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The Magazine for Drama & Theatre at York St John University



ISSUE 14. SHOWCASE EDITION 2017.



THEATRE PAGES

SHOWCASE EDITION. 2017.

Welcome to the Showcase Edition of Theatre Pages.

York St John University's Showcase Festival represents an opportunity to celebrate the creativity and vision of our students.

On the Drama and Theatre programmes, students spend their final year working in collaborative companies, and this event presents the culmination of this practice. Alongside this is an ensemble production - No Pasarán! - created by all our Level 1 students and performed in the University Quad and work from students on the MA Theatre and Performance programme.

For the second year running we present Co-Create, a two day festival-within-a-festival that celebrates the making of theatre with, for and by members of our local and regional community.

Our ambition is for our students to make work that is creative and committed; relevant and radical. We want our students to make work that is contemporary and that speaks to and of the world around them. Come and see for yourself the wide range of ways in which they have achieved this.

Editors: Matthew Reason and Kiran Tanna

Cover: *A Very Pleasant Pineapple*. Alexander Kaniewski (Level 3 Theatre).

Photo: Jen Todman





FESTIVAL LISTINGS

Wednesday 10th May...

- 7.00pm Cutting Clouds. Exhibition (to Friday 19th). Arts Foyer. Opening Event.
8.00pm Ensemble. *No Pasarán*. Quad.

Thursday 11th May...

- 8.00pm Artist as Witness. "And they hunt for the truth that is 'behind it all'"
(*Brecht*). The Stained Glass Centre, St Martin-Cum- Gregory, York.

Friday 12th May...

- 5am/12noon/8pm Cutting Clouds. *BARE*. Performances in the city.
8.00pm Artist as Witness. "And they hunt for the truth that is 'behind it all'"
(*Brecht*). The Stained Glass Centre, St Martin-Cum- Gregory, York.

Monday 15th May

- 9.00am Tagged Theatre Company. Exhibition. Arts Workshop.
1.00pm Northern Six. *Project Sword*. Theatre One.
2.00pm Through the Gap. Quad South Hall.
2.30pm Tagged Theatre Company. *I Don't Think You're Ready*. Arts Workshop.
5.00pm Hand-Up Theatre. *Dancing on the Breadline*. Theatre One.
6.30pm Tagged Theatre Company. *I Don't Think You're Ready*. Arts Workshop.

Tuesday 16th May

- 4.00pm Banshee Performance. *Do Not Cut the Flow of Kindness*. Theatre One.
5.00pm *It's Not OK*. Arts Workshop.
7.00pm YTR Youth Theatre. *Fugee*. Theatre One.

Wednesday 17th May

- 1.00pm Converge. *The Museum of Llew*. The Chapel.
2.30pm Practicality Theatre. *Boxes*. Theatre One.
6.00pm Tagged Theatre Company. *I Don't Think You're Ready*. Arts Workshop.
7.00pm Next Door But One. *Any Mother Would*. Theatre Three.
8.00pm Ensemble. *No Pasarán*. Quad.





NO PASARÁN!

ENSEMBLE DRAMA AND DANCE

Literally meaning 'They shall not pass!', *No Pasarán* is an anti-fascist performance that responds to themes and stories of the Spanish Civil War.

This devised performance began with visual stimuli that included Pablo Picasso's painting 'Guernica' and photographic documents of the fight against fascism in Spain in the 1930s.

Level 1 Drama & Dance students have created a powerful memorial to the images of Civil War in order to draw comparisons to contemporary struggles including the atrocities of Aleppo in Syria.

We invite you to witness a fight against fascism, a fight that continues to this very day.

8:30PM ON WEDNESDAY 10TH AND
17TH MAY 2017







PROJECT SWORD

NORTHERN SIX THEATRE

'It was in those moments that everything came back. The fallen, the remembered and the present.'

