



 menagerie

"Firmly established as an
essential on the new writing calendar"
The Guardian



Hotbed

2009

**The Cambridge
New Writing
Theatre Festival
25 June – 4 July**



www.hotbedfestival.co.uk

 **ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**
LOTTERY FUNDED

Tickets: 01223 511511
www.junction.co.uk

**The
Junction**



**Extraordinarily powerful...
theatrically excellent.**
The Independent

Ten days of amazing new plays!

Welcome to a festival of plays with a future! Hotbed 2009 once again sees Menagerie join forces with The Junction to present the best new writing for the stage from the East of England and beyond. From established names to first time writers Hotbed produces vibrant, inspiring, new work to engage audiences and artists alike.

The main commission this year is **Stand By Your Van**; an extraordinary "live competition" play by Anna Reynolds. It's the biggest, boldest Hotbed production ever, featuring all 14 members of the Hotbed acting ensemble.

One Act plays feature strongly with three eclectic pieces; **Four for Jericho** from Hotbed debut writer Richard Fredman, **At Sea** from Fringe First winner Clare Bayley and **Flick to Kick** from Verity Bargate Award winner Judy Upton.

This year Hotbed also premieres three fantastic full length plays, as script-in-hand productions. This is a chance to see work from exceptional regional talent; with Hotbed debut pieces from Janice Okoh (**Egusi Soup**) and Alison Falconer (**Prosperity 3**), alongside an exciting new project from the RSC produced, Menagerie Associate Artist, Fraser Grace (**Events From a Forgotten War**).

Complimenting the main commissions we have a new performance piece from recently returned artist-in-residence in the Antarctic, Chris Dobrowolski, cabaret sketches from the New York world of Shel Silverstein, readings, guest productions, workshops, discussions and the legendary **One-Page-Play-Competition-Athon!**

The producers



Menagerie creates, supports and inspires new writing in the East of England. We work with artists at all levels from first-time writers to nationally recognised playwrights, as well as an outstanding ensemble of designers, actors and producers. Over the past ten years the company has focused on establishing a unique space where we can develop new artists and produce their work. www.menagerie.uk.com

The Junction

The Junction is one of the UK's premier multi-arts centres and has been presenting the very best in theatre, dance, comedy, live music and clubs since 1990. The organisation is committed to the development and support of new artists and new art forms. www.junction.co.uk





Stand By Your Van

By Anna Reynolds

Someone's gonna win a truck!

Enter the bizarre world of endurance contests.... there's a £25,000 pick-up truck in the middle of the stage and 12 contestants are holding onto to it – all desperate to win it. All they have to do is be the last person standing.

The scene unravels over 80 thrilling minutes as we condense 80 hours of action from one of the most bizarre competitions ever dreamt up.

Based on true contests, this fictional re-creation is a powerful new play reflecting on a world where people

will do anything to win. We witness gruelling pain and determination, alongside hilarity and utter lunacy induced by hours without sleep. Who is going to sacrifice the most to drive away with the prize?

Only one of our "do or die competitors" will be left standing... you just know its going to be explosive!

A funny, tense play... **with a different winner every night.**

Produced in association with the Pleasance.

£7.50/£5 | 80 minutes

Thu 25 June, Fri 26 June – 8pm
Wed 1 July, Thu 2 July – 8pm
Thu 2 July – 2pm

 **Marshall**

ESCALATOR

SUPPORTING ARTISTS
IN THE EAST OF
ENGLAND
EAST TO EDINBURGH



Supported by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

ONE ACT PLAYS

Three commissions from three extraordinary voices. One act plays to inspire, engage and entertain.

At Sea

By Clare Bayley

Set sail with Fringe First award-winning playwright Clare Bayley. On board the cruise ship *Crystal* all does not sparkle for a widow who is truly adrift until an encounter with a male dance escort results in a dramatic plan. But things soon hit the rocks and the ship's Captain is determined to steer a straight course on his final cruise. Ride the waves of this terrific black comedy from the writer of *The Container*, the smash hit of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2008.

£6/£5 | 45 mins

Mon 29 June, Tue 30 June – 8pm

Sat 4 July – 7.30pm

Four for Jericho

By Richard Fredman

Who has the strongest claim to a land? Whose story wins the day? Cambridge writer Richard Fredman investigates the enduring Middle East conflict through four distinct voices, two on either side of the divide, in a multi-layered and thrilling piece of political theatre.

