

**MUD**

**PLANT**

**RAVE**

Touring pack



**FESTIVAL  
OF THRIFT**

# THE SHOW

Mud Plant Rave is a new immersive outdoor arts performance designed to reconnect audiences with the living plant world. Drawing on ritual, rave culture, communal celebration, and sensory play, it invites people to step out of the everyday and into a shared experience with plants, soil, water, and one another. The show encourages audiences to consider the deep relationship between humans and plants, asking:

*"How do we reconnect ourselves to the plant-based world and create empathy with nature? We invite audiences to slow down, touch/smell soil, feel the energising spray of water, breathe together, listen in new ways, and move as one positive ecology, sparking a sense of kinship."*

Guided by The Mud Ravers — beings from another place, another dimension — audiences' journey through meditative grounding rituals, embodied movement, building up to a collective dance experience 'The Mud Rave' powered by a soundtrack co-created with plants themselves.

It is joyful. It is earthy. It is serious and playful at once.

It is a rave grown from the roots: Pollination to the Nation!

*"I'm so glad I took part in the delightful Mud Plant Rave — it was exactly what I needed, and I loved connecting with the plant world in such a playful way."* Audience member Festival of Thrift 2025



[Watch the trailer HERE](#)



**"REMEMBER WE WERE  
PLANT, ROOT AND  
TREE"**



# SUSTAINABLE TOURING

Mud Plant Rave is available for touring from March 2026.

The creation of Mud Plant Rave has been made possible by Tees Valley combined Authority Scale Up Funding and Arts Council England.

All Mud Plant Rave costumes, sets, and props are created from recycled and repurposed materials, designed with sustainability at their core. We travel with our own battery-powered tech kit—removing the need for extra AV equipment—and our performers use public transport wherever possible to reduce the carbon impact of getting to and from events.

## The Show

- 4 performers
- 1 Production/Stage Manager
- Up to 3 performances per day of 35 mins
- Minimum of one hour between each show
- Audience capacity: up to 100 people per show

## What we'll need

- Woodland glade, (ideally) or flat grass surface (great) or flat hard standing outdoor space
- Approx. 20m x 15m flat audience-safe ground ideally grass surface but can work on hard standing as people need to be able to move and dance in the space
- X 2 tables and potential gazebo for covering tech/production support
- 2 x Mud Plant Rave Stewards (provided by festival/event presenter to support audience experience/hand out/collect headphones)

## What we'll bring

- Hand-made banners. Large fern flags with ground stakes/ hard standing bases, recycled wooden table, stool and props and rope to define the performance boundary
- Access to a PA or we can provide our own solar/battery powered portable PA (Option to plan soundtrack to outside of performance area secondary audience)
- 100 Silent disco headsets plus transmitters

## Use of Mud & Water

- Audiences may choose to receive optional mud markings
- Mud is sterile, peat-free, lightly mixed with clean water
- Light misting with spray bottles may be used for atmosphere
- All water used is safe drinking water

# ACCESS & FEES

- Outdoor performance - level access is a requirement for our performance and therefore all our performances spaces are accessible
- Access banner/flag- clear signal to audiences of our available access resources
- Easy Read Information- available on our website, via QR code and hard copy
- Transcript available- for the pre-show audio that has spoken text in its audio, either for audiences to use or for use by a BSL interpreter (where provided by festivals)

## Weather Conditions

- Performance can continue in light rain
- Show may need to pause or postpone in high wind, storms, or slippery ground conditions for safety

Please see tech spec and risk assessment for more detailed information.



## Fees

One day fee £3,850

Two day fee £5,850

Plus travel, accomodation and per diems





# WORKSHOPS

## Additional options to book and complement Mud Plant Rave **Foraged Nature Crown/Headdress Making Workshops**

By Institute of Thrifty Ideas

Step into a little magic. Dress up with nature and create your own playful crown or headdress using foraged natural materials and humble recycled treasures. Think twisting vines, dried grasses, feathers, flowers, seed pods, cardboard and imagination.

This is a gentle invitation to slow down and look closely at the world around you. A chance to celebrate the ordinary beauty found underfoot, in hedgerows, on windowsills, and in forgotten drawers. We'll guide you through simple making techniques to turn gathered bits into something joyful and personal.

Make a crown for celebration. Make one for play. Make one just because it feels good to escape the everyday and wear something a little wild.

All ages welcome. Be prepared to leave crowned by nature.

Capacity – 50 - 500 people

## MUD PLANT RAVE

### **Silent Disco**

By Institute of Thrifty Ideas

Let the plants set the pace. Slip on a pair of silent disco headphones and step into a mossy dancefloor where roots do the bassline and leaves handle the treble. This is the Mud Plant Rave: a gentle, joyful chance to throw a few shapes powered by plant-inspired beats, earthy rhythms, and Cerrone's Supernature gleaming through the trees.