Comprised of six artists from the north of England, Northern6 focuses their work on the exploration of specific events, and the personal narratives that occur within. Using oral history as a stimulus, they aim to retell these stories in such a way that does not re-enact the events, but rather the performance is inspired by them. Coming from diverse interests in theatre, ranging from scenographic design to the exploration of narrative practice, this enables the company to reinterpret these events and retell them in creative and unique ways.

In 2017 the York branch of the Normandy Veterans association laid up their standard, this is the year that Northern 6 pay homage to the soldiers that fell on the 6th of June, 1944. This project was devised as a response to our company's research into war, specifically the Sword Beach landings. Following five fictional soldiers, and one wife at home, *Project Sword* aims to show different aspects of war through this interesting gender ratio, and pay homage to the fallen and their families.

'But just remember, don't try and be a hero, because you'll always be a hero in my eyes.'

'I will lead my men to victory. I will be the first one off that craft and the last one back on. Dead or alive, we are all going home.'

'We were all just normal people with one goal, survival.'

'It was in those moments that everything came back. The fallen, the remembered and the present.'

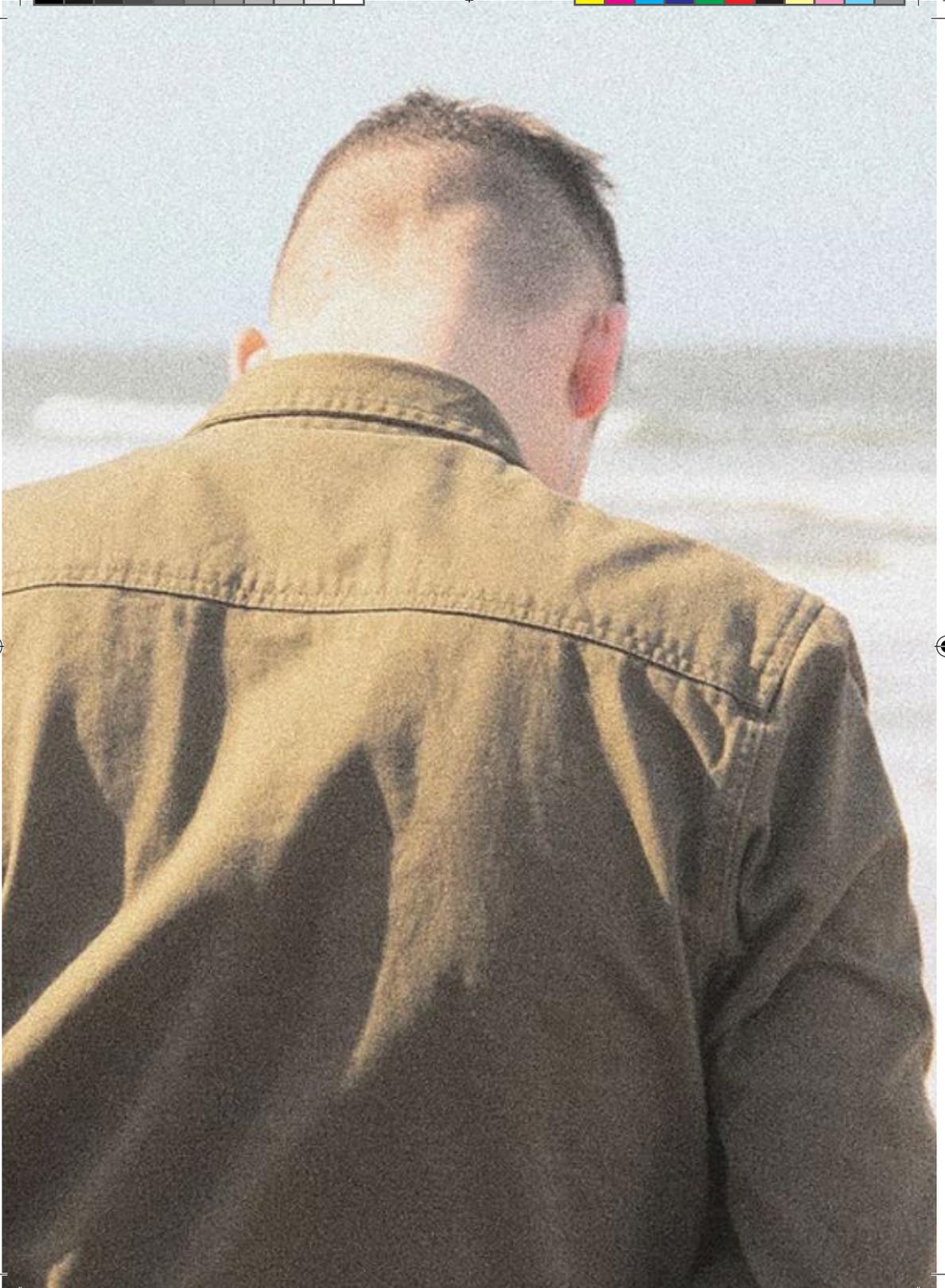
'A lot has changed since that fateful day, do you think they will remember us?'

