

THEATRE DIRECTOR - MELANIE RASHBROOKE

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Melanie is a neurodiverse theatre director based in Newcastle upon Tyne and working across the UK.

Melanie is the Artistic Director of national touring theatre company The Six Twenty, an Associate Company of Live Theatre. She also works as a creative producer and currently works as a freelance producer for Gateshead International Festival of Theatre (giftfestival.co.uk) and was pivotal part of the team who reimagined the festival online in response to the pandemic.

DIRECTING CREDITS

PRODUCTION	WRITER / COMPANY	VENUE / NOTES
2022		
Redcoat (UK Tour)	Writer Lewis Jobson Co-divisors Lewis Jobson & Melanie Rashbrooke Producer The Six Twenty in association with Live Theatre	Touring the UK from September 2022-23 ★★★★★ "A real tonic!" Reviews Hub "An hour of pure, unfiltered, laugh out loud magic. Utterly winning" Tracey Sinclair reviewer for The Stage
Mixtape (NE Tour)	Writer Melanie Rashbrooke Producer The Six Twenty	NE Tour incl. Live Theatre (Newcastle), Alnwick Gardens (outdoor performances) & Carnival House (Sunderland).
2021		
Redcoat	Writer Lewis Jobson Co-divisors Lewis Jobson & Melanie Rashbrooke Producer The Six Twenty in association with Live Theatre	Live Theatre (UK premiere)
Club Six Twenty	Producer The Six Twenty & Sunderland Culture	Cross-artform immersive live art club night. Take-over of The Independent nightclub in Sunderland. Collaborating with 40+ artists incl. circus, theatre, musicians and interactive digital artists.
2020		
I Made You A Playlist	Writer Melanie Rashbrooke Producer Summer Streets & The Six Twenty	Summer Streets Online Festival & Northumberland Winter Festival
W*nk Buddies	Writer Cameron Sharpe & Jake Jarrett Producer Erin Bowman	Soho Theatre (London), Traverse (Edinburgh) & Live Theatre (Newcastle).
2019		
Club Six Twenty	Producer Alphabetti Theatre & The Six Twenty	Cross-artform immersive live art club night at Alphabetti Theatre (Newcastle) working with 50+ artists.
Mixtape	Writer Melanie Rashbrooke Producer The Six Twenty	UK National Tour inc. Live Theatre (Newcastle), Pop Recs (Sunderland) & Theatre N16 (London)
2019		
Fans (UK Tour)	Writer Nina Berry Producer The Six Twenty in association with Live Theatre	UK National Tour inc. the Albany (London), Live Theatre (Newcastle) & CAST (Doncaster)
2017		
Mixtape	Writer Melanie Rashbrooke Producer The Six Twenty	UK National Tour inc. Live Theatre (Newcastle), Pop Recs (Sunderland) & Theatre N16 (London)
ParkLife	Writer Mhairi Ledgerwood Producer Live Theatre	Live Theatre (Newcastle)

