

# Celebrate New Writing

TRAVERSE  
THEATRE

## Traverse Supporters Newsletter: October

With leaves falling from the trees and the nights getting longer and colder, the Traverse Theatre's Autumn season is well on its way. With a packed programme of partner company productions, creative engagement activities, and new works from the Traverse Theatre Company being developed behind-the-scenes, we'll help you banish those blues. Get comfy and enjoy the read!

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## Creative Writing at the Traverse in Autumn

### Creating Space

This season marks the inaugural edition of Traverse Theatre's Space Writers' Group- a new initiative that recognises the need to create a safe, supportive, and inspiring environment for writers of the Global Majority to develop their work.

Led by acclaimed playwright Mariem Omari and supported by Traverse Associate Director Shilpa T-Hyland, the group is working through a series of online and in-person workshops covering the playwriting process, industry mentorship, and feedback on your writing. So far, guest workshops have been delivered by Traverse Artistic Director Gareth Nicholls (*Wilf*, *Ulster American*), writer Kieran Hurley (*Mouthpiece*, *Beats*), Apphia Campbell (*Black is the Colour of My Voice*), and Nicola McCartney (*How Not To Drown*).

Below a group picture of the Creating Space Writers!



## Traverse Young Writers

Another season of Traverse Young Writers has kicked off, offering 13 young writers the opportunity to further their craft. New ideas, new conversations, new writers. Traverse Young Writers is aimed at 18-25-year olds who wish to develop their playwriting skills. It offers the opportunity to be part of a creative network, where aspiring playwrights can discuss, debate and create great new work.

This season is led by Douglas Maxwell, one of Scotland's top playwrights. The Traverse Artistic Team, including Artistic Director Gareth Nicholls and Creative Producer Robbie Gordon will also be leading dramaturgy sessions throughout the term.



## Class Act

Within this iteration of Class Act we are once again working with City of Edinburgh Council schools; Craigmount High School, Craigroyston High School, Tynecastle High School, Trinity High School as well as Intercultural Youth Scotland. We're working with these five groups, to support young people to unleash their creativity and unique voice. The dynamic, new, creative work they make will be premiered by the Traverse in 2023. Each group has a dedicated facilitator who will work with them to realise their creative ideas alongside a programme of digital tasks by guest artists who work with writing as part of their practice.

We will keep you posted on how the project gets on here in Edinburgh and then... where Class Act will go next!

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## Apphia Campbell Reading: Routes to Stage

Last Thursday, we showcased a rehearsed reading of a new play Apphia Campbell is currently developing at the Traverse. This rehearsed reading, directed by the Traverse's Artistic Director Gareth Nicholls (*Ulster American*, *Wulf*), and written during Apphia's IASH/Traverse Playwriting Fellowship, marked the first chance to experience this new work as it moves towards to a full production.

Apphia Campbell's bold new play is a tangled morality tale influenced by the great American dramas. Full of soulful and live-stirring gospel singing, it tackles the pressing question of whether a whole community should pay for the sins of an individual - and if good work done can ever compensate for lives ruined on the way.

For those who joined us on Thursday, [please do let us know](#) should you have any feedback or questions you had after seeing the reading, so we can pass this on to Apphia and Traverse's Artistic Team as we move the script further along.



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## Beyond Conference in Cardiff

We're delighted to be part of the Creative Informatics' showcase at this year's Beyond Conference, in person on the 18th and 19th October in Cardiff. BEYOND is a unique, annual gathering of current and future innovators focused on Research and Development across the Creative Industries, bringing together world-leading researchers, makers, investors, business leaders, and thinkers. The conference offers a global audience access to a schedule of expert speakers, keynotes, panel discussions, think pieces and provocations, as well as Q&As and networking opportunities.

Ellen will be representing the Traverse on this event, and together with representatives from Cadpeople, we will present our collaboration on MyTraverse.

You can also explore MyTraverse from your living room [here!](#)





## More TravFest22 shows on the road!



### Liz Kingsman's *One Woman Show*

Liz Kingsman's One Woman Show has set dates and venue for its West End transfer. The production will play a six-week season at the Ambassadors Theatre from 14 December to 21 January, with tickets from £15.

