

She Was Walking Home

**Countless Journeys
33 Real Testimonies
4 Women
1 Call to Action**

Digital Programme September–October 2023

In Rehearsals



Welcome

In 2021, for the first time, The Office for National Statistics (ONS) released data on how safe people feel in different public settings. One in two women felt unsafe walking alone after dark in a quiet street near their home, or in a busy public place and two out of three women aged 16 to 34 years experienced one form of harassment in the previous 12 months. And behind every one of these statistics is a true story of harassment, abuse, rape or even murder - a life changed forever. We cannot let statistics dehumanise what is actually happening or forget the real voices behind each lived experience. This is what this production aims to do.

Originally produced as an audio walk around the city centre in 2021, *She Was Walking Home* is a series of monologues created from the testimonies of women living, working and studying in York.

We wanted to amplify the voices of local women, whilst also prompting conversations around where responsibility and accountability lies for their safety. Since the original audio walk, listened to by almost 800 people, there have been further attacks and murders of women, and still the rhetoric seems to be skewed towards rape alarms, trackers, self-defense classes and dress-codes being the solution. We needed to continue and challenge this conversation.

The invitation is to come and watch, listen, but also to think...

'WHAT IS IT THAT I CAN DO IN MAKING THE WOMEN IN OUR COMMUNITY SAFER?'

TRIGGER WARNING:

This performance contains themes of sexual violence and assault. Please feel free to leave the auditorium at any point. Links to support are included further on in this programme.

Cast

In order of appearance

Fiona Baistow - Millie

Anna Johnston - Cate

Mandy Newby - Jackie

Emma Liversidge-Smith - Joanne

Ceridwen Smith - Joanne (Thursday 5th October)

Creative Team

Writer - Rachel Price

Director - Kate Veysey

Composer - Joshua Goodman

For Next Door But One

Artistic Director - Matt Harper-Hardcastle

Creative Engagement Manager - El Stannage

Thanks

Arts Council England, Paul Veysey, James Drury, York St John University, IDAS, Kyra, Next Door But One's Advisory Group, York High School, Malton School, Scarborough TEC, York College, All Saints Roman Catholic School, York Theatre Royal and University of York.

Fiona Baistow



Fiona is a York based Actor, Director and Practitioner. Fiona's credits include: Crowmania (York Maze); Silly Summer Stories (Mud Pie Arts); The Flood (York Theatre Royal and BBC Radio York); Off The Ground (National Youth Theatre); Midsummer's Night Dream and Macbeth (Shakespeare's Rose Theatre).

Fiona's other credits whilst working with NDB1 include: Director for Kelly Unmasked (as part of Yorkshire Trios.)

Anna Johnston



Anna has a colourful and extensive career as an actress in theatre and film, alongside her work as a voice over artist and writer. Passionate about celebrating young people in the arts, she is an experienced youth theatre practitioner. Anna is widely known for her empowering and liberating feminist arts education workshops and as artist and maker, 'Miss Trout'.

Credits include: Julius Caesar, (RSC), Colder Than Here (NDB1), Zomblogalypse, (Milestone Films/ Grunt Productions/ One&Other Creative), Love Life (NSPCC)

Mandy Newby



As a York based actor, Mandy says it has been wonderful to discover the amazing work of Next Door But One. First as an audience member and then as one of the actors in Yorkshire Trios. That project introduced her to the wonders and intricacies of 'the monologue' and the incredible journey they take both the audience and the actor on.

"It has been a joy of late to perform several monologue based roles. To return to the words of 'Jackie' and bring her unsettling experience to a wider audience, including young people in educational settings, is a privilege."

Emma Liversidge-Smith



Emma is an actor, facilitator and mum of two! She has most recently collaborated with Next Door But One on their 'Dream Scheme' project as well as performing in the last tour of She Was Walking Home. When not working with NDB1 she is a core artist specialising in drama at darts.

"The reason I keep coming back for more time with NDB1 is their honesty, adaptability and respect for the person as well as the actor! I cannot wait to reprise the role of Joanne. I feel the subject of women's safety is getting more and more prevalent, the perfect time to make our voices heard."

Kate Veysey



Kate is Associate Director for NDB1 and has directed *She Was Walking Home* in its various iterations, from audio walk to film, and live performance. Kate leads on our Artist Development program, as well as our Human Library projects at The Lowry in 2022 and Green Man Festival in 2023.

