imitating the dog

company biography

› overview

ITD is a performance company whose signature style fuses live performance with digital technology. We also make large-scale outdoor-video mapped installations, but always with a focus on telling a story. ITD is recognised for our originality, our exploration of screen and projection technologies in live performance, accessible site-responsive work and collaborations with artists and organisations.

The company was formed in 1998 by Alice Booth, Seth Honnor, Andrew Quick, Richard Malcolm and Simon Wainwright. Today the core creative team are the two co-artistic directors Andrew Quick and Simon Wainwright. Pete Brooks, who has been working with the company since 2005, is Associate Artistic Director. They regularly work with a number of key Associate Practitioners, details of whom can be found on 'the team' page of our website.

› stages of development

1998 - 2003 – Finding the Form: ITD formed in 1998 after our founders graduated from Lancaster University's Theatre Studies programme. Our first touring show, *Einmal Ist Keinmal* was our graduation piece that was selected for The National Student Drama Festival, where it received the award for best devised theatre piece. The group that made up the company at that time went on to make three more theatre works: *Ark*, *Guilty Pleasures* and *Five Miles and Falling*. Across these pieces we began to develop our fusion of stage and cinematic storytelling.

2004 - 2011 – Expanding the Vocabulary: ITD started collaborating with Pete Brooks, who was the director of Impact Theatre Company in the late 1970s to 1985 and later in the 1990s, Insomniac Theatre. We started developing *Hotel Methuselah*, which premiered in 2005 and went on to tour over 16 countries. During this period we started to receive project funding from Arts Council England on a regular basis and made five shows that utilised live cameras and/or digital projection in the work. These pieces included *Kellerman*, *The Zero Hour*, *Six Degrees Below the Horizon*.

2012 - 2017 – The Great War to the Great Outdoors: In 2014 ITD embarked on its first adaptation of a literary work and toured *A Farewell to Arms* as part of the centenary commemorations of the outbreak of World War One. This was also our first tour in mid-scale theatre venues. 2012 was also a significant year for us as it marked our first outdoor projection mapping piece. We have since created numerous outdoor projection mapped shows, including *All Change*, *Otherham*, *100 Stories High*, *Dear Einstein...* and *Leap*.

2018 - Present – Adapting the Canon: In 2018 ITD became an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation, receiving guaranteed funding over a number of years. During this period we toured a number of adaptations of literary or cinematic classics: *Heart of Darkness*, *Night of the Living Dead*, *Dracula*, *Macbeth*, *Frankenstein* and *War of the Worlds*.

› timeline of productions

Most of these productions have a page on our website, many with trailers and Watch at Home versions: Our Work | imitating the dog.

2026

Homeward
(2026)

Projection mapping across the exterior and an immersive installation trail inside Selby Abbey, for Selby Light festival, drawing on stories gathered from local residents about how they came to call Selby home.



War of the Worlds (2026)

2025

War of the Worlds
(2026)

ITD's retelling of H.G. Wells's novel, in which four performers construct an epic road movie using miniature environments, model worlds, and live cinema.

All Blood Runs Red
(2025)

The true life of Eugene Bullard, one of the first Black fighter pilots in World War One, traced by a single performer across the 20th century.

Dear Joan...
(2025)

Outdoor video-mapping installation for Light Up Lancaster in which C.S. Lewis, penning a letter, receives an unexpected visitor. The second in a trilogy of ITD works inspired by letters and correspondence, following *Dear Einstein...* (2023).

Otherham
(2025)

Trail of large-scale digital installations for Rotherham's Winter Light Festival alongside Children's Capital of Culture, created from stories written by young people at Grimm & Co.

All Change
(2025)

Outdoor performance for the S&DR200 Festival marking the 200th anniversary of the steam train, with movement directors Rocky Norton and Katie Pearson and SKYMAGIC drones.

2024

Frankenstein
(2024)

Multimedia adaptation of Mary Shelley's Gothic novel with all parts played by two performers, co-produced with Leeds Playhouse.

Ribble of Dreams
(2024)

Digital trail of story boxes across Preston city centre, commissioned by Encounter Festival.

2023

The City Off the Map
(2023)

Digital video installation drawing on recorded interviews with residents of Cali, Colombia, commissioned by The GREAT Project.



Macbeth (2023)

Macbeth
(2023)

Shakespeare's play retold as a neon noir thriller, combining the original language with new scenes and live cinema staging.

