

Fidget Theatre presents

# FOOTBALL FREDDIE

Fidget  
THEATRE

Written & Directed by  
**Ruth Cooper &  
Andrea Heaton**

TOUR  
PACK



# Distant relatives who share a name And a lot of love for the beautiful game



## WHAT IS THE SHOW ABOUT?

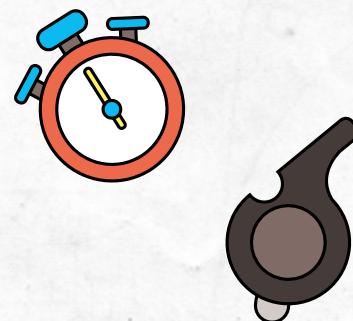
**FOOTBALL FREDDIE** tells the story of Freddie Farren, a little girl who loves football but is too nervous to join in the game in the park.

Out of a magical photograph, which she finds in her own back yard, steps Freddie's Great-Great-Great Uncle Fred (inspired by Fred Farren of

Bradford City's 1911 FA cup-winning side). Uncle Fred takes Freddie back in time and they re-live footballing glories of old. With Uncle Fred's encouragement, Freddie renews her confidence and love of the game and everyone joins in a good old-fashioned kick around.

## TRAILER

 [youtu.be/3\\_8kswSSIX8](https://youtu.be/3_8kswSSIX8)



## WHO IS THE SHOW FOR?

**Football Freddie** is for 3-7 year olds and their families.

**Football Freddie** is a warm and witty show which explores the rich themes of heritage, traditional sporting heroes and girls' aspiration. The contrasts between the character of Freddie and Uncle Fred are playfully unpacked as the story unfolds to focus on team-work and how sport can bring people together. The audience participate as the crowd singing to lift Uncle Fred's under-

dog team in the 1911 FA cup final and as Freddie's team for a friendly kickabout in which everyone gets to play.

Original sound design and vibrant set and costumes ensure high production values to support our warm Fidget welcome to audiences.

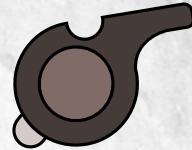
The show is accessible and relevant for audiences, including those with additional needs. Integrated audio

description runs throughout the show as we use football commentary as a playful storytelling technique.

### Target audiences

- Families with primary school aged children
- Primary school groups
- Fans of lesser-known football teams

## WHAT HAVE PEOPLE SAID ABOUT THE SHOW?



**"Children's theatre  
at its best"**  
YORKSHIRE TIMES

**"A beautiful two hander  
about the beautiful game,  
engaging and interactive"**

REVIEWS HUB

**"This play has it all, and  
we leave knowing we all  
have our place in the team  
and that together we  
can all be winners"**

YORKSHIRE TIMES

**"Gorgeous storytelling,  
we loved the audience  
interaction!"**

AUDIENCE MEMBER

**"Packed full of joy and  
captures the excitement of  
being at a live footie match"**

AUDIENCE MEMBER

**"A joyous piece of theatre –  
spirited performances, super  
inclusion of the audience, ace  
integrated audio description"**

AMY LEACH, LEEDS PLAYHOUSE



**"A great example of how  
to engage and hold an  
early years audience"**

EMMA FORSTER, ACE

**"Not a single audience  
member left without  
a smile on their face"**

REVIEWS HUB



# WHO HAS MADE THIS SHOW?

**Fidget Theatre create imaginative, contemporary theatre for family audiences.**  
**Fidget is the creative partnership of Andrea Heaton and Ruth Cooper who collaboratively write and direct Fidget's original, playful work.**

## **Ruth Cooper** WRITER/DIRECTOR

**RUTH** is a writer, director and theatre-maker specialising in creating new work for children and young people. Her production of 'Angel' by Kevin Dyer for Theatre Hullabaloo was described as "children's theatre at its best" by the British Theatre Guide. As Youth Programme Director for Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah directing credits included 'Dice' by Mark Catley and 'Stuck' by Mike Kenny and writing credits included 'Ruby's Walk' and 'Reunion'. Ruth established and leads the Carriageworks Young Theatre Makers (CYTM) a youth theatre dedicated to collaboratively co-creating original work. Extensive writer/director credits for CYTM include commissions for Leeds Lit Fest and 2020's remotely produced original film; 'The Never Was'. Alongside her work in theatre, Ruth is writing her first novel for children.

