



capital
theatre festival

In association with



mac
birmingham

20-24 november 2013

box office

0121 446 3232

www.macarts.co.uk

INVESTING
IN TALENT



www.capitalplays.co.uk

supported by





Wednesday 20 November, 8pm

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF SADIE JONES

Written & Directed by Hannah Silva

Lyricism, language play and poetic physical performance combine in this visceral and intuitive portrait of the human psyche. Drawing inspiration from Strindberg's Dream Plays, the latest work from writer and theatre-maker **Hannah Silva** blends sound design, distinctive writing and innovative vocal techniques to depict the story of Sadie Jones: a young woman battling a desire to disappear from her own life. As she leads her sister and her boyfriend into the strange landscape of her subconscious, language breaks down, and expressionist motifs depict a struggle between the three, as those closest to her are pulled into the depths of her imagination. **The Disappearance of Sadie Jones** is a moving and complex tale of love, loss and letting go.

Foyle Studio, £10 (£8)



Thursday 21 – Saturday 23 November, 8pm

ClayBody in association with Capital Theatre Festival presents

UGLY DUCK

Stoke bloke, Dennis Hancock wouldn't win any beauty competitions. A life long Port Vale fan, Dennis is rapidly declining in middle age and inexorably sinking into the ranks of the long term unemployed. In desperation he answers an advertisement in the local paper for an artist's life model. But when troubled young artist Kat Drosdzowski begins to paint him, Dennis finds himself exposed in more ways than one... **Contains nudity. Ages 14+**

Foyle Studio, £10 (£8)



Saturday 23 November, 6pm

A CONVERSATION WITH MY FATHER

By Hannah Nicklin. Mentored and supported by Third Angel.

This is a story about my Dad (a retired policeman) and me (a protestor). It's a story about fear, bravery, what it feels like to be kettled, SuperTed, the Lone Ranger, policing the people in front of you, and being sent out of class. It's about working out what matters, and standing up to protect it. It's about Them and Us. It's about me, and my Dad. There are also some jokes in it. Because serious things are worth laughing at a little bit.

Hexagon Theatre, £10 (£8)

Mentored and supported by Third Angel. Supported by ARC Stockton, Theatre in the Mill, and public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England, with additional support from Embrace Arts and Sheffield Theatres.

#aconversationwith / Hannahnicklin.com

Saturday 23 November, 2pm

A work-in-progress sharing.

'MY DEAREST GIRLS...' THE LETTERS BOOK

Solo performer **Francesca Millican-Slater**, shares an early stage new work based on a letter's book written between 1917 – 1920. The book contains the letters of six young women connected by schooling together. Against the background of War they keep in contact through round robin letters addressed to all. These are tales of everyday life; of life as a farmer's wife, as a farmer's daughter, as a nurse, an office worker, a carpet factory worker and a dance teacher. There is gossip and hint of scandal, reprimands and reprisals, tales of dancing for royalty, skating in the moonlight, fiancés on the frontline and how to feed 100 chickens while on rations. Francesca shares these women's words while framed in the context of the 21st century.

Hexagon Theatre, £5

TICKET DEAL 3 SHOWS FOR £12

This piece is being developed by Francesca Millican-Slater, with Producer Pippa Frith in partnership with Arts Alive, with support from Pentabus.

Saturday 23 November, 3pm

Work-in-progress.

2 DEGREES by Jonathan ap Emrys

They met in a multi-storey car park, all lost and desperate. Now, after all these years, they are meeting again, one last time. Their lives have changed dramatically; beyond everyone's expectations. But no matter how far they have come, they will always remember who they were and what they did. **Contains strong language. Ages 16+**

Hexagon Theatre, £5

TICKET DEAL 3 SHOWS FOR £12

Saturday 23 November, 4pm

Rehearsed Reading. In association with Theatre Exchange.

