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## **The Traverse announce new additions in their highly anticipated TravFest23 programme**

- **World Premiere Kieran Hurley play *ADULTS*, directed by Roxana Silbert, and starring Conleth Hill, debuts in Traverse 1 this TravFest23**
  - **Sam Heughan introduces the Traverse's *Last Chance To Save The Planet* project, which will amplify the urgent voices of young people in Scotland around our climate emergency**
  - ***en route* - Unique and immersive theatrical experience, brought to life on the streets of Edinburgh by Richard Jordan Productions, joins the TravFest23 programme**
  - **Full details of Chronic Insanity Residency in Traverse 3 with five innovative digital productions now available to book**
  - **Exclusive reading of *Mouthpiece* by Kieran Hurley starring Shauna Macdonald and Angus Taylor**

Joining the already packed line-up in Traverse 1, Traverse Theatre Company is proud to present ***ADULTS*** by Kieran Hurley, writer of the sensational TravFest hit *Mouthpiece*. This brand new, pitch black comedy, delving into intergenerational conflict and is a play for lovers of drama that offers an excoriating take on society today.

Directed by Roxana Silbert, formerly Traverse Literary Director and most recently Artistic Director at Hampstead Theatre. Starring Olivier award-winning actor and theatre director Conleth Hill, known internationally for his portrayal of Lord Varys in smash-hit TV series *Game Of Thrones*. Conleth returns to the Traverse stage 25 years after his first performance on its stages, having starred in Communicado's *The Suicide* by Nikolai Erdman, as well as *Stones In His Pockets*, Winner of Best Entertainment or Comedy Play at the Olivier awards, shortly after. Appearing alongside Hill is Anders Hayward, star of BBC series, *Guilt*. (Further casting to be announced.)

Proudly occupying their place in the programme will be the young people of Scotland, rallying together with the Traverse to have their voices heard through **Last Chance To Save The Planet**. The project is fronted by Traverse alumni, youth theatre advocate and passionate environmentalist Sam Heughan (*Outlander; Outlying Islands*, Traverse), who sets-out the opportunity in a call-to-action video [\[LINK\]](#). Young people will put their urgent words of protest on our climate emergency to a company of performers, and find their work occupying space across the theatre – both physical and digital – this coming festival.

We are thrilled to have award-winning theatrical innovators **Chronic Insanity** join us for a special digital residency throughout August, presenting five on demand pieces. Each varying in form – from exploratory audio drama, ‘choose your own adventure’ formats, to video experiences - this creative residency will provide creative depth and texture to audiences this TravFest. On top of these brilliant pieces - **Flavour Text, Myles Away, PNOC.io, Red Breast** and **There’s Something Among Us** - **Chronic Insanity** will also join us for a panel discussion that explores the creation of digital theatre and its importance within the current cultural climate.

Having played sell-out seasons internationally, **en route** returns to the Traverse to amaze audiences all over again. Created for each city that it inhabits, this one-of-a-kind walking tour takes its audience on an intimate journey through Edinburgh to capture the senses and change perspectives for the better. With limited pairs of tickets per performance, this experience is sure to be the most sought-after of the season.

There’s no stopping us this August, even on a quiet Monday we will be presenting an exciting range of development and engagement activities to get involved in. Traverse 2 will see a special reading of audience favourite, *Mouthpiece* by Kieran Hurley as a companion piece to his new play **ADULTS**.

**Kieran Hurley, writer of ADULTS, said:**

*“I’m delighted to be returning to the Traverse with my new play, ADULTS. It’s been such an important home for my past work, and I really am buzzing to have the play programmed alongside loads of great new writing. Working with Roxana has been just tremendous and we’ve got a cracking cast and creative team to bring the play to life.*

*The prospect of having Mouthpiece onstage again is also really exciting. The play’s international touring was abruptly cut short by the pandemic, so it’d be great to be able to take this one back out on the road beyond Scotland.”*

**Sam Heughan said of Last Chance To Save The Planet**

*“I believe in protecting our planet (hence the reason I support so many environmental charities through My Peak Challenge, my charity fitness fundraiser) and also think it important to promote youth theatre to nurture new talent. Therefore, I cannot think of a better platform for this incredibly important conversation than the Traverse in August, pride of place in the largest arts festival in the world. It’s the theatre where I had my first professional acting job, and its stages remain a place for some of the most vital conversations about the world today. I thoroughly encourage young people across Scotland to occupy their rightful space in this festival*

*with both hands, adding to the powerful and revolutionary act of storytelling, questioning and demanding change.”*

## **TravFest23 productions on sale and projects live now**

### **ADULTS**

by Kieran Hurley, directed by Roxana Silbert

**Traverse Theatre Company**

World Premiere

Traverse 1: Tue 1 – Sun 27 Aug

Press/Opening Performance: Sun 6 Aug, 6pm

On sale now: <https://www.traverse.co.uk/whats-on/event/adults-festival-23>

*“Everyone grows up thinking it’s the end of the world. The only difference is you lot think you’re special”*

A black comedy full of unexpected tenderness, **ADULTS** is the highly anticipated new play from Kieran Hurley, following his TravFest19 smash-hit *Mouthpiece*.

