



That's Yer Lot!

site-specific, interactive theatre
for dancers, musicians and rapper

devised by

Raphael Attar
Gracefool Collective
and James Whittle

2013

That's Yer Lot! (2013)

Premiere Raphael Attar, Gracefool Collective (marked below *) James Whittle, University of York Department of Music and Northern School of Contemporary Dance students, Leeds Hackspace, 25th May 2013.

Movement devised and directed by Gracefool Collective

Music devised, arranged and directed by James Whittle

Words written by Raphael Attar

Duration c. 45 minutes

Lighting natural to the performance venue

Characters

Premiere cast:

Auctioneer

Raphael Attar

Assistant 1

*Sarah Maria Cook**

Assistant 2

*Kate Cox**

Caretaker

*Sofia Edstrand**

Receptionist

*Rebecca Holmberg**

Dinner-for-Two Girl

*Rachel Fullegar**

Phone Bidder 1

James Whittle

Phone Bidder (at least 4)

*Leo Birtwhistle, Ben Clark,
Dan Hodd, William Mackie,
Jake Muffett, Katie Wood*

Plant 1: Ghost-in-a-Jar Girl

Sophie Hutchinson

Plant 2: Mojo Man

Davide Troiani

Plant 3: Skoda Owner

Elsbeth McKeever

Plants 4 & 5: True Love Couple

*Susanna Engbo-Andersen,
Cristina MacKerron*

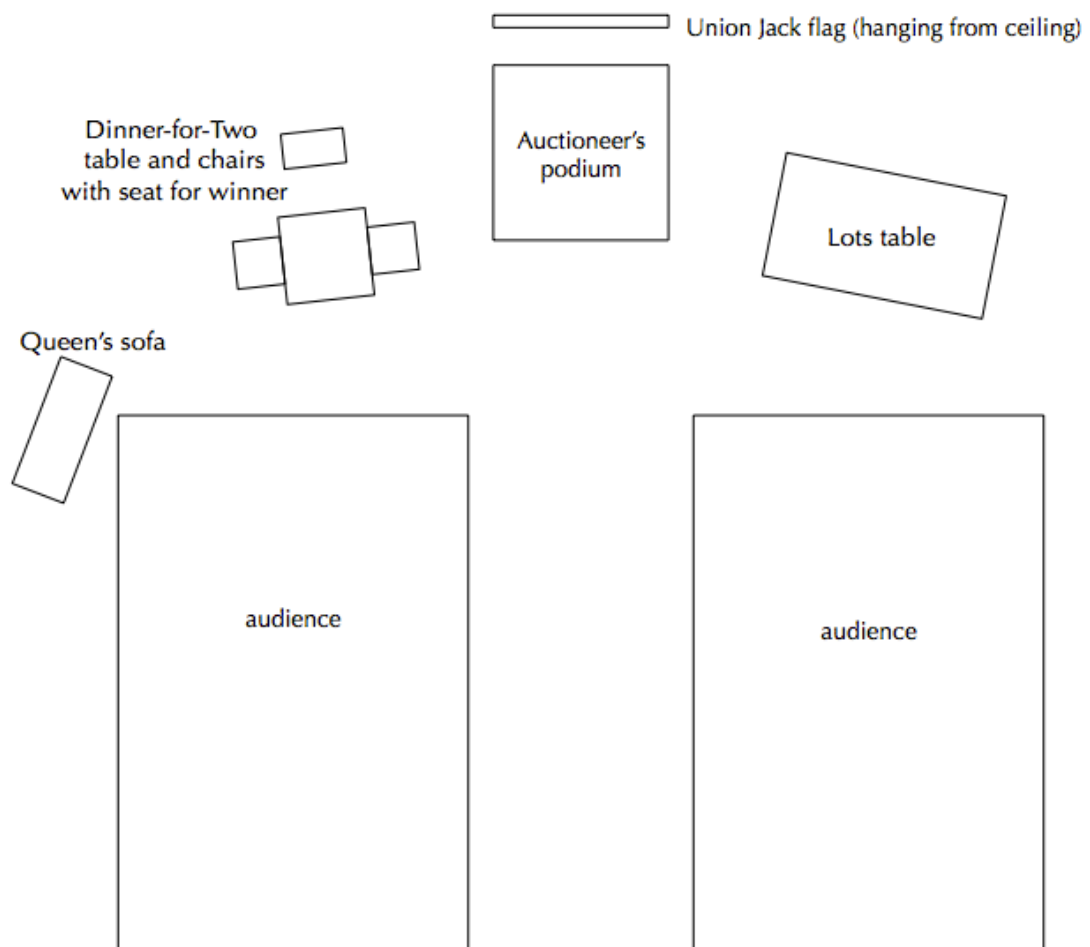
Costume

Auctioneer	smart top hat, suit jacket, tie and shirt, fluorescent leggings
Assistants	glittery, bright colour dresses and hats, thick make-up
Caretaker	tough workman's clothes, baseball cap
Receptionist	casual office wear
Dinner-for-Two Girl	evening wear, a number attached to her as if she is a lot
Phone Bidders, Plants	smart casual

Stage Layout

Fill the space with as much junk as possible, all labelled as lots.

Musical instruments are placed as lots among the rest of the junk. Phone Bidder 1's instrument is placed on the Dinner-for-Two winner's seat.



Programme Note

That's Yer Lot! is a site-specific, immersive piece which takes place in a bizarre auction where nothing is quite as it seems. The audience is invited to bid on a series of intangible objects and desired experiences, such as True Love, Status and a Cup of Tea. At once absurd and light-hearted, *That's Yer Lot!* pokes fun at our consumerist culture through 80s power ballads, frozen ready-meals and an impromptu sing-along to the National Anthem.

