

**Tues 18th & Wed 19th June at 8pm**

**Blast Theory in  
Something American**

*'one of the most exciting performance groups of recent years.'* (i-D)


Last at The Junction with *Stampede* in 1994, Blast Theory return with *Something American*, a heady mix of theatre, dance, music and video.

A bulky middle-aged man stands on stage dressed as an American cop. He talks about the thrill of the force, of his sexual fantasies. This is a man at ease with himself. Behind him, a huge panoramic screen flickers into life: pictures, cartoons, speech bubbles and headlines which play out against a soundtrack of dub, rock'n'roll and mutated easy listening. What is it that so fascinates us about America and the Americans? Blast Theory put on the cop's uniform to find out.

**£6 (£4 discounts)**

**Workshop:  
Thursday 20th June  
(see p20)**

**Amerika**



**Thurs 20th June 10am-6pm**

**Blast Theory one day  
workshop**

Live art experts Blast Theory lead a workshop based around the core theme of their show *Something American* (see p16). Through short exercises, games and creative group work, Blast Theory demonstrate how to use dramatic devices and audio-visual technology to express ideas in performance.

You don't need to have any previous 'arts' experience; just enthusiasm and an interest in some form of creative or performing activity.

**£7 (£4.50 discounts, £1.50 unemployed). Combined show and workshop ticket £10 (£8 discounts, £2.50 unemployed).**

## Blast Theory Something American

Purcell Rooms, London

The premise for Blast Theory's SOMETHING AMERICAN, an exploration of what America means to us, begins long before the actual show. It begins somewhere in the haze of childhood when cowboys and cops are cool and skyscrapers are dreams.

Apt then that this show should begin before the audience is even seated, as though it were an extension of our everyday experience. On entering the darkened theatre the audience were greeted with a massive

screen showing looped film clips in what could be just another round in the bombardment of stateside culture. All the old favourite clichés are there - the cops, cowboys and cartoons, the wide open landscapes and towering cities. An America that lures and glitters.

This is a clever show. As we are battered by Americana at every level, so Blast Theory have gone truly multi-media - text animations, morphs and subliminal messages join with live performance, a club soundtrack

and wacky remote viewing demonstrations to take us on this revealing journey. But the show isn't merely an array of gadgets. Its power comes from the performances. The three leads, gently mesmeric in their deadpan and deliberately non-theatrical delivery, balance David Goodwin's Neil Simonesque cop perfectly. Together they produce a show that highlights



Blast Theory: SOMETHING AMERICAN

the allure of America in a typically quirky British manner. This was an interesting and adventurous piece - it was just a shame that it was so sparsely attended.

Juli Mahr

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