



Pot Luck

A Look Back



Pot Luck was born in a friendly, welcoming (and slightly sticky floored) room above The Jolly Sailor pub in Canterbury. That was back in June 2011. Since then, Pot Luck has presented a total of eleven events. Big, small, bonkers, fun, dark, comic, experimental, entertaining, challenging – each one has served up a wide variety of performances from a range of artists and companies.

A lot has happened over the three years Pot Luck has been running, and it feels like the cultural landscape in Kent has shifted. We believe Pot Luck has been a part of that shift. As things are continuing to change and develop, Pot Luck's role is shifting too...

Where once contemporary theatre, performance and live art was rare in East Kent, now we frequently see nationally acclaimed cutting-edge work. Where once there were few opportunities for peer networking and exchange, now events which bring artists together pop-up regularly. Pot Luck was conceived as an imaginative, dynamic and innovative response to the needs of Kent-based artists for challenge and stimulation. There may be a stronger performance infrastructure in East Kent but there is still a need for an independent, left field voice of provocation and challenge - Pot Luck will continue to fit that bill! So although the current format Pot Luck is drawing to a close, watch out as it evolves and offers more surprising interventions for artists and audiences...

So, this seemed like a great opportunity to make a little something to look back over the last three years!

This is by no means an exhaustive guide to all the Pot Lucks that have taken place but hopefully you will find our Pot Luck scrapbook a fun memento of our journey... from #1 to #11.

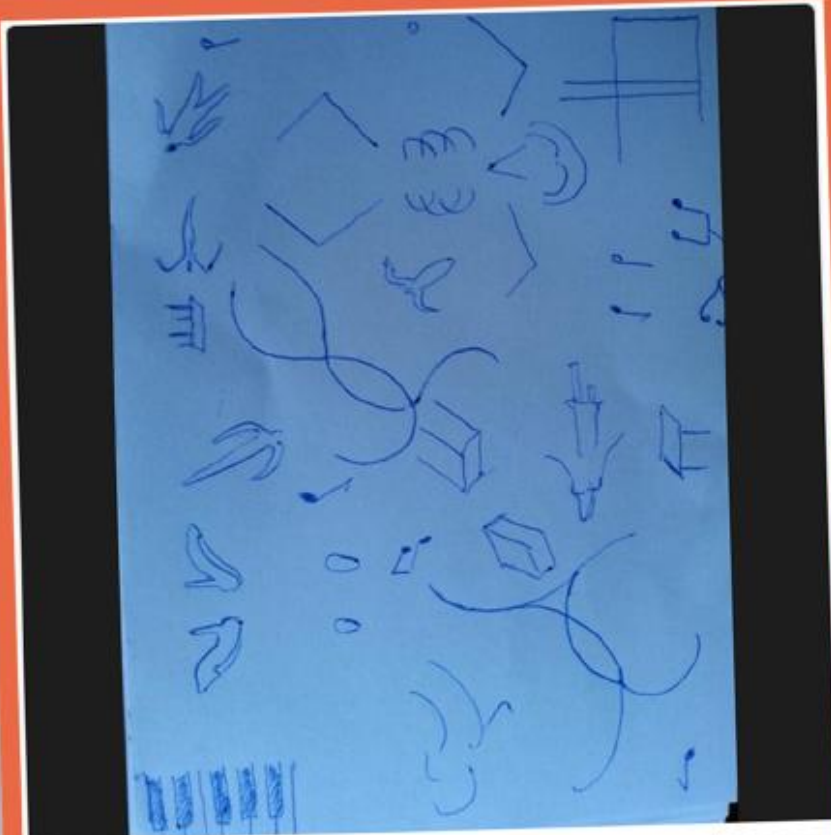
Thanks for being part of it,
Daisy, Pablo, Phoebe and Cathy x

