



PENTABUS

Press Release
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Pentabus & Paines Plough Announce COME TO WHERE I AM: RURAL Playwrights

Leading new writing theatre companies **Pentabus** and **Paines Plough** today announce their eight **COME TO WHERE I AM: RURAL** writers.

These writers have been commissioned to write a 5-10 minute play inspired by their own experience or perception of their rural environment. The writers are: **Callum Beardmore**, **Olivia Bradbury**, **Jacob Hodgkinson**, **Natasha Marshall**, **Little John Nee**, **Tom Wentworth**, **Yasmin Wilde** and **Kat Woods**.

The plays will be released digitally on Wed 15 July and Wed 29 July 2020 on both companies' websites and YouTube channels.

Wednesday 15 July

Jacob Hodgkinson – *Roots*
Natasha Marshall – *Crop Circle*
Tom Wentworth – *No Place*
Kat Woods – *Flat*

Wednesday 29 July

Callum Beardmore – *Youth's Folly*
Olivia Bradbury – *Walking with Mum*
Little John Nee – *2k from Killaloonty*
Yasmin Wilde – *Monica*

As part of this project, Pentabus did an open call for writers from The Marches - Shropshire, Herefordshire and Mid-Wales. The two writers commissioned as part of this open call were Callum Beardmore and Olivia Bradbury. Both Callum and Tom Wentworth are alumni of Pentabus' Young Writers' Programme which has been running for seven years.

All the plays have been given script development support and then the writers have filmed themselves, or their context, at home performing their own play. There will be a live performed reading of the plays at Pentabus HQ when it is appropriate to schedule this.

For groups who may find it more difficult or even impossible to access digital content, there is the offer of a caller service – live readings of the plays over the phone, allowing people with little or no online access to experience these plays. There are some exciting TV celebrities involved in providing this caller service including David Bradley, Julie Hesmondhalgh, Lisa Hammond and Sally Dynevor.

COME TO WHERE I AM: RURAL is a spin-off series of an existing project run by Paines Plough called COME TO WHERE I'M FROM – to check out over 160 existing short plays already commissioned by the company over the past 10 years please visit their website and download the app here - <https://painesplough.com/project/come-where-im>

Further information on COME TO WHERE I AM: RURAL can be found at pentabus.co.uk and painesplough.com

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About the Writers

Callum Beardmore

Callum is an aspiring actor and playwright from the Ludlow, Shropshire. He is a member of the National Youth Theatre. His play *Survivors* was performed at The Courtyard, Hereford, and The Hive, Shrewsbury, as part of Pentabus' Young Writers production, *Into the Unknown* in July 2019.

Olivia Bradbury

Olivia trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama first as a jazz vocalist and then on the Mmus Leadership course. Since then her practise has evolved to encompass theatre, solo and ensemble performance and creative facilitation. Over the last 10 years, she has lead creative workshops in a range of contexts from psychiatric units to abandoned cinemas, from orchestral halls to farms, in the UK and other places such as: India, West Africa, Indonesia, Singapore, Ireland and Bosnia. Her performances have been inspired by these experiences. Since moving to the Welsh borderlands 5 years ago, she has led a more settled life being more inspired by her immediate surroundings and a few major life events.

Jacob Hodgkinson

Jacob is a graduate of the 2013 Royal Court Young Writers Programme and the 2016/18 New Welsh Playwrights Programmes at the Sherman Theatre. His play *Between Eternity and Time* was produced at the RWCMD and the Gate Theatre, London, as part of RWCMD's NEW:2019. Jacob's other works have received rehearsed readings at the Sherman Theatre and Theatre503 and have been shortlisted for BBC Writersroom Scriptroom 8 and the 2016 Wales Drama Award, and longlisted for BBC Script Room Drama 2019, the 2017 Bruntwood Prize and the 2017 Papatango New Writing Prize. Jacob is the Associate Playwright at Chippy Lane Productions.

Natasha Marshall

Natasha graduated from East15 Acting School in 2012. In 2014 and 2015 she participated in the Royal Court Writers Group. In 2015/2016 she was also a member of the Soho Theatre's Writers group, as well as Soho Rising and Talawa Firsts. Natasha also enjoyed being a part of BBC Sketch Group, BBC Comedy Group and BBC New Voices during that time. Most recently Natasha has written a Comedy Blap for Channel4 based on her play *Halfbreed*.

Little John Nee

Little John Nee is a playwright, performer and musician based in the west of Ireland; he received an Irish Times Theatre Sound Design Award for *Sparkplug* and a Prix Italia Special Mention Award for the RTE radio version. Other plays include *The Derry Boat*, *Johnny Patterson*, *The Singing Irish Clown*, *Radio Rosario* and *Tea Dance*. He is currently working on a series of radio pieces *The Jumpin' Inn* and preparing for a tour of Donegal with *Tilt of the Sky* for Earagail Arts Festival. In 2016 he was elected to Aosdána, the state organisation that honours artists whose work has made an outstanding contribution to the arts in Ireland.

