



**Name:** Rebecca (Bec) Chapman

**Role:** Theatre tutor

**Time involved with the Garage:** 6 years

**Activities:** Theatre Tutor, Director of Garage summer productions, leads Total Ensemble Theatre Company

*“The Garage gave me lots of support and encouragement, space to grow and develop and a huge list of things to do!”*

Bec discovered the Garage in 2008. She was new to Norwich and her first impressions were of an “*exciting and vibrant young venue*”. She started tutoring the Junior and Senior Theatre groups, going on to get involved with the first full scale Garage summer production of Urban Alice in 2010. For the last 2 years she has directed the Garage summer productions and loves the energy, adrenaline and “*creative frenzy*” of creating a full production in 2 weeks.

Prior to coming to Norwich Bec worked with London-based Chickenshed Theatre who pioneered inclusive theatre in the UK. She wanted to establish an integrated theatre company for young people and adults in Norwich and one of the first organisations she came to was the Garage, because “*it is inclusive in its mentality*”. She says that “*The Garage gave me lots of support and encouragement, free space to grow and develop and a huge list of things to do!*” Total Ensemble has gone on to thrive - the participants describe it as a “*family*”, which is something that Bec has worked hard to create. “*When you’re all working together towards something it’s like a family – you struggle through challenges, you might fall out - but it brings you closer together*”. She adds: “*I ask a lot from participants because I don’t underestimate them*”.

The Garage is delighted to have been able to work with such a committed and dynamic artist and to have helped Bec establish such an important theatre company for Norfolk.

