; as deviant and unruly, deficient and requiring adjustment towards a perceived idealised norm.

Exceptional & Extraordinary is a series of thought-provoking new commissions – inspired by the collections of eight of the UK's most renowned medical museums and produced out of unique collaborations between artists and experts in medical history, disability and museums – that examine our attitudes towards difference and aim to stimulate debate around the implications of a society that values some lives more than others.



DEAF MEN DANCING LET US TELL YOU A STORY...

Let Us Tell You A Story... is a new, highly original, multi-sensory dance production by Deaf Men Dancing (DMD) - known for their unique fusion of different styles of dance with sign language - that invites audiences on a journey to explore Deaf history and experiences of deafness in an entirely new way. Devised and choreographed by DMD's Artistic Director, Mark Smith, the performance has been inspired by his investigations of medical museum collections that contain hundreds of objects - from exquisite ear trumpets to conspicuously large hearing aid boxes - and the extraordinary untold stories of the people and events, the innovations and technologies that have shaped Deaf experience and identity through time.



FRANCESCA MARTINEZ FRANCESCA MARTINEZ'S WOBBLY MANIFESTO

Without diversity, there would be no evolution, no life, no human beings. So why are we still so damn scared of difference? As a species, we've put people on the moon, created computers that fit in our pockets and developed complex machines that zoom us all over the world but, put someone 'different' in front of us and, well, most of us still get a bit sweaty, awkward and stutter-y. No surprise, really, as our culture teaches us to fear difference, both in ourselves and others - and disability is perhaps the most terrifying of all. Despite being part of the human race since the days when we lived in caves and grunted a lot, disability is still seen as 'abnormal', tragic, and undesirable. But what if we... gulp, celebrated difference instead of rejecting it? With the help of museum collections, Francesca explores how humanity has chosen to handle (or not) disability over the decades and looks at how these attitudes have huge ramifications for all of us. By proposing her own Wobbly Manifesto, she invites us all to consider how embracing diversity as normal could, in fact, revolutionise the world we live in.



JULIE MCNAMARA HOLD THE HEARSE!

Hold the Hearse! is an interactive, extraordinary theatrical journey through a myriad of museum collections that have impacted on the lives of the Mad, the Bad and the Unruly in our midst. This comic tale, inspired by objects and stories from behind the scenes of some of the UK's most renowned medical museums, takes us through the history of two remarkable characters who evaded the collectors - complete with grime, gruesome grave robberies and grisly murder ballads. In this extraordinary production, Julie McNamara - who describes herself as 'a Mad woman made good' - brings previously hidden and disavowed lives to light and, in doing so, invites audiences to question our collective attitudes towards difference.



DAVID HEVEY THE FIGHT FOR LIFE

In a world of less, some people in the UK are at the sharp end of biomedical decisions: from assisted-dying debates to machines for prolonging lives, who gets the privileges, opportunities and choices and who gets the cuts is a hotly contested issue. In this powerful, unsettling and provocative film, David Hevey examines the increasingly hostile and uncertain world in which many disabled people find themselves. Disproportionately targeted by cuts in public funding and subject to social, political and medical attitudes towards difference that have far reaching, often pernicious consequences, disabled people increasingly face questions around just who is - and who isn't - worth the biomedical resources and technology to live longer and empowered lives.

Tuesday 7 June 7pm
Langdon Down Museum of Learning
Disability, Normansfield, London
HOLD THE HEARSE!
BY JULIE MCNAMARA
Tickets £5 / Concessions £3
Tickets and enquiries:
<http://langdondowncentre.org.uk/>
or 0333 1212 300

Wednesday 8 June 6.30pm
Hunterian Museum,
Royal College of Surgeons
of England, London
HOLD THE HEARSE!
BY JULIE MCNAMARA
+ THE FIGHT FOR LIFE
BY DAVID HEVEY
Tickets £10 / Concessions £5
Tickets and enquiries:
[www.rcseng.ac.uk/museums/hunterian/
events/special-events](http://www.rcseng.ac.uk/museums/hunterian/events/special-events)
or 018001 0207 869 6568

