

Simon & Natalie's *Story*

Co-Directors of the Knotted Project.

The Knotted Project, a physical theatre company that builds creative connections.

Success is happiness, not having to answer to anyone and being able to use their creativity to make a living.



Describe your business/work in 20 words

A physical theatre company developing original productions, championing collaboration and multi-art form approaches to creating and learning.

Describe what your best day at work looks like

The best day is when we are in rehearsals, making exciting creative discoveries and choices, inspired by collaborators and guest artists.

What do you love about your work, running a business?

I love that every day is completely different; some days are extremely physical in the studio, some are on tour in the van and some are spent on the computer making everything happen. We are never bored!

Can you describe a favourite project or event you worked on recently?

Our recent production Dystopia was created in Grizedale Forest. It was a beautiful place that inspired us hugely. We felt very lucky to make in such an amazing environment!

What are your ambitions for your business?

Our ambition is to keep growing the business; working with more incredible artists, seeing even more amazing places and continue to offer opportunities to creative young people.

Which skills are essential to running a successful business?

Being Adaptable - Not everything goes to plan, you will often need a Plan B and C in place. We also find ourselves moving between a range of massively varying situations, so the ability to switch in between creative, and business mode is essential for us at The Knotted Project.

How do you make a living from your business? What is your business model?

We offer our services to a range of different partners and organisations, facilitating with groups of young people, Movement Directing for other professional shows and even creative mentoring for organisations outside of the arts industry.

We also secure public funding from the National Lottery through Arts Council England to develop and deliver a range of creative activities and projects. If you could work with anyone in the world, who would that be and why. The incredible Film Director, Wes Anderson! He has such a unique approach, vivid imagination and recognisable style, we feel his work would transfer amazingly to the stage!

What does success mean to you?

Success for us is autonomy - being able to make our own choices both in business and creativity. Building our team and employing a range of artists also feels brilliant, learning from others and providing opportunities.

Why are you based in the Lakes and Dales?

It's an inspiring place to live, which gives us lots of space to think, develop and be creative.

What did you want to be when you were growing up?

Something with a sense of adventure but as soon as I discovered acting, I never looked back!

What do you want to be now?

I would love to keep doing what I am doing, being a Co-Director of The Knotted Project, directing, facilitating and developing new projects.

Success for us is autonomy - being able to make our own choices both in business and creativity.