Kate is also Artistic Director for Out of Character Theatre Company, and works as a freelance director. Recent work includes *Kingdom for Buglight*, which focuses on PTSD and homelessness, and Assistant Director for *Catch with Clean Break*, about women's experience of the Criminal Justice sector, which is touring prisons and women's centres. Kate is also a Drama Lecturer at York St John University.

Rachel Price



Rachel is a writer, performer and arts marketing specialist. She originally wrote *She Was Walking Home* as an audio drama, and is delighted to see it transferred to the stage and receiving a second regional tour. She's currently working with communities on the West Coast of Cumbria on an Arts Council funded project to develop her first full-length play. Her writing credits include: *And How Are Your Goats Keeping* (Next Door But One); *The Castaways* (White Tree Theatre); *Eric & Moira* (Next Left Theatre), and *Stories from Srebrenica* (Bradford College, *Remembering Srebrenica*). Her short film *Switch Off* was an official selection of the Nightpiece International Film Festival, Edinburgh. She was part of the Box of Tricks Theatre Pen Pals Writing Cohort 2021.

Speaking Out

When watching the performance, you may connect with or relate to an experience meaning you want to seek further help, guidance, or safe space:



Kyra is a charity that supports women to make positive change in their lives. It acts as a support group to prevent a relapse in behaviour and to help develop new habits.

Kyra delivers a variety of social, wellbeing and creative activities, providing a space for women to come together. Services include counselling, self-esteem and confidence courses, employment support and much more! Kyra is based in the city centre, on St. Saviourgate.

To enrol, visit the Home page of the website at www.kyra.org.uk and click on the link to make an appointment.



IDAS is the largest specialist domestic abuse charity in Yorkshire, also supporting people who have been sexually assaulted or abused in York and North Yorkshire.

IDAS support anyone impacted by sexual violence, assault, or abuse, whether it was recent or non-recent. Our support is confidential, non-judgemental, practical, and emotional. We will support you whether you choose to report to the Police or not.

If you have been assaulted or are concerned about someone else, please contact us on 03000110 110 or visit our website <https://sexualviolence.idas.org.uk>

WINGS: WHERE WOMEN'S CREATIVITY CAN FLY



A monthly drama group for women who would benefit from a supportive and creative place to be. WINGS is a regular place for women to meet and step forward on their creative journey. Sessions are free and led by Lydia Crosland, Community Connector at YTR and Becky Lennon, Co-Artistic Director of Thunk-It Theatre. Book via York Theatre Royal's website (www.yorktheatreroyal.co.uk or contact the box office in person or on 01904 623568.

After watching the performance help us shape our future work by filling in this short survey:

<https://tinyurl.com/y9dwuau9>

Continuing the Conversation

We hope this performance will stay with you.

We hope you will want to be part of the change this performance encourages.

And that change can start now. With you.

We challenge you to:

- **Share your reaction to the experiences within the performance with 1 person within the next 24 hours.**
- **Write down a piece of advice that can be taken from this performance and passed on to a younger person.**
- **Ask a challenging question, prompted by the performance to a man that is in your life.**
- **Think, if one of the characters in the performance came to you and shared their experience, what could you do? What would you say?**
- **If you work for an organisation, inquire into policies and procedures they have in place to make sure employees can travel safely.**
- **Voice a big change that you want to see happen - write to your local MP, neighbourhood group, community venue or similar.**

This project is supported by a digital package of worksheets and films aimed at schools and community groups to explore the themes of this performance further.

**For more information, email
nextdoorbutone@outlook.com**

About The Company



Next Door But One

We're an award-winning LGBTQ+ and disability-led theatre company based in York, promoting creative skills and encouraging community cohesion, particularly with those who face barriers to accessing theatre. Our established programme focuses on workshops and performances for and with cohorts of the community with disabilities, mental ill health, girls and young women, those experiencing bereavement, those who are carers and individuals from the LGBTQ+ community. Our activity ranges from workshops to touring performances, training programmes and professional development opportunities.

We currently work in partnership with The Snappy Trust, Camphill Village Trust, Converge, York Carers Centre, Clifton Green Primary School and YorSexual Health. Our mission is to connect people to their creativity and community through the theatre we make and the stories we tell. Our vision is for the arts to play an integral role in unleashing the true potential of every community; to tell every story, to hear every voice and champion the contribution every person makes. Through theatre we can show a world where everything is possible!



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