Every Pot Luck Artist Ever

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Pot Luck #1 (18/06/11 The Jolly Sailor, Canterbury): Accidental Collective, Daniel Somerville, Jake Juba, Nancy Charley, Rickasaurus Rex. **Pot Luck #2** (10/09/11 Tom Thumb Theatre, Margate): Ambigram, Laura Jane Dean, Little Cauliflower Theatre, Phoebe Marsh, Theatre Rheo, Zoetrope. **Pot Luck #3** (08/11/11 Creek Creative, Faversham): Daniel Somerville, Estelle Rosenfeld, Felicity Brookesmith & Vicky Wilson, Jason Brooks, Theatre Rheo, The Breadbin Project, The Galloping Cuckoos. **Pot Luck #4** (26/02/12 The Ballroom, Canterbury): Bright Shadow, Missy Maybe, Little Cauliflower Theatre, Phoebe Marsh & Phil Watkinson, The Raw Junction Company, Thomas Herzmark. **Pot Luck #5** (26/05/12 Creek Creative, Faversham): Accidental Collective, Estelle Rosenfeld, Laura Jane Dean, Lucy Fennell, Polymathematics, The 33 Collective, theatre.dash. **Pot Luck #6** (27/01/13 The Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury): CoDa Dance, Daniel Somerville, Emily Parrish and Filipe Gomez, theatre.dash, tatterbaum-deluca. **Pot Luck #7** (23/03/13 Limbo and Marine Studios, Margate): Amelia Beavis-Harrison, Amy Godfrey, Lucille Teppa, Marcia Farquhar, Pestiferous, Peter Morton. **Pot Luck #8** (19/10/13 Blue Town Heritage Centre, Sheerness): Cool Hunting, Fergus Evans, Little Bulb Theatre, Phil Mann, Will Lovell. **Pot Luck #9** (14/12/13 The Beaney House of Art and Knowledge, Canterbury): Antje Hilderbrandt, Culture Device Dance Projects, Evanthia Afstralou, Genetic Moo, Greta Eacott, Julia Fitzpatrick and Daniel Somerville, Laure Meloy, Marcus Orlandi, Nina von der Werth, Nuria Guix Riba. **Pot Luck #10** (01/02/14 The Avenue Theatre, Sittingbourne): Barely Colleagues, Forced Entertainment, Nigel Barrett and Louise Mari, Old Watty, Pheebz & R Wig. **Pot Luck #11** (22/03/14 Creek Creative, Faversham): David Sheppeard, Drunken Chorus, fanShen, Fortuna Burke, Frog Morris and Nicole Mollett, Janine Harrington.

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Pot Luck
@PotLuckKent
#PotLuck9 feedback @the_beaney
2:04 PM - 9 Jan 2014

Follow



tattenbaum-deluca
@tatty_del

You know what? The Gulbenkian theatre sure is pretty.
And those @PotLuckKent peeps are lovely! We're talking
free lollies here no joke

5:47 PM - 27 Jan 2013

As artists and audience members we always felt welcomed and personally a part of the evenings. It is as relaxed as any performance night with multiple acts goes, and always brings and draws in supportive encouraging audiences. Even though the night travels throughout east Kent it feels like a **community event**. Daisy and Pablo bring something very special to the evening, they can only be described as **warm slightly awkward, loveable hosts** who genuinely support all the acts.

Thanks for all your support over the years

Peter John-Morton
KnuckleAndJoint

"Performing at **Pot Luck** gave us the encouragement and determination to continue with a new show, at that time, **The Night of the Big Wind**. From a tiny seed of visual ideas and samples of live music, grew quite a big show - this would never have happened without the audience feedback given at Pot Luck. Pot Luck is integral to the arts in Kent. It is a great place to meet new artists and experience such varied work. Thanks to all of the Pot Luck team for their hard work and support!"

Carly McConnell
Joint Artistic Director
Little Cauliflower Theatre



"As a new company showing our work for the first time, Pot Luck offered us an environment that was both **friendly** and **supportive**. The team at Pot Luck showed a real investment in our work, and the feedback we received was invaluable due to a well structured and open feedback system. Thank you for all your help Pot Luck! "

Daniel and Rachel
Cool Hunting



"Pot Luck is a unique and very precious platform, allowing a large range of companies and performers to try things out. I have enjoyed it both as an audience and as a performer. I like its quirkiness, that it isn't a showcase for 'perfect work' but you might see 'perfect work' there. I can't think of anywhere else that allows about every format, you can see **live art, dance, poetry, immersive theatre, burlesque, storytelling** and/or **drama** in one night and that what's make it **unique**."

Estelle Rosenfeld

Pot Luck *Memories*



We remember the time when **Daniel Somerville** was performing his tender and intimate one-to-one at **Pot Luck #1** as sport fans were pouring into **The Jolly Sailor** to watch a match.

We remember the time that **Little Cauliflower** had to take *The Ballroom's doors off their hinges* to get their wind-machine into the space.

We remember the time that **Pablo** got muddled by his excitement and said that the audience at **Pot Luck #3** had been “wontastic”.

We remember the time when, before we started using local businesses, we walked down **Canterbury High Street** pushing a trolley full of **Tesco meal deals** to feed our artists at **Pot Luck #4**.

We remember when the whole audience walked into the brand new **Colyer-Ferguson concert hall** with their drinks (something that unbeknownst to us was **totally banned**).

We remember the time that **Phoebe** was worried nobody would come to **Pot Luck #5** because it clashed with **Eurovision**.

We remember the time we realised that the **Pot Luck #9** programme had ‘**December 2014**’ on the cover just as we were handing them out to the audience.



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We remember all the times that Daisy's boyfriend got roped into doing stuff like running the bar, selling tickets, going for last minute shops, and even being a 'bouncer' for an opera singer...

