

BREXIT

THEATRE SHOW IN ENGLISH (B1 LEVEL)
FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS AND ADULT LEARNERS



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INTRODUCTION

On June 23, 2016 more than 30 million UK citizens voted in a referendum called by the then prime minister David Cameron. The question asked was simple and straightforward: *“Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?”*

The majority of observers in Europe and in Great Britain dismissed the possibility of a divorce. However, the results came as a shock, with 51.9% of the voters wanting to sever ties with the EU. This monumental decision started a process, which is still ongoing today, called **BREXIT**. Its economical, political, and cultural implications are yet to be felt on both sides of the Channel.

What is certain is that June 23 will be recorded as a key moment in British history. The referendum divided generations (74% of voters aged 24 and under voted to remain in the EU) and social classes, and put the nations of the UK against each other (Scotland and Northern Ireland both backed staying in the EU)

What were the reasons of the so-called '**leavers**'? What were the motivations of the '**remainers**'? The audience is led to an unbiased view of both positions on the eve of the referendum, narrated with the means of comedy and physical theatre in order to understand the opposite views on **BREXIT**

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE SHOW

22 June 2016. Just a day before the Brexit referendum.

A father and a son debate on their stance on the vote. They are united in blood but divided in spirit as they are called to decide on their personal future and the one of their country. Charles is a self-made businessman working in advertising and his son Eric is a young man aspiring to become a mime artist. For both of them the issue at stake in this vote is '**freedom**'.

Charles is a '**leaver**', for him freedom lies outside of the EU, which he sees as a cage threatening British independence. Eric is a '**remainer**', and for him freedom resides instead in the scope of possibilities open to him by staying in the EU.

The two characters argue their respective position while digressing on the essence what being British and European really means to them. The debate turns from surreal to grotesque, from bitter to absurd, until both of them cast their vote... and wait for the outcome of the referendum.

GENRE: Comic-theatre with physical and clowning elements

LANGUAGE: English

TARGET AUDIENCE: 15+ years and adult-learners of English at B1 proficiency level.

DURATION: 60 minutes + around 20 minutes of allocated time for Q&A session with the actors

DIDACTIC ELEMENTS TOUCHED ON THE SHOW

The storyline and structure of the show covers several themes. These are some of the topics emerging in the performance, which may be further explored by teachers in the classroom.

- **European Community and European nationalism**
- **Immigration:** the effect of immigration on British society. The new immigration inflow from Eastern Europe. The European migrant crisis.
- **Economics:** the Greek crisis; economics effects of Brexit on the UK and EU
- **Millenials and young British generation:** the millenials and their view on the world; working conditions for young people in the UK
- **The British Empire:** the expansion of British power at sea and the creation of the Empire. Its influence on the English language and on English as a global language.
- **The Parliament:** British democratic tradition and respect for individual liberties. The *Magna Carta*.
- **Political propaganda and violence:** Project fear, the Joe Cox murder

Q&A SESSION

After the show it is possible to have a time dedicated to questions by the students to the actors, in order to further explore the topic and enhance direct conversation and engagement with the audience.

TECHNICAL SHEET

Title	BREXIT
Written by	Tom Corradini and Samuel Toye
Directed and produced by	Tom Corradini
Lights	Damiano Balocco
Artistic supervision	Michele Di Dedda
Number of actors	2
Number of technicians	1 – The show is also designed for non-conventional venues and sound can be controlled by the actors directly from the stage where necessary
Minimum stage dimensions	Min. 5 x 3 m This show can also be staged in non-conventional venues
Duration	60 minutes
Get-in	30 minutes
Sound	Sound mixer with connection to PC or iPad via mini-jack input cable
Minimum light requirements	Standard whitewash

THE COMPANY: TOM CORRADINI TEATRO



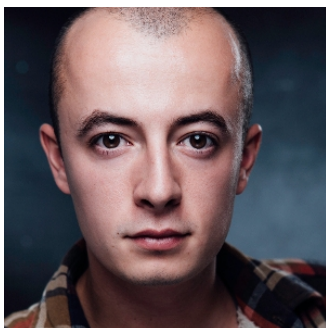
Tom Corradini Teatro is a theatre company specialised in comic theatre, visual comedy and modern clowning. Founded in 2010 by Tom Corradini, it produces and distributes shows for adults, teenagers, corporate and edutainment events. The shows of the company have an international scope and are currently available in English, French, and Italian. They have been staged in Italy, Germany, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Czech Republic, and France.

THE ACTORS



TOM CORRADINI. He is an English-Italian bilingual actor, musician, and clown. He has an extensive experience as a playwright, director and comedian and later graduated at the *Atelier Teatro Fisico of Philip Radice* in Turin (Lecoq method) where he started to explore the techniques of physical comedy and clowning. Besides being an actor and producer he worked for over 13 years as an English-conversation teacher in uppers

secondary schools in Italy and holds a TEFL (*Teaching English as a Foreign Language*) certificate awarded by Trinity College London. He wrote and interpreted many shows, among which the multi-awarded show GRAN CONSIGLIO (Mussolini), shortlisted as best performance in the 2015 Prague Fringe Festival and best solo show in the 2017 Avignon Off Festival. He also tours in Italian High-schools with his solo English music-comedy show **FACE THE MUSIC**.



SAMUEL TOYE. He graduated at East 15 Acting School in Loughton, UK, and later specialised in physical comedy, masks and clowning at the *Atelier Teatro Fisico of Philip Radice*. He worked for several theatre companies performing in the UK, Germany, Italy, China, Japan, and Singapore. Currently he also tours with his visual comedy show MIMES produced by the company Three Dots which he co-founded with two other actors.

Apart from stage work he also likes entertaining audiences in street-theatre events.