

Unfolding Theatre in association with LittleMighty present:

## Putting the Band Back Together

### Add your venue & date(s)

**Part riotous gig and part tender storytelling, The Futureheads' Ross Millard leads a live house band in an emotive performance which invites audiences to dust off their old instruments and take to the stage**

After inspiring hundreds of festival-goers to pick up their instruments and join the house band every night at the Edinburgh Fringe, Unfolding Theatre are taking the show back on the road with a national tour of Putting the Band Back Together.

Inspired by theatre-maker and Pancreatic Cancer sufferer Mark Lloyd's wish to "*put his old band back together*", this uplifting show looks at forgotten dreams and lost passions and asks why we stop playing and what makes us start again. Putting the Band Back Together ponders guitars propped up in bedrooms, voices only now heard in the shower and drum kits taking up too much garage space.

Every performance features local ex-players picking their instruments back up to play live alongside the house band. Audiences can join the house band by attending a pre-show workshop, and learning the songs through a series of [online videos](#) with **The Futureheads' Ross Millard**.

Led by Artistic Director, Annie Rigby, Unfolding Theatre has built a reputation for innovative, joyful theatre. The company brings together surprising combinations of people to generate remarkable theatre with a wild sense of humour, strength of character and a delight in bringing people together. Audiences and participants describe positive, sometimes profound, personal impact.

Dave Ridley, who took part in the house band at shows in Sunderland and Edinburgh, said: "*I've now fulfilled one of my life's ambitions and dreams to be on stage in a band.....at the grand old age of 60!! It's been an uplifting experience to have been involved in a great show performed by truly talented people.*"

Putting the Band Back Together was developed after the company began running music nights in Sunderland (supported by The Cultural Spring), inviting people to pick their instruments back up and tell their stories. The ex-players they've met along the way have inspired the show. Director Annie Rigby is an ex-accordionist who stopped playing music at 18. She said: "*We're really excited to bring this welcoming, uplifting show to venues across the country. It celebrates everybody's creativity, and encourages us all to make space for the things we love in life. We hope it inspires audiences to blow the dust off their own musical instruments / paintbrushes / dance shoes.*"

For more information or to see tour dates visit [www.unfoldingtheatre.co.uk](http://www.unfoldingtheatre.co.uk)

To book tickets [[add dates, ticket prices & booking info for your venue](#)].

[www.unfoldingtheatre.co.uk](http://www.unfoldingtheatre.co.uk) | [@unfoldingtheatr](#) | [#PuttingTheBandBackTogether](#) | [Video](#) tutorials

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### Photos & media

- High res. captioned photos are available [here](#); please credit Richard Lakos for the Other Richard
- Audio recordings are available on request for broadcast media interviews
- Video tutorials with Ross Millard are available [here](#)

### Tour dates

27 January, [Attenborough Arts Centre](#), Leicester

31 January, [Customs House](#), South Shields

1 February, [ARC](#), Stockton

2 February, [South Street Arts](#), Reading

3 February, [The Hat Factory](#), Luton

8 February, [Lancaster Arts](#), Lancaster

9 February, [Square Chapel](#), Halifax

2-4 March, [Harrogate Theatre](#), Harrogate

10-11 March, [Lighthouse](#), Poole  
15-16 March, [Hull Truck](#), Hull

17-18 March, [Battersea Arts Centre](#), London  
30-31 March, [West Yorkshire Playhouse](#), Leeds

More tour dates to be announced

## Notes to editors

**Performed and Devised by** Maria Crocker, Alex Elliott, Ross Millard | **Writer** Chloe Daykin

**Collaborator** Mark Lloyd | **Director** Annie Rigby | **Designer** Lily Arnold

**Musical Director** Ross Millard (The Futureheads, Frankie & the Heartstrings)

**Annie Rigby** is the Artistic Director of Unfolding Theatre. Productions include *Building Palaces*, *Best in the World* and *Lands of Glass*. She was Resident Director at Northern Stage (2003-08), where she recently returned to direct *Up & Out Christmas Sprout*.

**Ross Millard** is a singer and guitarist. He has toured internationally with rock bands The Futureheads and Frankie & The Heartstrings. He has composed the show's music, and leads the house band in the show.

**Maria Crocker** is a performer and theatre-maker. She has recently performed with Northern Stage, The Letter Room, Open Clasp Theatre Company and Frantic Assembly. She plays the piano and has a love/hate relationship with her recorder.

**Alex Elliott** a performer and theatre-maker. He has collaborated with Northern Stage, Traverse Theatre, Quarantine and Kneehigh. He has appeared in previous Unfolding Theatre productions, including solo show, *Best in the World*. He plays saxophone and is becoming reacquainted with his bass clarinet.

**Chloe Daykin** is an award-winning writer. Her plays have been performed at Traverse Theatre, Live Theatre and The Lowry. Her recent novel for young people, *Fish Boy*, has been published by Faber. She keeps mentioning a cello, but hasn't brought it along to any rehearsals as yet.

**Lily Arnold** trained at Wimbledon College of Art, graduating with a first class honours. She was Resident Design Assistant at the RSC 2009-11. Her designs include *Yellow Face* (National Theatre Shed), *The Minotaur* (Polka Theatre), *Peddling* (Hightide Festival) and the Off West End award-nominated *Gruesome Playground Injuries* (The Gate Theatre).

**Mark Lloyd** was a theatre-maker (Northern Stage, Artistic Director Swallows Partnership SouthAfrica / UK). In 2014, he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. When asked what he wanted to do with the time he had left, he said, '*put my old band back together*'. He did just that and played three great gigs before he passed away on 18 May 2016. His story sparked *Putting the Band Back Together*. He co-wrote words and music with Unfolding Theatre.

**Unfolding Theatre** has established itself as one of the North East's leading contemporary theatre companies. Led by Artistic Director, Annie Rigby, it has built a reputation for innovative, joyful theatre. The company brings together surprising combinations of people to generate remarkable theatre. Collaborators include artists and people from other walks of life. Together they produce theatre with a wild sense of humour, strength of character and a delight in bringing people together. Described by the Guardian as "*thrillingly talented people*", Unfolding Theatre's productions have consistently attracted critical acclaim and awards. Audiences and participants in their creative processes describe positive, sometimes profound, personal impact. 2017 sees its biggest national tour to date, with hit show, *Putting the Band Back Together*.

**LittleMighty** is the producing partnership of Dick Bonham and Gloria Lindh. They work with artists based across the UK, including Clerkinworks, Jack Dean, the Mayers Ensemble and Testament.

Putting the Band Back Together was part of the **Northern Stage at Summerhall** programme in August 2016, presenting some of the most interesting theatre from across the north of England and beyond.

Commissioned by The Cultural Spring in Sunderland and South Tyneside. Funded by Arts Council Grants for the Arts and developed at Battersea Arts Centre.

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