



I really enjoy the imagination involved in working with and creating work for children, using different textures in the props and being able to encourage lots of interactivity within the work. Humpty Dumpty feels special as it is a work that is flexible to work across venues, particularly



libraries, and takes young children on an imaginative journey encouraging movement and literacy.

Inspiring people no. 3: Rosie Heafford, choreographer

I am a choreographer and project manager working in London and the South East specialising in creating original dance-work to be seen at close range in non-theatre spaces. Through my company, *Second Hand Dance*, I have created interactive dance-experiences in libraries, galleries, shops, outdoors and theatre venues. Stemming from an interest in participation within a performance, I work across three interweaving strands of choreography: interdisciplinary development with artists, intergenerational dance performances and location-specific work.

I am currently working on *Humpty Dumpty: A Wibbly Wobbly World of Words*, a collaboration with visual artist Claire Reed. *Humpty Dumpty* is an immersive dance, visual arts and music performance for children aged 4-7 and their families, taking them on a journey through a magical landscape of words and movement. Part dance performance, part workshop, audiences join the search for Humpty Dumpty guided by two dancers, following the paper soldier clues, exploring a magical set, watching and making up their own dances as they go. The performance integrates itself into each venue space by travelling through and around bookshelves, trees, shops or corridors.

Since leaving education I have always been interested in inter-generational and family based work. I was then given the opportunity from South East Dance to be an apprentice on the *Open Sesame* project in 2011. This enabled me to encounter many different practices in working with children and stirred my interest in choreographing and making work especially for them. In 2012 with *Big Dance* in Surrey Libraries I was given the opportunity to take my first step and collaborate with Claire Reed. It was a huge learning curve and an amazing experience. I have just received a grant from Arts Council England to develop and tour this work throughout London and the South of England and I'm looking forward to taking on the next challenge!

Do you have a favourite ballet?

As a little girl it was definitely *The Nutcracker*.

What's your favourite Children's book?

Giraffe's Can't Dance!

Rosie Heafford was interviewed for ACA by Vicky Ireland