2016		
Fans (NE Tour)	Writer Nina Berry Producer The Six Twenty & ARC (Stockton)	Award winner - Bridging the Gap for new theatre NE Tour inc. ARC (Stockton), Alnwick Playhouse & Northern Stage
Mixtape	Writer Melanie Rashbrooke Producer The Six Twenty	★★★★★ "Without doubt the coolest concept for a show." Ed Fringe Review Multiple runs at Live Theatre
2015		
Mary, Jesus's Mam	Writer Alison Carr Producer Live Lab	Live Theatre (Newcastle)
Signal Change	Writer Mhairi Ledgerwood Producer Northern Stage	Northern Stage (Newcastle)
Mam	Writer Dean Poulter Producer Live Lab	Live Theatre (Newcastle)
Mixtape	Producer The Six Twenty	The Underbelly Multiple sell-out performances at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe
Arctica	Writer Stevie Ronnie Producer Durham Literary Festival	Spoken word & live art project Live Theatre, Durham Literary Festival & Free Word Centre (London)
White Noise	Writer Mhairi Ledgerwood Producer ARC	ARC (Stockton)
Breakfast Hearts / Choirplay	Writer Robin French Producer The Six Twenty	A double bill of irreverent new writing by Robin French (Cuckoo, BBC). Presented at Live Theatre (Newcastle)
The Flight	Writer Nina Berry Producer Live Lab	Live Theatre (Newcastle)
2014		
Mixtape (Festival Tour)	Producer The Six Twenty	Hijack Festival & Larmer Tree Festival (Salisbury) & The Secret Garden Party (Abbots Ripton)
The Next Train to Depart	Producer Queen's Hall (Hexham) Writer John Challis	NE Tour: Queen's Hall (Hexham), Washington Arts Centre, Live Theatre (Newcastle), Alnwick Playhouse & Seaton Delaval Arts Centre
2013		
Portaloo	Writer John Challis & Melanie Rashbrooke Producer Trashed Organ	Live Theatre (Newcastle)
Rented Rooms	Writer Melanie Rashbrooke Producer Write on Tap	Alphabetti Theatre (Newcastle)
2012		
Nathatu	Writer Samantha Bell Producer Arts inTouch	The Opera House (Port Elizabeth), Grahamstown National Arts Festival (South Africa).
Dalgety	Writer David Grieg Producer Theatre Uncut	Live Theatre (Newcastle)
2011		
Hamlet	Writer William Shakespeare Producer Bubble & Squeek	Site specific steam-punk immersive production Star & Shadow Cinema (Newcastle)
2006		
Warhol	Writer John Challis & Melanie Rashbrooke Producer Bubble & Squeek	The Bongo Club (Edinburgh Festival Fringe) & Sugar House (Lancaster)

2019 Third Angel BOOST award to develop new show BUSY
June 2017 The Six Twenty became a Live Theatre Associate Company
2016 *Fans* won the Bridging the Gap award for new work
2015 Received the Northumberland Arts Development Award to develop a series of drama and creative writing workshops in Schools in Northumberland

See overleaf for references & other relevant experience

REFERENCES

Graeme Thompson, Creative Producer, Live Theatre graeme@live.org.uk
Kate Craddock, Artistic Director, Gateshead International Theatre Festival & Horizons giffestival.kate@gmail.com
Carole Wears, Creative Producer, Prague Fringe & Carole Wears Productions carolewears@yahoo.com

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Current R&D projects include: *BUSY* a new high-octane show, with swivel chair choreography, about our 24/7 culture; being created with support from Third Angel and Sheffield Theatres and *I Died in a Moshpit* a new unapologetic punk collaboration with North East based arts collective The House of Love.

TRAINING & WORKSHOPS

2019 - Director and Designer training Traverse (Edinburgh)
2018 - Invited member of Young Vic Reach Out Director's programme
2017 - JMK Ways into Text dramaturgy training & TDUK Being an Artistic Director workshop
2011 - Cultural Management MA with Distinction from Northumbria University
2006 - 2.1 English Literature BA from Lancaster University

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Melanie is a dramaturg and has worked as a script reader for Theatre503 and Live Theatre and is currently a dramaturg for Alphabetti Theatre's new-writing programme *Just Write*. She has also directed multiple script-in-hand, work-in-progress & scratch performances. From 2011-2014 Melanie co-ran live literary company Trashed Organ, producing new writing events and festivals in Newcastle, Gateshead and London.

In addition to directing, Melanie has worked for a variety of cultural organisations in various capacities (e.g. producer, programmer, script reader): Live Theatre (Newcastle), Theatre503 (London), Improbable, The Paper Birds, Sunderland Stages, GIFT (Gateshead International Festival of Theatre) and Paines Plough. She is a member of the Young Vic's Directors Programme, which includes 15 directors who regularly meet for workshops and mentoring.