Amongst a raft of anonymous Airbnbs in Edinburgh’s New Town, thirty-something Zara is running her own business and trying to make her way in the world. A new client has just arrived, but her colleague is running late. Tensions are high.

Oh, and the business is a brothel, the client is her old teacher, and her colleague is having a panic about his fear of the aging process.

They’re all convinced that they’re the most hard done by, and that the mess of a world that’s around them definitely isn’t their fault. But they soon discover that they have more in common than they first realised, and together might even be able to find some meaning in the modern madness.

Directed by Roxana Silbert, **ADULTS** explores the growing gulf between the generations, the futility of blame culture, and how we have to make things better for those who will come after us.

Starring Conleth Hill and Anders Hayward (further casting to be announced).

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### **EN ROUTE**

Produced by Richard Jordan, with *one step at a time like this*

Traverse 3: Tues 15 - Sat 26 Aug (not Sundays or Mondays)

On sale now: <https://www.traverse.co.uk/whats-on/event/en-route-festival-23>

See Edinburgh as if for the first time - again! **en route** returns in all of its retro glory, thirteen years after its UK debut at TravFest.

*en route* is a love song to our city, unfolding places, and worlds, personal and private, present and past.

Engaging with audio, mobile phones, iPods, walking, urban streetscapes, and the city, *en route* invites you on a walking and listening journey – both inward and outward – across the thoroughfares and back-alleys of Edinburgh.

Part traveller, witness, and voyeur. As you journey, fragments of narrative, local music, and sound, intertwine with directions, wanderings, observations, and found experiences. The spontaneous choreography of passers-by, streets, alleys, and buildings evoke a city on which to project your own narratives and meanings as perceptions, insights, senses make and remake the city you inhabit.

Winner of Best Theatre Production at the Adelaide Fringe and Best Live Art at Melbourne Fringe. Following hit seasons in Chicago; Singapore; Adelaide; Melbourne; Auckland; Brisbane; Seoul; and for the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad. *en route* remastered returns to Edinburgh, conceived by award-winning Australian collective *one step at a time like this* (*Forever Young*, *Since I Suppose*, *Nocturne*), internationally renowned for their immersive work in collaboration with Richard Jordan Productions and the Traverse Theatre.

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### **LAST CHANCE TO SAVE THE PLANET - READING**

by the young people of Scotland

Traverse 2: Mon 14 Aug, 7pm

On sale now: <https://www.traverse.co.uk/whats-on/event/last-chance-to-save-the-planet-festival-23>

We want to hear from those whose voices matter. Voices that are the future of our world. Voices that are so often overlooked and side-lined. We want to hear from the young people of Scotland to understand how they feel about the future of their planet.

Following on from our *Last Chance To Save The Planet* call-out to the young people of Scotland, led by *Outlander* star Sam Heughan, this reading will platform young people's voices as part of TravFest23, allowing them to platform their desires, appeals, hopes and fears for the future of the planet.

Young people will be the most adversely impacted by the climate crisis and yet are so often excluded from the discussions that will shape their future. ***Last Chance to Save the Planet*** seeks to change that format and disrupt the dialogue. This project will make young people programmed writers and heard activists, amidst the largest arts festival in the world.

Cast and supporting creatives to be announced in due course.

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### **CHRONIC INSANITY RESIDENCY: FLAVOUR TEXT**

by Megan Gates, Charlotte Holder, Ruth Mestle, Harry Smith, Joe Strickland, Sophie Whitebrook

Traverse 3: Fri 4 – Mon 28 Aug

On sale now: <https://www.traverse.co.uk/whats-on/event/chronic-insanity-flavour-text-festival-23>

*"This restaurant is now a Tex-Mex place. Food fine but owner not as polite as the previous (I wonder what happened to him?)"*

*Flavour Text* is the term used to describe the environmental storytelling that gives an audience extra insight into a fictional world. The written equivalent of a found footage film, *Flavour Text* is an internet wide, narrative treasure hunt.

You find yourself looking for the number for your favourite takeaway online, when you realise that the restaurant has closed down suddenly. While looking for the reason, the audience falls into a rabbit hole of lies and deceit that they discover through review and comment sections across a variety of websites.

