

# PENTABUS

The Nation's Rural Theatre Company

Media Alert  
Date: 19 March 2021

Pentabus is marking one year since the country went into the first lockdown with two audio pieces inspired by the provocation - *Spring's Calling*.

## *I, Nyx: (A daughter's daughter)*

by Sophie Stone

## *Folklore and Fitness with Carole Vegan*

by Tim Foley

Released on Saturday 20 March 2021, 10am

Listen via: <https://pentabus.co.uk/springs-calling>

**These two pieces are part of** an event coinciding with the Spring Equinox on **Saturday 20 March 2021**, coordinated by the **West Midlands Culture Response Unit** to mark one year since the country went into the first lockdown.

The event will be made up of 3-5 minute audio artworks, including spoken word, podcasts, music and singing – from artists and organisations across the region. The pieces focus on nature, spring, outdoors, reflection, restarting and growth; as the cultural sector looks ahead to returning to live events, re-opening venues and welcoming back audiences. To enjoy the event, audiences should search for the hashtag #SpringsCalling across social media.

Pentabus Artistic Director, Elle While said: *'I am delighted we have commissioned these extraordinary artists to contribute their spellbinding work to Spring's Calling. I urge you to put your headphones on or watch the waves of their voices to transport you; your heart will swell, your smile will spread as we look forward to brighter days.'*

The audio releases will be available on Pentabus' website as well as social media from 10am on Saturday 20 March 2021.

Pentabus.co.uk | Youtube: PentabusTheatre

All Press Enquiries: Catrin John | Email: [catrin@pentabus.co.uk](mailto:catrin@pentabus.co.uk)

*Cont.*

## About the Writers

### **Sophie Stone**

Sophie is co-Founder of Deaf & Hearing Ensemble Theatre Company. She was the first deaf student to win a place at the drama school RADA. Her acting credits include For TV: *Doctor Who*, *Casualty*, *Moving On*, *Shetland*, *Two Doors Down* and *The Crown*. For Theatre: *Emilia* (Shakespeare's Globe/West End); *As You Like It* (Shakespeare's Globe); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Watermill); *The Beauty Parade* (Wales Millennium Centre); *The Greatest Wealth* (The Old Vic) and *Jubilee* (Lyric Hammersmith). Her writing credits include *Beethoven Essay Series* (BBC Radio 3); *Multiple Scenes of Destruction* (The Bunker Theatre); *Maybe* (Paines Plough/CTWIF) & *Butterfly* (Talking Bodies/Hot Coals).

### **Tim Foley**

Tim is award-winning writer for theatre and audio drama based in Manchester. He won the Bruntwood Prize Judges' Award for his play *Electric Rosary*, and he writes *Doctor Who* and *Torchwood* audio plays for Big Finish Productions. Tim was the former Channel 4 Playwright-in-Residence for Pentabus, and has been attached to the National Theatre Studio and The Old Vic 12. His weird fiction podcast, *North West Footwear Database*, was recently featured on BBC Radio 4 Extra.

## 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 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, HighTide 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 the Ashley Family Foundation, Clive & Sylvia Richards' Charity, the D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, the Haystack Trust, the Millichope Foundation, Shropshire Masons & the Wynn Foundation.

### **About Culture Central:**

Culture Central is sector support organisation and collective voice for Arts and Culture in the region. They drive strategy with an ambitious, inclusive and relevant vision for the role of the arts and artists in society. Culture Central advocates for the sector, acting as a catalyst to generate radical new approaches to investment and sustainability and brokering cross-sector collaborations and partnerships.

They work with the sector to develop audiences, provide and promote opportunities for learning, build networks and nurture employment opportunities and share expertise from the talented, diverse communities in the region.

[culturecentral.co.uk](http://culturecentral.co.uk)

Instagram: [culturecentraluk](https://www.instagram.com/culturecentraluk) | Facebook: [CultureCentralUK](https://www.facebook.com/CultureCentralUK) | Twitter: [@culturecentral](https://twitter.com/culturecentral)