



We are **Mangled Yarn**. We want to make theatre for everyone, everywhere. There are people in all corners of the world that for whatever reason don't get to see live theatre.

We want to change that.

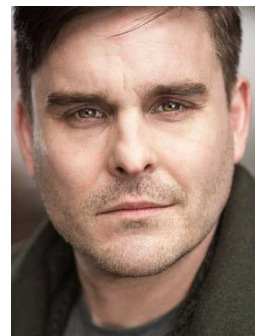
Dedicated to bringing "challenging" classics back to life along with bring original stories to new audiences, using: **Comedy, Live music, Puppetry, Technology, Audience interaction** and a whole host of other theatrical techniques and unexpected tricks. **Theatre** should be a magical experience that creating lifelong memories for all.

Since the company's inception in 2018, Mangled Yarn has been funded and supported by Arts Council England and The National Lottery to deliver exceptional and innovative professional theatre productions, life enriching outreach programmes and incredible workshops for the public and professionals alike. Mangled Yarn specialise in adapting classic texts and stories in collaboration with the community around them, using a close knit ensemble of talented Actor Musicians, Comedians, Clowns and Puppeteers to transform well-worn tales into extraordinary creative experiences. Below you will find examples of the work we do and the way we do it. We are constantly striving for the next challenge, always seeking to develop and improve our creative practice.

## CO-FOUNDERS

### NEIL JENNINGS

Neil trained as an actor at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School and has been a professional actor for more years than he can care to remember. He has worked as an actor all over the Globe, from UK regional touring, to touring across the USA, and even as far East as Hong Kong. It was under the guidance of fellow theatre company The Pantaloons, of which he is an Associate Artist, that he both met and worked with Chris, as well as honing his skills in comedy, multi-roling and audience participation.

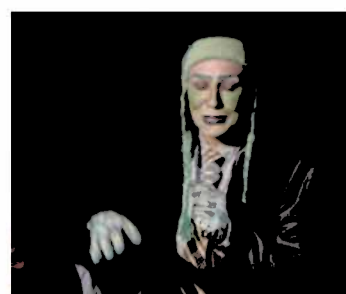
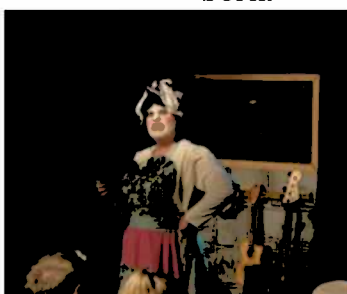
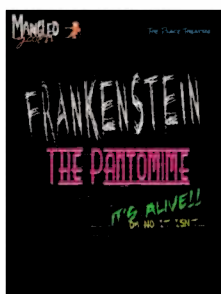


### CHRISTOPHER SMART

Christopher is an actor/musician and theatre maker from the Midlands. After graduating from The Royal Birmingham Conservatoire he has enjoyed a diverse career in the theatre industry. He has worked as an actor in the UK and across the world, with companies including Tall Stories, TNT theatre and Kenny Wax Family Entertainment. He is an Associate Artist of The Pantaloons, working as an actor, musician, composer and director.

## Frankenstein (2018-19)

**Mangled Yarn's** first production was in 2019 for at the *The Warren: Blockhouse* at the incredible *Brighton Fringe*. We thought Mary Shelly's *FRANKENSTEIN* had to be the most inappropriate classic text to turn into a family friendly spectacular... thus a show was born.



Five incredible actor musicians lovingly unstitched the gothic drama, stuffed it full of panto dames, live music, disco parodies and whatever else they could find, and put it back together again! This is how **Mangled Yarn** brings an old tale to life!

[Voice Magazine](#) ★★★★★

[Broadway Baby](#) ★★★★★

## Every Time a Bell Rings (2020)

After COVID-19 prevented our production of *It's a Wonderful Life* from opening, Mangled Yarn secured Arts Council England funding for *Every Time a Bell Rings*. This is the story of how Clarence Odbody, Angel Second Class, earned his wings is a familiar one. But even an angel must learn their trade, and that's a lesser known tale. Join Clarence in his angelic education, as his celestial colleagues teach him the ropes, offer him advice and regale him with their own stories of how they gained their flying licenses. But will he be ready when the call finally comes?



*Every Time a Bell Rings* was a festive collection of heart-warming, emotional and comical stories inspired by the diverse *Bedford community*.

Using a mixture of live and pre-recorded performances, including interviews and stories, all collected and reworked in Mangled Yarn's own raucous style – Mangled Yarn used music, laughs and lots of silliness to give the greatest gift we could at Christmas.

Alongside a live, socially distanced audience, **Every Time a Bell Rings** was also available to [Live Stream](#) or [Download](#), so even if you couldn't join us live in person for whatever reason, we could still reach out... it turns out it IS a wonderful life.

West End Best Friend ★★★★★ "A brilliant production with a festive feel"

Everything Theatre ★★★★★ "Proof that miracles do happen at Christmas"

### It's a Wonderful Life (2021)

Mangled Yarn once again secured Arts Council England funding to create a community inspired adaptation of this great film. **Mangled Yarn** reimagined one of the greatest Christmas movies of all time. For Christmas 2020, *The Place Bedford* and **Mangled Yarn** brought this all-time Christmas classic to life as you have never seen it before: filled with magic, music and Holiday spirit!



Four actors took on every character using live music, puppetry and a sack load of Christmas magic to bring Bedford Falls to Bedford. Heart strings were tugged, sides were split and disbelief was suspended!

Alongside It's a Wonderful Life Mangled Yarn were also funded by The National Lottery England to deliver an incredible community outreach programme;



Creatively Combating Loneliness

Working in collaboration with The Place Theatre, Bedford, performers and facilitators were sent out into the Bedfordshire community to provide Singalongs, Cinema nights, Yoga Sessions, Craft and Chat workshops and good company to those suffering the effects of loneliness and isolation. Using performance and creativity to help bring joy to a beleaguered post COVID community.