

Amy Smith meets Daisy Orton and Pablo Pakula, together known as the exciting theatre company Accidental Collective.

A HAPPY ACCIDENT

It's likely you won't have heard of Accidental Collective, but that's soon to change. Having been working together since 2005, the pair have now become The Marlowe's first Resident Associate company.

This is an exciting venture for them. Pablo says: "It is great to see that an established venue like The Marlowe Theatre is keen in supporting theatre-makers in the region." The local connection is crucial and the theatre is proud to support Daisy and Pablo, who met during their MDrama degree at University of Kent.

On graduating they were keen to stay in Canterbury but were aware of a lack of similar artists and venues in the area. Instead of complaining and heading off to London, the pair set to work. Daisy says: "There is this idea that to be successful you need to leave Kent, but that isn't the case".

Accidental Collective's subsequent success proves Daisy's words to be completely accurate as they have gone on to become a driving force in the local performance scene: setting up Pot Luck, a showcasing and networking event for performers, curating The Marlowe Scratch Night and even winning the Canterbury Culture award in 2012 in the category of Cultural Pioneer.

It's clear that their passion for performance extends beyond their own work and into this local community, but they also have an impressive and eclectic body of work behind them. Past work includes performing in unusual locations such as shop windows, historic buildings and on Herne Bay

beach – but with their new Resident Associate status they will be co-producing a brand new performance for The Marlowe Studio. The production, *here is where we meet*, is inspired by John Berger's book and touches on the idea of the connections we have, and lose, with people as we move through life.

So, what can you expect from an Accidental Collective performance? Firstly, rather than being straight plays, their work borrows from a range of different art forms to offer something new and refreshing. Daisy describes the constant factor in their work as it being "about connecting with people, celebrating the little things and about kindness" and that it will "always be surprising [and] make you think, but there are often moments of humour. Our work is about people and places – it's about you and me and our experience."

here is where we meet is on in The Marlowe Studio from Tuesday 18 to Saturday 22 June. The next Marlowe Scratch Night is Wednesday 10 July 8pm. For more information on Accidental Collective visit accidentalcollective.co.uk



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