Tom Wentworth

Tom Wentworth's first short film *The Real Deal*, produced by BBC Studios for BBC Four/BBC America will air later in 2020 for the *Crip Tales* season, starring Liz Carr. As a playwright, Tom's play *Burke and Hare*, recently had successful runs at The Watermill Theatre, Newbury and London's Jermyn Street Theatre, and was described by The Sunday Times as 'fast, fun and ever so slightly sick'. Previously, his play *Bully* received a bursary from MGC Futures and his play *Windy Old Fossils* (Pentabus) is published by Fair Acre Press. He's currently under commission to Graeae Theatre Company, National Theatre Wales and his new cycle of monologues about falling are currently being supported by an Unlimited Micro Bursary. Tom is currently part of BBC Writersroom Access Group to develop disabled talent, and a formerly member of the Bush's Emerging Writers Group

Yasmin Wilde

Yasmin lives in North Cornwall with her family. She has been an actress and singer for thirty years, appearing in theatres all over the country and TV shows such as *Silent Witness*, *Back*, *EastEnders* and *Holby City*. She has always had a passion for writing, and is currently working on her second musical *The Nightingale*. She is currently on the RIFCO associates writers programme.

Kat Woods

Kat Woods is a writer and director from Co. Fermanagh in N. Ireland. She has a particular interest in staging works that provide a platform for those from the Underclass/Benefit class background. Works that are representative of her community. Works that redefine the discourse surrounding the poverty stereotype. Kat is published by Samuel French. She is an Associate Artist at The Pleasance Theatre London and an Associate Writer at Omnibus Theatre and she is a Royal Court/Kudos TV Writers Group alumnus. Kat is currently under commission with the MAC, Tinderbox Theatre and Abbey Theatre Dublin, and has been selected to take part in both this year's BBC Writers Room and BBC Belfast Voices. Kat's work has been performed across the UK, Ireland, Finland and the USA including New York. Select credits include *Belfast Boy*, *Wasted*, *Mule* and *Killymuck*. She is a three times recipient of the Peggy Ramsey award; an awardee of the Royal Literary Fund and her work has gauged critical acclaim winning The Stage award for Excellence and the Fringe review award for Outstanding Theatre.

Notes to Editors

About Pentabus:

'one of the most important theatre companies in the country, where it has led, other new writing theatres – such as the Royal Court – have followed' The Telegraph

Pentabus is the nation's rural theatre company. We are the only professional theatre company in the UK whose vision is singularly rural. We tour new plays about the contemporary rural world to new audiences in village halls, fields, festivals and theatres, telling stories with local relevance, plus national and international impact. We believe that every person living in an isolated rural community has a right to exceptional theatre. We are based on a farm in Shropshire, and to date all of our work has been made here. It then tours village halls and theatres locally and nationally. Over four and a half decades we've produced 171 new plays, reached over 550,000 audience members, won a prestigious South Bank Show award for our show about racism, a Fringe First for our play about climate change and were the first to live stream from a village hall. We have hosted a writer in residence since 2014 and they have gone on to be commissioned by the Royal Court, Birmingham Rep, Royal Welsh College and the Bush.

We are a champion for rural young people aged 16 to 25 and Pentabus Young Company is our new initiative offering workshops, masterclasses, work experience and mentorships, as well as the opportunity to join our Young Writers' Group, which has been running for five years. Previous participants of the Young Writers' Group have had their work presented at Ludlow Fringe, Latitude Festival and Hereford Courtyard. It is a springboard into further study and the arts industry.

Pentabus.co.uk | Youtube: PentabusTheatre | Instagram: Pentabustheatrecompany
Facebook: PentabusTheatre | Twitter: @pentabustheatre

Pentabus would like to thank all our supporters including:



Pentabus is also supported by the Haystack Trust, the Millichope Foundation, Shropshire Masons & the Wynn Foundation.

About Paines Plough

Paines Plough is the UK's national theatre of new plays. The company commissions and produces the best playwrights and tours their plays far and wide. Whether you're in Liverpool or Lyme Regis, Scarborough or Southampton, a Paines Plough show is coming to a theatre near you soon.

Paines Plough was formed in 1974 over a pint of Paines bitter in the Plough pub. Since then they've produced more than 150 new productions by world renowned playwrights

like Stephen Jeffreys, Abi Morgan, Sarah Kane, Mark Ravenhill, Dennis Kelly, Mike Bartlett, Kate Tempest and Vinay Patel.

Paines Plough Limited is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity.
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