

# MEND,

OR A PERFORMER'S ATTEMPT TO REASSEMBLE A HEART



Helikon

A PERFORMANCE PIECE BY HELIKON THEATRE COMPANY | DEVISED BY: MEG LEWIS, HAZEL LOW AND MYLES O'GORMAN.

# WHAT IS THE PROJECT?

MEND IS A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY PERFORMANCE PIECE ABOUT HEARTBREAK, CONTAINING FRAGMENTS OF MOVEMENT, TEXT, MUSIC, AND OBJECTS, ASSEMBLED & DISSEMBLED BY THE CENTRAL SOLO PERFORMER. THESE FRAGMENTS, THE SPACE, AND PERFORMER CREATE A FRACTURED MOSAIC OF PAST MEMORIES AND ABSENT LOVE IN AN ATTEMPT TO MEND A BROKEN HEART. THEY TRY, FAIL, REPEAT AND - EVENTUALLY - EVOLVE. THROUGH OUR PERFORMER'S JOURNEY, AUDIENCES CAN CONNECT WITH THEIR OWN SENSE OF CATHARSIS AND FIND SOLACE IN THE COMMUNALITY OF THE EXPERIENCE.

INITIALLY DEVELOPED AT ARC STOCKTON AND THEATRE ROYAL STRATFORD EAST, MEND CURRENTLY EXISTS AS AN EXPLORATION OF PLASTIC SHEETING, PROJECTION, BLACK OUT POETRY, LIVE MIC EFFECTS, IMPROVISED MONOLOGUES AND EXHAUSTION.



# WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?



**WE ARE CURRENTLY PLANNING THE NEXT STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT FOR THIS PROJECT. TO ACCOMPANY OUR ACE BID, WE ARE LOOKING FOR:**

**REHEARSAL SPACE FOR A TWO WEEK R&D IN SEPTEMBER 2023.  
SPACE TO HOLD A SHARING FOR AN INVITED AUDIENCE IN ORDER TO GAIN FEEDBACK ON THE PROJECT.**

**SPACE TO HOLD A WORKSHOP FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ON DEVISING COLLABORATIVE, MULTIDISCIPLINARY PERFORMANCE.**

**WE ARE ALSO LOOKING TO LIAISE WITH PRODUCERS AND VENUES WHO COULD PROVIDE US WITH SUPPORT-IN-KIND AND ALSO HELP US EXPLORE THE FUTURE LIFE OF THE PROJECT BEYOND THIS EARLY DEVELOPMENT.**



# TO BE EXPLORED...

HOW MUCH AGENCY DOES THE PERFORMER HAVE OVER THE SPACE? ARE THEY ASSEMBLING IT? ARE THEY TRAPPED WITHIN IT? DOES THE SPACE SHIFT, WORKING BOTH FOR AND AGAINST THE PERFORMER? WHO CONTROLS THE SOUND, THE LIGHTS, THE NARRATIVE OR JOURNEY OF THE PIECE? WHAT IS THE ROLE OF SOUND IN THE PIECE? WHAT IS THE ROLE OF TEXT? HOW CAN WE EXPLORE THE USE OF TEXT - IS IT WRITTEN, PROJECTED, SPOKEN? IS IT LOOPED, REMIXED, ASSEMBLED, REASSEMBLED AND STRETCHED? WORDS CAN FEEL INADEQUATE IN CAPTURING THE FEELING OF HEARTBREAK, IS IT NECESSARY, THEREFORE, THAT THE PIECE TRANSCENDS THEM? HOW MUCH NARRATIVE IS NECESSARY? WHAT IS THE PHYSICAL NATURE OF THE PIECE? IS IT TASK BASED? DOES IT FOLLOW THE SPECIFIC STRUCTURE OF CLIMB, JUMP, FALL, DROWNING, REBIRTH? HOW CAN WE WORK IN A MORE SUSTAINABLE WAY? WHAT SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVES TO OUR INITIAL DESIGN ARE AVAILABLE AND HOW CAN THEY SERVE THE WORK? HOW ARE WE ABLE TO MAKE THIS VISUAL LED WORK MORE ACCESSIBLE TO A RANGE OF AUDIENCES?

