



PENTABUS

Press Release
Date: 16 October 2020

Pentabus & Paines Plough Collaborate on Signal Fires at Acton Scott on Wed 28 & Thu 29 October

Leading new writing theatre companies Pentabus and Paines Plough will collaborate on *Signal Fires* at Acton Scott as part of a collective touring initiative that will see new work staged UK-wide throughout October and November. This project has been conceived to highlight the current crisis facing the theatre industry and the freelancers that work within it. Over 40 of the UK's top touring theatre companies are taking part at a time when traditional touring isn't possible.

For two nights only Pentabus and Paines Plough present *Signal Fires* at Acton Scott Historic Working Farm. An evening of live play readings around a camp fire from the writers commissioned for *Come to Where I Am: Rural*.

The plays are written by Callum Beardmore, Natasha Marshall, Olivia Preye and Kat Woods*. Live music will be performed each evening by Bertie Playle and Olivia Preye.

Stories spanning across the UK from Devon to Fermanagh, all inspired by place and identity, you'll encounter crop circles, teenage folly, slow punctures, grief and the healing power of nature, all brought to life by the writers themselves. Accompanied by live music, in the safe and beautiful surroundings of Acton Scott, come and re-ignite your love of performance.

The *Signal Fires* project will create beacons across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland warning of the threat the theatre industry continues to face while celebrating the extraordinary vibrancy of touring theatre and the freelancers they engage. Stretching across four nations, this festival of fires will connect audiences, freelance artists and touring companies together in a communal, national act of storytelling.

Signal Fires will run throughout October and into November across the UK. For further information visit www.signalfires.co.uk

*The line-up is subject to change.

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Box Office & Visitor Information

Signal Fires

Wednesday 28 & Thursday 29 October at 6pm

Acton Scott Historic Working Farm, Wenlock Lodge, Acton Scott, Church Stretton, Shropshire, SY6 6QN

Tickets: £7.50

Book: www.pentabus.co.uk or www.painesplough.com

All tickets must be bought online in advance.

Tickets should be either printed out at home or presented on a mobile phone.

The events will be Covid Safe, for full details of how we're keeping our audiences safe please see www.pentabus.co.uk/signal-fires

Notes to Editors

About COME TO WHERE I AM: RURAL

The eight plays commissioned for COME TO WHERE I AM: RURAL were:

Callum Beardmore – *Youth's Folly*; Jacob Hodgkinson – *Roots*; Natasha Marshall – *Crop Circle*; Little John Nee – *2k from Killalooty*; Olivia Preye – *Walking with Mum*; Tom Wentworth – *No Place*; Yasmin Wilde – *Monica*; Kat Woods – *Flat*.

They were released digitally in summer 2020 and can be watched on Pentabus' and Paines Plough's YouTube channels and via their websites: pentabus.co.uk and painesplough.com

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>

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 in a Victorian school in rural 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 172 new plays, reached over half a million audience members, won a prestigious South Bank Show award, a Fringe First 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, Nottingham Playhouse and the Bush.

We are a champion for rural young people aged 16 to 25 and Pentabus Young Company is our programme offering workshops, masterclasses, work experience and mentorships, as well as the opportunity to join our Young Writers' Group, which has been running for seven 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 Clive & Sylvia Richards' Charity, 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. Registered Company no: 1165130 Registered Charity no: 267523

www.painesplough.com | [@PainesPlough](https://twitter.com/PainesPlough) | www.facebook.com/painesploughHQ

About Acton Scott

Acton Scott is a historic working farm in the stunning Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is a wonderful visitor attraction for all the family. Customers are offered a fascinating insight into rural life at the turn of the 19th century as farm life unfolds around them.

www.actonscott.com