

DEPARTURE LOUNGE IN GOOD COMPANY

Thursday 6 – Friday 7 July



Photography: Rosie Collins



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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



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DEPARTURE LOUNGE

IN GOOD COMPANY

Thank you for joining us for *Departure Lounge 2023*, this year we are putting the magnifying glass on **Co-creation: How do artists make work with and for different communities?**

We are delighted that this year's festival is going international, with the line-up including shows created as part of **ConnectUp**, an international collective of theatres and arts organisations creating shows for young audiences, with productions from **Teatro Elsinor** from Milan, Italy and **Theatre Pinklec** from Croatia. Add to this some brilliant performances from a whole host of the most exciting UK theatre companies and artists... and we have a delicious *Departure Lounge* cocktail of shows, discussions and events to serve up to artists, audiences, participants and young people.

This year also marks **In Good Company's 10th anniversary!** After a decade of listening to, supporting and championing independent artists across the Midlands, we're celebrating with a birthday disco to close the festival on Friday night – and yes, you're invited!

Lastly, I'd like to say a big, big THANK YOU to all of the artists, partner venues and funders who have continued to support **In Good Company** in putting the Midlands firmly on the map for the wealth of artistic talent we have in the region and beyond.

Enjoy the festival!

Jen

Jen Sullivan, Creative Producer at In Good Company



Main Entrance



Sorry, I Disappeared

By Michael Beigel

Sorry I Disappeared has been created as a Walk This Play® experience for Derby.

Walk This Play® is a new series of location-based audio plays by ThickSkin, designed for listeners as they walk.

You said you needed a new start...

So this is it, Derby, an alternative history.

Elle disappeared, again. Her brother, Kay, has traced her to Derby. He discovers the hidden messages she's left him around the city, like an Easter egg hunt or trail of breadcrumbs.

Elle's been pretty creative with the truth, so grab your headphones and listen in to her unique take on the world around you.

Through narration and original music blended with the sights and sounds around you, **Walk This Play®** takes you on a journey of imagination and discovery. To enjoy the experience, simply download the **Walk This Play®** app, plug in your headphones and press play.

"One can imagine a story like this set in every city in the country." ★★★★★ The Stage

Part of the Walk This Play® series by ThickSkin, commissioned by Derby Theatre. Inspired by the experiences of new arrivals to Derby.

Age guidance: 12+

Scheduled walks with guidance: 12.30pm and 3.15pm on each day.

Independent walks (without guidance): available between 11.30am and 6pm on Thu and 10am and 6pm on Fri.

For more information, see Derby Theatre website.

**Thu 6 – Fri 7 July
FREE**

Rehearsal Room



Photography: Jon Legge

Maison Foo, Derby CAN and Friends invite you to take...

A Seat at Our Table

A multisensory celebration of food, family and friendship co-created with global friends seeking sanctuary in Derby.

For hundreds of years, stories have been shared around the dining tables of Britain, and yet, there are still many missing...

Join us, as our global hosts bring new stories to the table, sharing personal anecdotes from their homelands in this intimate and heart-warming dining table experience.

Using audio story, visual installation, theatre design and live conversation, **Maison Foo** bring to audiences an infectiously joyous celebration of this very special community.

NB: We will be serving stories rather than food around the dinner table.

Commissioned by Derby CAN (Arts Council England Producing HUB) in partnership with Derby Museums and Oddfellows UK.

Age guidance: 14+

Thu 6 July
10.30am, 12.30pm,
3.30pm & 5.30pm
Fri 7 July, 7.30pm
£7.50

Garden Stage

A Derby Theatre and Teatro Elsinor
co-production as part of ConnectUp

Cross the Line

A powerful piece of theatre for ages 12+ which explores themes around line, limit, border and conflict, and asks when does a line become a limit and what does that limit mean?

Line. Limit. Border. Conflict.
When does a line become a limit?
What does crossing that limit mean?
What does crossing that line mean?
Can the line be a protection?
Can we see the limits around us?
Are the external constructions reflected within us?

The walls outside are repeated inside?
Go beyond. Go over. Cross.

Language. Religion. Skin. Gender. Origin. Family. Age. Identity. Dreams. Chance.

There is always a line close to us. We walk alongside it and we often cross it, it tells us when to stop and reminds us where we are going. There are new and old architectures which draw up our cities like natural borders which unite and separate since always.

There are physical lines, visible and clear to everyone, and there's the imaginary ones, which nobody has ever seen, but which are just as clear.

There are lines which move in space and those which travel in time. There are interior lines, limits more or less surmountable hidden inside ourselves.

There is always Here and Beyond. There's always Me and You.

We always have a limit to overcome.
Inside and outside of us.
Crossing the Line means to choose.



