



MIDDLE CHILD 2017 PROJECT

An anarchic, theatrical Epic for a nightclub about the shame of being born a Millennial, the shame of daring to dream and the shame not fulfilling those dreams.

This is the story of our failure to become special. This is the story that defines the millennial experience. For millennials, by millennials

Our Objectives:

To reconnect people.

To make people meet new people.

To make people want to come again.

To present theatre as an option.

To better understand ourselves in this historical context.

TO HAVE A GOOD FUCKING TIME.



THE EPIC

What if you tell me to be anything I want? What if the thing I want to be is the thing society doesn't want me to be or allow to me to be?

This is an Epic about us; born somewhere in between the mid 80s and the early two thousands, the generation that was promised a dream of social mobility, security and the freedom to do what ever we wanted. We graduated into adulthood during an economic crash and the rule of a Conservative Austerity government. Our dreams were not fulfilled because there were no jobs within the realms of our ambition, no money to be had in our circles of interest and what ever opportunity there was was surrounded by gates that only the privileged could access. The men in crisp white shirts that told us we could do anything we want offered us nothing and as a result we were left feeling like we underachieved, despondent and without a concept of satisfaction with "enough". This is a story about this generation. This is about the life we dreamed of, the life we ended up with and the way we live in a gap between the two - searching to become as special as they told us we were when we were kids.

This is us shouting. This is us telling everyone like us that they're not alone. Telling everyone else that we too feel at the same time angry and dead on the inside.

WHAT

We are going to turn The Welly into a theatre space. One that still embodies all that is a night club, still has a party in it, where everyone still might get laid but is, first and foremost, a platform for an event to tell this epic of our generation.

The event will be first and foremost an epic story hosted by an M.C and told with urban poetry monologues, songs and straight scenes. It'll be supported with live music, spectacle (things that actually amaze with beauty and magic), original music, movement (some scenes will be entirely visual), and dancing (from the performers and occasionally from the audience). It will also have audience interaction.... The audience will be made to do things, dress up, have a voice and the performers will have actual real conversations with them.

It will be structured in "songs" and will have time in-between them for the M.C to set up/ talk to people.

Each Act will be 30 minutes long with a 15 minute break in between them followed by a party. Dinner will be served in between the second and third acts.

It will not feel like a "play" in the sense that plays exist in the sub-conscious of the Millennial - it will be alive, fun, relevant, cheap, do spectacular things, have music, have some time to chat and drink, be a Good Night Out and there will be an after party every night.

The Bar is open. The audience are allowed to go to it whenever. The Audience aren't sitting down they're fluid. There are no seats. They can go anywhere. This is true. Live. Present. Epic. Communion between actors, musicians and audience.

This is the story of the Millennial told in the Millennial way - By remembering truth then dancing to forget it.

It is also a collaboration with popular local music night The Sesh, with a different band headlining each night.

THE NARRATIVE OF THE EPIC

Each act takes place in The Welly on the most pivotal Birthdays of both of our Millennial protagonists who are born on the same day. And they're here - celebrating. Tonight.

The evening is compered by:

The M.C - The M.C sets the scene at the top of every act. They leads the music and the action. They exist in *real time* actually the date and time of the performance. Actually in The Welly. Actually alive. They're energetic, eloquent and want. to. have. fun. They are Skully from ROAD - type person but with the freedom to be responsive to an audience.... It is undetermined whether they are male or female.

STORY

THE TIME IS JUNE, SUMMER. ALWAYS.

THE M.C

It starts with a countdown to the end of the world.

Introduces what's going on. The show. Who he is. Who the company are. He says:

"There are no rules tonight. For the next few hours you can be who you like. This is a free space where everyone loves each other. In fact - look at a stranger, make eye contact right now and tell them you love them. Give them a hug. That's the vibe of the evening. You can go the bar. Go for a piss. What ever. But we might call you on it if you do. We might ask you to do stuff but don't worry it's not scary. There will be pyrotechnics. There will be some dancing. There will be some talking to strangers. There won't be anything embarrassing done to you. This is about fun. Tonight. I am the soul of the mother fucking party. And these are the X".

The Band Play First Act

2012 (Aged 19/20)

The M.C

Sets time, space and introduces our heroes.

He endows the audience as the other characters in the club. Making them dress up in fancy dress.

He tells the audience that the two main characters are going to die tonight.

