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14 JUN - 18 JUN

Co-produced by POWDER KEG and the ROYAL EXCHANGE THEATRE

# Bears

Created by **POWDER KEG**  
Designer **LIZ SHEARD**  
Lighting **LOUISE ANDERSON**  
Sound **XAVIER VELASTIN**



# Bears

**DESIGNER** Liz Sheard

**LIGHTING DESIGN** Louise Anderson

**SOUND DESIGN** Xavier Velastin

**STAGE MANAGER** Sophie Tetlow

**MENTOR** Mark Storor

[Powder Keg](#) are a Manchester-based theatre company who formed in 2013. They are best friends who make fast paced, experiential, anarchic performances. They tell stories and transform spaces, creating pieces to engage and challenge audiences. They have created work for many places, including a pub cellar, a field in Manchester, and a shopping trolley. They use a process of consensus decision-making to create and develop their pieces, which gives them the freedom to apply individually held skills to each aspect of whatever piece they are working on. They challenge themselves and their practice to consistently push themselves out of their theatrical comfort zone.

## CREATIVES

**JOSH COATES (Director)** is a theatre maker and director based in Manchester. He creates solo autobiographical work and often collaborates with theatre companies including Belarus Free Theatre, Blast Theory and Daniel Bye. He is a supported artist at the Royal Exchange.

**EMMA GERAGHTY (Director)** is a writer of prose and performative text, based in Manchester. She has collaborated with People United, Leo Burtin, They Eat Culture and Lancaster Arts, among others. She was shortlisted for Write Now Live with Penguin Random House for her novel-in-progress, *The Matinee Dog*, which looks at sexuality and gender identity in post-Industrial Revolution Manchester.

**LOUISE ANDERSON (Lighting)** is a Lighting Technician at The Royal Exchange Theatre and was Lighting Designer for the Studio production of 'The Space Between Us' in February 2017.

**XAVIER VELASTIN (Sound)** is a composer, pianist, computer musician and sound poet who studied Music at the University of Manchester and later Sonic Arts at Goldsmiths College. He's done expanded sound design for theatre professionally for a few years, preferring to work collaboratively, reactively and with elements of improvisation and unpredictability.



## CAST



Through Contact Young Company in Manchester, **ROSS MCCAFFREY** has worked with such artists as Nathaniel Hall from 20 Stories High, Liverpool, and the live artist Stacy Makishi. As a solo artist he premiered his first 1-2-1 performance at Emergency festival curated by Word of Warning, Manchester. Ross' practise focuses on 21st Century politics and life in Manchester, with underlying themes of mental health and present day anxieties.



Also working with Paper People Theatre, **HANNAH MOOK** creates work that explores experiential relationships between bodies and the spaces around them. She makes work for theatre and studio spaces and specialises in devising performance for unusual domestic settings.



**JAKE WALTON** is a theatre maker and performer based in Manchester. He creates work with Paper People Theatre as well as Powder Keg, and has performed in a variety of locations from The National Theatre to a shopping trolley on the streets of Lancaster. He's passionate about creating visceral and thought provoking works in a variety of platforms from music and speech to movement.

## BEFORE THE SHOW...

Please help Powder Keg with some research by marking on the chalkboard how you got to the venue today. Thank you!

## WITH THANKS TO...

Powder Keg would like to thank Simon Curtis, Jonny Sadler and the team at the MCCA, Michelle Grant at Liverpool Everyman and to everyone at the Royal Exchange Theatre who supported the process.

The set for BEARS has been created from 100% recycled materials

*Powder Keg were winners of the 2016 Hodgkiss Award, which has been generously supported by Susan Hodgkiss CBE*

