



**HOTBED  
THEATRE  
FESTIVAL  
2021**

**FRI 16, SAT 17 & SUN 18 JULY**

**[www.junction.co.uk](http://www.junction.co.uk)**



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

**CAMBRIDGE  
JUNCTION**



**WE'RE BACK... LIVE!**

**NEW PLAYS**

**NEW WRITERS**

**NEW STORIES**

~~**NEW**~~ **NORMAL**

**NEVER**

**HOTBED 2021**



# LOVE, NO COUNTRY

By Vanessa Ackerman

Directed by Patrick Morris

It's an open secret that Sarah's grandmother was in Stalin's gulag. It's always there, in the silences between Sarah and her mother, Irina. In the stories never shared.

Sarah's search for the truth leads her on an odyssey through fact, fiction and false hopes.

But suddenly everyone wants a piece of it and they're not letting go: Irina, desperate to bury the ghosts she harbours. Dan, the frustrated researcher, spying a career boost. The film director seeing a box office success.

*“I forget and forget and forget, the exact words, the thread, so delicate.”*

*Love, No Country*, a debut play by Vanessa Ackerman, was nurtured through Menagerie's Development Programme and this is the premiere production. It is a powerful exploration of our relationship with history: when there are no longer any eyewitnesses, who has the right to tell stories of the past?

**Fri 16th: 7pm (80 minutes)**

**Sun 18th: 8pm (80 minutes)**

**Venue: J2 | Tickets: £10/£9**

**Suitable for age: 14+**



**DOUBLE FEATURE:**

# UNDER THE WEATHER

A new film by Steve Waters

Directed by Paul Bourne

Featuring Patrick Morris

High Pressure.

Storm Warnings.

Cold Front.

Jeremy's got his day-time weatherman slot, but the temperature is rising and viewing figures are dropping... the forecast is, well, unseasonable at best.

Originally conceived as a stage play for Hotbed 2020, *Under the Weather* re-emerges as a short film.

About Jeremy.

About the weather.

Followed by

## A LIFE IN 16 FILMS... HOW CINEMA MADE A PLAYWRIGHT

by Steve Waters

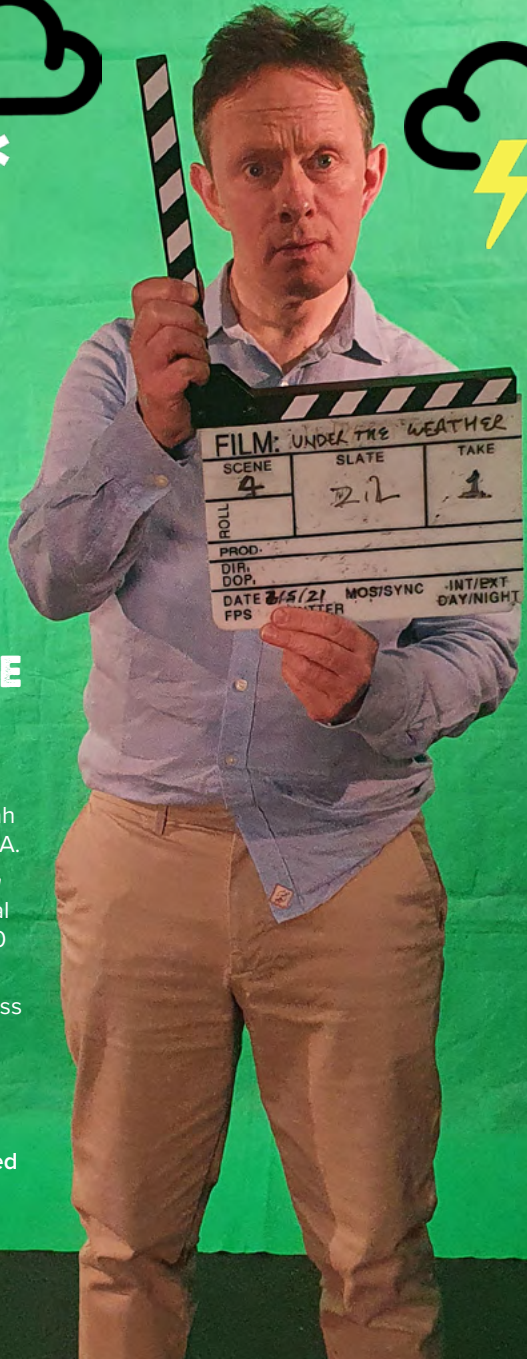
Book launch with Steve Waters and Sarah Barrow, Professor of Film and Media, UEA.

