



GALILEO

AN A CAPPELLA MUSICAL

SHOW PACK

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BLURB

An a cappella musical biopic about the 'father of modern science', Galileo Galilei, complete with beatboxers, dance breaks and spectacular harmonies.

Set in the politically and ideologically turbulent 17th century Italy, think *The Imitation Game* meets *Hamilton* for a *Pitch Perfect* battle royale in the Silicon Valley of the Renaissance: Florence.

The music fuses choral spirituality with the earworms of a cappella pop to capture one of the iconic cultural moments of western civilisation: a single person with a revolutionary idea, willing to risk everything to convert a terrified, technologically anxious orthodoxy to a new world.



Galileo is a bold and original idea for a new musical theatre piece, using an entirely a cappella group of singers with a contemporary pop sensibility to the songwriting and music production.

The result is both original and immediately appealing.

– GEORGE STILES (STILES & DREWE)



YES, BUT WHAT IS IT ABOUT?



It's about the birth of modern science and technology

Galileo as the mathematician-turned-entrepreneur who invented the telescope; who was the first person to see deep into the stars; who proved that the earth is not the centre of the universe.

It's about power and politics

Galileo as the political pawn on the chessboard of a Europe at war, caught between the bubbling new ideas of pro-science dissenters, the knee-jerk conservatism of the church, and the big money of the powerful Medici family.



It's about education and legacy

Galileo as a father: the "father of modern science", who in fact learned his method from his father; but, when he became a father, was unable to teach science to his daughters.



The world has changed before.
The world will change again.



LYRIC FROM *WHEN WAS THE FIRST TIME*



Music that inspires the show:

Dua Lipa

Philip Glass

Chainsmokers

Monteverdi

Ed Sheeran

Pentatonix

Allegri

King's Singers

Julia Michaels

Sia

Nico Muhly

THE STORY SO FAR

Galileo is in the mid-stages of development.

We have:

- Performed in a series of well-received scratches at the Lowry (Salford) and the Everyman Theatre (Liverpool)
- Created demos and videos as "proof-of-concept" for the power of combining a cappella singing, storytelling, beatboxing and dance
- Held workshops with musical theatre students at University of Winchester and Leeds Conservatoire to develop particular scenes
- Just reached the final of the Stiles and Drewe Songwriting Competition with one of Galileo's flagship songs, *Infinity*
- Undertaken an Arts Council-funded R&D of Act 1 with professional singers
- Built a friendly, passionate, energetic core team to lead the project:



LEEDS WORKSHOP



SHEFFIELD WORKSHOP



LONDON WORKSHOP

Photography by Sam Gee

CORE TEAM



Leo Mercer
Writer, Composer

Philosopher-turned-composer:

"What more could a writer want... a captivating protagonist, Game-of-Thrones level drama, genuinely touching relationships, and a story that resonates with our tech-obsessed world."

Dan Mawson
Composer, Arranger

Saxophonist-turned-sound designer:

"It's felt like we're pushing boundaries... a cappella can be spiritual, catchy, awe-inspiring, funny, heart-rending, terrifying. And that's even before you add the beatboxer!"



Becky Harrison
Director, Choreographer

Astrophysicist-turned-choreographer:

"I can already see how vivid and absorbing this will be on stage: the compelling character arcs, the constant dance / movement, and just how current it all feels."

Gina Blease
Musical Director

Singer-turned-leader

"It's an MD's dream... everything is about what human voices can do, about an ensemble working together to create the most tight-knit sound to tell an incredible story"



ABOUT LEO&HYDE

Galileo is created by theatre company leo&hyde - behind the award-winning touring productions *The Marriage of Kim K* and *GUY*, which have toured over 30 venues in the UK including The Lowry, Birmingham Old Rep, The Turbine, Hope Mill Theatre and many others. We pride ourselves on touring the UK, and taking cutting-edge work to towns and cities throughout the country.

We combine ambitious, cutting-edge soundworlds with rich, technology-themed entertainment. Galileo is a whole new chapter in our story, taking everything we've learned in our first five years of working together to create something bigger and bolder than ever.

Quotes for previous leo&hyde shows:



leo&hyde should be attracting the attention of producers and houses up and down the country... they have the ear of today and speak directly to the heart.

BRITISH THEATRE



A dazzling technical achievement... fizzing with inspired ideas.

HOLLYWOOD REPORTER



An outstanding creative triumph... cutting-edge, smart and mind-bending...

THE UPCOMING



GUY
a new musical

★★★★★
THE REVIEWS HUB

★★★★★
THEATRE BOX

★★★★★
FAIRY POWERED MAG

★★★★★
BOYZ

★★★★★
MANCHESTER THEATRE AWARDS

🏳️‍🌈 A gay rom-com for all audiences

🎧 An uplifting electronic-pop musical

💕 A heartfelt story of rejection and body image



A fight over the TV remote.

KARDASHIAN MUSICAL

MOZART OPERA

f @ @
@leoandhyde
@marriageofkimk

leo&hyde's
W.A. Mozart's
THE MARRIAGE
of
KIM K

WHY DO WE WANT TO TELL GALILEO'S STORY?



We love epic stories.

The story feels like it comes straight out of a Game of Thrones writing room, with plotting powerful leaders, betrayal of friends, warring families, high towers and even higher stakes (and not just the ones you get burned at).



We love technology.

Galileo was the founder of modern science, and he represents the beginning of what we are passionate about bringing into theatre: stories about technology, using new technologies, to augment the potential of the voice and body.



We love human potential.

As befits a musical about Renaissance humanism, the show is a metaphor for the power of human achievement and collaboration... with diverse and progressive casting, everyone in it multi-roles, shapeshifts, sings and dances continuously, accompanying each other...

OK... Is there anything else cool about the show?

Ahistorical Casting

Inspired by Clare Chandler's paper about Hamilton's "[almost feminism](#)", we want to create a musical in which anybody can play Galileo as he ages. If we're going to tell another "white man genius" musical, we're going to do it differently!

Science and Arts Workshops

Inspired by Galileo's daughter Maria - as well as by director Becky's own background in Astrophysics - we're currently developing workshops that combine science and arts, and advocating for equality in the STEM subjects.



Technology in Design

It's a show about the beginning of technology, and we're already investigating new and exciting ways to incorporate new tech into our performance. This - along with the pop style music and commercial dance - will catch the eye of younger audiences.

Virtual Reality

Over lockdown, leo&hyde have been building the virtual reality arm of the company, developing innovative ways of presenting theatre. We're creating a VR adaptation of one of the sequences which can be used as an add-on or even a trailer.



What we're looking for:

In the past, we've produced two tours of our own, with Arts Council support. This is our biggest musical yet, with big ambition, cast and potential, and we're looking to collaborate in new ways from the very start. We're looking for:

New relationships with venues

We're very interested in co-producing Galileo with venues from around the UK, and finding beautiful ways of collaborating.

New relationships with producers

We're also interested in working with other (subsidised or commercial) producers as lead producers, to allow our team to focus on the creative vision.

Mentors, supporters and investors

Let's be honest: making a musical is hard. If you like the sound of the show, just say hey and let's be friends!

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Contact Leo, Dan, Becky and Gina at
galileo@leoandhyde.com

leo & hyde