

CAPITAL

A Festival of New Writing
22-27 November 2010, Birmingham

CAPITAL

is a brand new festival which brings together writers, actors and theatre-makers to celebrate and promote the work currently being developed in Birmingham and beyond. Held at **The Old Joint Stock Theatre**, the festival will include a series of rehearsed readings, a showcase of short plays and an opportunity for the public to contribute their reactions to Cameron's vision of the "Big Society".

Using the backdrop of the current political and economic climate, the festival will provide an informal platform for writers to explore their ideas, test out new work and engage new audiences.

Mon 22 November

LAFFACINO

7.30pm, £5 (£3)

An exciting night of comic and subversive spoken word, stand-up, new writing and theatre, including performances by Ugly Killers, Lady Josephine, and Chris Savage-King.

Tues 23 - Thurs 25 November

SHOWCASE

7.30pm, £5 (£3)

Rehearsed readings of three plays to enable writers to test out new work in front of an audience.

Extracts by Helen Kelly, Deborah McAndrew and Ged McKenna will be performed across three nights, exploring the moral trade-offs that people make in pursuit of their goals.

CATCHMENT CHRISTIANS

by Helen Kelly

UGLY, DUCK!

by Deborah McAndrew

THE PRESENT

by Ged McKenna

Fri 26 November

SMALL PLAYS ABOUT BIG SOCIETY

7.30pm, £5 (£3)

On 19 July 2010, David Cameron outlined his plans for the "Big Society", exhorting ideas of liberalism, empowerment, freedom and responsibility.

He placed community engagement and social action at the heart of a major cultural change. But what does this mean in real terms? In these straitened times, how will the "Big Society" affect ordinary people in the UK?

CAPITAL has asked five established writers to respond to Cameron's call for "people power" in his vision of a utopian new way of thinking...

THE WATCHED SEA

by Vanessa Oakes

NINE LIVES

by Simon Andrew Stirling

SOCIAL ORDER

by Claire Bennett

STANDING OUT OF THE LIGHT

by Sarah Grochala

CITY LOVING

by Keith R Lindsay

Sat 27 November

THE KINDNESS OF STRANGERS

by Vanessa Oakes

performed by Robert Lister
5pm, £10 (£8)

When David's wife dies unexpectedly he is left clinging to the little routines that help him to make sense of his loss. A chance encounter with a stranger leads to a new friendship. But, how far can David trust his new friend and what will he do to avoid facing his own loneliness?

This funny and touching new play by Vanessa Oakes deals with the vulnerability of ageing and grief and explores the distance between intimacy and friendship.

Sat 27 November

YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU!

7.30pm, £5 (£3)

During the recent Conservative Party Conference in Birmingham, David Cameron expanded on his proposal for a "Big Society" and invited Britons to do their bit for their country.

So in the true spirit of coalition and collaboration, **CAPITAL** is inviting you to have your say on the "Big Society".

Visit the website at www.capitalplays.co.uk for details of our Short Play competition: "Your Country Needs You". The winning plays will be performed as a rehearsed reading as part of the Festival on Saturday 27th November 2010.

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VENUE

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FURTHER INFORMATION

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"Thought, not money, is the real business capital..."