

# PENTABUS

PRESS RELEASE

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## Pentabus Theatre Announces Three Years of Future Funding

Pentabus Theatre announces today it has been awarded a further three years of core funding from Arts Council England over the next three years. Following an open application process the grant ensures the company will continue to be funded until March 2026.

### Artistic Director Elle While said:

*'As the nation's rural theatre company, we are grateful that Arts Council England has recognised the essential contribution Pentabus makes to the UK's theatre ecology. As we approach our 50<sup>th</sup> year, we are delighted to have received the support to realise our ambitious plans for the next three years, which include commissions from some of the UK's most exciting playwrights and a dynamic and growing commitment to our Young Company and Writers' in Residence. With secure funding we can ensure we continue to tour our work more widely across the UK, in village halls, theatres and, with our expanding digital offer, on screens. We are conscious of colleagues and partners who will not have received the news they were hoping for today and we hope that in these challenging times we are able to work with compassion and collaboration to keep building and broadening cultural engagement throughout the UK.'*

### Chair of the Board of Trustees Ros Robins said:

*'The Board of Pentabus are delighted with the news that the company will receive a further three years of funding from Arts Council England. As a registered charity, Pentabus Theatre receives a portion of its income from grants from public sources and this provides the bedrock of support from which we fundraise further to support our full programme. This welcomed confirmation of funding will mean that we can continue to make and tour high quality new theatre shows to audiences across the country as well as offering many exciting opportunities to artists and young people living and working in rural communities.'*

Pentabus has recently finished touring *Little Bits of Ruined Beauty* a new play by Tom Wentworth, a co-production with Unlimited, celebrating the work of disabled artists. A live capture of the production will be available to watch for free later this winter. This week they have released 10 professionally recorded new audio pieces written by their 2021/22 National Young Writers group. To listen to these and other digital commissions: [www.pentabus.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.pentabus.co.uk/whats-on)

For press enquiries: Verity Overs-Morrell - [verity@pentabus.co.uk](mailto:verity@pentabus.co.uk)

## Notes to Editors

### About Pentabus:

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 175 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 Birmingham Rep, the Bush, HighTide, Nottingham Playhouse, the National Theatre, Royal Court and Royal Welsh College.

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 nine 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.

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Pentabus would like to thank all our supporters including:



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