In collaboration with
Teatro delle Briciole Solares
Fondazione delle Arti
and Teatro Comunale di
Casalmaggiore.

Written and directed by
Manuela Capece and
Davide Doro.

Movement by **Jon Beney.**

Age guidance: **12+**

Cast: **Salvatore Alfano**
and Gaia Barili.

Thu 6 July, 7.30pm
£7.50

Studio



A Derby Theatre and Teatro Elsinor
co-production as part of ConnectUp



A story of identity, belonging and growing up along the way.

3 presenters will lead us through a Game of Life, putting our identities under the microscope and making sure those boxes we need to fit into are nice and snug!

Our past shapes us but does it define who we become?

This is a game about identity. These are stories about how we identify ourselves and how people identify us. It's about the identities we choose, it's about the identities we've been given. The ones we love, the ones we hide, the ones we share, the ones we ink onto our skin, the ones we mine and extract, and the ones we try to cremate and bury.

This exciting new production is brought to you in a co-production between **Derby Theatre** and **Teatro Elsinor**, Milan. Expect live music, a few magazine quizzes and a big dose of hope.

Pleasant Land was inspired by the work undertaken with teenagers across the city, in particular Bemrose School.

Devised by the company with words by **Nathan Powell.**

Directed by **Sarah Brigham.**

Designed by **Frederico Biancalani.**

Cast: **Taja Christian, Martha Godber and Linh Huynh.**

Age guidance: **14+**

Thu 6 July, 9pm
£7.50

Garden Stage



Upper Foyer



Photography: Simon Raven

Co-creation:

How do artists make work with and for different communities?

Panel discussion

Come and join us for a FREE fascinating and insightful discussion with industry experts around co-creation within theatre and the arts.

Why co-creation?

Placing communities at the heart of the creative process has become a priority for many funders, including ACE.

How does this impact independent artists?

How can we communicate the value of the creative process, when there is so much pressure to quantify products and beneficiary numbers? Why is this important?

How can working with communities enrich an artist's practice?

Chaired by **Clare Brennan** (*The Observer's out-of-London theatre reviewer, Director and Dramaturg*).

Featuring panellists: **Evie Manning** (*Co-Artistic Director of Common Wealth, a political site-specific theatre company*); **Nathan Powell** (*Director, Writer, Artistic Director of NSDF and associate artist at 20 Stories High*); **Keith Saha** (*Artistic Director and Co-CEO for 20 Stories High, Writer and Director*) and **Sarah Bringham** (*Artistic Director and CEO, Derby Theatre*).



The panel discussion will be sign interpreted.

Fri 7 July, 11am
FREE

Includes a free lunch in the upper foyer after the discussion

Simon Raven

Delayed Captain

A rehearsed reading

A musical re-interpretation of Brian Eno's classic ambient album, *Music for Airports*, re-envisioned for the budget airline experience. Songs written on a budget keyboard and beach guitar relate the mixed joys of budget air travel to bipolar mood cycles, from grandiose 'flights of imagination' to the 'cancelled flight' of depression.

Delays and cancellations produce a spontaneous theatre of panic, frustration or resigned humour. One might experience distinct phases of denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. How do we pacify and entertain ourselves when unfortunate circumstances intervene to spoil our plans?

Delayed Captain was developed during an a(st)audio residency at Primary Studios, Nottingham, supported by a-n, the artist's information company.

Fri 7 July, 1pm
FREE

Community Hub

Studio

John Booker

Bwoy Dem

A rehearsed reading followed by a post-show discussion

Bwoy Dem is a punchy, dark and comedic two-hander that deals with themes of race, black masculinity, police brutality and what happens when one man is pushed to breaking point.

Errol, a patois speaking, Jamaican-born man has been raised in the UK from an early age. In and out of prison his whole life, he believes he has been consistently, and unjustifiably, targeted by the police.

As he leaves prison from his latest sentence, Errol faces the harsh reality that his partner and mother of his children is dating a police officer...this is the final straw! With this devastating discovery, Errol believes he has little to live for, and so plans his revenge on the police, enrolling the support from a local lad from Derby as his getaway driver. How will this potentially fatal mission end?

Age guidance: 16+

Advisories: **Police brutality, police violence, racism, strong language.**

Fri 7 July, 2.30pm
£5

Sheep Soup presents

House of Life

One-part sermon, one-part purge, three-parts party. ***House of Life*** is a travelling musical cult collective hosted by the RaveRend, with one mission: to get you happy, at any cost.

A space to celebrate. To elevate. To lay out your shit and wash it away. The chance to achieve absolute euphoric togetherness through the relentless powers of music and vibes.

Made up of alumni of the BAFTA-winning Television Workshop, **Sheep Soup** are back at the fringe following 5-star smash hits *Mrs Green* and *The Invention Of Acting*.