JOY CHILD by Christopher Adams

Two brothers, their wives, and their young sons share a small flat with their dying mother. When tragedy strikes, the after-effects take an unusual form. **Joy Child**, a stage adaptation of a short story by Chinese author Yu Hua, explores the nature of revenge and the promise of 'the future'.

Foyle Studio, £5

TICKET DEAL 3 SHOWS FOR £12

Sunday 24 November, 2pm

CITY MELODIES

Written by Lorna French. Directed by Tanja Pagnuco of StoneCrabs Theatre Company.

Six people. One event that will scar them for life. Anya arrives in London from Romania with dreams of a good job teaching music and a big flat. Her boyfriend Jamie has musical aspirations of his own. Miss B is desperate for Cherise to stop with all the street slang and just speak the Queen's Henglish. But Dawn would be happy if Cherise just said one word, any word, to her after all that's happened. And JT? Well JT's looking up. Always. Dreaming of that one record beating jump that will change his life. But in one instant all their lives are linked by what they witness and, despite their differing versions of English, they all struggle to articulate the same truth.

Hexagon Theatre, £5

TICKET DEAL 3 SHOWS FOR £12



Saturday 23 November, 4.30pm

THE WRITERS' RELAY: THE FINISH LINE

The **Writers' Relay** is the culmination of a performance installation that took place throughout the festival, written and performed by you. A typewriter was set up in the foyer of the Hexagon Theatre, with the aim of creating a play within three days. Writers were able to book slots at the typewriter, taking turns to tell the story. The pages were pinned up against the wall, showing the play as it unfolded. On Saturday night, the script was handed to the director and actors. Here are the results.

Hexagon Theatre, £5

TICKET DEAL 3 SHOWS FOR £12

Saturday 23 November, 7.30pm

CAPITAL FESTIVAL: THEATRE UNCUT

Theatre Uncut was created to get people thinking, talking and taking action. The idea is simple. Playwrights are asked to write brand new short plays in response to the current political situation. These scripts are then made available for anyone to perform anywhere rights free for a limited period creating the Theatre Uncut Festival of Mass Action. Theatre Uncut is led by artistic directors Emma Callander and Hannah Price. To find out how you can get involved please visit www.theatreuncut.com

Hexagon Theatre, £5

TICKET DEAL 3 SHOWS FOR £12

industrial

capital

workshops exploring the nuts and bolts of developing a career a playwright

Wednesday 20 November, 2pm-5pm

PLAYING WITH WORDS led by Hannah Silva

An insight into the writing processes and work of **Hannah Silva**, writer and director of **The Disappearance of Sadie Jones**. How are non-Aristotelian plays structured? What happens to character when you're writing a dream world or a world with no characters in it at all? How can working with a dramaturg support a play's development? What does producing your own work entail?

A practical workshop for those wanting to explore the power and musicality of language in non-naturalistic plays and performance. We will work with voice and text, rooted in the physicality of the performer and use simple exercises to reveal layers of meaning behind the words and the intersection of poetry and playwriting. The workshop is appropriate for writers, actors, performers and directors of all levels of experience.

Randle Studio, £15



Thursday 21 November, 10am-1pm

RE-DRAFTING PLAYS led by Caroline Jester

Writing is rewriting. Ever thought your play is finished but others say just a few more drafts? This workshop will look at practical techniques to apply when redrafting. Participants will need to bring one scene with them from a play that they are currently working on. **Caroline Jester** is a writer, dramaturg, educator and director and uses playwriting as a tool in many settings. She was Dramaturg and Literary Manager at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre for 12 years and is a Fellow of the Institute of Creative and Critical Writing at Birmingham City University. She is the co-author of **Playwriting Across the Curriculum** and the originator of **REPwrite**, an interactive playwriting zone. She designs playwriting programmes nationally and internationally as well as developing her own writing and directing new work

Music Studio 1, £10

Thursday 21 November, 2pm-5pm

FUNDING WORKSHOP led by Alison Gagen

ACE Relationship Manager **Alison Gagen** will introduce the new Grants for the Arts project funding scheme and open a discussion on the ways in which writers and theatre makers can develop their projects. Includes 1-2-1 funding advice.

