



School: Music and Performing Arts

Researcher: Dr Laura Purcell-Gates

Project Title: The Depraved Appetite of Tarrare the Freak: Puppet as a practice-based analytic within the medical humanities

UOA: 33 - Music, Drama, Dance, Performing Arts, Film and Screen Studies

Research Timeline

Date	Rationale of research activities and decisions undertaken
01/06/2012-01/08/2012	<p>Initial research began through an Arts Council-funded Research and Development phase that included the construction and performing of prototype puppets culminating in a 20-minute work in progress performance at Bristol Old Vic's Ferment showcase in July 2012. Decision made to focus on the relationship between Baron Percy (Tarrare's doctor) and Tarrare, with Tarrare portrayed as a corpse. Decision made to frame the show as Tarrare's autopsy, with the doctor instructing medical assistants to reanimate 'corpses' in the autopsy room to perform Tarrare's story.</p>
01/09/2012-01/08/2013	<p>The Research and Development phase led to bringing on as project partners the Intercalated BA in Medical Humanities (IBAMH) programme at University of Bristol, led by Dr John Lee. Discussions with medical humanities students developed research around key issues in the show, and culminated in the first 'Performing the Freak' public engagement event at Tobacco Factory Theatres in April 2013 with medical humanities students, Dr Lee, monstrosity scholar Professor Judith Hawley (Royal Holloway) and the show's creative team including Dr Purcell-Gates. 'Performing the Freak' performed again, with the creative team only, for SensAbility Symposium on disability arts in Corsham in June 2013, with feedback from disability arts practitioners and scholars.</p> <p>June 2013: Purcell-Gates, L. Invited speaker (2013) Depraved appetites and contamination anxieties: race, gender, and puppet bodies in 19th-century France. Presented at <i>Puppet Talk Forum</i>. University of Sussex, UK. 15 June 2013.</p>

01/09/2013-
10/08/2014

Wellcome Trust bid developed with IBAMH and new project partners: pathologist Alan Bates (University College London), disability historian Professor David Turner (Swansea University), and Professor Havi Carel, phenomenology of medicine (University of Bristol).

Wellcome bid successful; planning began for full development of show in 2015.

Public Engagement event developed and run: 13 June 2014, SenseAbility: Disability and the Arts Symposium, Corsham; 29 March 2014, Tobacco Factory Theatres, Bristol.

Conference panel with theme developed from Tarrare project: Purcell-Gates, L. Panel convener (2014) *Creatures from the Dreamscape: Puppetry as a Practice for Social Change*. Delivered for Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) conference *Dream Acts: Performance as Refuge, Resistance, and Renewal* as part of Theatre and Social Change focus group. Scottsdale, AZ, US. 25 July 2014.

Conference presentation about Tarrare: Purcell-Gates, L. (2014) *Monstrous bodies: using puppetry to engage with perceptions of disability*. Presented at Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) conference *Dream Acts: Performance as Refuge, Resistance, and Renewal* as part of Theatre and Social Change focus group. Scottsdale, AZ, US. 25 July 2014.

Conference presentation about Tarrare: Purcell-Gates, L. (2014) 'The history of this monster': puppetry as intervention in disability stratification. Presented for International Federation for Theatre Research World Congress *Theatre and Stratification* as part of Performance and Disability Working Group. University of Warwick, UK. 28 July 2014.

Conference presentation about Tarrare: Purcell-Gates, L. (2014) *Performing medical monstrosity: an autopsy of The Depraved Appetite of Tarrare the Freak*. Presented at Performing Science: Dialogues across Cultures Conference. University of Lincoln, UK. 25 April 2014.

Symposium presentation about Tarrare (published as book chapter in 2019): Purcell-Gates, L. (2013) *The monster and the corpse: puppetry and the uncanniness of gender performance*. Presented at Centre for Research into Objects and Puppets in Performance symposium

	<i>Woma/en in Puppet Theatre</i> . Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, London, UK. 1 November 2013.
01/02/2015-15/07/2015	Project and production meetings with project partners and creative team, including bespoke tours of anatomical museums by Dr Alan Bates for Wattle and Daub Co-Artistic Directors Laura Purcell-Gates and Tobi Poster-Su. Key research areas and questions identified; puppet design and narrative decisions made to allow for puppetry-based intervention into key research areas.
15/07/2015-02/09/2015	Rehearsals for full show.
02/09/2015-30/11/2015	Showcase performances with post-show talkback sessions with creative team and project partners: Bristol Festival of Puppetry (Tobacco Factory Theatres, 2-3 September 2015) and Suspense Festival, London (New Diorama Theatre, 2-3 November 2015). Public Engagement event <i>Performing the Freak</i> : 2 September 2015, Tobacco Factory Theatres, Bristol. Post-showcase meetings with project partners and creative team to plan for UK tour including show alterations and integrating public engagement event.
01/02/2016-24/01/2017	2017 tour booked January 2017: remount rehearsals, Bath Conference presentation about Tarrare: Purcell-Gates, L. (2016) Plenary paper: Leaky boundaries: transversing the abject through puppetry performance. Presented at American Society for Theatre Research Conference <i>Trans-</i> . Minneapolis, MN, US. 4 November 2016. Conference presentations about Tarrare: Purcell-Gates, L. (2016) What world does this body create? Puppetry as intervention in the labor of medical practitioners working with people with disabilities. Presented at Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) conference <i>Bodies at Work: Performance, Labor, and ATHE at 30</i> as part of Theatre and Social Change focus group. Chicago, IL, US. 13 August 2016. Conference presentation about Tarrare: Purcell-Gates, L. (2016) The challenge of disciplinary instrumentalism within cross-disciplinary applied theatre research. Presented at Theatre and Performance Research Association (TaPRA) conference as part of Applied and Social Theatre working group. University of Bristol, UK. 6 September 2016. Roundtable based on Tarrare project themes: Purcell-Gates, L. Roundtable convener (2016) Puppetry for social change: building an international network. Delivered at Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) conference <i>Bodies at Work: Performance, Labor, and</i>

ATHE at 30 as part of Theatre and Social Change focus group. Chicago, IL, US. 14 August 2016.