Through the the lens of cinema, *A Life in 16 Films...* provides a cultural and political snapshot of life in Britain over the last 50 years.

Steve is joined by Sarah Barrow to discuss his new book and film/stage writing and performance.

Sat 17th: 4.45pm (70 minutes)

Venue: J2 | Tickets: £7/£6 (for combined event)





# DEBUT PLAYS BY MENAGERIE YOUNG WRITERS

## WORKSHOP PERFORMANCES:

### FALLIBLE

By Magdalene Bird

Directed by Caroline Rippin

Leelah is devoted to her kelp farm and her nephew Oz. Sasha is devoted to Leelah. Oz is lost in grief and the world of the kelp people.

With a storm approaching and no radio signal, this unlikely trio find themselves forced to reassess their own priorities. What is stronger – love for the world or love for another?

A new play exploring our sense of responsibility to the natural world and the comfort to be found in things bigger and more powerful than ourselves.

**Sat 17th: 7.30pm (45 minutes)**

**Sun 18th: 2.00pm (45 minutes)**

**Venue: J2 | Tickets: £6/£5**

### PHENOMENON

By Martha Loader

Directed by Paul Bourne

What would you do if your mother was the most hated woman in Britain?

Agnes has gone viral. Fuelled by likes and faceless followers on social media, she is on a crusade – against the government, the mainstream media and the so-called snowflake generation. Even her children can't avoid coming under fire.

When her own son tries to stop her, sparks fly – but will family ties prove more important than ideas? Or will this turn into fully-fledged intergenerational war?

**Saturday 17th: 3.30pm (45 minutes)**

**Sunday 18th: 5.00pm (45 minutes)**

**Venue: J2 | Tickets: £6/£5**

## READINGS:

### EXPECTING

By Clare Oliver-Williams

A story about motherhood and its complications. What happens when mothers and daughters clash over how to bring up a baby?

**Sat 17th: 11.30am**

**(60 mins including discussion)**

**Venue: J3 | Tickets: £4/£3**

### THE LOOP

By Dr Mona Jebril

Sawsan just needs to get a permit for her son to receive urgent hospital treatment over the border. But this is Gaza and it's not so straightforward - welcome to *The Loop*.

**Sat 17th: 1.00pm**

**(60 mins including discussion)**

**Venue: J3 | Tickets: £4/£3**

### FOR THE LOVE OF BRICKS AND BONES

By Emma Rogerson

Inspired by the true story of Sheila Capstick, a pioneer for gender equality in working men's clubs, this new play is a collision between buildings, class, power and snooker.

**Sat 17th: 2.15pm**

**(60 mins including discussion)**

**Venue: J3 | Tickets: £4/£3**

# FINEST

By Lucille Rococoa

Produced by Fly No Filter

Inspired by real events, *Finest* is a scripted dance-theatre solo exploring what might happen when what you thought defined you, is taken away.

Everyone knows Abel, he's the dancer, the one that can do the moonwalk. Loyal since-ever to the Bridge, Abel has never been on a plane – his Jamaican DNA has never left England. After every night out, he returns to his ground floor flat, kebab in hand.

But Abel has a condition, a disorder of the red blood cells.

Under his damp, faded Michael Jackson T-shirt, Abel's left shoulder is crumbling away. Abel has sickle cell. Everyone knows Abel.

**Sun 18th: 3.30pm (55 minutes)**

**Venue: J3 | Tickets: £8/£7**



# WHAT IF WE ARE ALL DEAD

By Lucille Rococoa

Produced by Fly No Filter

A work in progress performance

15th October, 1987. A depression develops over Bay of Biscay, while in Ramsey Forty Foot, 11-year-old Jimmy wrestles with his Thundercats duvet. Through monologue and movement, we revisit the night of The Great Storm to explore life and confront the silent certainty of death.