Music Studio 1, FREE

Friday 22 November, 10am

Exploring how location informs dramatic writing.

WORKSHOP: FALLING INTO PLACE led by Deborah McAndrew

A practical workshop looking at the relationship between place and character. Deborah McAndrew's play **Ugly Duck** is firmly rooted in the industrial heritage of the West Midlands, and the characters evolve out of that sense of place and community. Drawing on themes raised by the play, this workshop examines how space in all its forms can help tell the story. Deborah McAndrew studied Drama at Manchester University. In her acting career she has worked extensively in television, theatre and radio. She is best known for her role as Coronation Street regular, Angie Freeman, in the 1990s. Deborah's many play writing credits include work for Northern Broadsides Theatre Company, Mikron Theatre Company, Octagon Theatre, Bolton, Esk Valley Theatre and New Vic Theatre.

Foyle Studio, £10

Saturday 23 November, 3.30-5.30pm

Exploring how location informs dramatic writing

WORKSHOP: WRITING FOR PERFORMANCE led by Francesca Millican-Slater

Francesca Millican-Slater writes and makes performances by starting with objects, obsessions, research and everyday stories. With a mix of devising and writing exercises participants will work with generating different ways of interrogating objects and storytelling to work towards a small solo performance at the end of the session. We will be working around themes of the translation of other people's words, reading between the lines, biography and telling small histories as stories. The workshop will include performing and the reading out of words written.

Performance Studio, £10

Workshop participants will need to bring along paper/notebook and something to write with. If you have a tablet internet phone etc...capable of Wifi connection that you don't mind bringing with you that may be useful.

Wednesday 20 November, 6pm

FESTIVAL LAUNCH: IN BATTALIONS, FIN KENNEDY

A one hour talk and Q&A with playwright, blogger and arts campaigner **Fin Kennedy**, author of the **In Battalions** report into how Government cuts to the Arts Council are affecting new play development in the UK. Fin will tell the story of how a chance meeting with Culture Minister Ed Vaizey gave rise to the report, summarise its findings and impact, and describe its next phase - a Delphi study which is trying to find solutions to the problem. Fin will also outline some lessons he learnt along the way for anyone thinking of taking on something similar.

Fin Kennedy is an award-winning playwright whose plays for theatre and radio are produced in the UK and abroad. Since 2007 he has been writer-in-residence at Mulberry School in East London, for whom he has co-founded a theatre company and written six plays. In 2009 they won a Scotsman Fringe First, the first time a school has received one. Fin has just launched Schoolwrights, the UK's first playwrights-in-schools training scheme, and from November 2013 he will take up his new role as co-Artistic Director of Tamasha.

Hexagon Theatre, FREE

Email writers@capitalplays.co.uk for availability.

www.finkennedy.co.uk

Thursday 21 November, 6pm

PANEL DISCUSSION: DEVELOPING A CAREER AS A FREELANCER

Going freelance is a full-time job. But what are the benefits and pitfalls of being your own boss? Join writers, producers and theatre-makers as they discuss how they combine their artistic and professional development with the need to make ends meet. How do you find the best people to work with? What does a "portfolio career" really mean? And will Bank Holidays ever be the same again?

Hexagon Theatre, FREE

Friday 22 November, 2pm

DISCUSSION FORUM

More structured than an Open Space, less formal than a panel discussion, this forum is a chance to air your views on contemporary British theatre. Includes an introduction to the REP Foundry Programme, and a debate on opportunities for BME writers in the UK?