Follow Me Into
(2023)

Video-mapping installation commissioned by the City of London for Bartholomew Fair, projected across several historic buildings and sites.

Dear Einstein...
(2023)

Outdoor projection installation for Light Up Lancaster, with an original score by James Hamilton performed by a live community choir.

2022



Night of the Living Dead™ – Remix (2020)

Cinema Inferno (2022)

Show created for Maison Margiela's Artisanal Collection 2022, based on an original concept by John Galliano, presented on the official Paris Haute Couture calendar.

Take Me To The River (2022)

Outdoor installation drawing on local stories and archive footage, created for the Under the Stars Festival in Newcastle.

100 Stories High (2022)

Outdoor projection installation for Lightpool, Blackpool and Light Up Lancaster, with original music by James Hamilton and a live community choir.

Seeing in the Dark (2022)

Touring immersive installation developed from a cinema memory and digital archive research project at Lancaster University.

2021

Dracula On Demand (2021)

An on-demand version of *Dracula: The Untold Story*, filmed by Sodium Films.



Dracula: The Untold Story (2021)

Dracula: The Untold Story (2021)

A live graphic novel adaptation co-produced with Leeds Playhouse. UK Theatre Award winner, Best Design.

Street (2021)

Participatory online project made with the Brewery Arts Centre, Kendal.

Lilliput (2021)

Outdoor installation for Worcester Light Night, built from interviews with local children.

2020

Night of the Living Dead™ – Remix (2020)

George A. Romero's 1968 zombie film recreated shot-for-shot on stage by seven performers assembling cameras, props, and costumes in full view of the audience – 1,076 camera edits in 95 minutes – co-produced with Leeds Playhouse.

Airlock (2020)

Live-action graphic novel in three episodes, commissioned as part of the BBC Arts/Arts Council England Culture in Quarantine programme.

Dr Blood's Old Travelling Show (2020)

Outdoor show co-produced with Leeds Playhouse, in which three figures transform a truck into a theatre and spin a dark tale drawing on horror and carnival



Dr Blood's Old Travelling Show (2020)

2018

Oh! The Night (2018)

Outdoor work combining bedtime stories from across northern Europe into a new fable, with a community choir and a score by Finnish artist Lau Nau. Commissioned by Absolutely Cultured, Hull.

Heart of Darkness (2018)

Adaptation of Conrad's novel told across hanging projection screens as an animated CinemaScope graphic novel, re-sited in a timeless Europe.

2017

House Down (2018)

Projection mapped video and live performance piece created with hip-hop artist Testament for Light Up Lancaster, using children's drawings to explore the idea of home.

Yorkshire Electric (2018)

Installation created with lighting designer Phil Supple for Scarborough's Spa Theatre, taking audiences through a century of Yorkshire life using footage from the Yorkshire Film Archive.



Yorkshire Electric (2018)

2019

Lancashire Electric (2019)

Immersive gallery installation at The Storey, Lancaster, combining sound, light, and video-mapped projections drawn from a century of archive footage of life in Lancashire, co-produced with The Dukes.

Leap (2019, 2021, 2024)

Recurring outdoor installation, first commissioned by Lakes Alive for Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal; subsequently presented at Light Up Wakefield and twice at Light Up Lancaster.



Leap (2019)

Trespass (2017)

Outdoor video mapping piece telling the story of a boy who wanders a sleeping town in search of colour and life, with a score by James Hamilton performed by a community choir.

Nocturnes (2017)

Cold War spy thriller in which three performers provide the live voice and soundtrack to a pre-filmed 1950s noir projected above them, until the two gradually come apart. Toured UK and internationally including Edinburgh Festival (British Council Showcase), Hong Kong, and Indonesia.

Made in Hull: Arrivals & Departures (2017)

Large-scale projection mapping work for the opening of Hull City of Culture 2017, drawing on archival research into Hull's history of migration.

Storm from Paradise (2017)

ITD staged Claire MacDonald's play in an Italian translation for Teatro delle Muse in Ancona, placing the audience on a revolve inside a set by Laura Hopkins, with Simon Wainwright's video playing simultaneously across all four walls.

Hanuman: The Superhero Monkey (2017)

Co-production with Singapore Repertory Theatre retelling the story of the Hindu deity Hanuman for children and adults, combining live performance with digital animation and projection.