Performed by James Therobot

Designed by Ben Swift

**Sun 18th: 1.00pm**

**(60 minutes including discussion)**

**Venue: J3 | Tickets: £4/£3**

# SHADES OF PEMBERLEY: BLACK GIRLS LOVE JANE AUSTEN TOO

By Elizabeth Moynihan with Sybille Wehrli

Produced by Éala Productions

*Shades of Pemberley* is inspired by memories of the performer's teenage years, and her own personal journey from Cameroon to Strasbourg via the suburbs of Paris. The young Blanche's loneliness finds an outlet in an unlikely obsession with Jane Austen.

Blanche's imagination takes her to the cossetted, corseted world of Georgian England. Gossip, romantic disappointments, and the triumphs of dispossessed young gentlewomen resonate deeply with the disaffected Blanche. Her own isolation finds comfort in stories of a time when young women, rich or poor, had little agency of their own.



Performed by Sybille Wehrli  
Directed by Clara Onyemere  
Original score by Fergus Cahillane

**Fri 16th: 6pm & 8.30pm (45 minutes)**

**Venue: J3 | Tickets: £8/£7**

**Suitable for age: 14+**

## SPLIT.7

Written and performed by James Bloor

Eight conversations are "split" apart.

Each time a person reaches out to the other, they expose the fragility of their communication.

Will they be understood?

Will they even be heard?

A dark comedy that explores connection and disconnection.

**Sat 17th: 8.30pm (55 minutes)**

**Venue: J3 | Tickets: £8/£7**

**Suitable for age: 14+**

***"A singular voice, equally  
disconcerting and powerful."***

Vogue





# I, AMDRAM

Written and performed by Hannah Maxwell

“89 years. 172 different productions. I am the first female member of my family to not appear in a *Thalians* show for a reason other than pregnancy.”

Amateur dramatics. The hidden history of many a performance artist.

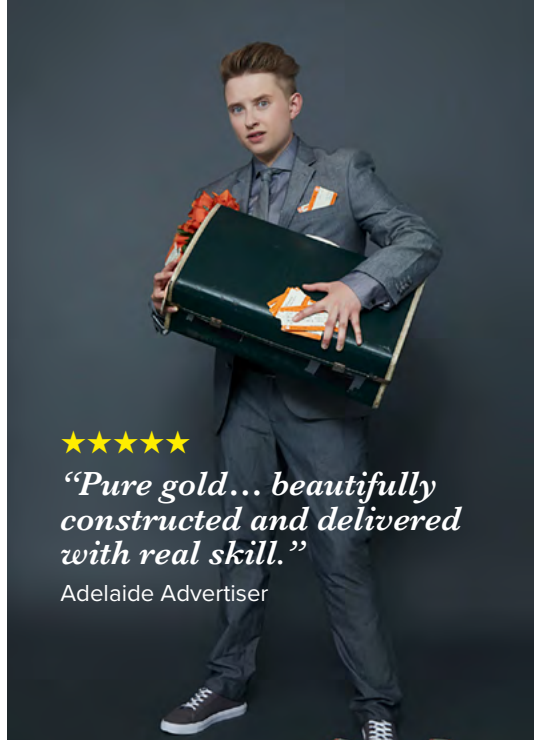
From four generations of leading ladies comes one queer Londoner, sharing a story of return and reconciliation – with her hometown, cultural inheritance and secret love of musical theatre.

Step-ball-changing between suburb and city, *I, AmDram* minds the gap between the identities we assert and the worlds we leave.

**Sun 18th: 6.30pm (65 minutes)**

**Venue: J3 | Tickets: £8/£7**

**Suitable for age: 12+**



★★★★★

*“Pure gold... beautifully constructed and delivered with real skill.”*

Adelaide Advertiser



## HERE I AM!

Developed by Inna Cebotari & Sava Cebotari

As told by Sava Cebotari

My name is Sava. I am an artist. I am a composer, writer, producer and inventor. I am Autistic.

I was raised in the Soviet Union.

I am in London now, with my family. In a pandemic. I arrived in July 2020 from Chisinau in Moldova. For the opportunity.