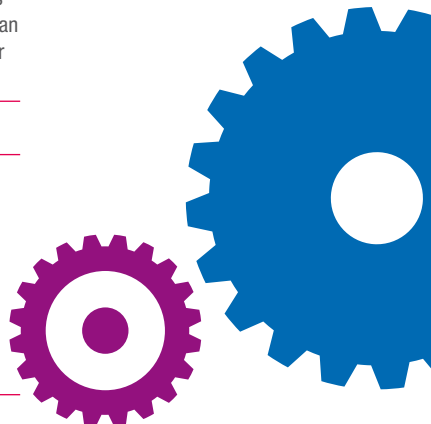
Foyle Studio, FREE

Sunday 24 November, 12noon

MEET THE PLAYWRIGHTS

Join us in the mac bar for a chance to meet and chat with all the writers who have been involved in the festival this year.

Bar, FREE



Thursday 21 –Saturday 23 November, 10am-6pm

THE WRITERS' RELAY

The Writers' Relay a performance installation, written and performed by you. A typewriter will be set up in the foyer of the Hexagon Theatre, with the aim of creating a play within three days. Writers are able to book slots at the typewriter, taking turns to tell the story. The pages will be pinned up on the wall, showing the play as it unfolds. It's a chance for writers to work together to create a new performance piece, and for the audience to see the writer at work.

Hexagon Theatre Foyer, **FREE**

For further details, and to book a slot, email relay@capitalplays.co.uk.

Friday 22 November, 6pm

BITING TONGUES

Biting Tongues is a unique opportunity to see four spoken word artists present new pieces of longer work, in collaboration with a theatre director. **Biting Tongues** is about the things we say and the things we don't, exploring the dramatic potential of poetry in an exciting quadruple bill.

Lorna

Lorna is an actor and playwright and is interested in merging these talents with her poetry to create a triple uber art form that will one day rule the world.

Lily

A word sayer and saxophone player, amongst other things, Lily is in her second year of studying English with Creative Writing at the University of Birmingham. GSOH essential.

Carl

Carl Sealeaf has performed at open mic stages and festivals around the country, using his blend of harsh realism and vivid imagery to share unique and personal stories.

Ben

Actor / writer / to blame for the UK's first inter-university poetry slam championships. His second full-length play, Method, runs at the University of Birmingham from 6-8 December.

Hexagon Theatre, **£5**



festival diary

WEDNESDAY 20 NOVEMBER

14:00-17:00	Workshop: Playing with Words	RS	●
18:00-19:15	Festival Launch: In Battalions*	HT	●
20:00-21:15	The Disappearance of Sadie Jones	FS	●

THURSDAY 21 NOVEMBER

All Day	Performance Installation: The Writers' Relay	HF	●
10:00-13:00	Workshop: Re-Drafting Plays	MS1	●
14:00-17:00	Funding Workshop	MS1	●
18:00-19:30	Panel Discussion: Developing a Career as a Freelancer	HT	●
20:00-22:00	Ugly Duck	FS	●

FRIDAY 22 NOVEMBER

All Day	Performance Installation: The Writers' Relay	HF	●
10:00-13:00	Workshop: Falling into Place	FS	●
14:00-17:00	Discussion Forum	FS	●
18:00-19:30	Biting Tongues	HT	●
20:00-22:00	Ugly Duck	FS	●

SATURDAY 23 NOVEMBER

All day	Performance Installation: The Writers' Relay	HF	●
14:00-15:00	'My Dearest Girls...' The Letters Book	HT	●
15:00-16:00	2 Degrees	HT	●
15:30-17:30	Workshop: Writing for Performance	PS	●
16:00-17:30	Joy Child	HT	●
18:00-19:00	A Conversation With My Father	HT	●
20:00-22:00	Ugly Duck	FS	●

SUNDAY 24 NOVEMBER

12:00-14:00	Meet The Playwrights	Bar	●
14:00-15:30	City Melodies	HT	●
16:30-18:00	The Writers' Relay: The Finish Line	HT	●
19:30-21:30	Capital Festival: Theatre Uncut	HT	●

Key

RS	Randle Studio	●	Production
HT	Hexagon Theatre	●	Development
FS	Foyle Studio	●	Industrial
HF	Hexagon Theatre Foyer	●	Social
MS1	Music Studio 1	●	Capital
PS	Performance Studio		

* Email for availability