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**TRAVERSE THEATRE ANNOUNCES EXCITING NEW INFORMATION ON TRAVERSE FESTIVAL 2019**

* **Hat-trick of CATS award wins including ‘Best Female Performance’ (*Ulster American*) for Lucianne McEvoy, who will return in Traverse Festival 2019’s *Crocodile Fever***
* **Casting announced for shows including *Enough*, *How Not To Drown* and *Rich Kids: A History of Shopping Malls in Tehran***
* **Ground-breaking community projects revealed for BAC Beatbox Academy’s *Frankenstein: How To Make A Monster***
* **Print brochure out now**

**CATS wins**

At the annual Critics’ Awards for Theatre in Scotland (CATS) ceremony, the Traverse Theatre Company is overjoyed to have scooped a hat trick of awards for *Ulster American*, including a ‘Best Female Performance’ award for Lucianne McEvoy. We’re delighted that she will return to play a leading part in the Traverse Festival 2019 world premiere production of *Crocodile Fever,* by Meghan Tyler.

Festival 2018 smash hit *Ulster American* also won on the night for ‘Best New Play’ and ‘Best Production’. More information on future touring for *Ulster American* will be announced soon.

We also received shortlist nominations for returning Traverse Festival 2019 shows *Mouthpiece* (‘Best New Play’, ‘Best Male Performance’, ‘Best Director’) and *What Girls Are Made Of* (‘Best Production’, ‘Best Female Performance’, ‘Best Music and Sound’). Traverse Festival 2019 will be your next chance to see these critically-praised productions, with *Mouthpiece* featuring an all-new cast, while *What Girls Are Made Of* enjoys an exciting Festival venue evolution to Assembly Hall

**Casting**

In Traverse Theatre Company casting news, we can reveal that **Amanda Wright** and **Louise Ludgate** will play Toni and Jane (respectively) in Stef Smith’s fragmentary and intense journey into female friendship, ***Enough***. And, as mentioned above, ‘Best Female Performance’ (CATS 2019) winner **Lucianne McEvoy** will play a leading role in ***Crocodile Fever*** – Meghan Tyler’s surreal, grotesque, and blackly comedic family drama set in Northern Ireland in 1989 during The Troubles – alongside **Bhav Joshi**, **Sean Kearns** and **Lisa Dwyer Hogg**.

Our co-production with ThickSkin, ***How Not To Drown***, will feature actors **Ajjaz Awad**, **Esme Bayley**, **Daniel Cahill**, **Reuben Joseph** and **Dritan Kastrati** playing a rotating cast of characters, including Kastrati himself, on whose journey across the Adriatic with a gang of people smugglers to a new life in Europe the play is based.

Elsewhere, ***Rich Kids: A History of Shopping Malls in Tehran*** , produced in association with the Traverse Theatre Company, will be performed by Javaad Alipoor (who is also the writer, and co-creator, alongside Kirsty Housley) and **Peyvand Sadeghian**.

**Community projects**

We’re thrilled to reveal more exciting details on the community projects surrounding ***Frankenstein: How To Make A Monster***. A partnership between Battersea Arts Centre Beatbox Academy, Edinburgh International Festival and the Traverse Theatre, bringing three world class organisations together for the first time to present a new community-based programme, as part of the Traverse’s Festival 2019 Programme.

Founded on the principals behind Battersea Arts Centre’s dynamic Beatbox Academy, the project will create a unique opportunity for young people from Leith Academy, currently engaged in Edinburgh International Festival’s three-year school residency project. Young people will work with Conrad Murray, who leads BAC’s Beatbox Academy, and Edinburgh-based musician Josie O’Neil, to jam with other young musicians, improve their vocal techniques and make their own music using nothing but their mouths.

The Beatbox Academy is currently in residence in Leith Academy, engaging with 350 pupils in beatbox and song-writing workshops, following which they will be invited to sign up for an intensive Beatbox Summer School in July. The young people will have the opportunity to build on their beatbox and song-writing skills to create their own music, ultimately showcasing their talent in curtain raiser performances at the Traverse across the month of August (every Festival performance of *Frankenstein: How To Make A Monster*, except 10pm), celebrating young talent and bringing their energy to enthusiastic audiences.

**LISTINGS:**

**Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh, EH1 2ED**

Tickets on sale now: 0131 228 1404 and online via traverse.co.uk

**Assembly Hall, Edinburgh, EH1 2LU**

Tickets on sale now: 0131 623 3030 and online via assemblyfestival.com

**Pricing note:** We offer **£5 tickets** year-round (including Festival) to Unemployed, Job Seekers Allowance, Employment Support Allowance and Universal Credit (proof required), and operate **Under 30s/student** concessions. We are also piloting, and continuing to develop, a **£1 Ticket** scheme to reach communities and people within Edinburgh and beyond who might not have visited the Traverse before (open to UC/JSA/ESA and under 25s). During the Festival we will offer a number of tickets for £1 (purchasable in cash, at the box office) for selected performances of *Crocodile Fever*, *How Not To Drown*, and *Frankenstein: How To Make A Monster*.

For more information, press releases or images, contact [anna.docherty@traverse.co.uk](mailto:anna.docherty@traverse.co.uk)

**Traverse Theatre and is supported by:**

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**Beatbox Academy: Edinburgh Festival 2019 is supported by:**

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