

The Guardian

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Every Saturday

The seven-day
television and
entertainment
magazine

Saturday
September 21 -
Friday
September 27

● **Theatre**
**Something
American**
Bluecoat, Liverpool
Thursday 26, Friday 27



This latest piece should win new friends for performance company Blast Theory, theatre's answer to Britpop. The British relationship to America is the starting place for a trawl through American popular culture set on a bare stage against a wide screen that even in its blankness conjures up the geography and state of mind that is always Marlboro country.

Preview



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ARTS BOARD**

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Blast Theory

Blast Theory, based in SE1, has built its reputation by combining a range of genres and disciplines. Described by Hybrid magazine as 'one of the most imaginative and technically accomplished of the new British performance groups', Blast Theory has established itself as creating innovative work that attracts audiences. It tackles contemporary issues using theatre, dance, video and computer technology. It aims to make work that is compelling, direct and accessible.

Blast Theory has always been enthusiastic about all forms of outreach work. The group members see it as a vital tool for demystifying new work, empowering participants to make their own work and to build audiences. From a small range of short workshops and after show discussions the groups' work has grown to include residencies, open rehearsals, teaching, presentations and work-in progress performances.

Having done workshops since the group's inception in 1991 it was a three month residency at the Arnolfini in 1994 that saw Blast Theory's outreach work take off. Since then, Blast Theory has worked with students at De Montford University and has presented a paper on new technologies to the Consortium of Media and Drama in Higher Education. The group has undertaken residencies at the ICA and the Junction in Cambridge. The group was featured in 'The Arts Connection', an educational programme for young people broadcast on Channel 4 in 1994 and 1995. In 1996, Blast Theory undertook four major outreach projects in London and south England. The group has been awarded fixed term Arts Council funding for 1995-7.

Lois Keidan of the ICA has had this to say about the group's work: 'Drawing on a range of artistic practices and tackling tough contemporary issues, Blast Theory's work rests somewhere between theatre, performance art, installation and club culture. If there is any young performance group creating work that is accessible and relevant to a new generation of audiences brought up on pop music, TV, rave culture and the harsh realities of our times, Blast Theory are it.'

**For more information contact
Blast Theory on 0171 357 6290.**

