


**EDINBURGH
INTERNATIONAL
FESTIVAL**

Purposeless Movements

—
**Birds of Paradise
Theatre Company**

19, 21, 24 August 8pm
20, 23 August 3pm
22 August 12 noon

THE STUDIO

The performance lasts
approximately 1 hour 15
minutes with no interval

Part of **You Are Here**

Please ensure that all mobile phones and electronic
devices are switched off, or put on silent.

Purposeless Movements

Birds of Paradise Theatre Company

Writer & Director	Robert Softley Gale
Associate and Movement Director	Rachel Drazek
Composer / Musician	Scott Twynholm
Performer	Colin Young
Performer	Laurence Clark
Performer	Pete Edwards
Performer	Phillip Ryan
Performer / Integrated	Amy Cheskin
BSL interpreter	
Musician	Jill O'Sullivan
Creative Enabler to Pete Edwards	Nick Williams
Audio Description	Chris McKiddie
Dramaturg	Luke Pell
Vocal Coach	Alex Gillon
Lighting Designer	Neil Foullis
Production Manager	Chris Holmes
Technical Manager	John Wilkie
Technician	Amir Sherhan
Movement Artist	Nicole Meehan

Birds of Paradise Theatre Company

Artistic Director	Robert Softley Gale
Executive Producer	Mairi Taylor
Producer	Michelle Rolfe
Engagement & Office Manager	Callum Madge
Development Officer	
- BOP Young Artists	Morna McGeoch

Forewords

There are a few unwritten rules that come with being a disabled artist. One of them used to be that you couldn't focus too much on your own impairment. However, a few years ago I was in a room with a group of people who all had cerebral palsy – there was a connection between us all that I put down to having some shared experiences. The inappropriate jokes and comradery brought about some incredible moments, and in creating *Purposeless Movements* we set out to share that sense of who we are with a wider audience; to see if that joy came from similar experiences; of navigating the world as men with cerebral palsy; or just from being men in the world.

When we first performed *Purposeless Movements* in 2016 we had no sense of how it would be received – we always aim to make work that both challenges as well as entertains but, having never worked in movement before, I was entering new territory with this show. In finding my co-creator Rachel Drazek as well as the rest of our creative team I struck gold – the performers that you are watching today have all been fantastic to work with because of their absolute willingness to take risks and I'm enormously grateful to them for trusting me.

© **Robert Softley Gale, 2019**

Robert Softley Gale is Artistic Director of Birds of Paradise Theatre Company.

Working on *Purposeless Movements*, I have come to share time and space with an incredible ensemble. We searched with curious hearts, minds and bodies for what felt activating, detailed & honest; for what felt Purposeful. Robert's invitation to me, to find the moving stories of the piece, was a game changer – my practice has been forever altered by this process and our combined rigour is now my norm. The stories you're offered here belong to those who share them – my job has been to offer some lenses through which to see them. The full team, of course, encompasses many people – thanks to all for showing up so fully and so often.

© **Rachel Drazek, 2019**

Rachel Drazek is Associate and Movement Director for *Purposeless Movements*.

About Birds of Paradise

Birds of Paradise's vision is of a culture where disabled people are recognised for the excellence of their work, celebrated for the stories they bring to the stage and are a vital part of our artistic landscape. BOP makes theatre that challenges attitudes, provokes new creative approaches and embeds creative access within our productions to reach a broad audience across Scotland and the rest of the world.

BOP also provides strategic support to other organisations through Disability Equality Training, bespoke development projects and through our Youth Arts Consultants. At the start of 2019 we launched BOP Young Artists to create development opportunities for the next generation of disabled artists.

For the latest information on all our productions, projects and training services or to donate to support our work, visit us online at boptheatre.co.uk or follow us on:

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