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### **CHRONIC INSANITY RESIDENCY: MYLES AWAY**

by Tennexa Freeman and Joe Strickland

Traverse 3: Fri 4 – Mon 28 Aug

On sale now: <https://www.traverse.co.uk/whats-on/event/chronic-insanity-myles-away-festival-23>

*"Being an ally is all well and good, but how far will you go to do the right thing, especially when your livelihood is on the line."*

*Myles Away* follows the founder of a tech company who gets laid off just before their annual product launch. The eyes of the industry are on the company's flagship artificially intelligent Virtual Reality product, but will they want all the attention on them once Myles has finished interfering with their event, with your help of course.

Using video, audio, and interactivity, *Myles Away* looks at the relationship between capitalism and discrimination in the tech industry and asks how far we as consumers are willing to go to make a positive change life.

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### **CHRONIC INSANITY RESIDENCY: PNOC.IO**

by Joe Strickland

Traverse 3: Fri 4 – Mon 28 Aug

On sale now: <https://www.traverse.co.uk/whats-on/event/chronic-insanity-pnoc-io-festival-23>

An adaptation of Pinocchio for the internet age and a reflection on the power and influence that tech companies have in our lives.

You are starting a new job, a User Experience Tester for Stromboli, the world's most exciting internet company. After initiation, you are shown a top-secret research project and asked to deliver a series of tests. However, things are not as they seem. As the tests progress you begin to uncover more about what the company is really testing for, having to decide whether you want to help them achieve their goals or whether you want to sabotage them while you have the chance.

*PNOC.io* is an experience that examines misinformation, the ethics of tech companies, the rights of artificial intelligences, and the ability for an individual to make meaningful change in the world.

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### **CHRONIC INSANITY RESIDENCY: RED BREAST**

by Charlotte Holder

Traverse 3: Fri 4 – Mon 28 Aug

On sale now: <https://www.traverse.co.uk/whats-on/event/chronic-insanity-red-breast-festival-23>

This is a story about the coming together and pulling apart of a family across multiple generations.

Alister misses his wife, and spends his days reminiscing about their time together. On the other side of the country, Lily and Alex are planning their wedding and hoping nothing gets in the way. Meanwhile, 15 years ago, Vivian reflects on her life up to this point, her diagnosis, and how her husband will cope with her not being around soon.

*Red Breast* is the coming together and intermingling of the inner monologues of these four individuals. An audio play recorded using binaural sound, the audience is placed in the centre of the action, with the loss, love, and revelations between the characters taking place in the space around you.

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### **CHRONIC INSANITY RESIDENCY: THERE'S SOMETHING AMONG US**

by Joe Strickland

Traverse 3: Fri 4 – Mon 28 Aug

On sale now: <https://www.traverse.co.uk/whats-on/event/chronic-insanity-theres-something-among-us-festival-23>

*"Hell is other people, even over Zoom"*

Games have the ability to bring us together, but also to push us apart. With a rise in online games over lockdown a friendship group being torn asunder by a game can now happen remotely. Hooray!

In *There's Something Among Us*, a player(s) is assigned the role of The Imposter and has secretly murder the other players without being caught. But what if, when each player is killed off in the game, something more immediate and serious happens to that player in real life, something the other players aren't made aware of until it's too late.

*There's Something Among Us* tells a story through multiple interactive video feeds of the opening of old wounds, the revelation of unspoken truths, and little colourful dudes killing each other on a space station.

Winner of Best Production and Best Design awards at the World Wide Fringe Festival.

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### **MOUThPIECE - READING**

by Kieran Hurley

Traverse 2: Mon 7 Aug, 4pm

On sale now: <https://www.traverse.co.uk/whats-on/event/mouthpiece-reading-festival-23>

A gripping Traverse Theatre hit about class, culture and appropriation makes its return with this special reading as it prepares for the international stage, featuring returning cast, Shauna Macdonald and Angus Taylor.

Having premiered as part of Traverse Festival 2019, Kieran Hurley's *Mouthpiece* received immense audience and critical acclaim, winning the The Stage Edinburgh Award and the prestigious Carol Tambor Best of Edinburgh Award. Frank, unflinching and threaded with unexpected humour, *Mouthpiece* takes a look at two different sides of Edinburgh that exist in ignorance of one another, and asks whether it's possible to tell someone else's story without exploiting them along the way.

**TravFest23 Trailer:** <https://youtu.be/m4dZZy17URY>

### **Traverse Festival 2023**

**In person:** Thu 27 July – Sun 27 Aug

**Online:** Fri 4 Aug – Mon 28 Aug

Full programme and booking: <https://www.traverse.co.uk/whats-on>

Traverse Theatre, 10 Cambridge St, Edinburgh, EH1 2ED | [traverse.co.uk](https://www.traverse.co.uk)

For more information, interviews, press tickets or images, contact [press@traverse.co.uk](mailto:press@traverse.co.uk)

Please find a selection of press images etc [here](#).

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