Since I came here I've worked on construction sites. I produce hammer drill sounds in a space where I'm not the only one doing this... a hammer drill score that evokes emotions, thoughts and messages that I can only imagine.

I am Autistic. I am an Artist. Here I Am!

I want to ask you some questions...

**Sat 17th: 6pm**

**(60 minutes including discussion)**

**Venue: J3 | Tickets: £5/£4**

**Suitable for age: 14+**



# COVID CONFIDENTIAL

By Abi Zakarian

An intimate site specific performance – just for you.

A newly commissioned 'pandemic reflection' by Abi Zakarian, performed by one actor to just one, two or three audience members.

A moment to reflect, absorb and celebrate a year of confinement, a year of discovery... socially distanced but emotionally connected.

**Times: Throughout the festival – check the website for time slots. (12 minutes per performance)**

**Venue: Site Specific (TBA) | Tickets: £4/£3**

**Suitable for age: 14+**

# COVID CONNECTIONS

By 12 Writers

Been there. Seen it? Felt it? Laughed? Cried?  
Been together? Been apart?

12 playwrights give their response in 3 minutes each... what has made up 'the Covid year' for them?

12 actors take those words and share them – what will connect with you?

**Sat 17th: 9.30pm (45 minutes)**

**Venue: J2 | Tickets: £6/£5**

**Suitable for age: 14+**



## PLAYWRIGHTS' BREAKFAST

With Steve Waters

A networking and panel event for playwrights and theatre lovers.

Grab a coffee and network, then ask questions of Steve Waters – regarded as “one of the UK’s finest political Playwrights” and Professor of Scriptwriting at UEA.

**Sat 17th: 10.30am (60 minutes)**

**Venue: Mezzanine**

**Tickets: £4/£3 (includes coffee!)**

## TALKIN' 'BOUT MY GENERATION

### BOOK LAUNCH

The culmination of a community project exploring cross-generational voices.

Hear from the project makers about their stories.

Ticket price includes a copy of the *Talkin' 'Bout My Generation* book.

**Sun 18th: 12pm (45 minutes)**

**Venue: Mezzanine**

**Tickets: £4/£3 (includes copy of book)**





# HOTBED 2021 FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

## Friday 16 July

6.00pm	Shades of Pemberley: Black Girls Love Jane Austen Too	J3
7.00pm	Love, No Country	J2
8.30pm	Shades of Pemberley: Black Girls Love Jane Austen Too	J3

## Saturday 17 July

All Day	Covid Confidential (see website for times/booking)	Various
10.30am	Playwrights' Breakfast with Steve Waters	Mezzanine
11.30am	Expecting	J3
1.00pm	The Loop	J3
2.15pm	for the love of bricks and bones	J3
3.30pm	Phenomenon	J2
4.45pm	Under The Weather (film) and A Life in 16 Films... (book launch & talk)	J2
6.00pm	Here I Am!	J3
7.30pm	Fallible	J2
8.30pm	split.7	J3
9.30pm	Covid Connections	J2

## Sunday 18 July

All Day	Covid Confidential (see website for times/booking)	Various
12.00pm	Talkin' 'Bout My Generation: Book launch	Mezzanine
1.00pm	what if we are all dead	J3
2.00pm	Fallible	J2
3.30 pm	Finest	J3
5.00pm	Phenomenon	J2
6.30pm	I, AmDram	J3
8.00pm	Love, No Country	J2

**Booking Information and tickets: [www.junction.co.uk](http://www.junction.co.uk)**

## HOW TO BOOK:

### TICKETS

Individually priced tickets:

£10 - £3

**Day Passes** (Saturday or Sunday)

Will get you into every performance,  
reading and event

£22/£18

All ticket prices include a booking fee.

### BOX OFFICE

Cambridge Junction,  
Clifton Way,  
Cambridge CB1 7GX  
01223 511 511

Ticket Sales:

online: [www.junction.co.uk](http://www.junction.co.uk)

or [tickets@junction.co.uk](mailto:tickets@junction.co.uk)



All events will be held under the Government COVID-19 regulations and guidelines in place at the time of the event. Up to date information can be found on Cambridge Junction website.

Supported by:



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