
The word wright is an archaic English term for a craftsman or builder. When combined with the word play, this indicates someone who has wrought words, themes, and other elements into a dramatic form, someone who crafts plays.

PlayWROUGHT is Arcola’s week long celebration of new ideas, new voices and new writing. PlayWROUGHT #3 will take place in Studio 2 from Monday 12th – Saturday 17th January 2015, and see twelve exciting new plays presented as a series of rehearsed readings.

PlayWROUGHT was born out of a frustration at not being able to work with as many new writers as we would like. Without a literary department, we are unable to be as active as we would like, particularly in developing those plays which show real promise and would benefit from time, space, support and a platform to share their work.

The Festival is a culmination of this unique development process and aims to celebrate and support new and emerging talent, regardless of age, by providing these twelve playwrights with the training, space and support in which to develop their ideas.

We are delighted to present new, daring, original and important voices.

The programme at a glance:

Monday 12 Jan at 7pm LITTLE ARMADAS by Roz Wyllie

It’s been a godawful day, in a wreck of life, and Lucy wants revenge. But she’s spent her whole life being obedient, compliant and without edges. Because to do anything else would be wrong…right?

Director: Bethany Pitts
Cast: Anna Bolton

Monday 12 Jan at 9pm GLASS BOYS by Clare Whitehead

Two young boys meet in a hospital room and are forced to confront not only the reality of their situation, but also their own mortality.
Director: Jo Greaves
Cast: Angela Bull, Aaron Gordon, Evelyn Lockley and Ryan Wichert

Tuesday 13 Jan at 7pm *MONA’S ROOM* by Dianna Hunt

After his death, Marcus, a former psychiatric patient, is met by his deceased grandfather Stanley, and escorted back in time to 1964, where he witnesses how his teenage pregnant mother, Pamela, adjusted to life in London having arrived from St Lucia months before Marcus’s birth.

Director: To be announced
Cast: To be announced

Tuesday 13 Jan at 9pm *NINE* by Stephen Laughton

Set over one night, against a hyper-modern online framework based on fleeting moments of connection, a Turkish-Cypriot family are forced to confront the zeitgeist of split personality, the weight of tangential interactions and the consequential fluidity of identity - online, for real …

Director: Amanda Castro
Cast: David Avery, Desara Bosjna, Daniel Abelson, George Jovanovic, Hayley Kasperczyk, Kelda Holmes.

Wednesday 14 Jan at 7pm *WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU CLICK ON IT?* by Christopher Hogg

The last 20 months in the life of PC David Rathband, told through the vapour trail of data he left online: the blackbox flight recorder of a man’s digital tragedy.

Director: Richard Speir
Cast: Gerard McDermott, Jill Riddiford, David Kirkbride and Dean Robert Logan

Wednesday 14 Jan at 9pm *NORTH COUNTRY* by Tajinder Hayer

North Country follows three young people over the course of forty years in post-apocalyptic Bradford.

Director: Alex Chisholm
Cast: Michael Cahill, Dina Mousawi, Nima Taleghani

Thursday 15 Jan at 7pm *A PERFECTLY FINE LIFE* by Annie Pierce

Zinnia can’t have the baby she wants. Elizabeth offers to be a surrogate mother. And lawyer Anwen does her best to handle everyone’s interests. But when things do not turn out as expected, what is it like to depend on a stranger for what you want most?
Director: Romana Flello  
Cast: To be announced  

Thursday 15 Jan at 9pm **STAR-CROSSED** by James Huntrods

*Tom is a tutor tasked with helping Jordanian Adnan pass his Shakespeare exam. But a language barrier causes Tom to overstep the boundary of the teacher/student relationship with disastrous consequences.*

Director: Jessica Edwards  
Cast: Michael Edwards, Junaid Faiz, Jordan Lee, Kirsty Mann and Taniel Yusef.