£6/£5 | 45 mins

Sun 28 June – 8pm

Mon 29 June – 9pm

Sat 4 July – 9.30pm

Flick to Kick

By Judy Upton and Matt Merritt

Remember Subbuteo? Mike does fondly, so he gladly accepts the invitation to a workmate's house for a match. But this is not quite the game he remembers from those innocent days of his childhood. A folder full of rules and regulations and a huge metal goalie turn child's play into something more serious in this new drama from Verity Bargate Award winning playwright Judy Upton and "Subbuteo expert", writer Matt Merritt.

£6/£5 | 45 mins

Sat 27 June – 8pm

Sun 28 June – 7pm

Sat 4 July – 8.30pm





FULL LENGTH PLAYS

Egusi Soup

By Janice Okoh

A funny and poignant debut play from new Menagerie Associate writer Janice Okoh. As a British-Nigerian family pack their luggage and prepare to head home for a funeral, they realise they will need to get rid of some excess baggage first... a fast, furious and funny new family drama about life in London, death in Lagos and soup on the kitchen table! Premiering at Hotbed prior to regional and national touring.

£5/£4 | 80 mins

Fri 3 July – 7.30pm

Sat 4 July – 2pm

Prosperity 3

By Alison Falconer

A compelling Hotbed debut from new talent Alison Falconer. The Nigerian oil fields are a dangerous place for heroes. With no easy answers and betrayal just a phone call away, three rig workers find themselves hostages to fortune. Friendships and loyalties are brought into conflict with global politics and big business in this engrossing drama. Premiering at Hotbed prior to future development.

£5/£4 | 80 mins

Thu 2 July – 6pm

Sat 4 July – 4pm

Events from a Forgotten War

By Fraser Grace

Menagerie Associate writer Fraser Grace (*Breakfast with Mugabe*, RSC; *Gifts of War*, *Frabisher's Gold*, *Tongues*, Menagerie) presents a new piece inspired by the writings of Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya. Without sentimentality, this new work anatomises Politkovskaya's murder while giving voice to the people she wrote about and those that she accused. Presented at first development phase, this is a major new piece from one of the UK's best political playwrights and a festival favourite.

£5/£4 | 80 mins

Sat 27 June – 6pm

Wed 1 July – 2pm

Sat 4 July – 6pm

NB: these are three new full length pieces presented as script-in-hand performances.

hotbedfestival.co.uk

READINGS & WORKS IN PROGRESS

New plays in development read by
the Hotbed ensemble company.

The Altruists

By Craig Baxter

If evolution dictates the survival of the fittest, why do animals protect each other? What is altruism – is it selfish, selfless or just naive? Craig Baxter explores the true story of three scientists whose research is revolutionary but whose lives outside the Galton Laboratory don't fit their theories quite so neatly.

PWYW | 90 mins

Sun 28 June – 4pm

Black Sea

By Steve Waters

1934. Rural Cambridgeshire is disrupted by the arrival of a mysterious German architect. Challenging the community's sexual and social values, the emigre brings news of a continent on fire and offers a vision that exposes deep faultlines running through English life.

This reading is the first public airing of this play written for the National Theatre. PWYW | 90 mins

Tue 30 June – 6pm

Pork Pies & Copycats

By Anna Rowntree

Inspired by The Canterbury Tales, Anna Rowntree (*Elephants in Nairobi*, Hotbed 08), places a group of very modern pilgrims in a London pub and lets us eavesdrop on their stories. PWYW | 90 mins

Tue 30 June – 9pm

There's No Need to Panic

By Jennifer Tuckett

In an age of anxiety is it more sensible to opt out? Third in a trilogy from an exciting young playwright. PWYW | 30 mins

Mon 29 June – 6pm

Mummy Loves You

By Andrew Muir

Sibling rivalries boil over in this unique piece from a Hotbed favourite (*Gauleprietown*). PWYW | 30 mins

Friday 3rd July – 6pm

ARU and Write On!