We remember the time we facebooked Tim Etchells the night before Pot Luck #10 to ask if we could stream Forced Entertainment's performance to fill our last minute gap in the programme.

We remember the time we nearly hired a coach to ferry audiences to Sheppey for Pot Luck #8 because we thought nobody would go.

We remember the time Jessica Jordan-Wrench accidentally cut herself whilst smashing up a guitar at Pot Luck #5.



We remember being the last ones on the dance floor at the 2012 Canterbury Culture Awards, and drinking gin out of Phoebe's hip flask afterwards.

We remember the time Pablo caused a stir during Pot Luck #7 when he tried to cut off 'too much' of Amelia Beavis-Harrison's hair.

We remember the time we were told by the Blue Town Heritage centre volunteers that 'spirit orbs' had made a particularly active appearance on the CCTV monitor during Pot Luck #8.

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Phoebe's very important and statistically accurate Facts & Figures about Pot Luck

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- Number of *Towns* Pot Luck has visited: **5**

- **NUMBER OF VENUES POT LUCK HAS VISITED: 9**

- Estimated number of audience members: **660**

- **ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PERFORMERS: 116**

INCLUDING
2 robots 1 *goldfish* AND **1 MAJOR RECORDING ARTIST**
(IF THIS ESTIMATE WERE TO INCLUDE PUPPETS THE
NUMBER WOULD BE CLOSER TO **501**).



- ROLLS OF GAFFA USED OVER THE SEASON: 1
(AND IT'S STILL GOING STRONG)

- *Things broken over the season*
(NOT INCLUDING HEARTS AND DIGNITY)
1 per event.

- Pieces of chalk used: 20

- Sandwiches eaten by
performers: 270

- Glasses of *wine* drunk by audience members and Cathy: **880**
Number of jokes Daisy has
made about her outfit: **30**

- Number of cigarettes **Pablo** has sneaked when Daisy
was not watching: **30**

- **WHAM** bars consumed by audience and Phoebe: **10,000**

*PLEASE NOTE SOME OF THESE FIGURES MAY NOT BE ENTIRELY ACCURATE/TRUE

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Pot Luck
@PotLuckKent

Follow

Going through the #PotLuck8 feedback, Favourite comment might be "Worth missing Strictly for" Theatre 1, Bruce Forsyth o

1:50 PM - 22 Oct 2013



fanSHEN theatre
@fanshentheatre

@PotLuckKent Can't wait to get into that amazing building and make something - thanks for inviting us!
#potluck11

1:16 PM - 7 Feb 2014



Performing at Pot Luck was a fantastic opportunity for us, in particular as a new company working on such a large scale project. At the time we performed at Pot Luck we were developing material for a large scale installation /promenade style performance, so for us it was really valuable to receive feedback from the audience and artists, and supported and shaped our development process post-Pot Luck. We also met some fantastic artists, a few of whom we are still in contact with, so it proved a great networking opportunity.

1033 Collective



Over the past years I have been establishing myself as a solo performer and Pot Luck provided me with a great platform for sharing my work at different stages of its development. The various venues have been great, each with their own unique character and the audiences have always been warm, responsive and honest. Having experienced Pot Luck nights as both a performer and an audience member the format has always worked really well, with an organised yet very relaxed atmosphere. It has been a brilliant addition to the performing arts scene in Kent!

Laura Jane Dean



Pot Luck
@PotLuckKent



We're writing the MOTHER of all risk assessments to zombie Christmas music. #PotLuck9

2:13 PM - 4 Dec 2013



I'd just like to say an extra special thank you for being so patient with us, so generous and so trusting to let us create whatever we wanted. It was genuinely so great for us to go 'back to our roots' so to speak, not just in terms of the location, but also it just being me and Alex revisiting a two hander model from our days just after leaving university. It was honestly just great to work in that way again and it has opened lots of doors in our brain and given us more freedom to trust that that type of performance is still an option.

Clare Beresford
Little Bulb Theatre

"I did a little cry"

"You could have heard a pin drop"

Performing at Pot Luck was a great opportunity to try out a character that we were working on for an outdoor show. The character 'Linda' enjoyed meeting lots of people (including the Arts Council officer), sharing her birthday cake and appearing on stage in front of over 100 people for the first time! This experience helped us to know how to push and use this character further in the show we were making. We loved doing this at Pot Luck as it is an event that really does embrace what 'scratch' nights should be - an opportunity to take risks, to fail and to try things out in a supportive environment where everyone from organisers to audience are for you and want you to succeed.

Katy Hirst

Co Director Bright Shadow

"Really cool idea! Never experienced this venue like this. The work by all the artists was great, and made even better by the fact some of it was 'rare' and you could meet the artists - like a mini-community tonight! Great work."