Age guidance: 12+

Advisories: **Contains strong language and audience participation.**

★★★★★ Metro
★★★★★ BBC
★★★★★ Edfringe Review
★★★★★ Broadway Baby

Fri 7 July, 5pm
£7.50

Community Hub

LIBERATION SQUARES

Presented by Fifth Word

A rehearsed reading of our new play in development by Sonali Bhattacharyya

Liberation Squares is about British Muslim schoolgirls, whose adolescence is as complex, infuriating and joyous as any other teenagers, but with the added complications of Islamophobia and cultural erasure.

Three teenage girls undergo a political awakening. Taking inspiration from young Muslim women across the world who've stood up against corrupt regimes, they plan their own local act of resistance.

Liberation Squares puts young female agency centre stage, while exploring the particular challenges faced by young Muslim women, plus wider themes including protest movements, gentrification, Islamophobia, and the government's controversial 'Prevent' programme.

This production is followed by a round-table discussion with audience members and special guests.



Age guidance: 12+

Advisories: Strong language and use of racial slurs.

Fri 7 July, 6.15pm
£5

Garden Stage



Figs in Wigs presents

Astrology Bingo

Your favourite galactic gal pals Figs in Wigs have created *Astrology Bingo* - the world's first ever* cosmic game show for astrology lovers, bingo wingers and their sceptic friends.

*Remember time is a construct

Not big on maths? Don't worry, we've solved that problem - because instead of numbers you'll be counting your lucky stars! That's right, this bingo game will be based on your own astrological chart! We give each player a unique tailor made bingo card generated from their personal natal horoscope. You'll need to listen closely for your 'Scorpio Moon' or your 'Capricorn Rising' sign to be called before you can dab dab dab your pain away.

Don't know your Uranus from your elbow? Are you a pixie on the cusp - unsure of whether you're an Aries or a Taurus? Never fear! We will use a reliable source called The Interweb to determine your chart for you. All you need to know is your birth date, time and location - we'll do the rest.

Age guidance: 16+

"Boisterously charismatic... practically radioactive"
Guardian

"The darlings of the alt-cabaret scene"
Johnny Ward Queer Guru

Fri 7 July, 9pm
£7.50

Upper Foyer



**IN
GOOD
COMPANY**

10th Birthday Party

In Good Company is 10!

WE are In Good Company, the flagship artist development programme putting Midlands artists on the map. We're here to make a creative career more sustainable for more emerging and established artists, and we've been doing this through bursaries, commissions, workshops, tours, socials, festivals, signposting, mentoring and one-to-one advice for a whole decade...now that is something to celebrate!

"In Good Company has proved itself a beacon of good practice as a bridge between independents and venues and offers a model for the future as ACE moves into its Let's Create strategy." Lyn Gardner, Theatre Critic.

We believe the Midlands is a unique place for artists, creatives and makers whose work resonates with communities locally, nationally and internationally, acting as a force for good in the world.







YOU are In Good Company, and you're invited to the party. Join us in the bar for a birthday drink and a dance!

Age guidance: 18+

Booking not required

Fri 7 July, 10.30pm
FREE

Festival at a Glance

 Main Entrance	 Community Hub	 Upper Foyer
 Garden Stage	 Rehearsal Room	 Studio

Thursday 6 July

Sorry, I Disappeared	Main Entrance	Guided: 12.30pm – 2pm, 3.15pm – 4.45pm Non-guided: 10am – 6pm (Duration: 90 minutes)	Free
A Seat at Our Table	Rehearsal Room	10.30am – 11.45am 12.30pm – 1.45pm 3.30pm – 4.45pm 5.30pm – 6.45pm	£7.50
Cross the Line	Garden Stage	7.30pm – 8.30pm	£7.50
Pleasant Land	Studio	9pm – 10pm	£7.50

Friday 7 July

Sorry, I Disappeared	Main Entrance	Guided: 12.30pm – 2pm, 3.15pm – 4.45pm Non-guided: 10am – 6pm (Duration: 90 minutes)	Free
Panel Discussion	Garden Stage	11am – 1pm	Free
Delayed Captain	Upper Foyer	1pm – 2pm	Free
Bwoy Dem	Community Hub	2.30pm – 4.30pm	£7.50
House of Life	Studio	5pm – 6pm	£7.50
Liberation Squares	Community Hub	6.15pm – 8.30pm	£5
A Seat at Our Table	Rehearsal Room	7.30pm – 8.45pm	£7.50
Astrology Bingo	Garden Stage	9pm – 10.30pm	£7.50
10th Birthday Party	Upper Foyer	10.30pm – midnight	Free



IN GOOD COMPANY

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