Many of you might have already seen the show while it was on in Edinburgh, however, I would suggest watching the new trailer for her show today. Although the West End production will not star, Kit Harrington, Kit Harrington does star in this trailer. Watch the trailer [here](#).



**James Mackenzie-Blackman** (He/Him) • 1st  
Chief Executive, Theatre Royal Plymouth  
2h • 🌐

Our beautiful show **HAPPY MEAL** is today announced as part of the prestigious **Sydney Festival!** I'm so delighted for what this means for all of us **Theatre Royal Plymouth**, for Tabby Lamb the writer and the performers. I am also so pleased for my team who get to work on this important international collaboration but mostly for what it says about the creative ambition for our city and our organisation. Plymouth's going global! 🌐🇬🇧🇺🇸

### *Happy Meal* by Tabby Lamb

Having won the Holden Street Theaters Award, our TravFest22 show *Bloody Elle*, a gig musical written and performed by Lauryn Redding was already set to go to Adelaide Australia. Turns out they will not be the only TravFest22 show in the land down under, as *Happy Meal* by Tabby Lamb will be part of the Sydney Festival. We couldn't be more proud!



## Giving Tuesday 2022

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of November, Traverse Theatre will once again participate in Giving Tuesday. Giving Tuesday was created in 2012 in the US as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good, following the well-known shopping days of Black Friday and Cyber Monday. Over the last decade, this idea has grown into a global movement that inspires millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity.

Traverse Theatre wants to celebrate giving Tuesday by raising awareness on the different ways you can support and engage with Traverse Theatre. Whether that is by donating, buying tickets to see our shows, or spreading the word about our work, we want to shout about your generosity and your commitment to supporting new writing and new writing talent.

The cost-of-living crisis has a devastating impact on our theatre, our society, and individuals. We want to continue coming together and supporting everyone within our community to connect with each other and us. For almost 60 years now, Traverse Theatre has been a staple in the community, and we need your support to continue our work in this new decade.

On #GivingTuesday, all over the world people are giving back. As loyal Traverse Theatre Supporters, we hope you will be an ambassador for the Traverse on this day and in the lead up to it. Help to spread our work and message by liking, re-tweeting and sharing the buzz about the Traverse. You can also fundraise on behalf of the Traverse and ask your friends, family, and community to support by setting up a Facebook Fundraiser [here](#) or clicking the 'Support us' button on our [Instagram page](#).

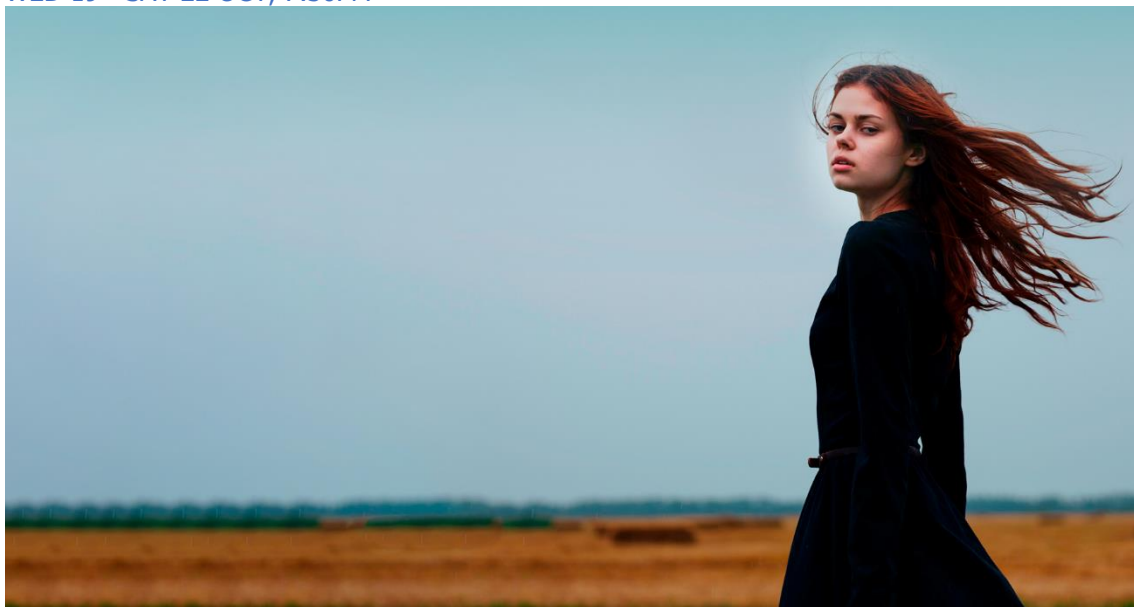
Should you have any further ideas or wish to contribute in any other way, please do [get in touch](#)!