Monday 13 June 5.30pm
Royal College of Physicians,
London
HOLD THE HEARSE!
BY JULIE MCNAMARA
+ THE FIGHT FOR LIFE
BY DAVID HEVEY
Tickets £10 / Concessions £5
Tickets and enquiries:
www.rcplondon.ac.uk/exceptional
or 0203 075 1543

Tuesday 14 June 7.30pm
Thackray Medical Museum,
Leeds
LET US TELL YOU A STORY...
BY DEAF MEN DANCING
Tickets: £8 / Concessions £5
(includes 12 month museum pass)
Tickets and enquiries:
www.thackraymedicalmuseum.co.uk/what-s-on/
or 0113 244 4343

Wednesday 15 June 5pm
Surgeons' Hall Museums,
Royal College of Surgeons
of Edinburgh, Edinburgh
THE FIGHT FOR LIFE
BY DAVID HEVEY
+ LET US TELL YOU A STORY...
BY DEAF MEN DANCING
This event is free but please book a ticket
Tickets and enquiries:
[https://exceptionalandextraordinary.
eventbrite.co.uk](https://exceptionalandextraordinary.eventbrite.co.uk)

Friday 17 June 5.30pm
Bethlem Museum of the Mind,
Bethlem Royal Hospital,
Beckenham, London
HOLD THE HEARSE!
BY JULIE MCNAMARA
Tickets £5 / Concessions £3
Tickets and enquiries:
[http://museumofthemind.org.uk/whats-on/
event-info/exceptional-and-extraordinary](http://museumofthemind.org.uk/whats-on/event-info/exceptional-and-extraordinary)

Saturday 18 June 8pm
Thackray Medical Museum, Leeds
FRANCESCA MARTINEZ'S
WOBBLY MANIFESTO
Tickets: £8 / Concessions £5
(includes 12 month museum pass)
Tickets and enquiries:
www.thackraymedicalmuseum.co.uk/what-s-on/
or 0113 244 4343

Monday 20 June 5.30pm
Royal College of Physicians,
London
FRANCESCA MARTINEZ'S
WOBBLY MANIFESTO
+ LET US TELL YOU A STORY...
BY DEAF MEN DANCING
Tickets £10 / Concessions £5
Tickets and enquiries:
www.rcplondon.ac.uk/exceptional
or 0203 075 1543

Tuesday 21 June 7.30pm
Thackray Medical Museum, Leeds
HOLD THE HEARSE!
BY JULIE MCNAMARA
+ THE FIGHT FOR LIFE
BY DAVID HEVEY
Tickets: £8 / Concessions £5
(includes 12 month museum pass)
Tickets and enquiries:
www.thackraymedicalmuseum.co.uk/what-s-on/
or 0113 244 4343

Wednesday 22 June 6.30pm
Hunterian Museum,
Royal College of Surgeons
of England, London
FRANCESCA MARTINEZ'S
WOBBLY MANIFESTO
+ LET US TELL YOU A STORY...
BY DEAF MEN DANCING
Tickets £10 / Concessions £5
Tickets and enquiries :
[www.rcseng.ac.uk/museums/hunterian/events/
special-events](http://www.rcseng.ac.uk/museums/hunterian/events/special-events)
or 018001 0207 869 6568

Thursday 23 June 3 - 4.30pm
The Royal London Hospital Museum,
London
THE FIGHT FOR LIFE
BY DAVID HEVEY
By invitation only

Wednesday 29 June 6.45 - 10pm
Part of the Museum's
Lates programme
Science Museum, London
FRANCESCA MARTINEZ'S
WOBBLY MANIFESTO
+ LET US TELL YOU A STORY...
BY DEAF MEN DANCING
This event is free
No advance booking needed

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RCMG
Research Centre for
Museums and Galleries



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

S H A P E
A R T S
breaking barriers for 40 years

BETHLEM
MUSEUM OF THE MIND

SURGEONS' HALL
MUSEUMS

Royal College
of Physicians

LANGDON DOWN
MUSEUM OF
LEARNING
DISABILITY

Thackray
Medical Museum

Hunterian
Museum
at the
Royal College of Surgeons

SCIENCE
MUSEUM

Barts and The London
School of Medicine and Dentistry

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