



## Public Interventions

Over the past five years, alongside more formal theatre performances, Rajni Shah Projects has been researching how we might create spaces for genuine conversations with passers-by in public spaces. This work has evolved to become a core part of the company's practice, and has been found to engage a wide range of audiences, frequently those who are not attending theatres or arts venues. We call this work our public intervention work.

In each *Glorious* location, we will design a public intervention which will take place at least four times in the months leading up to the show, as a way of meeting people who might perform alongside us in the show, but who would not necessarily have the confidence to respond to a call for participants.

Here are a few examples of previous public interventions by the company:

### **Letters from The Meadows**

Bridgeway Sandwich Bar and Meadows Library, Nottingham (2011)

We invited passers-by to have a cup of tea and write a letter or postcard about living in The Meadows area of Nottingham. They then sealed their letter in an envelope, and wrote their name and address on another sealed envelope. We posted all the letters at the end of the day - a few days later, each person received a letter through their door from someone else in the area.

We performed with three of the people we met through this intervention in our preview production of *Glorious* in February 2011.

"The day my letter arrived was one that was rainy, grey and cold. I didn't arrive home till mid evening, amongst the junk mail and usual bills were two envelopes, one green and the other gold yellow. I wondered what this was then I remembered 'letters to a stranger' wow I was excited. The letters were very encouraging and entertaining. They made me glad."

### **give what you can, take what you need**

Eldon Square, Newcastle (2009) - St Nicholas Arcades, Lancaster (2008) - Piccadilly Gardens, Manchester (2008)

Passers-by were given £1 as inspiration to buy, make or find something and bring it back to a large dining table where they met other people and shared all the gifts

"Piccadilly square on a bustling Saturday morphed into a dinner table, a debating room, a ping-pong contest and much besides. It was wonderful to have the excuse to talk to complete strangers, to bring something, take something else, and to reflect on what makes a conversation - or a community - gel or fall apart. This was an unforgettable experience."

### **small gifts: lancaster**

Marketgate, Lancaster (2007)

Shoppers were invited to have a cup of tea with Rajni and talk about Lancaster - each person then received a small box with £1 and the instruction that it be used 'for a treat, a wish, or a gift'

