



# 'One Kiss'

## *Programme*

Belgrade Theatre B2 – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July to Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July

### **Creative Team**

<b>Lara J. West</b>	Actor / Writer / Songwriter
<b>Alicia Gardener-Trejo</b>	Musician <i>Sax, Flute, Sound Effects (Foley)</i>
<b>Piera Onacko</b>	Musician <i>Piano / Keyboards</i>
<b>Sarah Stacey</b>	Director
<b>Kerry Bradley</b>	Designer
<b>Ruth Porter</b>	Stage Manager
<b>Adam Warren</b>	LX – Lighting
<b>Alex Nankivell</b>	SX Sound
<b>Andrew Woodhead</b>	SX Sound
<b>Giancarla / Remis / Alex / Ange Carol / Tanya / Elisha / Helen</b>	Soundscapes / Voices:

We are grateful to 8 remarkable women who provided us with 3.5 hrs of verbatim experiences, edited into thematic 'Soundscapes' for the show. The real voices of Coventry women!

<b>Paul Monaghan</b>	Company Producer – <i>Paymaster General, P.A. to Ms. West, Scribe, Van Driver, Big Fan</i>
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### **Also 'Special Thanks' to the following supporters, advisors, and collaborators:**

**Miriam Grace Edwards** – Actor (*A complete inspiration! This show would never have happened without her!*)

**Andy Allpass** – Song Demo Arrangements, Programming, Recording & Scores

**Jen Davis** – Director / Dramaturg (*Facilitator 'Women's Voice' workshops*)

**Amanda Adams** – Head of Communications – Bristol Old Vic Theatre (*Composition of Flyer*)

**Jon Randle** – Mind-Riot Productions (*Videographer / Promo Animator*)

**Dae Ambrosini** – Realisation of the Book Cover & Title (*'What It Means To Be A Woman'*)

**Jay Langdell** – JAM-AV Video Production Company – (*Film work on 'Five Faces of Woman'*)

## **Consultants**

**Sally Cookson** - Olivier Award Winning Director – (*'A Monster Calls'*)

**Chris O'Connell** - Writer – (*Theatre Absolute*)

**Julia Negus** - Producer – (*Shop Front Theatre*)

**Phillipa Cross** – Producer – (*Talking Birds*)

**Sarah Fielding** - Director / Dramaturg / (*Early ideas and shaping*)

**Arran Pallen** – Currently Company Manager for Dreamgirls (*Stage Manager on 'Five Faces of Woman'*)

**Dave Gregor** – Graphic Designer & all at Creative Renaissance (*Five Faces, One Kiss & One Voice Designs*)

## **R & D Collaborations / Organisations**

**Kate Ireland** – Director, Centre for Teacher Education, University of Warwick

**Pauline Simpson** - Kenilworth Volunteers (*Covid-19 Support Group / Compassionate Kenilworth*)

**F13** – Network for Creative Practitioners in Coventry & Warwickshire

**Foleshill Women's Training**

**Mothers Who Make** – *'Care About Creating and Create Whilst Caring'*

**Coventry Belgrade Production Services:** Costume and Props

**RSC Production Services** Costume and Props

**Priory Theatre Kenilworth** Costume Dept

### **Coventry City of Culture:**

**Chenine Bhatena** – Creative Director Coventry City of Culture

**Jacqui Gavin** - Senior Producer Coventry COC Trust

**Megan Evans** – Associate Producer COC

**Laura Nyahuye** - Women's Month / COC

**Hannah Graham** – Producer – Caring City - Mental Health and Wellbeing – COC

### **Arts Council England:**

**Simon Fitch** - Arts Council Senior Relationship Manager

**Claire Simpson** - Arts Council Relationship Manager Theatre.

### **Belgrade staff:**

**Debbie Harlow** - Duty Technician for 'One Kiss'

**Adrian Sweeney, Jessica Milner, Sarah Benn, Emma Rowan, Samir Bhamra, Rob Clews, Hannah Barker, Emma Barber, Ayesha Jones, Charles Bloch, Keith Tunstill ... and all of the Belgrade staff.**

With special thanks to **Hamish Glen** for giving me the opportunity to stage this show, in association with the Belgrade Theatre.