Discover the writers of the present and future with readings of five twenty minute plays by students from the Anglia Ruskin University Writing Drama Course and the best of Cambridge's own Write On! PWYW

Sun 28 June – 2pm

Graveside Monologues

Parkside Federation Creative and Media Diploma Students

A journey through Mill Road Cemetery inspired this new performance piece with students discovering the graver side of life. PWYW

Tue 30 June – 2pm

WORKSHOPS AND DISCUSSIONS

NB: Pre-booking essential for all workshops as places are limited.

BBC Radio Drama Workshop

Fiona Kelcher

A drama script-writing masterclass from BBC producer, Fiona Kelcher, for anyone interested in writing for the radio. £15/£12.50 | 150 mins

Sat 27 June – 12pm

Playwriting Workshop

Steve Waters

A workshop about the nuts and bolts of writing for the stage from the head of playwriting at Birmingham University. Whether a beginner or more experienced writer this is your chance to get back to basics. £15/£12.50 | 150 mins

Sat 27 June – 12pm

Monologue Workshop for Actors

Karen Kohlhaas

Improve your monologue technique for auditions and general stage work with one of the world's leading experts; New York director Karen Kohlhaas. Suitable for all actors, professional or amateur. £15/£12.50 | 150 mins

Sat 27 June – 12pm

Panel Discussion

**Age and Treachery Will Triumph
Over Youth and Skill**

What are the consequences of age-defined approaches to new writing? When are you too old to be a young writer? How can age be a positive force in commissioning and producing new work today?

Featuring industry professionals including Peter Leslie Wild, Karen Kohlhaas and Steve Waters.

PWYW | 60 mins

Sat 27 June – 4pm

Stand By Your Van

A practical acting and writing workshop for school groups. See how this innovative production was devised and developed. 60 mins

Thu 2 July – 12pm

Combined ticket for workshop and matinee performance £10

Our Share of Tomorrow Real Circumstance

Work in progress.

Suitable for all, this session provides a fascinating insight into the development of a new play and a chance to see the working results up close. PWYW

Sat 27 June – 6pm
(performance 7.30pm)

GUEST PRODUCTIONS

A Stroke of Genius

PIT

Eccentric female librarian seeks male for good times and illegal sperm harvesting. Must enjoy: literature, blackmailing and cuddles. Own turkey-baster preferred... A new comedy based on the true story of the Nobel Prize Sperm Bank.

PIT are a young, multi-award winning company that have been making fun and unusual theatre since 2003. **£5/£4** | 60 mins

Sat 4 July – 1pm

Wittgenstein's Face

By Jeremy Hardingham

'The face is the soul of the body' – Wittgenstein. What happens to a face glutted from ingesting painted, photographed and filmed images of other faces? This solo show explores these questions through a series of playful performances in which faces appear, transform and dissolve, complete with ventriloquy, puppets, gravity and light.

£5/£4 | 30 mins

Thu 2 July – 9.30pm

Our Share of Tomorrow

Real Circumstance

Selections from this new play in development. *He asked her out when they were sitting on the Quay. She was fifteen, he a year older; and they were very happy together. But then she had to go away...*

PWYW | 30 mins

Sat 27 June – 7.30pm
(follows workshop)

The Captain of the School Football Team

Kenneth Emson

Amid the prefect badges, school blazers and empty B&H packets, a secret lurks that will send shivers down the spine of a small community. On a warm sunny day, when Kev and Lisa should have been at school, events take a dark turn and it's no longer just a laugh. A dark, lyrical tale of teenage tragedy.

PWYW | 60 mins

Wed 1 July – 6pm

Tasseomancy

Small Change

An interactive journey through a Victorian world of magicians, lost souls and tea leaves. A site-specific promenade performance from Hotbed favourites Small Change. **PWYW** | 30 mins