The Asteroid's Song

A depressed Asteroid cannot control his direction. He has no power over his own life so he lets himself ride it through space. Waiting and begging to smash into something so the pain can end.

The Girl

The Girl was by far the most intelligent person in her class in school. She knows she is because she can talk anyone down out of anything and prove them wrong. She has off David Gairn when he tried to tell her what a slag is; so that proves her idea of critical thinking. The only problem was that it didn't translate into academia - *because she wasn't nurtured in the right way, no books at home, parents working irregular hours, no extra curricular activities, erratic inherited work ethic etc....* This is the cause of great frustration with her. She's curious but is shite at exams so she crashes out of the system. As a result, at this point in time, she works in Build A Bear.

Tonight it's her birthday and it's the night and she's pissed and The Head Girl From School is there. She's nervous that she's not attractive and The Head Girl From School is everything she is not - she's hot and she's gone to Newcastle Uni. And it winds. Her. Up. So The Girl smashes a chair over the back of The Head Girl From School's head. And the world implodes with violence. (*Movement Sequence*).

She hates that the world didn't support her to utilise her potential so she promises to herself that she is going work SO HARD whilst all the cunts like The Head Girl From School go to uni so that she can be happy. Work hard so her children can have a secure environment and LEAVE. Her children won't have to put up with the shit that she did.

The Boy

The Boy is perfect. He's the best looking man in the world. He's clever. He's sound. He's athletic. This translated into good exam grades, high social status and a confidence with women and social peers.

He had a trial for Hull City and was in the academy. He left when he was 16 of his own accord (so he said but he really just probably wasn't good enough) he wanted to go to university and do something important. He didn't want to be the guy who "used to be a footballer" in Hull; living with his mum. He wants to work hard, go to uni and reap the towards - the millennial dream.

After the summer he's heading to Manchester to do law. Everyone loves him but he's bored of Hull. He's bored of his hometown. His small life. He doesn't want to come back. He wants to go to manchester, learn, shag loads and be the free, middle class, socially mobile young man he's destined to be. This is his last birthday in The Welly. And to celebrate he's breaking up with his life long girlfriend The W.A.G (the girl who's life ambition at this point is to marry a footballer) whilst telling her all this. She tells him he hasn't earned being a good looking white guy - he hasn't actually done anything. He's far too arrogant to care.

The M.C Introduces the next band and tells reminds the audience they're free to mill about, buy drinks, go for a piss... what ever.

The Band Play Act 2

2017 (Aged 24/25)

The M.C

Tells the story of how the towns changed. What politics has happened. What's happened to some of the characters (remember the ones that the audience are dressed up as). He tells them what's going to happen in this act.

He also arms the audience with foam... For reasons that will become apparent in a minute.

The Asteroid's Song

The Asteroid realises he's headed directly for the Sun and he's going to burn. He starts to try and enjoy the journey he's on. He finds the beauty in space. Maybe he should start to find the beauty in things.

The act opens with a MASS BRAWL (the M.C gets the audience to twat each other with foam bricks/ sticks/ chairs) a race war.

The Girl

We rejoin the girl and she's not quite managed it. She's not LEFT but she has managed to find a way to exist in this world she doesn't hate. She tried to make some money by getting more jobs, she added cleaner and bar lady to her CV and, after twatting a pervy cunt, found an outlet as a security worker in Tesco and eventually then a bouncer - she gets the respect for being the mental bouncer that men are scared of. She feels special because no one will fight her but sometimes she wonders what would have happened if she'd be able to turn her intelligence into qualifications/ money. She's the hardest person in the town. She's famous (In Hull). She having a hard time finding love.

We open with her dealing with a race scrap in the middle of the club. Some Skinheads twatting some Polish people in the light of Brexit.

She finds herself one on one with a Pole she went to school with in the back room detaining them until the police come. She's proud that most women would feel threatened, or be scared of being raped, in a situation like this but she can handle herself.

The Pole From School asks her if she doesn't want to settle down and have a family - no one will want to fuck her if she's a bouncer and besides bouncers don't ADD anything to anyone they're just angry cunts who don't have anything else to offer than the ability to spend time in a gym. Being the hardest person in Hull is a school boys dream not a girls. The Pole From School thinks she doesn't have a purpose.