**Lara.**



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



## **Company Biographies:**

### **LARA J. WEST – PERFORMER / WRITER**

Lara is a 'Cov-Kid' – born and raised! She trained at *The Bristol Old Vic Theatre School* and has worked extensively in film, television, theatre, and radio.

Credits include TV: - *Coronation Street, Doctors, Peak Practice, Ultraviolet, Casualty, Crossing The Line, Mother Me Daughter*. Film: - *The Woodlanders*. Theatre: - *The Count of Monte Cristo, The Wizard of Oz & The Beaux Stratagem*. BBC Radio 4: - *Home Front*.

She has performed in five Bristol Old Vic Pantomimes, narrated twenty audiobooks, and appeared locally in *The Coventry Mystery Plays, Belgrade Unplugged* and *Far From The Sea* (for Theatre Absolute).

She writes songs, loves to sing, especially jazz, and has a mezzo-soprano voice.

### **ALICIA GARDENER-TREJO – MUSICIAN**

Alicia trained at Birmingham Conservatoire & is an experienced multi-instrumentalist & composer. She has worked closely with Lara from the very outset of the project, to underscore the play, add richness to the arrangements & deliver live sound effects.

Alicia runs a large 11-piece ensemble, *Bobtail*, is a side-woman in big bands on the jazz scene. She regularly plays across the UK with groups including the Birmingham Jazz Orchestra. She has performed at Cheltenham, Birmingham, Norwich, and Manchester Jazz Festivals and at venues ranging from the Symphony Hall to Jazz at the Spotted Dog.

Alicia last appeared at the Belgrade in *Club 2B* and most recently joined *Foghorn*, a live improvisation-theatre company. She appeared on BJO's albums, *Burns & Rough Boundaries* and was in the cast of *Raymond Briggs' Father Christmas* by Pins & Needles Theatre Company, performing 61 shows at MAC Birmingham & responsible for music & sound effects.

As a composer she has written for Silent Monkey's *Four Susans* project (a suite for two saxes) & the Greater Manchester Hub Jazz Orchestra, an original piece for big band.

### **PIERA ONACKO – MUSICIAN**

Piera trained at Birmingham Conservatoire & is a pianist & composer based in the city. She brings both experience & style to the musicality of this piece, supporting the creation of an underscore, as the third member of our all-female cast. She has worked as band-leader & side-woman in a variety of projects, performing regularly across the UK and beyond. As of 2022, Piera has worked on several commissions for music organisations and festivals, such as *The Jerwood Jazz Encounters* scheme. She is active in music education notably as a regular tutor for *Jazzlines*, Birmingham

### **SARAH STACEY - DIRECTOR**

Sarah is a theatre director & dramaturg specialising in new writing. She trained at Birkbeck (*Theatre Directing MFA*), which included residencies at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School & the Royal and Derngate. She was Associate Director on Olivier nominated *Our Lady of Kibeho* (Theatre Royal Stratford East) and *Alone in Berlin* (Royal and Derngate & York Theatre Royal) & Assistant Director on *The Pope, Ghosts* and *The Worst Witch* (Royal and Derngate). She has also directed at Jermyn Street Theatre, Southwark Playhouse, The Bunker, The Arcola & at The Hope Theatre where she most recently directed *If. Destroyed. Still. True*.

### **RUTH PORTER – STAGE MANAGER**

Ruth graduated from Royal Birmingham Conservatoire last year where she studied stage management. Since graduating Ruth has worked as - Assistant Stage Manager: *Roundabout* (Paines Plough 2021), *Fighting Irish* and *Nothello* (Belgrade Theatre 2022). Stage Manager: *Santa's Magical Mystery Guest* (Imagine Theatre 2021) and is currently working at Imagine Theatre as the Props Supervisor for the 22/23 panto season.

