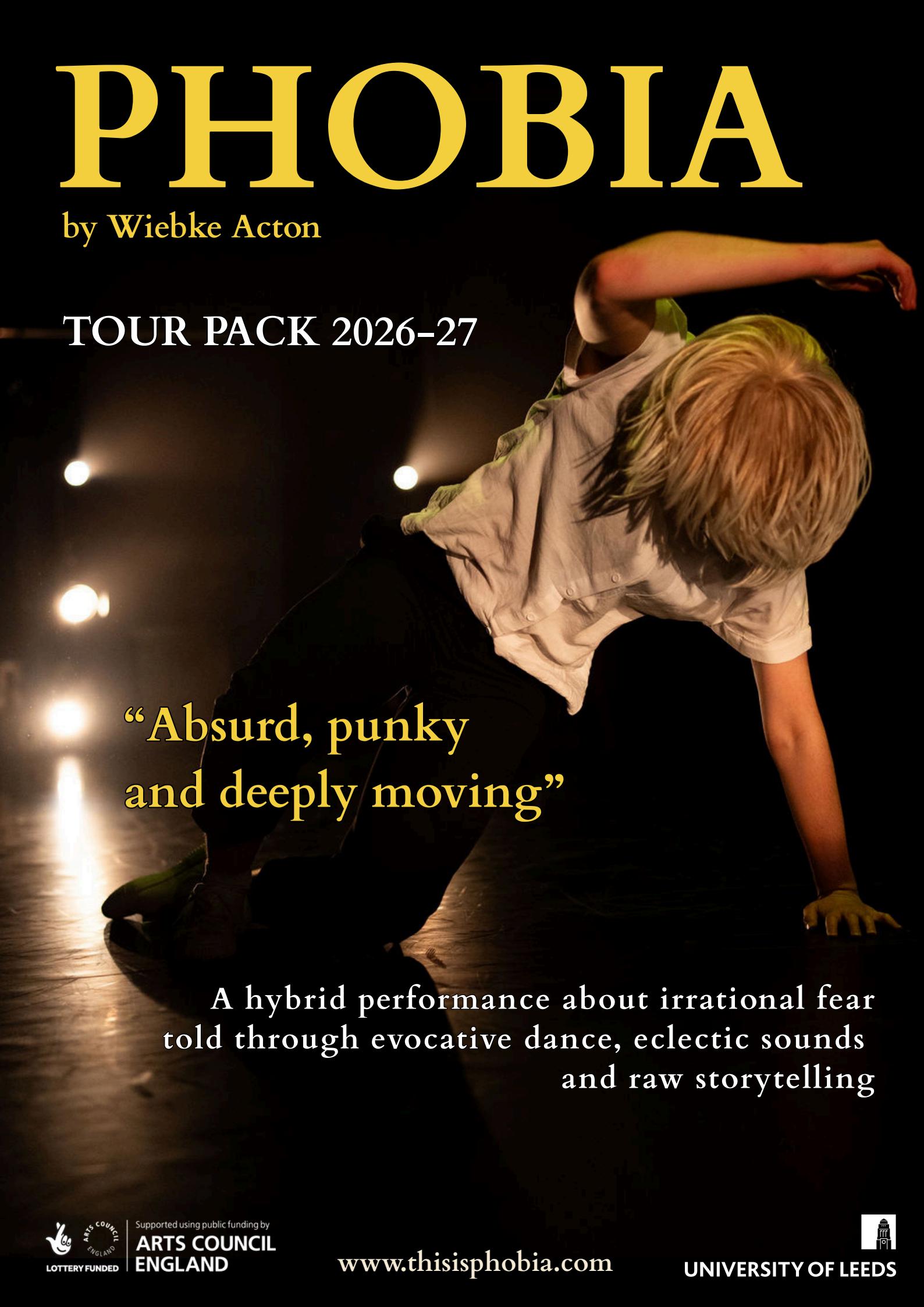


# PHOBIA

by Wiebke Acton

TOUR PACK 2026-27

A person with long, light-colored hair is captured in a dynamic dance pose on a stage. They are leaning forward, with one arm extended upwards and the other supporting their weight. They are wearing a light-colored, button-down shirt and dark trousers. The stage is dimly lit with several bright spotlights creating a dramatic effect. The background is dark, making the dancer stand out.

“Absurd, punky  
and deeply moving”

A hybrid performance about irrational fear  
told through evocative dance, eclectic sounds  
and raw storytelling



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

[www.thisisphobia.com](http://www.thisisphobia.com)



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

## ABOUT THE SHOW

In 2024, a high-ranking government minister becomes the target of cruel online mockery when the object of her fear makes headline news: Bananas. To the world, this is the laugh of the week. To the minister, the fear is real.

PHOBIA is a bold expedition into the world of irrational fears. Informed by personal experience and drawing on a range of anonymous narratives, it flicks between storytelling, dance and song to cast a light on the anxiety and absurdity of living with a phobia.

