



Geese Theatre Company presents
Playing the Game

Created by Helena Enright

Obviously you're under the rules and restrictions of being in prison.

So you have to play the game.

You know, you have to... you can't really be true to yourself.



BEDLAM

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Playing The Game is a theatre of testimony play that has been created as part of a Wellcome Trust-funded research project with the University of Warwick. The play uses material from a series of drama workshops and interviews conducted with residents and staff at HMP Peterborough, alongside archival materials and testimonies from the past.

How the performance was created

Playing the Game started its life as part of *On the Inside*: a drama project with a group of women at HMP Peterborough. Geese Theatre Company delivered a series of drama workshops over ten weeks, facilitated by actor/groupworker Liz Brown, exploring issues affecting mothers in prison. Staff from the University of Warwick shared archive material with the group in one of the sessions. Helena (playwright) also interviewed each of women who took part, as well as members of staff.

The project aimed to encourage the women and prison staff to share their own experience and to use archive material to enable discussion about how that experience may have changed for women in prison throughout history.

Theatre of Testimony

Theatre of Testimony is created using interview material as the main element of the script and is concerned with finding a theatrical framework to support the staging of the retelling of that person's account of their experience through the medium of an actor.

When someone testifies to their experience of something, they are inviting the listener to join them in responding to and contemplating and evaluating their experience. Putting an audience in touch with the actual lived experience of someone through the voice of an actor enables them to contemplate and evaluate what the original person has said in a safe space.

Giving a platform to these testimonies can open then opportunities for further dialogue and communication around the issues and themes that are contained within the piece.

Directors:

Andy Watson & Helena Enright

Cast:

Liz Brown

Casey Fox

Ruth Milne

Laurence Saunders

Sound design:

Daniel Pearce

Special thanks to...

Staff and residents at HMP Peterborough

Staff at University of Warwick, in particular: Rachel Bennett, Hilary Marland & Flo Swann

Sarah Turton & Hillis Lodge

Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust

Bournville Village Primary School

BEDLAM Festival and our fellow partners in the festival

Playing the Game is part of the BEDLAM Arts And Mental Health Festival 2019 - a diverse programme of world premieres, visual art and film as well as powerful live performance through theatre, spoken word, dance and music. Now in its fourth year, we hope that BEDLAM continues to reduce stigma, and encourages honest discussions around mental health – all with some fantastic performances. Whatever your age or background, there's something for everyone – visit www.bedlamfestival.co.uk for full listings or follow the conversation online @BEDLAM_festival and using #BEDLAM2019.



To find out more, get in touch:

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