'Love and marriage broken by a blooded sword.'

Northern Six Theatre are Lana Cowings, Thomas Gardner, Ashley Marshall, Billy Marston, Joshua Thompson and James Wardlaw.

For more information, visit: n6theatre.wixsite.com/n6theatre







DANCING ON THE BREADLINE

HAND-UP THEATRE

Hand-Up Theatre presents *Dancing on the Breadline*, a performance looking at 'the system', the faceless entity that controls and dictates how people live and operate within society.

Ordinary people are jumping through hoops, trying to meet rules and regulations more ludicrous than the people who have written them. This world is a joke without a punchline and we are the show with no apology.

Presenting satirical sketches, open mic texts and cold hard facts, this performance is designed to inform, entertain and provoke conversations with its audience.

Influenced by satire, driven by text and designed to inspire, *Dancing on the Breadline* considers the systemic causes of homelessness and confronts the ideologies that help maintain this crisis.

Hand-Up Theatre strive to interrogate the political, social and economic constructs that promote the stagnation of society. We advocate for a fairer society through the means of theatre and art.

Hand-Up Theatre are Megan Beech, Jack Richardson, Shannon Salthouse, Georgia Simpson and Brandon Webb.







I DON'T THINK YOU'RE READY

TAGGED THEATRE

Performed by four women, *I Don't Think You're Ready* takes a stylistic approach to exploring the taboos and stigmas of body image. By investigating the autobiographical and ethnographic elements that have inspired us, we have been able to collate personal narratives, pop culture references and a plethora of materials to utilise in the performance space.

Determined to reclaim the space as our own, we aim to empower through the playfulness of our images without falling into the male gaze; therefore, protecting ourselves from any ideological traps that present themselves within our process.

We have conducted a series of workshops within a youth theatre, to gain an insight into the current societal pressures that surround young people. Due to popular culture and advancements in social media, we believe body image has become a trend for the younger generation. We are interested in exploring the differences between the pressures they face today, and the things we considered to be pressures in our childhood. This research aided our material-making, as well as exploring influential performance artists such as Bryony Kimmings, Victoria Wood and Hollie McNish.

As a company, we are interested in interrogating what it means to be the 'perfect' woman – emphasising on body image issues and myths that we all face in modern society. Contrary to popular beliefs, body image is not a trend and is an issue that we want to begin a conversation about.

Our piece will begin with an exhibition that we encourage the audience to attend before witnessing the main body of the work. The exhibition will showcase the good, the bad and the ugly hidden truths of body image, in hope that it will inform and provoke a reaction from the audience before entering the performance space.

Through the aesthetics and poetics of the stage and the use of different materials, we have created an empowering and thought-provoking piece that will enable conversation.

Tagged Theatre are Laura Castle, Eloise Ingham, Maddy Johnston and Lucy Taylor.



