

Shop Front Theatre

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A shining beacon in the city

I remember being an intern at Shop Front Theatre and learning so much about directing, producing and performing during the first iterations of *TRAUM* and *The Visible Maker*. Honestly such an awesome time. It taught me not to be afraid to be experimental in my theatre making, to just TRY things, because that's the best way to make discoveries. It taught me to believe in my craft, and that I was better than I thought I was at the time.

I remember being given my first ever chance at making theatre on my own terms, Theatre Absolute supported me when so many other organisations in the city were holding me back creatively, so thank you for that.

I remember serving drinks on the bar, and being introduced to folks I now consider close colleagues.

I loved feeling the history of the place permeate through the space even though there was a different staging configuration each time I went to see something, somehow.

I remember how Theatre Absolute gave opportunities to so many that needed them, new and exciting but cash poor artists that you believed in.

I remember how they bailed me out of a lighting calamity with my show, and just let me borrow a lighting rig because you knew I was desperate.

Theatre Absolute are, and Shop Front Theatre has been, a shining beacon in the city – of hope, love and how communities should stick together to support one another. That won't change just because the venue is closing. I look forward to many more years of staying in touch, and potential collaborations.

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Charlie Ingram