

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.

How do stories sustain us?

Lisa Franklin is an eco-artist, poet and producer based in Coventry. Her practice explores the natural world, the language of growing, connection and the everyday ordinary and these are her creations.

Lisa worked alongside Sharing Cultures, a group of adult sanctuary seekers run in partnership between Belgrade Theatre and Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre, to go through the process of growing mushrooms in books.

Lisa, along with Tarku, Matthew, Mahsa, Kim and Jen, inoculated a book with mushroom spawn to create the work.

In the play, the main character, Subhi, is a refugee in a detention camp. His imagination brings him gifts from The Night Sea. Not only are Lisa's creations evocative of the sea, but the nourishment the books give to the mushrooms to enable their growth serves as a metaphor for the food for the soul which stories contained within books offer to us.

You can see both Lisa's creations, and images of the work created by Sharing Cultures participants, exhibited in the glass cases between the café and foyer on the ground floor of the theatre.

More about Lisa Franklin can be found here: <https://lisafranklinmakes.com/about/>

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/>