Devised by Gracefool Collective in collaboration with rapper Raphael Attar and composer James Whittle.

Previous performances: Hackspace, Mabgate Leeds; VANTAGE Arts Prize, Leeds; Transform Festival 2014, West Yorkshire Playhouse Leeds.

That's Yer Lot!

As the audience enter, the AUCTIONEER is at his podium. ASSISTANTS 1 and 2 are setting things up. RECEPTIONIST is registering audience members (each one is given a card with a number on it, briefly to explain they must go in and bid). CARETAKER is moving objects around, sweeping etc. PHONE BIDDERS are milling around behind the seating. PLANTS are sat down or milling around the lots. When all audience have entered, RECEPTIONIST goes to tell the AUCTIONEER to start.

LOT 1 PAINTING

This lot proceeds normally and uneventfully.

AUCTIONEER: Thank you all for coming today. It's good to see some new faces here at the auction.

You all know the routine so I won't bore you too much with the details, just waggle your whatsits up in the air nice and high so I can see if you want to bid on anything.

I will just mention: everything is available today on a credit basis, a buy-now-pay-later basis, no cash up front no payments to make for the first six months whatsoever, 40% APR for the first nine months terms and conditions apply.

Our first lot is this rather wonderful painting. (etc.)

LOT 2 VASE

AUCTIONEER: We'll move onto our next lot which is a marvellous antique vase, an antique vase. Vase... VASE. Vase. (etc.)

ASSISTANTS hold up the wrong objects. When the lot is sold, ASSISTANT 2 gives a lot to the winning bidder, but it's not the vase. The CARETAKER comes and takes it away, shaking her head.

LOT 3 CUP OF TEA

AUCTIONEER: Our next lot ladies and gentlemen is a nice cup of tea. A nice cup of tea. We are even throwing in a biscuit. (etc.)

The ASSISTANTS drink the tea. One has a bite of the biscuit. The lot is sold to the CARETAKER in the last moment.

AUCTIONEER: She looks like she could use a cup.

LOT 4 HUG

AUCTIONEER: Our next lot ladies and gentlemen is just a nice hug.