The Pole From School thinks she's jealous of the other girls in the club. They think The Girl would have been that if she could - a beautiful girl looking for men. Maybe going to Uni. Maybe doing something else. Maybe being a mum. Who knows.

The Girl rants about how she's fed up with the agenda of materialism and how the machine is making people like the girls in the club stop thinking and feeling and just becoming lost in a cycle of work and marriage and children and doing nothing that they enjoy (like she is).

The Pole From School replies that actually the epitome of doing nothing useful is proving your hard in Hull to make yourself feel special. The Girl says she's happy so it doesn't matter. The Pole From School responds with:

"but you're not are ya because you know what you could have had if things had been different. If you could have used how clever you were, how funny you were you could have done anything but you're not. You're just a girl that's growing older, who doesn't give a fuck and one day will be too old to do what you do. And then what? You'll be nothing but another fucking ghost of unfulfilled potential wishing you were like the rest of these girls".

... Fuck. Maybe they're right.

The girl unpicks her whole life. She's not happy. She tries to justify to herself that she is but she's not. She could have had so much more if school had gone her way. She see's everyone else in the club and they're all beautiful and now she's old. Maybe her chance to fulfil her potential is gone? Maybe it's time she learnt to do something. Maybe life isn't about being special and selfish it's about contributing? She's never been happy or sad she's just been and in a way that's worse. She's just a girl who used to be clever and used to be hard being a bit of a cunt to make herself feel special. She has no actual function that's good to anyone and she hasn't fulfilled her potential. What's the point in her? She's just a shit version of what could have been.

Maybe her life needs to change.

The Boy

The Boy is back. His time in Manchester was not a success. When he got there he found that people were better at sports, better looking, cleverer and that the women wouldn't let him just shag them. He found out he was ordinary. Got depressed. Got a 2:2 couldn't get a job and returned to Hull.

It's his 25th Birthday. He's overweight now, he's older, he's less attractive, he's faded - he doesn't have the body that society tells him he needs to be attractive. He has no chance of ever being a footballer, being a lawyer or excelling academically. He has nothing and he has to face the friends he shunned for his guaranteed future. His friends are more boring than he remembers, they've got jobs. They forgive him. They understand. But the one person that won't.... Is The W.A.G. The W.A.G wants nothing to do with him. She's married a plumber and is very happy.

Desperate, alone, and panicking that he is losing his purpose in life he desperately wants to find it in a family so The Boy decides to try and seduce a new woman. But all he has to offer was the story of him nearly being a footballer. It's pathetic and sad. She has no interest and Boy is alone with the shame of not being good enough for someone. The shame of not being good enough for yourself. Further away from his dreams than ever. He doesn't want to be here but he's so scared of missing out he feels he has to be or he

doesn't really live. He's scared but of course he couldn't tell any of his boys - that's not what boys do.

The M.C, before introducing the break, makes everyone shout out of the name of someone they've lost contact with but miss. He gets one person to tell him the story. Then he gets them to call them live. After he makes the audience text someone they miss whilst he introduces the band and food.

The M.C Introduces the final part of the band and serves the food.

The Band Play Act 3

2022

Act Three (29/30)

The M.C

Tells the story of how the towns changed. What politics has happened. What's happened to some of the characters.

The Asteroid's Song

The Asteroid can see he's going to collide with earth. He hopes it's an uninhabited planet. But as he gets closer and closer he see's life. And love. And hope. And birds. And flowers. And Rivers. And Lovers. And Music. And LIFE. He see's beauty. HE WANTS TO LIVE.

Boy and Girl

The Last Ever Birthday Party but they don't know yet

They meet for the first time. They're both feeling like their past it. Both looks fading. Both feeling like they have very little to offer the world. Both still single.

The Girl took The Poles abuse to heart. Maybe she was right and her life didn't have a purpose; that if she's not careful she'll just be bitter about what she never had. She's a social worker now. She couldn't go on just battering people, she wanted to contribute. She realise she needed a purpose in her life that was long term. She likes her job. She's Happy. She's *doing* but it still bothers her that she didn't fulfil her potential. The boy thinks it's amazing she's doing something that actually DOES something but she can't see it. She's too blinded by the dreams she never lived; the dream of doing something with the gift she had but it was never going to happen being born where she was. No one knows who she is anymore. She's just an ordinary 30 year old women.

The Boy's still searching for something to make him special and whilst he's searching he's working in a mobile phone shop - he had to find a job to please his parents.