DO NOT CUT THE FLOW OF KINDNESS

BANSHEE THEATRE

Banshee performance are an all-female theatre company. Embracing their inner banshee they use song, dance and autobiographical experiences to tackle the daily struggles that women face. The four women invite you to witness their performance of *Do not Cut the Flow of Kindness from Me* which analyses the personal reflections of what it means to be a woman and how they are treated.

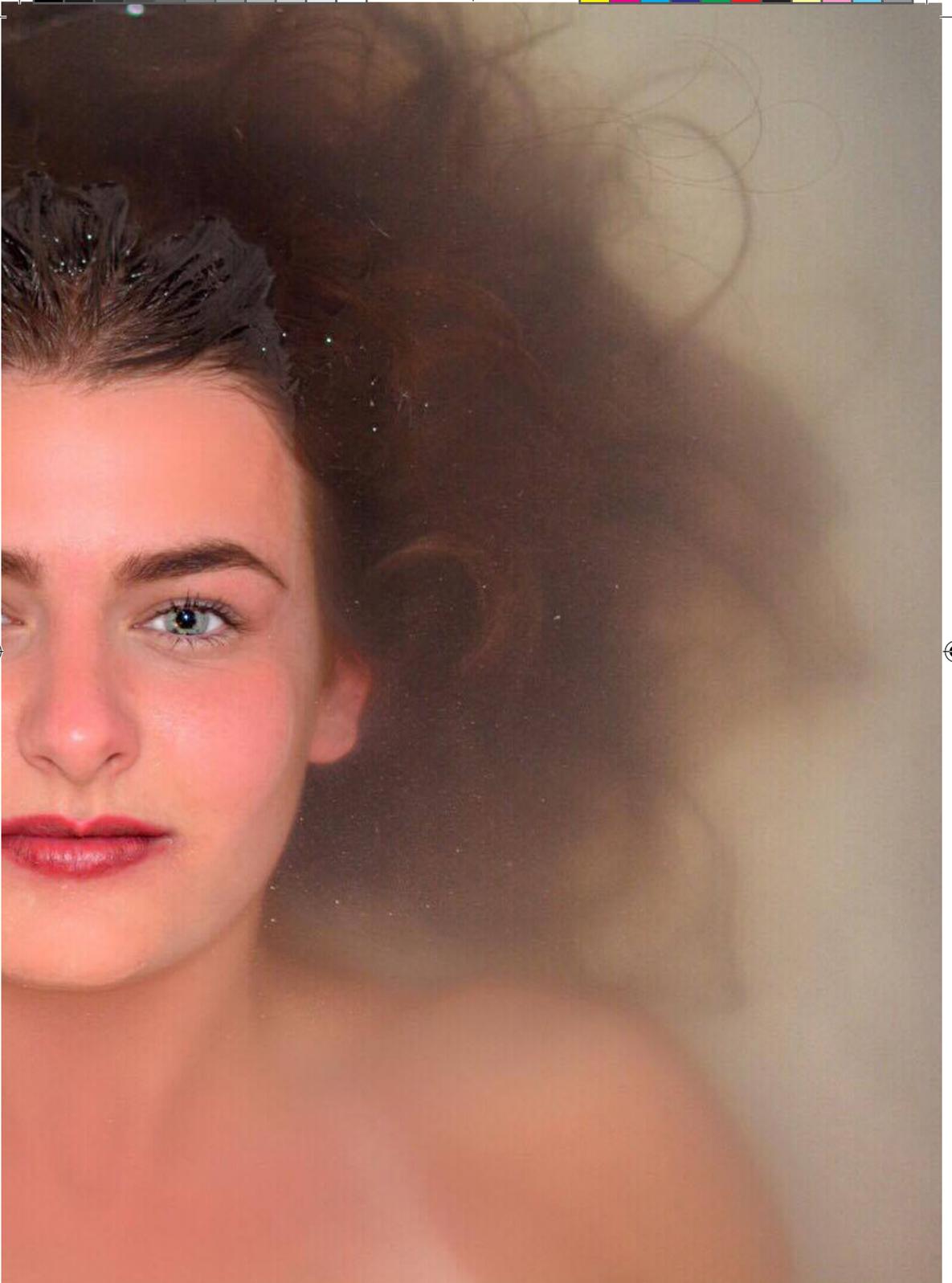
They are real, they are unapologetic and they can scream like banshees. They refuse to live in a world where women have to hold keys between their fingers, buy rape alarms in the shape of lipsticks, and are told to see catcalling as a compliment. The performance is raw, hard hitting and is designed to push boundaries, challenge stereotypes and stigmas. Above all, it asks why women are still being silenced in their time of need.