The AUCTIONEER pauses introducing when the ASSISTANTS have an awkward hug. PHONE BIDDER 1 bids repeatedly while walking up to the AUCTIONEER, who takes bids as if he doesn't want to give the lot to him. (The AUCTIONEER can pretend someone else has bid, even though they have not, to outbid him). When PHONE BIDDER 1 reaches the front, the AUCTIONEER sells the lot to someone else.

AUCTIONEER: *(taking phone from PHONE BIDDER and holding it close to bangs of his gavel) Try turning up next time.*

PHONE BIDDER 1 sits at the front. The ASSISTANTS bring forward the winner, who is hugged by the CARETAKER. The hug is awkwardly long, with a couple of short pauses. PHONE BIDDER 1 duets with another PHONE BIDDER:

Wistful and meandering.

PHONE BIDDER 1 duets with another PHONE BIDDER, who improvises a melody. Repeat as necessary. Pause whenever the hug seems to pause. Stop abruptly as soon as the hug stops.

PHONE BIDDER

PHONE BIDDER 1

mp

9

The hug and music stop abruptly. The AUCTIONEER wipes a tear from his eye.

LOT 5 DINNER FOR TWO

AUCTIONEER: The next lot ladies and gentlemen is a romantic dinner for two.

The ASSISTANTS hold up two takeaway meals. During the bidding, the CARETAKER wheels out the table and chairs then carries in DINNER-FOR-TWO GIRL, while the ASSISTANTS continue setting the table. A bidder wins and is brought up by the CARETAKER but, at the same time:

AUCTIONEER: *(gesturing expectantly at PHONE BIDDER 1) Would you mind...?*

Thinking he is being offered the dinner, PHONE BIDDER 1 sits at the dinner table. The CARETAKER sits the winner in front of DINNER-FOR-TWO GIRL and PHONE BIDDER 1, who continue their meal, which begins well but eventually turns sour.

AUCTIONEER: A little ambience might be appropriate, do we have any musicians in the house?

Two PHONE BIDDERS get instruments and come to stand by the winner, pause, then play one short, vulgar, faux-Romantic noise. They pause, bow, then return to their places, making a noise in another audience member's face along the way.

AUCTIONEER: Thank you very much.

LOT 6 GHOST IN A JAR

AUCTIONEER: Now THIS is a very special lot, a fantastic ghost in a jar. Look at the workmanship here, the craft. If I may draw your attention to the jar itself, it's not often you come across fine work like this ladies and gentlemen, I don't know if I've seen finer. It really is a fantastic piece. Let me tell you, this jar is really something special. *(pause)* Now, the jar is haunted, I won't lie to you ladies and gents – it is haunted, but it is a friendly ghost, as ghosts go, and I can't emphasise enough that the jar itself is very special...

As soon as 'jar' is mentioned, the PHONE BIDDERS begin singing. The jar jerks around, falls and breaks. PLANT 1 becomes possessed, shrieking and writhing. The CARETAKER carries her out. The AUCTIONEER's gavel cuts the music.

Begin exceedingly slow, tremulous and quiet

Tenor Lead

Baritone Bass

ba da ba ba da ba ba da ba ba da ba

When the jar smashes: get suddenly louder, *cresc.* and *accel.* Rise a semitone every 2 bars, building to straining high and losing control. Stop when Plant 1 is gone.

3

5

(Keep rising...)

ba da ba ba da ba ba da ba ba da ba

ba da ba ba da ba ba da ba ba da ba

LOT 7 STATUS

AUCTIONEER: Our next lot is status.

Do you want to look down on your neighbours?

Do you want the acclaim of nations?

An army of people singing your praises?

Do you want to legitimately address comments to “your haters”?

This is the lot for you, just a little bit of status.

We’ll start the bidding at 5.

The ASSISTANTS escort the winner to the front and dress them as the Queen, then curtsey/bow. The RECEPTIONIST and CARETAKER hand out flags to the audience.

AUCTIONEER: Ladies and gentlemen please be upstanding for the Queen!