"When someone asked me what Pot Luck was about, I replied 'the question is, what isn't it about?'. In this case this off-hand remark is not nonsensical or conceited but apt. The feeling of 'anything goes' is balanced with a level of care and commitment that makes each event special. I remember a strong sense of sharing amongst and between audiences and artists. Whether from the perspective of the audience or the artist, Pot Luck is about taking chances. He who dares wins." Phillip Watkinson

Phillip Watkinson

"As a performance art 'virgin' I was pleasantly surprised!
Very relaxed and entertaining evening with food for thought."

"My favourite PL memory is the first time I ever went. I wasn't quite sure where to go, it was dark and I was walking slowly down a freezing Canterbury High Street trying to find the Beaney. Then, in the distant I heard the strains of an aria. I followed the song and it got louder and louder until suddenly I was right where I needed to be: outside the Beaney, and being serenaded on the steps. The wonderful surprise of finding an opera singer in full, gorgeous voice in the middle of a high street in dead winter is one of my favourite things about last year. Pot Luck is like that: surprising, funny and weirdly magical, all at the same time.

Rebecca Wignmore

"Pot Luck is very exciting,
accessible, approachable and always
more than the sum of its parts."



I think the standout moments for me were the poetry performance of the **Diane Wakowski poem** and **Culture Device**. Seeing these two one after the other, in the same space was..well, they energised the space in such different ways, each thrilling in their intensification of that room with its pictures and pots and whatnots. **Culture Device** were intense. As dancers with Downs syndrome the way they moved had a particular intensity which paradoxically made me forget quite quickly that they had Downs because i was so absorbed by the sheer intensity of what they were expressing...which is I guess what all really good dance does. The Diane Wakowski performance was transporting in a different way..she filled the space in its entirety, and although i don't recall too many of the specifics the room felt charged afterwards.. Well i hope that helps in some way..i've got the 22nd March in my diary so hopefully I'll be seeing you then. chris x

Chris Hunt

My most memorable moment was doing the Pot Luck event at The Beane Museum and waiting to open the doors, so that the opera singer could come in leading the audience! Highly charged and very exciting.
Joanne Spiteri



Canterbury Festival
@CanterburyFest



We have teamed up with @accidentalC @PotLuckKent to launch a scheme offering FoH/events training - get involved here! tinyurl.com/amwvd4r

4:35 PM - 7 Feb 2013



We were invited to contribute to Pot Luck #9 at the Beane and what a treat it was. Encouraged to rummage through the museum's collection of animal skeletons and specimen jars, we were inspired to bring a tiny barn owl to giant 'Ray Harryhausen' life as well as create a virtual container filled with unnamable flesh, the Globster Jar. On the night, our interactive creatures joined a goldfish listening to Chaucer and a sleeping woman in the Explorers and Collectors' room - perfect! It was a fantastic night of performance and spectacle - Thank you for inviting us to join in.

Genetic Moo



Gallery Studios

@creek_creative

Follow

@PotLuckKent Glad we saw #potluck7 Highly recommended avant-garde theatre meets Performance Art: a funny, surprising, thought-provoking mix!

10:25 AM - 26 Mar 2013



Nigel Barrett

@nigelandcuisse

Follow

I have learnt a dance this afternoon to do tonight with 6 professional dancers in their twenties. I have to do it the same as them. Oh dear.

5:30 PM - 1 Feb 2014



Pot Luck, and its producers, Accidental Collective, are key players in the innovative, contemporary performance sector in Kent. Accidental Collective's own work is always surprising, delightful and meaningful. They have a rare generosity of spirit which spilled over into their commitment to Pot Luck - originally developed in response to the needs and interests of Kent-based theatre-makers. It is hard to remember just how sparse the Kent performance landscape was a few years ago. My own project, PANeK (Performing Arts Network Kent), had started the ball rolling with a series of showcases and scratch nights, but with strong artistic vision Accidental Collective, and associate producer Phoebe Marsh, have turned Pot Luck into a significant regional platform for new work. I am proud and delighted to have been involved with this great Kent success story.

Cathy Westbrook



Thank you

The Ortons, the Pakulas, the Westbrooks, Richard Turney, Liz Mullins, Seb Marsh, Tobias Holden, Richard Kingdom, Arts Council England, Kent County Council, all the artists, all our trainees, all the host venues, all our audience members.

Tim and Mary Ann le Lean
Lucy Johnson
Hope Fitzgerald
Gilly and David Wadmore
Pam Hardiman
Liz Moran
Anne McLaren and Simon Giles
Ian Blackmore
Jessica Jordan-Wrench and Eoin Furbank
Jenny Hurkett
Jean Spann
Kate Kneale
Matthew de Pulford
Pete and Cassy Fry
Carly McConnell, Estelle Rosenfeld, Daniel Somerville
and Gemma Williams
Jason Brooks and Page Dykstra

Design by Daniel Lester



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