
THEATRE WORLD

TAKE CARE

**This is something more
than theatre. This is
real**

THE SCOTSMAN



Écoute Theatre Company



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Arts Pound



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ABOUT ÉCOUTE

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO:

Écoute Theatre is an award-winning verbatim theatre company with bases in both Bristol and London, and is run by an all-female creative team. We create inventive, challenging and exciting pieces of theatre that shine a light on pockets of society that usually go unheard.

"Verbatim" literally means "in exactly the same words as were used originally". So all the text in our plays comes from interviews we have conducted around the UK and all the voices you hear are as close to the voices of those interviewed. We don't have a "writer" in the typical sense, as none of the script is written - it's been transcribed from hours of interviews and structured into a form that makes it work dramatically. Basically, we're as close to Documentary Theatre as it gets!

We engage directly with different communities from a wide range of ages and backgrounds through our community performances and workshops.

écoute
/eku:t/

verb (French):

LISTEN



OUR PURPOSE:

Real people, Real stories

We search to find the truth behind the news headlines, revealing the stories of people who have become part of the facts and figures.

From interviews, news articles and political speeches, we create dynamic, informative and inventive pieces of theatre in a form dissimilar from any other. We pride ourselves on the rigour of our performers and creatives, and the skill with which each production is crafted. We use live sound and music, large set changes, inventive physical theatre and pure storytelling to keep our audiences on their toes and involved in the stories.

The audience has a unique experience, whereby they are addressed directly throughout the performance - they are given the role of "interviewer" with the actors being the "interviewees". This creates a new dynamic with an audience, whereby there is much more of a sense of community and much less of an "us versus them". Get ready for some audience interaction!

MEET THE TEAM:



...ABOUT ÉCOUTE

ZOE TEMPLEMAN-YOUNG (Artistic Director)

Zoë trained at RADA. Her professional credits as an actress include *Alex*, *Mary Stuart* (Almeida, Robert Icke), *Sister*, *Pornography* (Dana Segal), *Maria*, *Breathe* (Lucrezia Pollice). Her directing credits include *It's Beautiful Over There*, *Risk Assessment*, *Take Care*

CATHARINE LYNCH (Company Director)

Cathy went to Birkbeck to undertake an MA in Arts Policy and Management. She works in the charity sector running major marketing and communication projects. She has been the spearhead of a large amount of successful digital campaigns and fundraising appeals for one of the biggest charities in the UK. She is the Head of Marketing and Outreach at Écoute.

SAM MCLAUGHLIN (Company Director)

Sam trained at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Since graduating she has moved back to her hometown of Bristol and has juggled working as a professional carer with acting jobs. Sam has worked with Bard in the Botanics, Northeast Producers and Up The Ante Theatre Co. and is currently touring with 4Front Theatre. She is also performing as part of Bristol Improv Theatre's new show: *The Bish Bosh Bash*. She is part of the company of actors in Écoute.

BLURB:

ABOUT TAKE CARE

*A darkly humorous play that follows the story of one woman, Pam,
and her fight to move her mother out of a care home.*

*Along the way we meet over 20 other individuals, all involved
in the care system in some way, as they reveal the very real
hilarity and horror of end-of-life-care.*

TAKE CARE is an explosive documentary play that looks beyond the newspaper articles and statistics to reveal the human stories of carers. It follows the lives of carers of the elderly over the years and is a poignant, heart-warming, provocative piece of theatre. Drawn from over 60 interviews with private, family and agency carers, care home managers, NHS officials and MP's, We shine a light on the hidden voices of generations of carers and exposes the workings of a care system in desperate need of repair.

TAKE CARE AND THE COMMUNITY

...ABOUT TAKE CARE

Through creating the production we connect with carers from a range of cultures, ages and backgrounds. We provide a platform from which their voices can be heard, and we make it clear that the stories audiences are hearing are fact, not fiction.

As a company we run open forums for carers for older people, reaching out and inviting caregivers to come and speak in a safe space about their experiences, and to compare notes with each other - so to speak. We have currently engaged with carers from Bristol, Wiltshire, London, Manchester, Huddersfield, Essex, Kent... and even Russia!

TAKE CARE speaks to people on a very human level - we all have or have had an older person in our life, we all will get older and be that person ourselves. Audiences who come to see our productions always choose to engage with the performers after the show, wanting to share their stories and viewpoints. TAKE CARE, and the work we do as a theatre company, is about connecting communities together and starting conversations that are hard to discuss normally.

PERFORMANCE HISTORY:

...ABOUT TAKE CARE

*3 in 5 people will become a
carer at some point in their
lives*

Shoreditch Town Hall, DARE Festival (2019)

Gielgud Theatre, RADA (2019)

Blast Festival, Bath (2019)

Swindon Fringe Festival (2019)

Pound Arts Theatre (2019)

The Courtyard Theatre (2014)

Edinburgh Fringe Festival (2013)

Warwick Arts Centre (2013)

REVIEWS

FOR TAKE CARE:

THIS INGENIOUS BLACK COMEDY WILL PRICK YOUR CONSCIENCE

Theatreworld *****

BEAUTIFUL, HEARTBREAKING AND COMICAL.

IT IS A CRUCIAL AND RELEVANT PIECE OF THEATRE, QUESTIONING SOCIETY'S VALUES AND PROVOKING AUDIENCES.

THIS IS SOMETHING MORE THAN THEATRE, THIS IS REAL.

The Scotsman ****

A DELICATE, EYE-OPENING NEW WORK. A DAMNING EXPOSÉ OF THE WAY SOCIETY CARES OR INDEED, FAILS TO CARE FOR ITS ELDERLY AND VULNERABLE.

THE SMALL CAST APPROPRIATE THE VOICES OF FIGURES ACROSS THE CARING SYSTEM WITH BREATHLESS AUTHENTICITY.

Three Weeks ***

ÉCOUTE THEATRE COMPANY BRING A NEW VOICE TO UK'S CARERS IN THIS THOUGHT PROVOKING VERBATIM PERFORMANCE.

THE PIECE IS INCREDIBLY WELL RESEARCHED AND SHINES A FRESH LIGHT ON AN IMPORTANT GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO ARE OFTEN OVERLOOKED OR MISPERCEIVED BY SOCIETY.

'TAKE CARE' SEEMS SO REAL THAT IT WILL ENGAGE ANY AUDIENCE, BOTH THOSE WHO HAVE A PERSONAL CONNECTION WITH CARERS OF THE ELDERLY, AND THOSE NEW TO THE BLOCK.

Broadway Baby ***

CONTACT:

Please do get in contact if you require more information or would like to organise a performance of TAKE CARE:

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OUR PARTNERS:

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

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