2016

Tosca
(2016)

ITD's first classical opera production, staged for Teatro delle Muse in Ancona with a company of over 100 performers – the largest project the company had undertaken at that point.

2014

A Farewell to Arms
(2014)

The first UK stage adaptation of Hemingway's First World War novel, told through live performance, video projection, and original music.



A Farewell to Arms (2014)

Rey Lear
(2013)

Following The Caretaker, Pete Brooks returned to Matucana 100 in Santiago to direct a Spanish-language production of King Lear.

2013

Bang!
(2012)

ITD's first public projection mapping commission, for the Music Room in Lancaster's Sun Square and the beginning of a long relationship with Light Up Lancaster.

Breaking Light
(2014)

Video mapping and live action on the walls of Lancaster Castle for Light Up Lancaster, featuring performers interacting with large-scale projection.

Sea Breeze
(2014)

Site-responsive work made for the interior of Morecambe's Winter Gardens Theatre with Raisin and Willow, drawing on research and stories gathered from its past workers, using soundscape, voices, and architectural projection.

The Train
(2016)

Immersive work for an audience of twelve in a moving auditorium, following a woman on a dangerous assignment through a world that exists entirely as a train.

2012

The Zero Hour
(2012)

Three couples living through three parallel versions of the final moments of WWII in Berlin, filmed and projected by an on-stage crew.

2011

6 Degrees Below the Horizon (2012)

Part French film, part Edwardian vaudeville, in which the audience views the action through windows and moving frames.

The Caretaker
(2011)

Pete Brooks directed the Chilean premiere of Harold Pinter's The Caretaker at Matucana 100 in Santiago.

2009

Kellerman
(2009)

A man haunted by traumatic events is drawn into hypnosis, staged with a two-storey revolving set and flying harnesses. Our first show using the language of the graphic novel.



Kellerman (2009)

Ark
(1999)

A lone figure on a raked stage littered with tin cans filters precious liquid from each vessel until a storm arrives.

Guilty Pleasures
(2000)

Two worlds in collision: a 1930s drawing room drama where convention and good manners prevail, and a dingy bathroom where they definitely don't.

Five Miles and Falling
(2005)

Immersive installation work in which the audience enters what appears to be a lift, with scenes glimpsed through the windows giving the impression of violent downward motion.

Hotel Methuselah
(2006)

A ghost story set in a war-zone hotel, in which a night porter with no memory of his past is haunted by figures from his former life. The production toured the UK and Europe and was published by Methuen.

1999 **2000** **2005** **2006**



Einmal Ist Keinmal (1998)

1998

Einmal Ist Keinmal
(1998)

Five performers exist in an eternal cycle, enclosed in a dressing room with only one functional exit: a stage door leading to a theatre they never quite reach. ITD's debut production.

major educational projects and residencies since 2011

The Heist (2025) — An exploration of the different ways we tell a story, commissioned by and created with Blackpool Grand's Young Company.
Fragments of a Visitor (2020) — An on-line detective story, created with students from Utrecht University, that follows the mysterious death of a Taiwanese woman who is visiting Utrecht during a global pandemic.
New Storytelling (2018) — A five day workshop at the Lintas Media Festival, Indonesia, exploring how media can shape narrative in performance.
Redux – Night of the Living Dead™ (2018) — A ten day workshop in Porta Alegre, Brazil, exploring scenography in relation to the iconic film, 'Night of the Living Dead.'
Psycho (Redux) — Residency at the University of DeMontfort, Leicester, exploring a live staging of Hitchcock's iconic movie.
Staging Film (2016) — Residency at Theatre in the MIll, Bradford, exploring how to create live film on stage.
The Shoot Out (2012) — A ten day residency on new dramaturgies in Rio, Brazil.
Tracking Shot (2011) — An education project developed with students from Central Saint Martins at Inteatro in Polverigi, Italy, in which a terminally-ill actress asks a filmmaker to document the last days of her life.

Published 2026 as part of imitating the dog's learning resources (Section 1: Who We Are). For how the company's making process has developed, see A Story of Devising, Adaptation and Collaboration (Section 1). For further watching, reading and organisations, see Useful Links (Section 1).

Photography of *Kellerman, A Farewell to Arms, Night of the Living Dead™ – Remix, Dr Blood's Old Travelling Show, Dracula: The Untold Story, Macbeth* and *War of the Worlds*: Ed Waring. Photo of Leap: Pete Carr