



worthing theatres and museum

PRESS RELEASE

For further information please contact:

Kathryn Follis

Marketing Coordinator

Connaught Theatre | Union Place | Worthing | W.Sx BN11 1LG

Press Direct Line: (01903) 231227 | Box Office: (01903) 206206

04/04/23

Press Release – for immediate release

Downtown: A thought-provoking physical theatre performance that rallies for change surrounding society's failed support systems.

Six strangers seek refuge on the beach outside a tired, forgotten town, only to find themselves stranded, unable to leave and with the very clear sense that all is not well. Seemingly abandoned (by even the lifeguard), there is no-one to help them but themselves. The question is, will they? Stuck between the remains of a broken community and the vast, bleak landscape of the sea, DROWNTOWN is the study of a society at a tipping point. It's an exploration of isolation, shame, and what happens when support systems are taken away. A piece of gritty dance theatre, it squares up to the fundamental question we all face: when we hear the cry of someone in need, do we do something, or do we, instead, do nothing?

The concept of the show originates from a need to make work that addresses human suffering. The aim is to shift attitudes and focus on how to value all members of our community, in order for them to feel valued; it is a 'call to arms' to build stronger communities from within, and to understand those that endure suffering and to offer them care, kindness and love.

During the research phase of DROWNTOWN, the company spent research residencies in the coastal towns of Jaywick, Clacton-on-Sea, Brighton and Great Yarmouth, meeting participants and writing provocations. The research has also included a Summit where we brought together a group of experts and specialists from the fields of philosophy, sociology, and addiction, to spend a day together discussing and exploring the themes around the show.

In 2019 we took the research into the studio for the first time, with a stellar cast of intergenerational performers. The 2020 Spring tour of DROWNTOWN was cancelled due to COVID. In 2021 we filmed a live version of the show, and DROWNTOWN premiered at the Barbican Centre, Online in June 2021 before going on a six-venue digital tour.

DROWNTOWN is co-produced by Harlow Playhouse. Commissioned by Cambridge Junction with commissioning support from DanceEast. Supported by Brighton Dome and Festival Ltd, South East Dance, and using public funding by Arts Council England.

Downtown will be performing at the Connaught Theatre on Sunday 27th May at 7:30pm. Tickets are available from £10. For more information on this or any of the events, visit www.wtm.uk or call the WTM Box Office on 01903 206 206.



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NOTES TO EDITORS

WTM

Twitter, Facebook, Instagram: @wtmworthing

Website: www.wtm.uk/

Box Office Phone: 01903 206 206

EVENT LISTING

Date: Saturday 27th May 2023

Time: 7:30pm

Venue: Connaught Theatre

Price: From £10

Age guidance: 16+

Link: <https://wtm.uk/events/downtown/>

For press enquiries please contact:

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