Friday 16 Jan at 7pm **PROPERTY** by Catherine Willmore

*Posh pad, city boy, hot chick, smash & grab - everyone’s on the make in London these days. Set during the riots of 2011, Property asks why some people seem to get away with almost anything.*

Director: Kay Michael  
Cast: Peter Clements, Geoff Arnold, Morfydd Clark, Ken Nwosu, Theo St Claire

Friday 16 Jan at 9pm **CHILD Z** by Sarah Hehir

*Zoe is a teenage girl growing up in a deeply disturbing society. If those paid to protect her aren’t listening, then who is?*

Director: Suzette Coon  
Sound Designer: Roy Smith  
Cast: Hannah Wood, Amanda Reed, John Bradshaw  
Recorded Voices: Barry Fentiman Hall and Lydia Finch

Saturday 17 Jan at 7pm **LOVE, BOMBS AND APPLES** by Hassan Abdulrazzak

*Four men from all over the globe experience a moment of revelation with perverse consequences.*

Director: Rosamunde Hutt  
Cast: Asif Khan

Saturday 17 Jan at 9pm **RECREATION** by Jerusha Green

*Recreation follows a community of characters whose stories intersect as they weave their way through a Manchester park: each of them grasping at something that is, once was, or will be lost.*

Director: Debbie Hannan, in collaboration with Etch Theatre  
**More details**

**LITTLE ARMADAS** by Roz Wyllie  
*Monday 12 Jan at 7pm*

‘The biggest battles are won by patience and stealth  
There’s no need to go in all guns blazing’

It’s been a godawful day, in a wreck of life, and Lucy wants revenge. But she’s spent her whole life being obedient, compliant and without edges. Because to do anything else would be wrong...right? A dark comedy about power, reality and standing up for yourself.

*Roz Wyllie has written for Clean Break Theatre, Almeida Theatre (LAB) ,Theatre 503, Old Red Lion, Live Theatre & Royal Shakespeare Company, Nabakov and Canal Café Theatre amongst others. She is winner of the 2010 Ovation Award for Best New Writing.*

*Roz is currently under commission to Clean Break Theatre and Bravo 22 Theatre Company.*

**Director**  Bethany Pitts  
**Cast**  Anna Bolton

**GLASS BOYS** by Clare Whitehead  
*Monday 12 Jan at 9pm*

‘.Because I just get this way about me when I’m flying a little bit above it all.’

Jed and Sebastian, two young people, are confronting questions of identity, mortality and faith. Meanwhile Jed’s sister Mitty, although young, is alive to the situation and as an adult recaptures the turmoil of her experience. 
*Glass Boys* is about memory, siblings, love, survival and whether it is possible to find our way towards acceptance.

*Clare has an MA in Screenwriting from London University and completed the 2012/13 John Burgess Playwriting Course. She is an experienced broadcaster and the narrator of several audiobooks. She has appeared at The Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham as The Nurse in Romeo and Juliet and Helena in A Midsummer Night’s Dream. She has reviewed for The Stage and Musical Stages magazine and has worked as a reader for ICM and The Stephen Joseph Theatre. Her play *ASHES* was performed at The Arcola (for The Miniaturists) and The Park (for Hatch) last year and her play *MERCY* is due to be workshopped by Frontiers Theatre Productions in the spring.*
MONA’S ROOM by Dianna Hunt

Tuesday 13 Jan at 7pm

Marcus has just died. Guided by his deceased grandfather Stanley, he is escorted back in time to 1964, months before his birth. His mother Pamela has just arrived in London from St Lucia and is struggling to adjust to life in a new country, and with her mother Mona, who is surprised, angry and inconvenienced by her daughter’s predicament.

Mona’s Room is a journey across time and generations that explores the ties that bind us together.

Dianna is a writer with a particular interest in emotional trauma and its impact on families and relationships. She has recently completed her master’s degree in playwriting and screenwriting at City University. Dianna developed Mona’s Room in her final year of the course during which she was mentored by playwright Diane Samuels. Mona’s Room is Dianna’s first full-length play. She is currently working on her second play One Woman’s Slide.

NINE by Stephen Laughton

Tuesday 13 Jan at 9pm

A Turkish-Cypriot family are barely treading water. İsmet is more interested in a dead cat than his kids…. Al is lost in Grindr, and Ayşe - a fierce and intelligent young woman - is drowning in the mire…

Set over one night, against a hyper-modern online framework based on fleeting moments of connection, the family are forced to confront the zeitgeist of split personality, the weight of tangential interactions and the consequential fluidity of identity - online, for real.