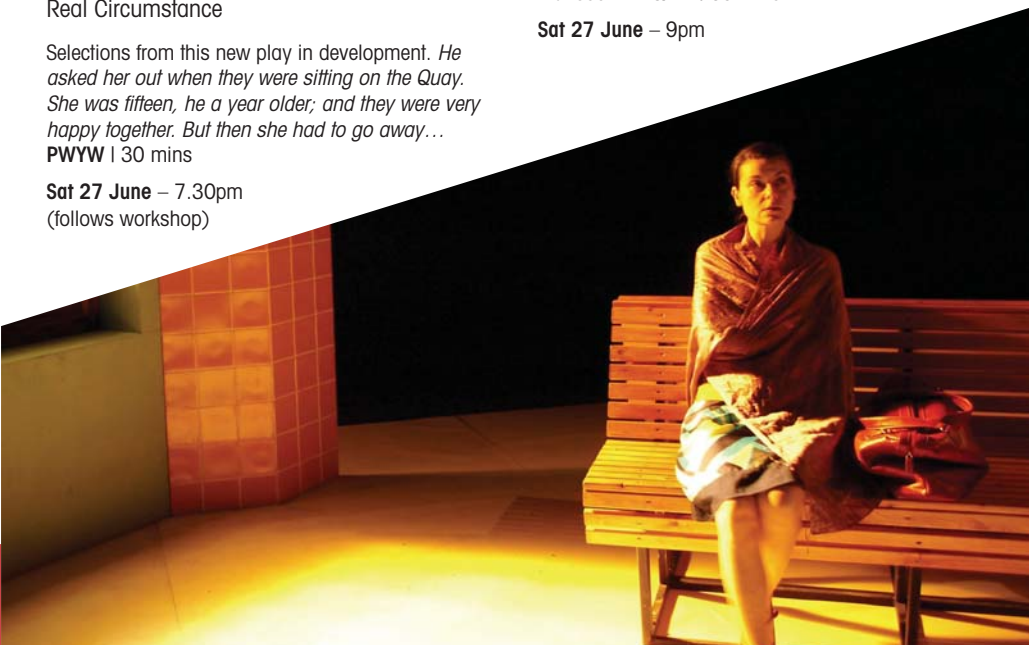
Sat 4 July – 3pm, 5pm, 7pm

A Pint for the Ghost

Helen Mort

A night-time encounter with the ghosts of worked-out mines, smoky pubs and deserted highways. Award-winning poetry star Helen Mort conjures them all in this compelling odyssey, reinventing and revelling in the voices of her native South Yorkshire. One more for the road?... **£5/£4** | 60 mins

Sat 27 June – 9pm





The Great Escape (from Corporate Training)

Chris Dobrowolski

Using his unique storytelling style, conceptual artist Chris Dobrowolski recounts his extraordinary experience as artist-in-residence in Antarctica. Think of yourself as a failure? Trapped in a corporate hell? Why not escape it all and spend time with penguins?

Chris has been forced into doing corporate training, if he sees another flip chart he's going to... flip. There is only one way out – get as far away as you can and take your work with you! **£5/£4** | 90 mins

Fri 26 June – 6pm

Sat 27 June – 11am (family-friendly version, without the swearing and coincidentally about 30 mins shorter)

Fri 3 July – 9pm

Hotbed Cabaret: An Adult Evening of Shel Silverstein's sketches

Directed by Karen Kohlhaas

These mini-comedies are truly rude, brilliant sketches by one of America's greatest satirists performed script-in-hand, by the Hotbed Ensemble Company and directed by Atlantic Theatre Company's Karen Kohlhaas. Forget Silverstein's quirky writing for kids this is brilliant adult comedy around the battle of the sexes. Grab a drink and an open mind for cabaret sketch fun from the Big Apple.

£5/£4 | **definitely for adults only!**

Sat 27 June – 10pm

Sun 28 June – 9pm

ONE-PAGE-PLAY- COMPETITION-ATHON

The One-Page-Play-Competition-Athon is now a firmly established and much loved part of Hotbed. The winner – decided by the audience – gets to donate **£250** to a charity of their choice.

