

PENTABUS

The Nation's Rural Theatre Company

Press Release
Date: 25 January 2021

Pentabus is Celebrating 100 Years Together: Village Halls Week 2021 by re-releasing two live recordings of our work -

Here I Belong

By
Matt Hartley

&

Crossings

by Deirdre Kinahan

A co-production with New Perspectives

25 January – 31 January 2021

Watch Crossings & Here I Belong via: Pentabus.co.uk

To Celebrate 100 years Together: Village Hall Week 2021, Pentabus are re-releasing two live recordings – *Here I Belong* by Matt Hartley & *Crossings* by Deirdre Kinahan, a co-production with New Perspectives.

Here I Belong directed by Elizabeth Freestone celebrates village life, companionship and community while highlighting the challenges faced by people in rural areas. Over six decades from 1953 to 2016 Elsie's life, relationships and the right to grow old in her own home will be played out on stage.

'Intimate, affecting and quietly radical village hall theatre'
The Stage

Elsie is played by **Beatrice Curnew**, and she is joined by **Nathalie Barclay** who will multi role four different characters.

Crossings directed by Sophie Motley is an evening of live music, waltzing and unexpected connections, as two actors dance you through a century exploring how we've returned, resettled and adapted. It was commissioned for the centenary of the end of World War I.

The cast features: Victoria Brazier who plays Margaret and Mirjana and Will O'Connell who plays Grace and Sean.

Pentabus Artistic Director, Sophie Motley, said: '*Village Halls are the lifeblood of Pentabus, and we can't be in them at the moment. But, they've been around since the last pandemic. To celebrate, we're sharing two brilliant plays which are elegies, celebrating village halls from 1919 through to today. It's the closest we can get to actually being in one. Filmed live at Lustleigh Village Hall in Devon,*

and Ombersley Village Hall in Worcestershire, we wish we could go back to those evenings. Instead, we'll look forward to the day we can return.'

The rural releases will be available from Mon 25 January till midnight on Sun 31 January 2021 via Pentabus.co.uk

To view the shows as they're released:

Pentabus.co.uk | Youtube: [PentabusTheatre](https://www.youtube.com/PentabusTheatre)

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

Recommended for ages 12 +

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 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](https://www.youtube.com/PentabusTheatre) | Instagram: [Pentabustheatrecompany](https://www.instagram.com/Pentabustheatrecompany)
Facebook: [PentabusTheatre](https://www.facebook.com/PentabusTheatre) | Twitter: [@pentabustheatre](https://twitter.com/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 New Perspectives

New Perspectives is an East Midlands based company with over 40 years' experience of touring high quality productions to venues of all sizes across the UK, from mid-scale theatres to village halls. With a strong rural core, they create productions to fit spaces of any size in order to bring new work that is unexpected and thought-provoking to a wide range of audiences. Since 2012, they have been led by Artistic Director Jack McNamara whose productions include *The Boss of It All* by Lars von Trier (Assembly Roxy, Edinburgh and Soho Theatre), *The Lovesong of Alfred J Hitchcock* by David Rudkin (Brits off Broadway, New York and UK tour), and *Darkness Darkness* (Nottingham Playhouse co-production). They are currently touring the Stage Award winning *The Fisherman* and *A Fortunate Man*, both of which had highly successful Edinburgh Festival Fringe runs this year.