**Press Release**

**Raucous**

**Ice Road**

**August 2017**

* ***Ice Road* is the second production by acclaimed Bristol based collective Raucous whose first production, *The Stick House*, sold out in 2015.**

* **Raucous fuses live performance, film, music, aroma and creative digital technology to create immersive theatre for ‘found’ spaces. *Ice Road* will take place in historic Edwardian swimming baths in central Bristol.**
* ***Ice Road* is based around the Seige of Leningrad 1942 where the German army besieged the city with the intention of destroying it by starving its citizens.**

*You are a cockroach Tati.*

*You will survive the cold, the hunger, the bombs and this war…*

Theatre company Raucous will be transforming disused Edwardian swimming bath into the snow covered streets of Leningrad for *Ice Road* – their second production following the acclaimed *The Stick House*.

Set in 1942, during the siege of Leningrad and in the coldest winter in living memory, *Ice Road* harness Russian folktale and survivor accounts to tell a story of the children that war leaves behind

Leah has a secret that she can’t share with the three feral orphans she has adopted on the snow-covered streets of Leningrad. Every night she has to leave them so that she can earn food, but her trust only runs so far. If she tells them where she goes and what she does then she knows they may well betray her.

As the bombs rain down, as the blockade bites and as food becomes scarce, the small ‘family’ of four do whatever it takes to survive. But just as it looks like they might make it, the youngest, Kub, goes missing. Has he been abducted by the men in the shadows who lurk out on the street, has he succumbed to the cold or has he finally made his escape on the fabled Ice Road…?

The Siege of Leningrad lasted for 900 days but despite the disappearance of food and constant bombing the city did not fall. Over the frozen Lake Lagoda the citizens of Leningrad (now St Petersburg) built a treacherous road to take children out and bring food in and this was the sole means of escape – some called the Road of Life, some the Road of Death.

A collaboration of 13 theatre makers, film-makers, scientists, digital technologists and composers, Raucous forges new ways of thinking about how theatre is made, driven by a desire to heighten the experience for an audience so that it is more immersive, immediate and emotive. We want to harness digital technology as a new tool for making theatre more vital, vibrant and visceral.

*Ice Road* places the audience firmly at the heart of the play, giving them a part to play and technology of their own.

The production has a mesmerizing original score written by Timothy X Atackins, inspired by Shostakovich No.7 (written for Leningrad) and has a design by the award-winning international opera designer, Conor Murphy.

Raucous’ creative advisers are Tom Morris, Artistic Director at Bristol Old Vic and director of the internationally acclaimed *Warhorse* and Laura Marshall, Managing Director of Icon Films. The organisation is partnered with Watershed, the leading film culture and digital media centre in the South West, and is resident at the internationally renowned Pervasive Media Studio.

Phil Gibby, Area Director at Arts Council South West says;

*“Raucous is an exciting collective creating ambitious live performance… we believe creative partnerships are key to the success of artistic adventures and so we’re delighted that Raucous are creating this new show in collaboration with Artspace Lifespace, Pervasive Media Studio, Bristol Old Vic and Watershed.*

Sarah Ellis, Digital Producer at the RSC had this to say about Raucous’ last show, *The Stick House;*

“*In this site specific production, Sharon Clark’s rich and beautifully constructed narrative moves its audiences through the story with traditional stage craft, new technologies and carefully curated direction.  She blends the collective and individual theatrical experience resulting in a superb use and integration of technology which supports a narrative and allows the audience to hold the story*.”

Written by Sharon Clark

Produced by Emily Williams

Communications by Claire Skelcey

Directed by Kate Hewett

Designed by Conor Murphy

Lighting by Ben Pacey

Music and Sound by Timothy X Atack

Creative technology by Tom Melcalfe

Projection Mapping by Limbic Cinema

Film by Jack Offord

Produced by Emily Williams

Production by Dave Wilkie

**Notes to Editors**

Ice Road previews from 2nd October, press performances on 5th October and runs Monday – Saturday until 19th November 2017

Raucous is led by creative director and writer Sharon Clark, producer Emily Williams and communications director Claire Skelcey

Raucous are resident at the internationally renowned Pervasive Media Studio and are partnered with Watershed.

Ice Road is funded by Arts Council England and Pervasive Media Studio

Production times : 6.30pm and 8.30pm

Tickets : Previews : £12.00, Concessions : £16.50, Full : £18.00

Box Office : Watershed, 0117 927 5100

Website : [www.raucous.org.uk](http://www.raucous.org.uk)

Twitter : @raucouscaucous

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