



Jonny Aubrey-Bentley

Where are you from?

Sheffield, United Kingdom

What is your background/what were you doing before RADA Theatre Lab?

Before RADA I trained as contemporary dancer at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance.

What made you interested in RADA Theatre Lab?

I have always had a huge passion for theatre and the spoken word. After graduating from my contemporary dance training I felt that something was missing and had an urge to continue my studies. The Lab interested me the most as it felt like I would be able to continue to mine my physicality and follow my passion for theatre, ultimately learning how to combine the two forms of expression.

What has RADA Theatre Lab helped you learn about yourself as an artist?

RADA have given me the confidence to develop my own artistic practice and I'm excited to use my new found knowledge in the work I create. It has encouraged me to combine my trainings and given me a curiosity and playfulness when approaching life and art.

What is something you wish people knew about you as an artist?

I have a huge passion for Spoken Word poetry - I love wordplay, rhythm and rhyme! I also enjoy making music and I'm excited to combine my writing, music and physical work.

How did you find creating your own manifesto piece for the Bloomsbury Festival?

I felt that we approached the creation of the piece in a true Lab manner. By giving equal space to each others interests and creative itches we

made a piece that was a joy to perform. Upon reflection I believe we all would have done things slightly differently, perhaps focusing on a clearer narrative through line, but I'm excited to see where the piece goes from here!

What are you looking forward to post RADA Theatre Lab?

I'm excited to use my learnings to make my own work and to develop my own creative voice whilst continuing to collaborate with my peers from the Lab. I have also recently founded my own company - HERD OF (Instagram - @herd.of)

How has the past year changed how you think about theatre?

Obviously this is a difficult time for the industry but I truly believe theatre, creativity and freedom of expression are essential. This year has taught me that theatre is boundless and full of potential. I think as an upcoming artist I'm eager to help change the industry for the better by increasing diversity, widening outreach, accessibility and audience engagement. It's also clear to me that we must ensure that our practices are adaptable and environmentally aware.

If you could wake up tomorrow having gained any one quality or ability, what would it be?

A photographic memory so I could recall all the interesting moments of art that are in our everyday; compile them and then write excellent plays... (it would also help with remembering lines!)

How does it feel to join the legacy of RADA alumni?

It's exciting to know that there are generations of people who have experienced a similar training to myself and peers, the potential collaborations are endless!

What song is stuck in your head these days?

The whistling section of (Sittin' On) the Dock of the Bay - Otis Redding

<https://www.spotlight.com/8618-7831-5628>