



KESTREL
THEATRE COMPANY

PRESENTS

A FESTIVAL OF SHORT PLAYS

Written by Residents from HMP Grendon

HMP GRENDON
FRIDAY 19TH JULY 2019
13.30

PERFORMED AS REHEARSED READINGS

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
THE ROYAL COURT THEATRE, LONDON



ABOUT KESTREL THEATRE COMPANY

Kestrel Theatre Company is dedicated to working creatively with people in the criminal justice system. Kestrel projects put arts professionals (writers, directors, actors, filmmakers, musicians, designers etc) together with people in prison, to produce new and original pieces of work, usually for filmed or live performance.

ABOUT THIS PROJECT

On this project we worked with award winning playwright Simon Longman, who has encouraged the men through the process of writing their first ever plays. Lucy Morrison, Associate Director from The Royal Court Theatre, London, has also previously delivered workshops on new writing and has directed the rehearsed readings with professional actors that you will see today.



A NOTE FROM PLAYWRIGHT AND WORKSHOP FACILITATOR, SIMON LONGMAN

These past weeks have gone so very quickly. Which probably isn't the most original or insightful response to something passing. But it's the only way I can think of to really describe the process these plays have been on. Seasons have changed, stories have been found. Wednesday evenings in the company of this group of writers has been such a pleasure. Writing is, sometimes, a very lonely thing to do. So being around other creative heads, sitting in a room and feeling inspiration be discovered and ideas emerge from behind a thousand other thoughts - that's what made this process so enjoyable, and feel like it's passed so quickly. The enthusiasm and commitment has been infectious to be around. And as time has passed the sparks of ideas have constantly fired. We've looked at character, structure, dialogue, stage image, narrative. We've read Caryl Churchill and Alistair McDowall. We've found stories in photographs by Dorothea Lange, Sally Mann and Gregory Crewdson. We've talked about theatre and why it matters. And these short plays are a culmination of all that. From March to July. Blank pages filled. Characters created. Dialogue written. The world around us reflected. And, most importantly, new stories shared.





THE PLAYS

THE FLAT

LEON - D WING

A man sits alone in a flat, staring out of the window at the landscape below. Twenty one floors up, he contemplates how he can ever escape his past, as someone rushes across the city to find him.

THE THREE LEGGED DOG

DAN – C WING

Jack and Jill Sileigh need a holiday. But Wales doesn't seem like the ideal location for a relaxing break. Farmers, animals, rain and arguments. And to make things even worse, the caravan they're staying in has a very, very strange smell.

REFLEKTIVE

DANNY – B WING

Malik, Carlos and Gethin are in detention. And they're not happy about it. But being forced to reflect on why they're there, the three begin to understand that talking to each other is as good a remedy as anything. And they might discover things about themselves they never thought were there.

THE FISHING TRAWLER

JOHNNY – F WING

Sam's a fisherman. He loves the tranquility of the sea. The fading lights on the shore. But this trip is different. His young son has come along for the ride. His pregnant wife too. And somewhere over the waves, a storm is building.

BEGGARS BELIEF

MICHAEL – A WING

Tom's searching for someone. Trawling through missing person records he's determined to find someone from his past. But as he gets closer in his search, the consequences of his past actions are waiting quietly to ruin everything.

Performed as rehearsed readings by:
Sally, Jonathan and Jason
Directed by Lucy



WORDS FROM SOME OF THE WRITERS ABOUT THE PROCESS

I love writing stories but had never written a play before and I wanted to see what writing for theatre was like. I went through two whole pads of paper having a go at dialogue. It found it really hard but I was excited doing it – seeing my characters come to life. I spent hours drafting and redrafting. Then when I got the notes back from Simon I was totally inspired – and worked hard to finish my final draft. Now I feel more confident in how to use grammar and structure. I'm proud of what I have achieved and am thrilled at the prospect of professional actors reading my work.

JOHNNY

It's been a brilliant process. I find my lack of confidence gets in the way of much of what I do and doing this made me realise I'm more capable than I thought. You have to give yourself a pat on the back for the fact that you even started to write a play – it's a difficult task and we should all take credit for it. But once I started it I loved it, and found the most challenging bit finishing and letting it go.

MICHAEL

A year ago I would never have thought I could write a play. I have never written dialogue before and I wanted to challenge myself. Writing the first draft was really hard, but once I got my notes back with some direction, I loved doing the redraft – it was easy. I want to write another one now.

DAN

Thanks to the steering committee and staff
from all the wings of HMP Grendon
for helping to make this project happen.



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