## **Andrea Heaton** WRITER/DIRECTOR

**ANDREA** is a writer, theatre maker and performer with a wealth of varied experience creating innovative new work. In 2015 Andrea wrote and published the children's picture book *Molly's Marvellous Moustache* and then adapted the book for performance which toured nationally with Fidget Theatre. Andrea is an experienced facilitator and in 2018 led Common Chorus community writing group to create *The Lonely Society*. In March 2020 Andrea co-wrote and performed 'Smile Club' produced by Red Ladder Theatre which premiered at Leeds Playhouse (★★★★ Guardian). She and co-writer Adam Z Robinson are currently producing a six part audio series version of 'Smile Club' with support from Red Ladder Theatre, Leeds Playhouse and Arts Council England. Andrea has recently performed in Slung Low's short film 'The Magician'. She is lead writer of 'Taxi' (Red Ladder Theatre and Mad Dogs Dance) as part of Leeds 2023.

## **Emma Williams** SET & COSTUME DESIGNER

**EMMA** is an experienced designer and key member of the Fidget team, having designed all of our shows. Her other recent work includes 'Upon The Stair' for The Book of Darkness & Light and LittleMighty (national tour), a ghost stories show with integrated BSL; 'Lyalode of Eti' (Utopia Theatre, Leeds Playhouse and Sheffield Crucible) and 'You Forgot The Mince' (Imagine If, national tour). Other productions include 'The Magic Paintbrush'; 'The Elves and the Shoemakers' and 'Pinocchio', all directed by Gail MacIntyre at Leeds Yorkshire Playhouse; and 'Stuck' by Mike Kenny for Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah.

## **Ed Heaton** SOUND DESIGNER

**ED** is another key Fidget associate Artist. Ed is a sound designer, producer and engineer with over 17 years professional experience. His sound and music have been used in national tours and installations in York, Manchester, Leeds and London, including on The London Eye, Manchester Royal Exchange, BAC and Leeds Playhouse. He has contributed the sound design to Red Ladder Theatre Company's productions of 'The Damned United' and 'Mother Courage'; and all of Fidget Theatre's shows, including 'Molly's Marvellous Moustache', 'Bird's Nest Billy', and 'Jack Frost' at The Civic Theatre, Barnsley.

## **Rhiannon Canoville-Ord** ACTOR: FREDDIE

**RHIANNON** trained in Drama and Theatre at Salford University. Her theatre credits include 'Beneath The Banner' (Up The Road Theatre), 'Snow White' (Story Magic Theatre), 'Between Me and You' (In On The Act Theatre Festival & The Lowry), 'In Full Swing' (Skylight Circus Arts), 'Fractured Beauty' (Adelphi Studio Theatre) and 'Shopping and F\*\*\*Cking' (Robert Powell Theatre). Film and voiceover credits include 'Interior Worlds' (24 Design Ltd), 'Growing Up Sucks' (True North Productions), 'Existential Crisis No.4' and 'Letterhead' (NFS). She has fronted several national television advertising campaigns. Rhiannon worked on the R&D for 'Football Freddie' last year and is delighted to join the tour of this fantastic piece.

## **Richard Kay** ACTOR: UNCLE FRED/JEFF THE COMMENTATOR

**AS AN** actor Richard has performed, primarily in family shows, for companies including York Theatre Royal, Tongued Theatre, Leeds Playhouse, Badapple Theatre, Nottingham Playhouse and North Country Theatre. He also works as a storyteller and has written and produced several short children's shows for museums, festivals and visitor attractions. As a director/theatre maker Richard has co-directed six shows with Badapple Theatre and run various youth theatre groups. Richard also specialises in choral singing and is currently leading the York Philharmonic Male Voice Choir, the Ryedale Voices and the Leeds Male Voice Choir in Zoom rehearsals and virtual concerts. For more information visit [www.richardkay.net](http://www.richardkay.net)



# HOW DO I BOOK THE SHOW?

If you want to book Football Freddie for your venues, please contact Fidget Theatre to discuss dates and a financial package.

✉ fidgettheatrecompany@gmail.com

## TOURING INFORMATION

### Company

- 2 performers, 1 Stage Manager

### Minimum Playing Space

- 5m wide x 5m deep
- 4m height required to grid

### Get In

- Minimum 3 hour

### Get Out

- Minimum 1 hour

### Performance Running Time

- 55 minutes no interval

### Set, Lighting and Sound

- Full information will be sent out in advance of productions
- We require use of a PA suitable for the venue. Sound run from company laptop
- Please pre-rig lighting if possible, designs to be send in advance.
- Get in/get out requires support of venue technician
- Touring Stage Manager will operate lighting and sound during show



[www.fidgettheatre.com](http://www.fidgettheatre.com)  
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Supported using public funding by  
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