



Hoke's Bluff  
By Action Hero

# Hoke's Bluff

A Performance by Action Hero  
Produced by China Plate



Touring Autumn 2014

Co-commissioned by Bristol Old Vic Ferment and Warwick Arts Centre

*See why this maverick company, with its engaging DIY aesthetic, is attracting so much attention - The Guardian*



## Press on Hokes Bluff

*Time Out Edinburgh Fringe theatre highlights top ten 2013*

*The key to this show's success is that it is all done with love. A very clever piece of theatre; a cracking night out*  
Total Theatre

*Action Hero gather all of America's defining iconography, load it into a cannon, and blast the lot over the floor of a gym hall*  
Fest

*It's a story about stories, a fictional narrative about an already fictional world, but there's also a mournful beauty somewhere underneath all the movie sequence spoofs and frantic flag waving*  
Exeunt Magazine

## Press on Action Hero

*\*\*\*\* Action Hero's superb, multi-layered little show...it's very smart, brash, brutally absurd*  
Guardian on Watch Me Fall

*Beautifully executed and incredibly exciting*  
Total Theatre on A Western

*\*\*\*\* This is a beautiful pipe dream of a show – one that places the audience at its heart* Guardian on A Western

*Resolutely off-kilter but entirely accessible...brilliant*  
Metro on A Western



## The Show

We're giving the crowd an H!  
We're giving the crowd an O!  
We're giving the crowd a K!  
We're giving the crowd an E!  
We're giving the crowd an S!  
We're giving the crowd a B!  
We're giving the crowd an L!  
We're giving the crowd a U!  
We're giving the crowd an F!  
We're giving the crowd another F!

*Everything rests on this one free throw. On this one last shot. On this power play. On these last few seconds. Action Hero have got their game faces on. Bring it.*

With a nostalgic yearning for the simplicity of a world that never really existed, Hoke's Bluff meets its audience on the bleachers and tells them an underdog story that's been told a million times before. By shifting and rearranging the trite narratives of high school storylines and inspiring locker room speeches, Action Hero use hackneyed formulas and cheap sentimentality to find out what it means to be a winner (on the inside).

## Background

*Hoke's Bluff* was developed through the Darkroom residency, Bristol Old Vic Ferment and Triggered@Warwick Arts Centre. We are excited to be collaborating with an outstanding team including Nick Walker, who has been involved as an additional writer and co-devisor; Forest Fringe's Deborah Pearson as a dramaturge; and dancer Laura Dannequin, who plays our referee. *Hoke's Bluff* was selected as part of the British Council Edinburgh Showcase 2013 and premiered at Forest Fringe in August.

The show marks an important move into new territory for Action Hero as a company. Having completed and toured a trilogy of work that has, in many ways, defined who we are, we are now at an exciting turning point – this is not only our largest scale production to date, but also the first time we have collaborated with a writer and a designer, and used additional performers on stage.

*Hoke's Bluff* has been co-commissioned by Ferment and Warwick Arts Centre and produced by China Plate, with the support of Theatre Bristol's Company Producer Mel Scaffold.

## Future

*Hoke's Bluff* is available for UK touring from Autumn 2014.

## About Action Hero

Action Hero make performance, live art and theatre that is interested in pop cultural mythologies and the creation of temporary communities centred around the live event. Their work often has a sense of the epic, even though it is played out through a lo-fi, DIY approach to performance-making. They have developed a reputation for creating work that is distinctive and invigorating, and have made performances for theatre, galleries, public spaces, clubs and parties.

They tour their work regularly throughout the UK and internationally. They are Forest Fringe artists and In Between Time Associates. They are also members of Residence, an artist-led space for the creation of new performance work in Bristol.

They are supported by Theatre Bristol's Company Producer, Mel Scaffold.

Action Hero is a collaboration between Gemma Paintin and James Stenhouse. They live and work in Bristol, where they have been making performance together since 2005.



## The Team

Created by	Action Hero
Devised in	collaboration with the Company
Performed by	Action Hero with Laura Dannequin
Text in	collaboration with Nick Walker
Dramaturgy by	Deborah Pearson
Production Management by	Jo Palmer
Produced by	China Plate
Supported by	Mel Scaffold, Theatre Bristol Company Producer



## Technical

Running Time:	70-80 minutes
Get In:	1 day (8 hrs) with pre-rig
Get Out:	3 hours
On the road:	4 (1 Production Manager, 3 Performers)
Playing space:	11m x 5m. Traverse Configuration. Audience on raked seating (to mimic a sporting event as much as possible).
	The floor will be lightly coloured if possible.
	There will also be 4 banners as part of the show, which can be hung from the venue grid either directly to the lighting bar with cable ties, or with rated chain and carabiners. The banners are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• x 2 hanging above the audience either side, dimensions W 3m x H 1.8m</li><li>• x 2 hanging either end of the playing space, dimensions W 2m x H 0.6m</li></ul>
Venue Crew:	2 Tech crew for get in 1 Lighting Operator
Venue Equipment:	x 3 XLR to run receivers to Mixer x 4 Flown speakers at each corner of the playing space Mini-jack to XLR / Quarter inch jack from Mac Book Pro to Venue Mixer connection Mixer with 8 microphone inputs and either one additional stereo input or two line inputs, to accommodate Mac Book Pro to Venue Mixer connection
Access / Parking:	The set is transported on a Short Wheel Base Transit Van that requires parking space for the get in, get out and duration of the show
Please note:	There will be 2 55SH Series II Shure Cardoid, Dynamic microphones hung from overhead  Due to the nature of the costumes, air conditioning units or heaters will be required in extremes of temperature.  Performers will be selling popcorn to the audience when the house opens. Some will also be spilled on the floor throughout the performance, therefore cleaning equipment will be required.  The show involves laying coloured PVC tape on the floor to imitate sports court boundaries. The company will provide this.



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### Trailer:

<http://vimeo.com/user9631729>

### Get in touch:

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Bristol Old Vic  
FERMENT

