

The Power of Stories

original work inspired by

The Bone Sparrow

Belgrade Theatre is a proud Theatre of Sanctuary, and has been working with partners across the city to examine what stories mean to us, how we share them, and the questions that they pose.

Can we create our own meaning from the stories of others?

Theo Ioannou is a theatre maker and poet. She is Creative Associate of Stand & Be Counted Theatre, the first Theatre Company of Sanctuary. Her work is driven by a passion for social integration and community engagement.

Theo worked alongside members of the Sharing Cultures, a group of adult sanctuary seekers, run in partnership between Belgrade Theatre and Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre, to create Blackout Poetry. We looked for new meaning in the words found on the pages of the *The Bone Sparrow*, sometimes adding visual images to accompany these words.

Poetry features in *The Bone Sparrow* as a form of storytelling and a way of connecting us to our memories, our culture and one another.

The poems are currently exhibited on the Burbidge Gallery (upper foyer) of the theatre. Poems were created by: Yathreb, Matthew, Aiman, Jen, Kim and Theo.

Theo Ioannou can be found @theotima

More about the Belgrade Theatre's work as a Theatre of Sanctuary can be found here:

<https://www.belgrade.co.uk/projects/theatre-of-sanctuary/>