## **KERRY BRADLEY - DESIGNER**

Kerry trained in Theatre, Television & Film at University of Warwick, Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, Chelsea College of Art and the National Film & Television School. She is a creative practitioner with 30 years' experience in Theatre Design, Exhibitions (recently at the V&A) & Film & Television. She has designed both period and contemporary plays for repertory, fringe, and national tours and has worked at the *Swan Theatre* (Worcester), *Palace Theatre* (Westcliff), *Leicester Haymarket*, *Royal National Theatre*, *RADA & Trafalgar Studios* (London) & children's theatres - *Polka*, *Snap*, *Pop-Up* and *London Bubble*. Other designs include: - *Tui I Teraz* (Hampstead), *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Equus*, *Ghosts*, *Miss Julie* & *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* (London Classic Theatre).

Kerry has taught set design in H.E. for 20 years, recently as Course Leader BA (Hons) at Wimbledon College of Arts (UAL). She lectures at the Northern Film School, is External Examiner BA (Hons) - Design for Stage and Screen at Nottingham Trent University, and has lectured at Goldsmiths University, University of Gloucester, Central St. Martins, Lewisham College and St. Mary's University, Twickenham.

## **ADAM WARREN – LIGHTING DESIGNER + PROGRAMMER**

Lighting Designer: *Beauty and the Beast* (Belgrade Panto 2021), *The Little Mermaid*, *We Will Rock You*, *13 The Musical* (Wing It Theatre Co.), *Blitz!*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Aida*, *Happy Days*, *Legally Blonde* (Coventry Youth Operetta Group), *Rock of Ages*, *West Side Story* (Albany Theatre); *Like There's No Tomorrow* (Belgrade Theatre)

Programmer: *Puss in Boots* (Belgrade Theatre); *Crongton Knights* (UK Tour); *Rent* (Wing It Theatre Co.); *Peter Pan*, *Shrek The Musical* (CMTS), *Fighting Irish*, *Nothello*, *Ruff Tuff Cream Puff Estate Agency* (Belgrade Theatre)

## **ANDREW WOODHEAD – SOUND ENGINEER / MUSICIAN**

Andrew Woodhead (b. Sheffield, 1990) is a musician, composer, sound artist and producer working across a variety of contexts taking in jazz, free improvisation, electronica, folk, and new music. Since graduating from Birmingham Conservatoire he has established himself as a key figure on the UK's creative music scene, winning the *Dankworth Prize for Jazz Composition* and being named 'One To Watch' in *Jazzwise* magazine. Projects he is involved with include electro-acoustic duo *ELDA* with Aaron Diaz, collaborative arts practice *Ideas of Noise* with Sarah Farmer, and Mark Sanders' *Collapse-Uncollapse* trio.

## **ALEX NANKIVELL – SOUND ENGINEER**

Alex has no formal training but has spent the last 20 years working in live music and theatre venues in Sheffield and the Midlands. He was last at the Belgrade B2 in 2016 for a show called *Rivers' Up*. Alex works full-time as a technician at the *Town Hall* and *Symphony Hall* in Birmingham.

## **Prologue**

Welcome to the world premiere of our new play with music: '*One Kiss*' at the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry. This project was originally called, '*5 Faces of Woman*' to reflect core themes built around 5 characters. However, after being Covid-cancelled twice (in 2020 and 2021) the script developed through extended R & D discussions, to become more story-led, and with a focus on 3 main characters: *Georgia*, *Shirley*, and *Maud*.

Initially built around 8 original songs, what has been striking, is the way a varied musical underscore has emerged during rehearsals, creating a distinctive fusion between actor and live soundtrack.

Imagination allows us to hear in the silence ...and envision what might appear ... but the miracle of collaborative theatre ... is when sound and vision come alive.

We sincerely hope you enjoy the story ... and the way that it is told.

'*One Voice Theatre Company.*'