

# Performers set to take to stage

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## HOSTRY FESTIVAL

Media Partners: **Eastern Daily Press**

A Norwich-based theatre company is preparing to take to the stage for the grand finale of the group's performances at this year's Hostry Festival.

Total Ensemble, which champions inclusive theatre for people of all ages and has many members with additional needs, has been performing a series of shows for the arts extravaganza at Norwich Cathedral's Hostry this week.

The group spent months rehearsing three of the four parts of Dignity (The Right To Move), and tomorrow the 23-strong cast will be joined by about 10 members of the public who together will create the final section in a five-hour workshop. The four sections will then be performed together later in the day.

Total Ensemble artistic director Rebecca Chapman said it was "challenging but exciting" to put together the last part on the very day it is to be performed.

She said: "The whole show is an introspective look. I talked to all the



■ Total Ensemble performing at the Norfolk Arts Awards.

members about how they feel about life and their immediate environment, and the four pieces connect together.

"The first is what people don't like about their environment, the second is a dream of a better world. Both were performed at the Norfolk Arts Awards. For part three the themes

connect with those of A Doll's House because it was performed for the Hostry Festival's gala performance of A Doll's House. Part four is about community working today, living together and being together. The idea of inviting the public to take part is because it is about community, so we thought, let's see if we can

make a new community on the day."

→ **Tomorrow's workshop is now full but tickets are available for the Dignity (The Right To Move) performance at 3pm on Saturday. Tickets £10 (concessions £8). To book visit [www.hostryfestival.org](http://www.hostryfestival.org) or call 01603 598676.**

Picture: SIMON FINLAY

## REVIEW

### A Doll's House

The Hostry, Norwich Cathedral

Torvald thinks he has got it made: a comfortable home, promotion coming in the New Year, a boy and a girl, and a pretty wife.

Nora is a bit of a spendthrift, but she will grow out of her bad habits if only he keeps on reminding her that life is real and earnest.

His illusions will be shattered. Her ideals are not his.

She claims the right to live her life her way.

In A Doll's House the playwright Henrik Ibsen uses all his meticulous skill to create a drama that builds up to a final confrontation in which Nora makes her point.

Late in the nineteenth century the scene was sensational.

Today we may laugh at the husband's bluster, but Nora's cry for personal freedom still rings out.

Peter Beck's production for PBSK in the Hostry Festival works well, with realism in every detail underpinning a lot of symbolism.

As Torvald, Evan Ryder makes it plain he is a man who likes to be listened to.

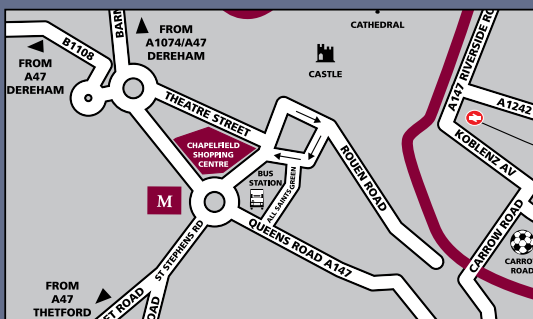
Rebecca Aldred shows Nora growing in stature as the odds appear to stack up against her.

Chris Ellis strengthens the play by bringing out the two sides of Krogstad's role.

**Christopher Smith**

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