



Forwards Always

Book

Matthew Hodson

Forwards Always is an illustrated book of nonsense poetry. The book is an edited collection of poems written between 2015 - 2017. The poetry takes an irreverent and nonsensical tone, used as a vehicle for storytelling, observation, satire and critical discourse. The book has been designed to be read aloud, between parent and child, performer and audience. Its design promotes performance, it is activated through play, with footnotes and graphic language akin to that of a school text book instructing closer scrutiny, repeated readings, meaning making and play. The book its self is a proof of concept, to read it is to decode it, to unlock it, to perform it and to imagine it.

The book is prefaced with a citation from Stephen Natchmanovitch's critical text, *Free Play, Improvisation in Life and Art*, 1990. Penguin Putnam, New York. Natchmanovitch suggests that Galumphing (childlike play) is a vital form of meaning making and is of huge evolutionary value. This idea is central to my practice based research and acted as the starting point for much of the books content, both visual and written.

The book was shortlisted in the Book category at the Association of Illustrators World Illustration Awards 2018 - <https://theaoi.com/wia/matthew-the-horse/>

Forwards Always



Poems to be read aloud
Matthew the Horse

Adaptable
Awake
Another place
A snake
Adaptable to days
Swimming pool activates waves
A puddle
And a lake
Admired by mistake
Just another animal
A day
Alive
Awake









Moods¹
Jewels²
Moulds
Rules
Nudes
Tubes
Moobs³
Prunes⁴
Moons
Hooves⁵
Glues
Spoons
Stools
Bruise
Blues⁶
Ooze
and
Feelings⁷

1. Similar to feelings
2. Buried inside a mountain
3. Too much white bread
4. Will loosen your stools
5. Horses' feet are different
6. Look at the sky
7. Similar to moods