Play and sing the first verse of the National Anthem very noisily. PHONE BIDDER 1 conducts extravagantly from the front. The RECEPTIONIST pulls down a Union Jack.

**National Anthem: tutti instruments and voices (as many as possible should sing).
Majestic, pompous, noble, noisy, silly.**

The musical score is written for four staves in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff is the treble clef, the second and third are also treble clefs, and the fourth is the bass clef. The score begins with a forte (f) dynamic marking. The melody is simple and rhythmic, consisting of quarter and eighth notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

AUCTIONEER: Ladies and gentlemen, Her Royal Highness the Queen.

The CARETAKER rolls out a red carpet to a sofa, the ASSISTANTS escort her to it. PHONE BIDDER 1 sits back at the dinner table. The AUCTIONEER gets the Dinner-For-Two winner to give the Queen a bag of sweets.

LOT 8 **MOJO**

As the AUCTIONEER raps more energetically, the ASSISTANTS feel more amorous.

AUCTIONEER: Now, I've got this one down as "Mojo"
 But you may know it as chemistry
 A certain kind of energy
 A meeting of entelechies
 That sexual tension you play the harmony! I'll play the melody
 Yes indeed
 That frisson that beats on your chest like
 ba bada ba ba bada baba bada baba bada baba bada ba

(A PHONE BIDDER drums the rhythm with a big crescendo.)

 That certain *je ne sai quoi* in the ayar
 That hey ya baby baby tell me what's your flava, ye-ah

PHONE BIDDER: *(shouts from back)* YE-AH!

AUCTIONEER: That MMMM
 Na'm saying, na'm saying
 That MMM na'm saying that MMM MMMM MMM
 (calming down) So folks, I've got this one down as "Mojo"
 The bidding starts at 5.

MOJO MAN: *(shouting from behind the audience)* ONE MILLION POUNDS!

AUCTIONEER: Sold!

The PHONE BIDDERS begin the music (see overleaf).

DINNER-FOR-TWO GIRL is drawn to MOJO MAN. They roll up the aisle and disappear behind a curtain. The CARETAKER chases after the pair, trying to stop them. While playing music, the PHONE BIDDERS dance to the front and follow them down the aisle. Eventually, PHONE BIDDER 1 shrugs and leaves the dinner.

The AUCTIONEER cues an abrupt stop to the music and dancing. Everyone stops being amorous as if nothing happened.

Careless Whisper by George Michael (melody transposed for alto saxophone in B \flat , chords in C)

1st time: saxophone with mandolin & bass clarinet accompaniment

2nd: no saxophone, violin & guitar join in (improvise on the chords)

3rd: with saxophone (repeat until stopping abruptly on AUCTIONEER's gavel cue)

Alto Saxophone

$\text{♩} = 80$

3

6

AUCTIONEER: *(banging his gavel)* That's enough! *(to the Dinner-for-Two winner)*
That's it. You can go now.

LOT 9 THIS GUY'S CHAIR

AUCTIONEER: The next lot is a marvellous one: we're selling... *(picking an audience member)* this guy's chair... *(picking another)* to that guy.

The CARETAKER takes the chair from one and gives it to the other.

LOT 10 PERSUASION

AUCTIONEER: Our next lot is persuasion, the sacred art of persuasion – can I get a demonstration?

The ASSISTANTS stand in front of the podium. The AUCTIONEER finds a teddy bear, picks a hair from each of the ASSISTANTS' heads to add to the bear. As he manipulates the bear, the ASSISTANTS move similarly as if controlled by it.

AUCTIONEER: Now this lot is perfect if you want to bend someone to your will.

Twist them round your little finger

Stretch them to breaking point

Or just tickle their fancy... (I said FANCY!)

Reach out and touch somebody

Send shivers up their spine or be a thorn in their side

Open them up to possibility

Or shut them down completely

The art of persuasion, ladies and gentlemen, is yours

The CARETAKER hands the AUCTIONEER a note and takes the bear away, throwing the hair away to release the ASSISTANTS.

