

TRAVFEST22

Traverse Supporters Newsletter: July- 1

Welcome to your July Traverse Supporters Newsletter! As we are counting down the days until Festival, preparations are in full swing. Next week, our Traverse Theatre Company show *Wilf and This is Paradise* are starting rehearsals again, so we'll surely be able to show you some behind-the-scenes pictures soon. In this newsletter, you can read all about our Making Mondays during the Festival, with tickets for these events going live soon. One of our Traverse Supporters will be making his Festival stage debut with his show *Red Alert-Cancer!* - make sure to check it out! This year, we celebrated 30 years of Traverse's flagship project Class Act in Edinburgh, but Class Act has equally had an international impact as well, including in Ukraine, which inspired Molly Flynn's article recently published online by Cambridge University Press; *Class Act: East-West Youth Theatre and the Making of Meaning in Post revolutionary Ukraine* (Attachment).



Red Alert - Cancer! : The Stage Debut of Traverse Supporter Allan!

5th - 13th August @ ZOO

ABOUT THE SHOW

Suppose that three out of five siblings all had red hair and developed cancer, would that just be bad luck, or could there be a connection between red hair and cancer? That is the question that Allan Wilson explores in this autobiographical solo play using narration, images, audio and video to tell the stories of Iain, Heather and himself, the three red-heads in his family, and the impact of cancer on their lives.

Follow their journeys from childhood in 1950s Canada, through growing up in Central Scotland, and adulthood in Edinburgh and Telford. Along the way there will be glimpses of Bob Dylan, Nico from Velvet Underground, Tangerine Dream, and a reckless, emotional drive from Livingston to Edinburgh. Above all, this play will give you a chance to find out more about some of the cancers that can affect 1 in 2 adults in the UK, and to find out what it is really like to be diagnosed with cancer in the UK. There will be moments of sadness and, we hope, a few laughs as Allan steps out of the audience and onto the stage for the first time to share his family's story.

ABOUT THE CREATIVES

Red Alert - Cancer! is written and performed by Allan Wilson, who is making his stage debut. Allan has been a significant supporter of the arts over the last ten years, providing direct help for venues, companies and freelance artists. Since 2019, he has funded Summerhall's Autopsy Award, which helps artists in Scotland who make brave, boundary pushing, experimental performance work to undertake an Edinburgh Fringe run.

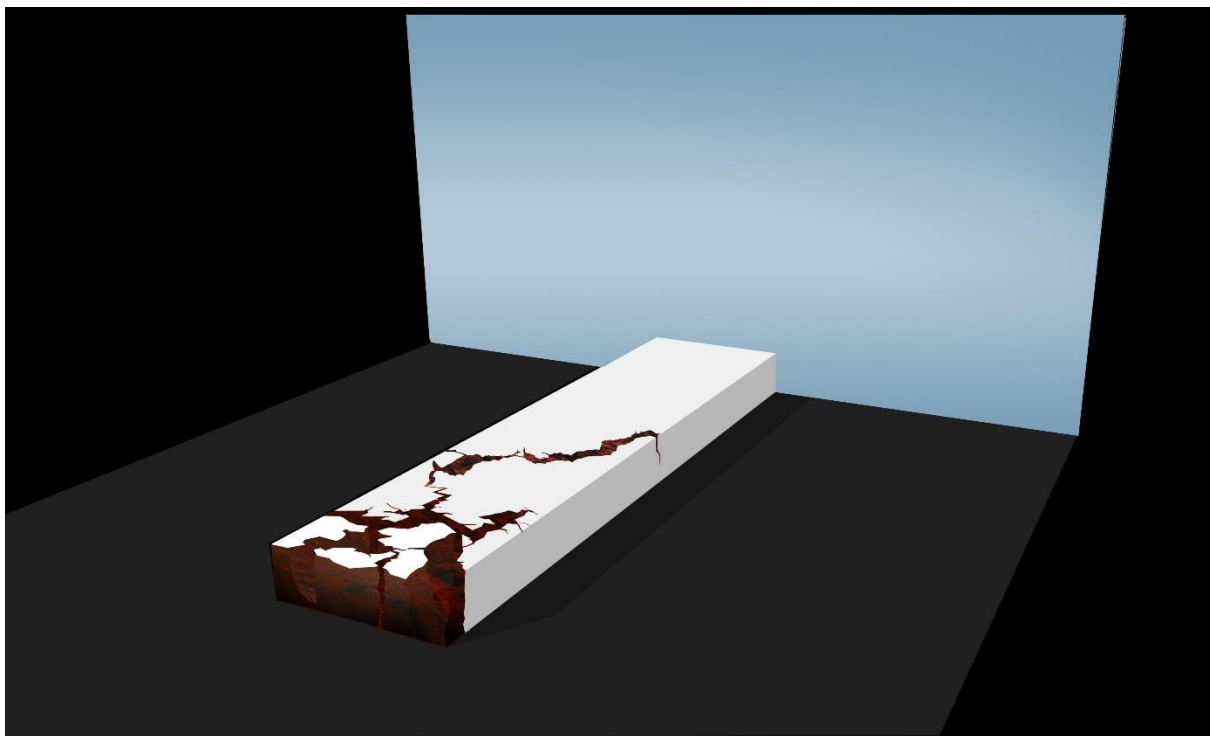
"Allan is a fantastically funny storyteller." Katie Greenall, Bush Theatre, London.