PHOBIA spotlights the misinterpretation of mental health in global and social media. How can we maintain a unique self in a landscape where exposed weaknesses are punished, and bullying is commonplace? How do we live with fear in our voyeuristic society?

Propelled by an imaginative and eclectic soundscape of live electronica and acoustic instruments, PHOBIA is a physical performance piece that is thought-provoking, punky and beautifully absurd.

**Duration:** 60 min | **Age suitability:** 12+ | **Venue:** 50-250 capacity



# AUDIENCE REACTIONS

from 2025 performances

“It was powerful. Hit me right in the gut.”

“Given the theme, I wasn’t expecting the humour”

“You laugh, and the next minute you realise that it’s not funny at all. It’s really clever.”

“I was completely absorbed”

“The three performers are brilliant and I loved the songs”

“I have a banana phobia and, yes, they got it right!”

“People who think they know all about phobias should go and see this show”

“I loved the way they wove in movement, the constancy of the sound/music and they didn’t give us easy answers/solutions”

“It was my favourite show that I’ve seen since I started working at this venue!”



[LINK](#)  
[TRAILER](#)

# TARGET AUDIENCE

- People who live with phobias or other types of anxiety disorders, and their friends and relatives
- Mental health specialists, therapists, researchers and charities
- Dancers, choreographers or people who enjoy evocative physical theatre
- Musicians and sound artists who are interested in atmospheric live music and digital soundscapes
- People who are drawn to new work and devised theatre
- People who love performances that take risks, blend disciplines and test new performance styles



## TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

### Company

3 performers, with 4 on the road

Venue tech support required

### Minimum playing space

8 m wide x 5 m deep

### Get-in

From 10am on day of performance

### Get-out

1 hour



### Lighting

Full design available in advance of tour,  
Pre-rig if available

### Sound

Please provide PA suitable for venue

### Running time

60 minutes no interval

### Trigger warning

The show explores real experiences of fear and anxiety, which some audience members may find distressing. The performance includes haze effects, flashing lights, loud immersive soundscapes, and occasional strong language.

# ON STAGE

## Wiebke Acton

idea | text | performance



Originally from Berlin, Wiebke has been a theatre performer for 19 years, her work spanning a wide range of theatre form. As a long-term member of the groundbreaking site-specific theatre company Das Letzte Kleinod, she worked with many international creative practitioners, touring Germany and Greenland. Since 2019 Wiebke has been an associate artist at the Berlin Globe, With collaboration and interdisciplinary at the centre of her practice, Wiebke has recently moved to devising and co-producing her own work.

[www.wiebke-acton.com](http://www.wiebke-acton.com)

## Orla Collier

dance | choreography



Orla is a freelance dance and physical theatre artist from Cumbria and based in Leeds. She trained at Rambert School and Northern School of Contemporary Dance, and now works as a performer, teacher, and choreographer. Some of her work highlights include creating and touring a solo piece, 'Are you Local?', which explores Orla's experience of growing up in a rural area and working with Displace Yourself Theatre on a number of projects, most recently an outdoor piece involving dance, theatre, and aerial.

[www.orlacollier.com](http://www.orlacollier.com)

## Brian Acton

sound | music



Brian is a musician, composer, and sound artist from Ireland now based in Calderdale. He blends electronic music with traditional forms including string instruments, voice and sampling. Brian has toured extensively internationally in theatre, as a session musician and with his tongue-in-cheek vintage jazz band Black Sheikhs. More recently, Brian formed a company called We Are Stems, which is dedicated to reflecting social structures through musical forms, specifically in development of a audio system called Fl0ck.

[www.wearestems.org](http://www.wearestems.org)

# BACK STAGE

## Sam Ward

text | dramaturgy

Founder and artistic director of the awards winning theatre company YesYesNoNo, based in London.

[www.yesyesnono.org](http://www.yesyesnono.org)

## Andie Mills

lighting design

Multi-disciplinary creative based in Leeds, specialising in lighting design, composition, writing, and photography.

[www.lacostarasa.co.uk](http://www.lacostarasa.co.uk)

## Si Brewis

producer

Producer and director based in West Yorkshire, making theatre about social histories and political hot topics.

# MARKETING SUPPORT

- A3 & A4 posters and A5 flyers
- High-quality production photos
- Media pack
- Video trailer
- Interview with cast and post-show Q&A
- Two 2-hour workshops designed around the theme of the show: a creative writing workshop for people with phobias, OCD or other related anxiety disorders OR a movement workshop for anyone wanting to explore emotions through physicality

We can discuss a bespoke marketing approach tailored to your venue.



## HOW TO BOOK

If you are interested in bringing Phobia to your venue please get in touch with Si Brewis to discuss dates and a financial package:

e. [simonmatthewbrewis@gmail.com](mailto:simonmatthewbrewis@gmail.com)  
t. 07817 649699  
[www.thisisphobia.com](http://www.thisisphobia.com)