AUCTIONEER: I do apologise, I've just been informed due to health and safety we have to withdraw this lot. Also, can the owner of a silver Skoda please move it, it's blocking the forklift.

The SKODA OWNER gets up awkwardly and inches through the audience to leave.

LOT 11 TRUE LOVE

AUCTIONEER: They said it couldn't be sold, ladies and gentlemen, WE'RE SELLING IT! True love.

PHONE BIDDERS:

Heartfelt... long pause ...apathetic

p ————— *f*

Tenor Lead

Baritone Bass

TRUE LO - VE.

The ASSISTANTS hand out confetti.

AUCTIONEER: True love is eternal, so I've been told
 This lot will never get old
 This lot will care for you in your twilight hours
 This lot will wake you with a cup of tea on a cold morning
 And walk with you on summer strolls just cos
 This lot will abide
 This lot will stay by your side in sickness and in health
 This lot will not be all rainbows and kittens

This lot may argue back, scream at you in restaurants and
manifest in frosty silences

But those storms will blow over and this lot will still be there

This lot will hold your hand and tell you it'll be OK when your
fears loom large

This lot will just hold your hand sometimes

This lot will meet your grandma

And one day your grandkids may meet this lot and want this lot
for themselves

Well right now this lot can be yours

True love, ladies and gentlemen, the bidding starts at 1.

The TRUE LOVE COUPLE are competing bidders on opposite sides of the room. They win and walk slowly to the front, to one another, and embrace. As they dance, the ASSISTANTS throw confetti over them while the PHONE BIDDERS sing:

Up Where We Belong by Joe Cocker and Jennifer Warnes (SATB arrangement)

1st time: 4 bars soprano solo, 4 bars with alto.

Tutti for 2-3 repeats: ridiculously overegged and soppy.

♩ = 66 A D Bm D

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Baritone
Bass

Love lifts us up where we be-long Where the ea-gles_cry on the

4 G D E7 A

moun - tain_ high Love lifts us up where we be - long_

6 D Bm A C# Dmaj7 E

Far from the world we know up where the clear winds blow_

The *TRUE LOVE COUPLE* sit on the same chair. The *CARETAKER* sweeps confetti. *MOJO MAN* and *DINNER-FOR-TWO GIRL* walk in awkwardly and sit separately.

LOT 12 HAPPINESS

AUCTIONEER: Our next lot, ladies and gentlemen, is happiness.

The *AUCTIONEER* lights a firework candle on a cake. *ASSISTANT 2* brings him a helium balloon. The *AUCTIONEER* takes gulps from the balloon (shown by *).

Now we all like happiness

Apart of course from masochists

Masochists are at their happiest when people round 'em act like dicks – ain't that some shit?

Now * happiness is next to naturalness, and naturalness to flatulence

And flatulence to laxatives, that's actually factually accurate

It's true! *

Happiness is for you, you, you and you too (maybe not you)

Feeling blue? May I recommend a dose of happiness to get you through

It's genuinely incredible, I only want the best for you *

BUY NOW! For instant gratification

Perfect for any occasion, any age, generation, race, class, social station, sexual orientation we ALL * WANT * HAPPINESS! *

The *PHONE BIDDERS* start playing rap music:

♩ = 120 Sparky upbeat groove

Melody instruments *Improvise lively, funky riffs.*

Percussion

Rhythm/Bass instruments

AUCTIONEER: Wheeeeeeeeeeee! The bidding starts at 5.

From here on, bidding starts to get more and more frantic as different lots/bidders return and start making lots of noise. The AUCTIONEER can sell anything crazily. The commotion and music stop falteringly as the SKODA OWNER storms in.

SKODA OWNER: Who scratched my SKODA?

RECEPTIONIST: *(after a pause)* I'm sorry, it might have been me...

The SKODA OWNER grabs the cake and throws it in the RECEPTIONIST's face, starting a fight.

AUCTIONEER: Ladies and gentlemen I am taking odds!