They're drawn to each other. The humiliation of moving quickly along the process of dying has led them to feel no shame in in approaching another sad stranger at a bar. They don't tell each other their names. They both have such crippling insecurities that they won't let the other in. They play games with each other keeping their guard up because deep down they believe they're under achievers (even if they're not), they believe they don't look like ideals, they believe that because they couldn't live their dreams no one will ever find them

attractive. They think they haven't contributed to the world or the generation below them because they're lived selfishly. The shame cripples them... The unfulfilled potential and road they didn't walk down terrify them. So they get smashed. And their hearts drunkenly pour out: they tell each other they missed the point of life. They were too driven by the need to be seen as important or special or successful (or too disparaged by lack of it) that they forgot to be present. And it was drilled into them from an early age that it wasn't about being present it was about getting stuff - about obtaining happiness. Never about living.

And for a second - the world makes sense.

And then, before they can even exchange names, before they even have the chance to fall in love, the Asteroid (whilst singing the last few chorus's of it's song whilst they audience clap and sings along) smashes into the night club. And the party starts.

The M.C, puts a horses head on their head, strips naked, jumps into the party and does the Harlam Shake. They lead the party. The music plays into the night. Hull falls in love.

The M.C gets the audience to set off fireworks as the asteroid hits hits the earth. He gets them to dance with strangers. Balloons fall from the ceiling. The M.C tells them to GO MENTAL AND JUMP AROUND as the room fills with light. The world ends.

The Club Night Starts

EXTRA CHARACTERS

Celebrating with our protagonists throughout the night are all the folk of Hull. Along side our heroes stories we follow the story of:

The Ranger - A boy who goes out every weekend looking for someone to stay in with. We follow him from sex obsessed 19 year old to looking for a partner 24 year old to got a partner and thinks he's too good to go out 29 year old.

The Party Girl - A girl who the boys love at 19, who has to be "mad" to impress the boys at 24 and at 29 has children with a man she thought was the dream but is actually a waste man.

The Girl Behind The Bar - A girl who got a job to help keep going whilst she works out what he wants to do at 19, at 24 she's still doing it because it just became her routine despite the promise of going to Australia and at 29 now the world is ending she never made it to Australia.

The Cocky Lad - A boy who is mouthy at 19, at 24 his mouthiness has become his personality and he has to fuel it with coke and at 29 he can't do anything without cocaine/ drink or MDMA.

The Nerd - A girl who comes out because she's a family friend of The Girl. At 19 she's introvert who loves comics, at 24 she's become beautiful and is beyond the men in this place and at 29 she's a fitness freak.

The Ice Cream Boy - The boy who nearly became sound in high school but had to work in his dad's ice cream van at 19, at 24 he runs 2 of the vans and at 29 he's fucked off all the vans and going to live in France.

The Postman - He is/ was/ always will be just the postman.

The Guilty Middle Class Girl - A girl who had rich parents and wanted to be an actress. At 19 she goes to drama school, at 24 she funds her own play and stars in it and at 29 she has a small part at the RSC because of some friends of her parents.

The Policeman - At 19 he got bullied in school and that's who he is now; he's accepted his role. At 24 he joins the C.P.O and gets the piss taken out of him by a group of kids so he decides to take control and get ripped. At 29 he's a body builder policeman that can't connect with his family because he's obsessed with his working out.

The Local Musician - A boy who had poor parents and wanted to be a musician he had to work a job before and after schools to buy instruments and lessons. At 19 He got a job to fund his writing because he's too tired from working hard, at 24 he's saved up got recorded and album professionally in a studio. It bombs and at 29 he's given up and is teaching kids thinking they're going to fail like he did but hoping they won't.

The Girl Who Knows The Names Of All The Cats In The Thornton Estate - At 19 she's a novelty. At 24 it's a bit weird she's still doing it. At 29 it's really sad.

SUMMARY

This is a highly theatrical epic about us as a generation. It's a night out, a social event, a spectacle. But most of us all it's just saying this is how we feel as a generation. Lets all get to together, talk about it, then try and forget about it and be present... and meet each other.

REFERENCES

Our Town - Thornton Wilder

A Little Bit Of Luck - Sabrina Mahfouz

Love Love Love - Mike Bartlett

This Is England - Shane Meadows

Richard III - William Shakespeare (The Thomas Ostermeier version)