# WHY NOW?

“MUSICALLY AND LYRICALLY RED RESEMBLED A HEART-BROKEN PERSON. IT WAS ALL OVER THE PLACE, A FRACTURED MOSAIC OF FEELINGS THAT SOMEHOW ALL FIT TOGETHER IN THE END”

—TAYLOR SWIFT, RED

SO MUCH OF OUR MODERN CULTURE AND MUSIC REFLECTS THE EXPERIENCE OF HEARTBREAK. THE TIME IS RIGHT FOR A PIECE OF LIVE THEATRE TO DO THE SAME. TO BE MESSY, IMPERFECT, FRACTURED. LIVE PERFORMANCE IS A SHARED EXPERIENCE THAT ALLOWS FOR BOTH INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNAL CATHARSIS. MEND COULD BE THE EQUIVALENT OF A BREAKUP ALBUM.



# WHERE NEXT?

FOLLOWING THE R&D WE AIM TO GET MEND PROGRAMMED. WE BELIEVE IT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME A STAPLE IN OUR REPERTOIRE, SETTING A TONE AND SPREADING AWARENESS OF OUR WORK AS HELIKON THEATRE COMPANY - COLLABORATORS AND ARTISTS WITH A DESIRE TO CREATE WORK THAT IS VISUALLY LED.

MEND IS THE FIRST PIECE OF WORK BY HELIKON THAT ALLOWS US TO FULLY EMBRACE NON HIERARCHICAL WORKING, AND HONOUR OUR COLLECTIVE ARTISTIC STYLE. HAVING THE TIME, SPACE AND MONEY TO TEST AND EXPERIMENT WITH OUR IDEAS IS IMPERATIVE TO THE WORK TO INVESTIGATE HOW FAR WE CAN PUSH THIS FORM. MEND IS A MALLEABLE PIECE THAT EASILY ADAPTS TO A VARIETY OF SPACES AND WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH COLLABORATORS AND VENUES ABOUT HOW BEST TO CONTINUE THE LIFE OF THIS WORK.

# WHO ARE WE?

HELIKON THEATRE COMPANY BLENDS THEATRE AND LIVE ART TO CREATE WORK INSPIRED BY THE COMPLEXITY, POETICISM & LIVENESS OF CLASSICAL TEXTS. COLLABORATION, EXPLORATION AND PLAY ARE AT THE CORE OF OUR PRACTICE. OUR WORK IS INTERDISCIPLINARY, EXPERIMENTAL WITH FORM AND INHERENTLY QUEER.



**MEG LEWIS**  
(THEY/SHE)

MEG IS AN OFFIE NOMINATED ACTOR AND WRITER WORKING ACROSS THEATRE, TV AND FILM. THEY RECENTLY GRADUATED FROM THE ROYAL WELSH COLLEGE OF MUSIC AND DRAMA AND HAVE WORKED WITH NATIONAL THEATRE WALES, SKY ARTS, CLEAN BREAK AND PAINES PLOUGH. MEG IS CURRENTLY WORKING TOWARDS THEIR LEVEL 2 QUALIFICATION IN BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE (BSL).



**HAZEL LOW**  
(THEY/THEM)

HAZEL IS A PERFORMANCE DESIGNER AND COLLABORATOR WORKING ACROSS THEATRE, LIVE ART, OPERA AND DANCE. THEY HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED BY JERWOOD ARTS AND MADE WORK AT VENUES INCLUDING BUSH THEATRE, SOHO THEATRE, SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE, GATE THEATRE, THE PLACE AND EDINBURGH FRINGE, AND COLLABORATED ON SPATIAL DESIGN PROJECTS SUCH AS NDT BROADGATE.



**MYLES O'GORMAN**  
(HE/HIM)

MYLES IS AN OFFIE NOMINATED AND INVISIBLY DISABLED THEATRE DIRECTOR. HE HAS MADE WORK FOR THEATRES SUCH AS THEATRE503, BUNKER THEATRE, SOUTHWARK PLAYHOUSE, WITH AN UPCOMING MAIN HOUSE RUN AT OMNIBUS THEATRE. HE TRAINED WITH DIRECTORS SUCH AS KATIE MITCHELL, LYNDSAY TURNER AND SACHA WARES, AND WAS INVITED TO BE PART OF RTYDS' NEW DIRECTIONS COHORT. HE WAS LONGLISTED FOR THE 2022 JMK AWARD.