Rap music starts again. Frantic bidding ensues, until:

AUCTIONEER: Alright I'm bored of that, who wants to buy this gorgeous hat

(My god we sell some awful tat) *

Sold to the guy trying to hide in the back

That's you sir, yes sir, wish you all the best sir

Can you catch sir? Here have that sir

Back to the matter a hand who wants to buy some jam?

Rap music stops.

AUCTIONEER: *(to ASSISTANT 2)* You did bring the jam didn't you?

Everybody pauses.

AUCTIONEER: This is the FINAL STRAW. Come here...

Right, who'd like to buy one glamorous assistant

All her own teeth, slightly used

Healthy, sturdy, pushing thirty

Got a Grade 8 on the hurdy-gurdy

Sold! To the lady up front

Give that lady what she's won

What a fantastic acquisition that you're getting

Now we're selling that position and the bidding starts at 5...

Sold to the lady off to the side

DINNER-FOR-TWO GIRL gets the assistant job; ASSISTANT 1 drags her up front.

AUCTIONEER: Round of applause for our new assistant please
 The pay's terrible but the health benefits are out of this world
 Right, what else can we sell?

The AUCTIONEER leaves the podium, revealing fluorescent leggings. The rap music starts building up to a chant.

AUCTIONEER: I've got a lovely cherry bakewell
 Sold for a quid to the kid that bid
 Assistants please give the kid that shit
 Now who wants to buy these tables?
 We got designer labels
 We got the finest bagels
 We got the flyest kicks
 Hands up if you wanna buy some shit
 (*starting a chant*) Buy now! Pay later!
 (*with megaphone*) Buy now! Pay later! Buy now! Pay later!

PHONE BIDDERS:

Chant 1: while the groove continues, in two groups, chant *f* (direct it to the audience).
subito mp when the AUCTIONEER starts rapping again.

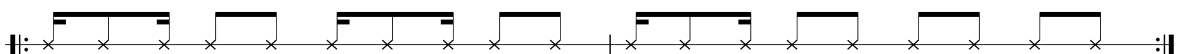
A procession begins snaking around the audience. Except for the CARETAKER, who continues sweeping, each performer joins the line as it passes them and begins bringing back any of their earlier material. The PHONE BIDDERS play any music from the piece. The AUCTIONEER pulls stuff out of his pockets, tosses it into the auction, and tries to sell audience members' belongings.

AUCTIONEER: (*over chant*) Yes! Ladies and gentlemen,
 Everything must go today
 We have absolutely no shame, no shame

We sold that yesterday to a dude called Alan
 Join us in joyful accumulation of things
 Enjoy the jubilation it brings
 Throw your hands to the heavens
 And say I want to buy that novelty ceramic animal
 It's yours madam honestly, live the dream
 Name your price! Name your price!
 Embrace the light
 We're selling this guy to that guy, it's gonna be beautiful
 I hope you're both very happy, truly I do
 We're selling the front row to the back row
 Don't worry if you ain't got the cash flow
 Every item must be sold
 Penny for your thoughts spend cash for gold
 Who wants to buy that saxophone?
 Who wants to buy this mobile phone?
 Who wants to buy this anglophone?
 Looks kinda meek but she bad to the bone
 Now who wants to buy these, who wants to buy these, who
 wants to buy these
 Vintage pogs?

The PHONE BIDDERS join in with the AUCTIONEER:

Chant 2: add over Chant 1.



Who wants to buy this, who wants to buy this, who wants to buy this

AUCTIONEER: Who wants to buy this, who wants to buy this, who wants to buy this

Pack of butter?

Who wants to buy this, who wants to buy this, who wants to buy this

Charming keychain?

Who wants to buy this, who wants to buy this –

Buy now pay later sucka!

The chants, music and commotion continue. The procession leads out a door. The AUCTIONEER gets there last.

AUCTIONEER: *(yelling)* SOLD!

The AUCTIONEER slams the door shut and all sound stops instantly, leaving just the CARETAKER sweeping and the audience in the room.

END