You don't need to know how to dance. You just need to be willing to wiggle. Think: soft ground beneath your feet, a breeze through your hair, and your best fern-flail or daisy-shimmy moves.

It's playful. It's grounding. It's a reminder that fun doesn't have to be neon and concrete. It can be woodland floor, wet grass and music only you can hear.

Can be added to any event or workshop booking.

Perfect for families, free spirits and anyone who secretly believes plants have rhythm.

NB Mud Plant Rave Silent Disco can be an add on to the shows or replace one. Eg: 2 Performances and one Silent Disco.

Capacity – 100 at any one time but up to 350 people over the hour.





# CREATIVE TEAM

## Concept & Direction

Created by **The Institute of Thrifty Ideas**, created and directed by Festival of Thrift Co-Creative Director **Dominic Somers**

Co-creative development support from **Swen Steinhauser**, **Rupert Philbrick**, and **Neil Callaghan**.

## Original Spoken Text / Poem

By **Helen Mort**, award-winning poet and writer

<https://www.helenmort.com/>

Helen Mort is an award-winning poet, novelist and non-fiction writer whose work often explores the entanglements between landscape, memory, the body and belonging. Born in Sheffield and deeply connected to the Peak District, her writing is shaped by close attention to place and the ways humans move through the natural world.

In **Mud Plant Rave**, Helen's words act as the emotional and imaginative root system of the piece. Her writing invites audiences to tune into the quiet intelligence of plants and landscapes, asking how we might attend more closely, feel more deeply, and recognise ourselves as part of the living world rather than separate from it.

## Musical Composition

By **Jayne Dent (Me Lost Me)**, musician and artist

Using *electrical connections with live plants*, the soundtrack is a collaboration with the natural world itself.

<https://www.melostme.com/>

Jayne Dent is a vocalist, composer and sound artist based in the North East, performing and recording under the project name **Me Lost Me**. Known for blending experimental electronics with traditional folk influences, her work creates soundworlds that feel both ancient and futuristic, tender and expansive. She has been celebrated for her ability to hold intimacy and bold sonic imagination together, performing at festivals and venues across the UK and receiving support from BBC Radio 3, BBC Radio 6 Music and a wide range of contemporary arts platforms.

Jayne's practice often explores the relationships between landscape, voice and technology. For **Mud Plant Rave**, she has composed an original soundtrack made using **electrical signal responses from living plants**, creating a score that is not just inspired by nature but *co-created* with it. This sonic collaboration forms a living conversation between the performers, the environment, and the audience, where rhythm becomes root, pulse becomes photosynthesis, and sound becomes a kind of shared breath.

# CREATIVE TEAM

## Design & Costumes

By **Niamh Colling** and early concept ideas by **Bethany Wells**.

Niamh Colling is a Tees Valley-based designer and costume artist whose work often draws on folklore, ecology and community storytelling. Her practice blends textile craft, sculptural costume work and playful, collaborative design methods, creating environments and garments that feel both rooted in place and alive with imagination. She frequently works in outdoor and site-specific contexts, developing costumes that move, weather, breathe and belong within the landscapes they inhabit. For **Mud Plant Rave**, Niamh has created costumes that feel grown rather than manufactured: layered textures of earth, moss tones, leaf shapes and hand-made details that give The Mud Ravers their otherworldly presence. The costumes are designed to move with the performers like vines, roots and weather systems, helping audiences feel that they are encountering beings from a world where humans and plants are kin.

## Performance & Movement

Performed by **The Mud Ravers**: a group of dancers/ritual-guides who embody the rhythms, gestures, and language of growth, soil, and rave culture. They lead audiences through a symbolic plant life cycle, from Seed to Pollination.





## INSTITUTE OF THRIFTY IDEAS

The Institute of Thrifty Ideas (ITI) is a new production strand led by **Festival of Thrift**. It's focus is on developing new outdoor performance, installations, workshops, immersive events and one-off commissions that engage audiences in playful and surprising encounters. Working at the intersection of art, sustainability and public celebration, the Institute develops projects that invite people to rethink their relationship with the world around them. Their approach values resourcefulness, reuse, collective imagination and joy — proving that creativity does not need to rely on excess to be powerful. Get in touch if you would like to discuss any new partnerships or commissions.

**Mud Plant Rave** is one of the Institute's original works, created through collaborative development. The project grew from a desire to explore how humans might reconnect with plants not only intellectually, but physically and emotionally. The performance brings together movement, ritual, music and shared experience to spark a sense of kinship between people and the living environments they are part of. The Institute's work is grounded in the belief that cultural experiences can help us imagine new ways of belonging — to each other, and to the more-than-human world.





# BOOKING & CONTACT

For touring, programming, collaboration & booking enquiries, please contact Programmes Producer **Kirsty Redhead** on [kirsty@festivalofthrift.co.uk](mailto:kirsty@festivalofthrift.co.uk)



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