Banshee Performance uses kindness and intimacy to cut through the endless torture that women face every single day. This performance will not be sweetened to your taste.

This performance will challenge bigotry. This performance will not be easy. This performance will liberate.

Banshee Theatre are Chantelle Hubbard, Riyadh Johnson, Rachel Lord and Georgia Randall.







BARE

CUTTING CLOUDS

BARE is an action based performance that layers aspects of the life and death of writer Virginia Woolf over environments that we are exploring. Equally, the landscape that we are experiencing feeds through and contaminates our personal responses to the icon of Woolf.

We explore place in relation to the concept of three using walking, waiting and wading to filter our responses. We aim to investigate humanity within the landscape, creating a presence in the outside world.

BARE contaminates the external and becomes an extension of the performers as a gift to those sharing the environment with us; whether invited or accidental.

We will be performing BARE on Friday 12th May.

Full details about how you can experience BARE available at cuttingcloudsperf.wixsite.com/cuttingclouds





We make work in response to the environment: be that mountain, city or river.

Our actions of exploration are designed to break open the environment, producing thought and association. When performing we wish to engage the audience with the actions of our exploration, asking them to respond to our acts and also to the environment that we are performing in.

Concerned with the psychogeography of our environment, we respond to place in relation to its history, perceived associations and our individual feelings when present in the environment.

We have created a number of performances since September 2016.

An exhibition documenting these works will take place in arts foyer, York St John University, 10th – 19th May 2017.

Cutting Clouds Performance are Alexander Kaniewski, James Harris and Imogen Sutherland.



CO-CREATE

Igniting Community Theatre Practice

To co-create is to make something together, to collaborate, to work in the community, to give voice, to share, to stimulate debate. Co-Create is a mini festival within the graduate showcase taking place on **Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th May** that celebrates the making of theatre with, for and by members of our local and regional community.

Co-Create brings together current YSJ students and staff, young people from local schools and youth groups, professional practitioners, teachers and other community partners over two days to witness and participate in workshops, performances and debates around current theatre practice.

Audiences include young people from a diversity of youth settings as well as GCSE, AS and A level drama students from local and regional schools to get a sense of the possibilities of studying theatre at York St John.

We are interested in theatre as a vehicle to promote social justice, participation and community empowerment. Co-Create marks our commitment to these ideals and our engagement with a diverse range of communities, highlighting our vibrant partnerships and co-creators of contemporary theatre practice.







MA PERFORMANCE

Each of you will set off from here, in different directions. The only people you can trust are each other. On your journey you aren't alone. You're always being watched. As you pass through the streets, the threat of this place is real. There are people constantly moving around you. You are vulnerable. You see all the possibilities; every kind or sinister thing that the individuals around you are capable of. The ideas are endless, your mind runs away with you.





Eye contact with anyone would be a mistake. The only people you can acknowledge are each other, if your paths cross. As you make your way through the streets, each one of them becomes a dark alleyway.

You are searching for sanctuary, a place where the threat goes away. Once you've found it, spend some time there, be comfortable.

It is then time to return here, once you leave your sanctuary the threat is posed again so you must allow your mind to wander as you hurry back