At Hotbed 2009, all the one-page-plays are inspired by the theme of "Competition", from epic battles to X-Factor finals, the Olympics to Cain and Abel... the possibilities are endless! All the plays are performed anonymously, so there's no favouritism. Last year's winner was by a first-time playwright – this year it could be you! To find out how to enter a play visit www.hotbedfestival.co.uk **PWW**

Thu 25, Fri 26 June – 10.15pm

Wed 1, Thu 2, Fri 3 July – 10.15pm

Sat 4 July (The Grand Final) – 10.30pm

Hotbed
2009

Hotbed Diary

2009

Thu 25 June

- 8pm Stand By Your Van
- + 10.15pm One-Page-Play-Competition-Athon

Fri 26 June

- 6pm The Great Escape
- 8pm Stand By Your Van
- + 10.15pm One-Page-Play-Competition-Athon

Sat 27 June

- 11am The Great Escape (Family version)
- ◆ 12pm Playwriting Workshop
Monologue Workshop for Actors
BBC Radio Drama Workshop
- ◆ 4pm Panel Discussion: Age & Treachery
- ◆ 6pm Our Share of Tomorrow Workshop
- 6pm Events from a Forgotten War
- * 7.30pm Our Share of Tomorrow Performance
- 8pm Flick to Kick
- 9pm A Pint for the Ghost
- 10pm Hotbed Cabaret

Sun 28 June

- * 2pm ARU and Write-On!
- * 4pm The Altruists
- 7pm Flick to Kick
- 8pm Four for Jericho
- 9pm Hotbed Cabaret

Mon 29 June

- * 6pm There's No Need to Panic
- 8pm At Sea
- 9pm Four for Jericho

Tue 30 June

- * 2pm Graveside Monologues
- * 6pm Black Sea
- 8pm At Sea
- * 9pm Pork Pies and Copycats

Wed 1 July

- 2pm Events from a Forgotten War
- 6pm The Captain of the School Football Team
- 8pm Stand By Your Van
- + 10.15pm One-Page-Play-Competition-Athon

Thu 2 July

- ◆ 12pm Stand By Your Van Workshop
- 2pm Stand By Your Van
- 6pm Prosperity 3
- 8pm Stand By Your Van
- 9.30pm Wittgenstein's Face
- + 10.15pm One-Page-Play-Competition-Athon

Fri 3 July

- * 6pm Mummy Loves You
- 7.30pm Egusi Soup
- 9pm The Great Escape
- + 10.15pm One-Page-Play-Competition-Athon

Sat 4 July

- 1pm A Stroke of Genius
- 2pm Egusi Soup
- 3/5/7pm Tasseomancy
- 4pm Prosperity 3
- 6pm Events from a Forgotten War
- 7.30pm At Sea
- 8.30pm Flick to Kick
- 9.30pm Four for Jericho
- + 10.30pm One-Page-Play-Competition-Athon – The Final

Hotbed marathon – see all the plays on Sat 4 July for only £25/£20 conc.

- **Productions**
- **Script-in-hand**
- * **Readings / Works in Progress**
- ◆ **Workshops / Discussions**
- + **One Page Plays**

**All events take place
at The Junction**

Tickets: 01223 511511

hotbedfestival.co.uk

Tickets & Information

All events take place at The Junction

Ticket prices from £7.50 to PWYW – please see individual shows for prices.

Group bookings – buy 10 tickets, get one free.

PWYW = Pay What You Want

Hotbed marathon – see all the plays on Sat 4 July for only £25/£20 conc.

You can buy tickets for any Hotbed performances in person at:

The Junction

Clifton Way, Cambridge CB1 7GX

By telephone: **01223 511511**

Or online: **www.junction.co.uk**

For more information about
Hotbed events, the ensemble,
latest news and offers
visit our website at

www.hotbedfestival.co.uk

join the mailing list and follow
the Hotbed blog!



COMING SOON



Re:Design

By Craig Baxter

Directed by Paul Bourne

Featuring Terry Molloy as Charles Darwin

**If Darwin's theory of natural selection is true,
does it mean there is no God?**

The debate rages on.

Re:Design takes us back to the start dramatising the intimate exchange of letters between Charles Darwin and the devoutly Christian Harvard botanist, Asa Gray. Serious thinkers, family men, patriots, wrestling with the issues of their own day and ours. The characters of Darwin and Gray unfold through the eyes of Gemma, a modern-day artist and film-maker wrestling with the very same issues 150 years on...

ADC Theatre 9-11 July

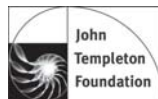
Performances: **7.45pm**

Saturday Matinee: **2.30pm**

All performances: **£9/£7**

Book online (free): **www.adctheatre.com**

By telephone: **01223 300085**



BBC East



**Anglia Ruskin
University**



**CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS**

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