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## COMING UP NEXT:

### ***Beauty Queen of Leenane* by Martin McDonagh**

WED 19 - SAT 22 OCT, 7.30PM



A Tony Award-winning dark comedy thriller, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, "*crackles with emotional fire and the blackest of comedy that is both hilarious and horrific*" (The Guardian).

The play combines thrilling elements of farce and melodrama with a searing critique on the Irish belief in the sanctity of the family. In a lonely, run-down cottage in Connemara, Maureen Folan leads

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an isolated life with Mag, her demanding, manipulative mother. With the arrival of an unexpected admirer, Maureen finally sees the possibility of escaping her dismal life. However, Mag has other ideas, and the two women are plunged into a desperate conflict which leads to a shocking conclusion.

The Beauty Queen of Leenane is one of playwright Martin McDonagh's (*Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*; *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*) finest achievements. Winner of four Tony Awards on Broadway and nominated for an Olivier Award, the play conjures up the unbearable tension and loneliness of an isolated existence that surely speaks to all of us today. It is not to be missed.

Book your tickets [here!](#)

## ***Crocodile Rock* by Andy McGregor**

TUE 25 OCT, 7:30PM

It's 1997, it's Millport and Steven McPhail is bored. He's 17 and it's now time to work out what to do with the rest of his life. The problem is, there's only so many options when you find yourself stuck on a Scottish island.

Everything changes when a chance encounter with a glorious drag queen shows Steven a world he never knew existed. A one-man musical featuring original music, *Crocodile Rock* is a story about finding yourself, understanding others and being true to those you love.

Book your tickets [here!](#)



## ***A New Life* by Andy McGregor**

WED 26 OCT, 7:30PM

Robbie and Jess are living the life. He's a successful computer programmer and she is on her way to being a headteacher. Until, totally out of the blue, Jess discovers she is pregnant. They'll be fine. It's just a baby. I mean...how disruptive to their metropolitan, 21st century lives can that be?

They. Have. No. Idea.

A heart-felt, surreal and truthful musical comedy from the creator of *Spuds* that may or may not feature a tap-dancing baby...

Book your tickets [here!](#)



## ***The Time Machine: A Radical Feminist Retelling* by Jordan & Skinner, after Wells**

THU 3 - SAT 5 NOV, 7.30PM



Welcome to The Bunker. The apocalypse is coming, and it's coming for you bitch! In a secret bunker, a group of feminists are taking matters into their own hands as they contemplate impending doom and ask if it's all too late to turn things around.

Meanwhile, a traveller lands in the year 802,701 to discover the fate of future humans and tries to unravel how it all came down to this. Join this fiery and furious company of extremists for a tale of time travel, survival and human evolution in a bold and irreverent reimagining of H. G. Wells science fiction classic.

Brought to you by award-winning feminist theatre company Jordan & Skinner. There is a pre-show discussion on Thu 3 Nov at 6pm in response to the show and what the future looks like for the intersectional feminist movement.

Book your tickets [here!](#)

## ***The COVID Requiem* by Jo Clifford and Lesley Orr**

THU 10 - FRI 11 NOV, 7PM at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral



Jo Clifford and Lesley Orr's *The Covid Requiem* is a beautiful and emotional work, written as a reflection and as a remembrance. Alongside the Choir of St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, singing Gabriel Fauré's exquisite Requiem Mass, the words and music form a dialogue in which we can reflect on the strangeness and tragedy of the last few years and remember all those who have died, and all those who mourn.

An event of remembrance for those of all faiths and none.

Book your tickets [here!](#)

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**We would like to thank you all for your continued support of the Traverse Theatre. Thanks to your support, we can continue to discover, develop and showcase new stories and new writers.**

**Laura, Ellen, and Team Traverse**