The play is directed by Kolbrún Björt Sigfúsdóttir who is an associate artist at Tron Theatre, Glasgow, and has recently directed two of their productions, *Me and My Sister Tell Each Other Everything* by Uther Dean (★★★★ The Guardian) and *Hang* by Debbie Tucker Green (★★★★★ The Scotsman). She was also creator and writer of *Deliverance* (produced by Vanishing Point, ★★★★★ The Stage) and directed *Maryland* by Lucy Kirkwood at the Traverse Theatre. Róisín Sheridan Bryson will be the Assistant Director.

"... one of Scotland's most intelligent young directors ..." Mark Fisher, The Scotsman.

Book your tickets [here](#) and follow the latest news by giving @RedAlert_Cancer a follow on Twitter.

This is Paradise : SketchUp image *This Is Paradise* design



This is Paradise started life with the Traverse as an open script submission, anonymously selected from over 600 scripts for further development. Together with writer Michael John O'Neill, we've worked to bring this powerful story to life. Last year, *This is Paradise* had its first public outing as a digital reading, and with such a strong audience response was swiftly back in development ahead of a limited run as part of our TravFest21 programme. It was also showcased in Traverse 3 – our digital venue – for those who were unable to travel to Edinburgh last year, and went on to win the coveted Popcorn Award for New Writing. Now *This is Paradise* is back with a new design (see above) and full run at TravFest22, ready to be enjoyed by international audiences at the largest arts festival in the world.

Haven't got your tickets yet? [Book your tickets for *This is Paradise* now!](#)

MAKING MONDAYS

Join us on Mondays for a first look at some projects destined for future TravFests, and a series of events shedding light on aspects of theatremaking in collaboration with Playwrights' Studio, Scotland.

Monday 15 August



11AM: TALK AND NETWORKING EVENT **CREATING SPACE WITH PLAYWRIGHTS' STUDIO, SCOTLAND**

Free (but ticketed)

Join Playwrights' Studio for Creating Space, an opportunity to chat with peers, meet new people and make connections with other playwrights. Featuring playwright Oliver Emanuel. Tea and coffee provided.

Book your tickets [here!](#)

2PM: DROP IN **MYTRAVERSE SHARING SESSION**

Free

Get a preview of the Traverse's exciting 60th anniversary digital project, MyTraverse, and share your memories and memorabilia. The Traverse turns 60 years new in 2023, and to mark the occasion we're launching MyTraverse, our exciting new digital space. There you can explore some of our most remarkable moments, acclaimed productions, insightful archive material, and get a glimpse into the spaces and work you don't usually see from your seat.

Join our archive drop in session to share your memories and memorabilia, or get a first look at this innovative project, where you can discover our history – and future – for yourself. And we can't tell our full story without the audiences who have been at our heart since day one. If you have tales to tell of your times at the Trav, or material connected to us that's languishing in a corner of your attic, we'd love to know!



4PM: LAUNCH **MYTRAVERSE LAUNCH** **EVENT**

Free (but ticketed)

The official launch of MyTraverse, and an opportunity to find out about the development of this groundbreaking new project, as well as explore what's on offer for yourself.

Monday 22 August

4PM: SCREENING

***MOVE* BY JULIA TADEVIN**

£5



Inspired by ancient keening rituals, *MOVE* is about migration, loss and communal healing. Join us for this special screening of the acclaimed TravFest21 show, captured live on Silverknowes Beach.

7PM: FIRST LOOK READING

***THE GRAND OPERA HOUSE HOTEL* BY ISOBEL MCARTHUR**

£5

Your very first chance to experience an excerpt from Olivier Award-winning writer Isobel McArthur's new Traverse commissioned play, with music from MJ McCarthy.

The newly-built Opera House Hotel is attracting a lot of customers. It is contemporary, affordable, clean and utterly soul-less. Apart from those souls which seem to linger... somewhere on the fringes of reality. Or so the rumours about the supernatural phenomena taking place in its corridors would suggest...

This is a dynamic ensemble comedy packed with operatic music new and familiar that investigates the nature of reality and self-worth when we work the hardest jobs. It challenges the facelessness of those overlooked and undervalued in the hospitality industry and the absurdity of this badly underpaid, back-breaking work which aims to delete all evidence of fellow humans having occupied a space before us - as juxtaposed with a noble old musical tradition which insists, indeed celebrates, that they did.



8PM: PANEL AND Q&A

[THE WRITER-COMPOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH PLAYWRIGHTS' STUDIO, SCOTLAND](#)

£4 or free to 7PM: FIRST LOOK READING bookers

A panel of writers and composers, including Isobel McArthur and MJ McCarthy, discuss and answer questions about the unique relationship between playwrights and composers.

Book your tickets [here!](#)

***Class Act: East-West Youth Theatre and the Making of Meaning in Post revolutionary Ukraine* by Molly Flynn**

Molly Flynn is Lecturer in Theatre and Performance at Birkbeck, University of London. She is the author of *Witness Onstage: Documentary Theatre in Twenty-First-Century Russia* (2020). Her current research analyzes the artistic and social significance of new playwriting and political theatre practice in Ukraine since 2014. She is a theatre-maker and a cofounder of the US experimental theatre collective the New York Neo-Futurists. She participated in *Class Act: East West in Kyiv* as a researcher and volunteer in 2017 and 2018.



Photo by Anastasia Vlasova

Since *Class Act* was first run in Ukraine 2016, the initiative has become known across the country and included performances by several of Ukraine's most famous artists from theatre, film and television.

On behalf of all of us at the Traverse, we thank you for your support and for sharing the joy of theatre with others.

With your help, we are preparing for yet another Festival season, ensuring the Traverse is a home for powerful, new theatre.

Thank you.

Laura, Ellen, and Team Traverse