

about us

We make theater. Simple.

Internationally acclaimed, award-winning **theater simple** has built a reputation for producing ensemble-based, innovative, and “impossible” theatrical experiences. In a theater, in a park, “out of the box,” and around the world, we aim to create work that surprises and inspires with imagination, vision, and moxie.

Since its founding as an **artist-driven ensemble** in 1990 by artistic instigators Llysa Holland and Andrew Litzky, **theater simple** has presented more than 1,500 performances of 50+ plays in five countries on four continents.

Lauded for entertaining, thoughtful, literate, and occasionally jaw-dropping original productions, **theater simple** can be presented in both traditional theater spaces and more “out of the box” locations.

OUT OF THE BOX: For the last 15 years, **theater simple** has created a string of interactive public art events in non-traditional spaces. Frequently site-specific, located in green spaces, on top of a artfully designed rolling park, or other unique locations, they are created and designed specifically for each community. Often cross-disciplinary, the works provide opportunities for attendees to contribute to the experience. Past partners include the US Army Corp of Engineers, the heritage-listed Royal Adelaide Botanic Gardens in Australia, and organizations ranging from rural to international.

In Fall 2019, theater simple was honored and thrilled to have been selected by the [US Embassy in Turkmenistan](#) to present **CARAVAN CHRONICLES** in the capital city of Ashgabat Featured as part of the festival of “*Theatrical Art of the Epoch of Happiness*”, organized by the Turkmenistan Ministry of Culture, alongside members of national theaters from Turkmenistan, Kazhakstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Ukraine, Turkey and Russia.

The simpletons also conducted an acting workshop with the National Theater School and shared a theater-making workshop at the US Embassy as well, participating in an exchange between Turkmenistan and American theater culture.

The company has toured extensively, from its home base in Seattle, WA, to theaters and major festivals in the United States, Australia, Singapore, and across Canada. Along the way, **theater simple** has been honored with the prestigious Grand Prize at the Adelaide Fringe, the 2nd largest arts festival in the world (out of 450 groups), and showered with ‘Best Play’ awards and dozens of ‘Best of Festival’ accolades.

Additionally, the “simpletons” are experienced teaching artists, delivering masterclasses and in-depth residencies for both professional peers as well as youth and community members.

We build from the imagination up: impacting everyday creativity by linking ideas and art, and inspiring artists and audiences.

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theater simple

Llysa Holland (performer, co-artistic instigator, producer)

Llysa is an artistic instigator of **theater simple**, co-founding the company with Andrew Litzky in 1990 to delve into the alchemy of imagination, text, and creative vision to make art accessible to all. She is a specialist in non-traditional storytelling, encouraging the audience to express their own creativity.

Since 2005 she has focused on community-based, site-specific art, creating 5 out-of-the-box, site-specific park adventures and proudly partnering with the Make-A-Wish Foundation to mastermind 2 epic multi-day, immersive events for children with special needs. She also created the award-winning hyper-personal podcast series, *PARK BENCH*, which debuted in Australia and now boasts 35 episodes.

As a teaching-artist, she leads and team-teaches workshops, masterclasses, intensives, and residencies both at home and abroad, and is the creator of all theater simple study guide materials. She conceived and guided a semester-long, student-devised work springing from Swift's *GULLIVER'S TRAVELS*, and was part of the **theater simple** contingency that directed a month-long residency with Urban Myth Theatre of Youth in Australia.

Llysa has performed in and/or instigated most of **theater simple**'s 35+ productions, and created both indoor and outdoor "shoestring epics," all the while managing the company's PR and outreach. Performing at over 50 national and international festivals on four continents, she has logged well over 250,000 miles.

Regional and touring credits include the Tony-winning Berkeley Repertory Theatre and the Spoleto Festival (Charleston, SC), festivals throughout Canada, the Adelaide Fringe Festival (AU), and the Singapore Arts Festival, and a year with Up With People. She also directed the original musical, *Curie Me Away!*, about Marie Curie for MaTheatre which is currently touring Asia and the US.

Andrew Litzky (performer, co-artistic instigator, producer)

A co-founder of **theater simple**, **Andrew Litzky** has been a theater-maker and teaching artist locally, nationally and internationally since 1990. He has worked continually to engage in imagination-based performance, learning, and community interaction.

Over the past 15 years, he has focused on various aspects of site-specific and community-based art; from the all-ages, processional park adventures (*Caravan Chronicles*, *Wonderland*) to the artfully-edited, community interview-based podcast series, *Park Bench* (35 episodes and counting).

As a teaching artist, he leads and team-teaches workshops, intensives, and residencies both at home and abroad, and was part of the **theater simple** contingency that directed a month-long residency with Urban Myth Theatre of Youth in Australia. As a generative theater-maker, he takes part in all of the company's devised and adapted works, and is their lead podcast and video editor.

Andrew has performed in over 35 productions with **theater simple**, directed all technical matters, and created both indoor and outdoor "shoestring epics." Road managing most of the company's tours, all the while performing at over 50 national and international festivals on four continents, he's logged well over 250,000 miles!

Andrew has performed regionally with the Tony-winning Berkeley Repertory Theatre and at the Spoleto Festival (Charleston, SC), internationally throughout Canada, at the Adelaide Fringe Festival (AU), and the Singapore Arts Festival, and in the Pacific Northwest with over a dozen Seattle-based theater and arts organizations.

Andrew's creative process and art-making experience is informed by his experience living with the degenerative neurological syndrome Charcot-Marie-Tooth, CMT, which is similar to muscular dystrophy.