An alumni of the invitational Royal Court groups and Skylines at the Hampstead, Stephen is currently in development on a number of theatre, TV and film projects - in both the UK and overseas. His first play MARINA ABRAMOVIC IS STARING AT ME opened Terra Firma Theatre’s 2011-12 Boxcar Reading Series in New York at the Railroad Playhouse in Newburgh, NY before moving on to the Cell Theatre in Manhattan. Last year he was invited to take part in a series of developmental workshops with the Young Vic Theatre/SoundBites and his drama for young audiences, MERRY NEW YEAR was broadcast as part of collaboration between the Hampstead and the Roundhouse Theatre. A playwright with mixed Jewish and Cypriot background, Stephen is interested in exploring ideas that play with identity, technology, gender, sexuality, science and religion.
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU CLICK ON IT? by Christopher Hogg

**Wednesday 14 Jan at 7pm**

In 2010 PC David Rathband was blinded when shot in the face by Raoul Moat. Using the vapour trail of digital fragments that PC Rathband left online, *What Happens When You Click On It?* explores what happened in his last 20 months. It is a story that entered the national consciousness and a significant moment that, when examined deeply, shows Britain in a Hogarthian light, like a snake caught in the act of sloughing its skin.

*Christopher is a dramatist, comedian, technologist, librettist and sometimes even an actor. He is a former finalist of the ‘Storyteller of the Year’ competition and is studying for a PHD at the Institute for Creative and Cultural Entrepreneurship at Goldsmiths. He is also a graduate of Goldsmiths MA in Writing for Performance. This is his first major script-reading at a London theatre.*

**Director** Richard Speir  
**Cast** Gerard McDermott, Jill Riddiford, David Kirkbride and Dean Robert Logan

**NORTH COUNTRY** by Tajinder Hayer

**Wednesday 14 Jan at 9pm**

*North Country* follows three young people - Nusrat Bibi, Harvinder Sandhu and Jason Alleyne - over the course of forty years in post-apocalyptic Bradford. It charts their struggles to survive and rebuild; and explores what it means to be a community in a time of scarcity.

*Tajinder Singh Hayer is originally from Bradford and now lives in Walsall. He has written plays for the West Yorkshire Playhouse, Menagerie Theatre, Look Left, Look Right and Peshkar. He has also had work broadcast on BBC Radio 3, 4, CBeebies and the Asian Network. At present, he is doing a PhD in Creative Writing at Anglia Ruskin University; he is also under commission with CBeebies.*

**Director** Alex Chisholm  
**Cast** Michael Cahill, Dina Mousawi, Nima Taleghani

**A PERFECTLY FINE LIFE** by Annie Pierce

**Thursday 15 Jan at 7pm**
Zinnia can’t have the baby she wants. Elizabeth offers to be a surrogate mother. And lawyer Anwen does her best to handle everyone’s interests. But when things do not turn out as expected, what is it like to depend on a stranger for what you want most?

Annie Pierce is a bilingual playwright and author who lives in London and writes in English and Welsh. Her short play, Pica Pica, was one of the winners of the National Eisteddfod of Wales Sgriptslam in 2012, organised by the Sherman Theatre. Her novel, Fflamio, won the Daniel Owen Prize for a first novel in 1999. This is her first full-length play in English.

Director  Romana Flello
Cast  To be announced

**STAR-CROSSED** by James Huntrods
*Thursday 15 Jan at 9pm*

Newly “qualified” private tutor Tom is tasked with teaching Shakespeare to his first student, Adnan. Trouble is, English is Adnan’s second language and Saladin – his Arabic speaking elder brother – doesn’t think the lessons are particularly useful. Investigating the teacher/student boundary and the one-size-fits-all white-washed education system, **Star-Crossed** is a comedy-drama where language barriers, cultural misunderstandings and assumptions combine with disastrous consequences.