Conference presentation about Tarrare: Purcell-Gates, L. (2016) Staging corpses: disrupting progressive historical narrative through puppetry. Presented at International Federation for Theatre Research conference *Presenting the Theatrical Past: Interplays of Artefacts, Discourses and Practices*. Stockholm University, Sweden. 17 June 2016.

25/01/2017-
30/03/2017

UK tour 2017

Show - *The Depraved Appetite of Tarrare the Freak*: 10 March 2017, Michael Tippett Centre, Bath Spa University, Bath; 8-9 March 2017, North Wall Arts Centre, Oxford; 30 January-17 February 2017, Wilton's Music Hall, London; 25-28 January 2017, Tobacco Factory Theatres, Bristol.

Public Engagement Event - *Performing the Freak*: 17 March 2017, Bath Spa University; 3 February 2017, University of Manchester; 1 February 2017, Cambridge University.

March 2017: Final meetings with project partners

June 2017

Publication about Tarrare: Purcell-Gates, L. and Fisher, E. (2017) 'Puppets as mask or mirror of cultural and individual perceptions of the disabled body'. *Research in Drama Education: The Journal of Applied Theatre and Performance*, special themed issue on International Perspectives on Performance and Disability.
DOI: [10.1080/13569783.2017.1329652](https://doi.org/10.1080/13569783.2017.1329652)

March 2017 -
January 2018

Objects with Objectives research network on applied puppetry (emerging field) - Laura Purcell-Gates steering group member. Invited due to expertise on applied puppetry developed through Tarrare project.

Conference presentation about Tarrare: Purcell-Gates, L. Invited speaker (2017) Medical humanities, disability and applied puppetry. Presented at ASSITE-J Conference as part of the AHRC international research network Objects with Objectives. Cape Town, South Africa. 19 May 2017.

Conference presentation developed in part from Tarrare project: Grant, D., L. Purcell-Gates and M. Smith (2017) Report on AHRC research network Objects with Objectives: theoretical and practical intersections between applied theatre and puppetry. Presented at Theatre and Performance Research Association (TaPRA) conference as part of Applied and Social Theatre working group. Salford, UK. 31 August 2017.

2018	<p>Objects with Objectives training videos website released (2018): https://mediasite.qub.ac.uk/Mediasite/Channel/objectswithobjectives. Includes two training videos by Purcell-Gates based on Tarrare workshops, 'Brown Paper Puppetry and the Celebration of Imperfection' parts 1 and 2.</p> <p>Symposium presentation about Tarrare: Purcell-Gates, L. (2018) Mapping fault lines: arts-based interdisciplinary interventions for social change. Presented at Global Academy of Liberal Arts Symposium. Montreal, Canada. 26 July 2018.</p> <p>Symposium organiser for developed out of themes of Tarrare project: Broken Puppet 2 Symposium on Puppetry and Disability Performance, Bath Spa University, 14-15 April 2018.</p>
January- November 2019	<p>Keynote symposium presentation about <i>Tarrare</i> with Tobi Poster-Su and project partner Professor David Turner: Purcell-Gates, L. (2019) Keynote speaker: Staging History Symposium, Royal Historical Society, University of Bristol. 26 April 2019.</p> <p>Publication about Tarrare:</p> <p>Purcell-Gates, L. (2019) 'The monster and the corpse: puppetry and the uncanniness of gender performance.' In: Astles, C., A. Mello, and C. Orenstein, eds., <i>Women and Puppetry: Critical and Historical Investigations</i>. London/New York: Routledge, pp.19-34.</p> <p>Purcell-Gates, L. Organiser and workshop facilitator on puppetry and social model of disability, developed as part of Tarrare project, for arts-based support and therapeutic professionals: Broken Puppet 3 Symposium, Newman University, Birmingham. 17-18 April 2019.</p> <p>Purcell-Gates, L. Organiser and workshop facilitator on puppetry and social model of disability, developed as part of Tarrare project, for nursing students at University of Ulster School of Nursing. 27 June 2019.</p> <p>Symposium presentation about Tarrare: Purcell-Gates, L. (2019) Puppetry and medical approaches to non-normative bodies. Presented at Critical Exchange Symposium. Minneapolis, MN, US. 16 July 2019.</p> <p>Conference presentation about Tarrare: Purcell-Gates, L. (2019) Puppetry and material dramaturgies: developing a practice-based analytic. Presented at American Society for Theatre Research conference <i>Theatre's Many Publics</i> as part of Puppetry and Material Performance working session. Arlington, VA, US. 10 Nov 2019.</p>

2020

Show released publicly online in March 2020 during lockdown; over 10,000 views as of December 2020

Publication of three special issues (including one double issue) on applied puppetry, partially developed out of themes of Tarrare project:

Purcell-Gates, L. and Smith, M., eds. (2020a) 'Applied puppetry: communities, identities, transgressions'. Special issue of *Applied Theatre Research* 8(1).

Astles, C., E. Fisher, L. Purcell-Gates and P. Sextou, eds. (2020b) 'Applied puppetry in health'. Special double issue of *Journal of Applied Arts and Health*, 11(1&2).

Conference presentation about Tarrare: Purcell-Gates, L. (2020) *Puppetry and new materialisms: towards a material dramaturgy*. Presented for the digital session of the Puppetry and Material Performance working group, American Society for Theatre Research. 7 Nov 2020.