*Trained in an MA in Scriptwriting from Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, James has since gone on to write for theatre and television. He has had short plays at Theatre 503, The Bush and full-length Splinters at the Ovalhouse, and he has been a regular at the Edinburgh fringe with critical successes Red Jungle Fowl, Clint’s Reality and Poets’ Corner, the latter of which transferred to Austria. He adapted the book Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus for a touring production in 2012, with a short run in Dubai. His sitcom Nightclub Nanny was runner-up in the BAFTA New Comedy Showcase 2014 and he has written additional material on Comedy Central sitcom Brotherhood.*

Director  Jessica Edwards
Cast  Michael Edwards, Junaid Faiz, Jordan Lee, Kirsty Mann and Taniel Yusef

**PROPERTY** by Catherine Willmore
*Friday 16 Jan at 7pm*

Late on a Saturday night Carl, a wealthy city broker, brings Lexie, a beautiful young woman home to his luxurious flat on the edge of the city. When an old friend turns up unexpectedly, vital supplies run out, and rioting encroaches on his
neighbourhood, he has to use all his powers of determination to keep his party on track. Property is a slice of contemporary London life which asks are we really ‘all in it together’?

*Catherine studied dance at Laban and writing for the theatre at Goldsmiths. She has worked as a choreographer, teacher, producer, manager and writer within dance, holding key positions within many leading dance organisations and companies. Property is her first full-length play. She is also currently developing an outdoor promenade piece called Dusk that takes place in the woods at night, which has been supported by the East of England’s talent development scheme Escalator.*

**Director** Kay Michaels  
**Cast** Peter Clements, Geoff Arnold, Morfydd Clark, Ken Nwosu, Theo St Claire

**CHILD Z by Sarah Hehir**  
**Friday 16 Jan at 9pm**

Child Z is a hard hitting new play which gives voice to a young girl trapped at the centre of a child grooming ring. It is powerful, provocative and timely, contributing to one of the most sensitive and controversial public debates of the moment.

In 2009 Britain was rocked by the Rochdale child grooming scandal. Despite many opportunities to intervene, social workers, police and the CPS repeatedly failed to protect the girls involved. The play has been informed by extensive research and interviews and questions why so many girls were ignored for so long.

*Sarah Hehir won the 2013 BBC Writer’s Prize and her play Bang Up, set in a young offenders’ institute, was broadcast on Radio 4 last summer. Her plays have been produced at Park Theatre, Canal Café and Rochester Literature Festival (2103 and 2014) and published in Bare Fiction Magazine. Dark was shortlisted for the Portal Entertainment Immersive Writing Prize in 2013 and she reached the shortlist of The Nick Darke Award in 2012. She is currently writer in residence at Little Pieces of Gold and teaches creative writing in schools, colleges and prisons.*

**Director** Suzette Coon  
**Sound Designer** Roy Smith  
**Cast** Hannah Wood, Amanda Reed, John Bradshaw  
**Recorded Voices** Barry Fentiman Hall and Lydia Finch

**LOVE, BOMBS AND APPLES by Hassan Abdulrazzak**  
**Saturday 17 Jan at 7pm**

A Palestinian actor learns there’s more to English girls than pure sex appeal. A Pakistani-born terror suspect figures out what’s wrong with his first novel. A London youth suspects all is not what it seems with his object of desire. A New
Yorker asks his girlfriend for a sexual favour at the worst possible time. This is the comic tale of four men from different parts of the globe, experiencing a moment of revelation.

Hassan Abdulrazzak is an award-winning playwright of Iraqi origin. His plays Baghdad Wedding and The Prophet were critically acclaimed. He has written numerous short plays and translated plays for the Royal Court Theatre. He is currently working on a number of theatre, TV and film projects. Awards won: George Devine, Meyer-Whitworth, Pearson and The Arab British Centre Award for Culture.

Director Rosamunde Hutt
Cast Asif Khan

RECREATION by Jerusha Green
Saturday 17 Jan at 9pm

Recreation follows a community of characters whose stories intersect as they weave their way through a Manchester park: each of them grasping at something that is, once was, or will be lost. An ode to childhood and inspired by real home videos, Recreation explores parenting: the struggle to parent, the desire to be parented, the impossibility of getting it right and the pull towards getting it wrong – and the consequences of all.

Jerushua Green is a graduate of the University of East Anglia where she studied Scriptwriting and Performance and had two plays produced. She is also a member of the Royal Court’s Young Playwriting Group. PlayWROUGHT marks her second collaboration with ETCH Theatre, who have previously staged scratch presentations of her work.

Director Debbie Hannan, in collaboration with Etch Theatre.