CAST AND CREW

BETA:
Ayleen Brouwers

JOE:
Andrew McClay

PROF. JOHNSON THOMPSON:
Nicky Hargreaves

WRITER: Tom Bowtell

DIRECTOR: Annette Mees

PRODUCER: Julie McCarthy

SET/COSTUME DESIGNER:
Lara Booth

LIGHTING DESIGNER:
Andrew Croft

COMPOSER/SOUND DESIGNER:
Linda O’Keefe

YOUNG PEOPLE:
Reko Smith, Krystian Richardson, Jess Gless, Katy Hardy, Joy Hardy, Leah Rodgers, Nichola Roberts, Rachel Osbourne

PRODUCTION MANAGER:
Chris Whitwood

STAGE MANAGER:
Aileen Ging

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT:
Meghan McConnell

VIDEO LEGACY:
Edwin Pink

ENGAGEMENT OFFICER:
Niki Colclough

MARKETING & COMMS:
Rebecca Coughlan

TOM BOWTELL is a writer, director and performer who makes adventurous work for, by and with young people. He was co-director of Coney from 2009 to 2015 and founded KIT Theatre (www.KITtheatre.org) in 2015 with a mission to use Adventures in Learning to improve children's educational engagement and achievement. Tom was also game designer on the BAFTA-winning educational game Nightmare High.

ANNETTE MEES is an award-winning director making interactive theatre that explores possible futures and is an expert in interactive narratives that spark imagination and innovation. She advises and speaks nationally and internationally on the integration of live and digital work and the creation of meaningful audience engagement. She has worked with Tate Britain, Kensington Palace, scientists and teenagers; AI experts and astronauts. She was the artistic director of Coney 2009-2015 and Creative Fellow of WIRED Magazine and The Space 2015-2016.

HIDDEN
A new immersive show exploring ideas about the future of caring. Co-created by young carers and artists Annette Mees & Tom Bowtell.

31st January – 11th February, 2017

The Horsfall
87 Great Ancoats Street
Manchester
Tel: 0161 242 7932

Book online at: hiddenatthehorsfall.eventbrite.co.uk
THE PROCESS
We began this project as a response to research published by the University of Manchester which found that young carers, whilst wanting and needing help and support, also asked to be recognised and valued for the ways in which they respond to problems, manage the demands of caring and have developed expertise in managing illness and disability.

It was important for us to start the making process of Hidden from the position of knowing little or nothing about caring and work with the real experts; young carers. The young people we have collaborated with have been generous and patient, sharing their experiences and pointing out to us when we got things wrong. This getting-things-wrong happened a lot at first as we discovered that pretty much all of our preconceptions about the lives of young carers were mistaken.

It quickly became clear that well-intentioned sympathy for the challenges young carers’ face wasn’t needed. The young people we worked with spoke with pride and pragmatism about their roles as carers, highlighting that their lives are full of love as well as stress, that having a clear purpose has given them identity and self-confidence. When we discussed using care robots, most hotly dismissed the idea of being replaced, before grudgingly accepting that it might be quite nice to have a robot tucked away in a cupboard, ready to help out at stressful times and giving them the odd evening off.

Whilst professional artists have crafted Hidden, everything is inspired by and co-created with young people. Young carers have steered and worked on script, design, sound and ultimately created an experience that says what they want to say about their lives. Hidden is driven by young people’s desire to highlight the potential injustice of adults making decisions on their behalf.

THE TECHNOLOGY
This show is also an opportunity to test the use of liveSHOUT; an interactive listening app for mobiles. Each night, the show is broadcast live and users can listen in real time from anywhere in the world. You can download the app from The App Store and then send and receive streams from locusonus.org. Just look for ‘Hidden in Manchester’.

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAY
‘It’s about young people creating a theatre project that can show what it’s like to be a young carer, the impact of being hidden from society and what a young carer does.’

‘We want the audience to feel that frustration, that guilt and also empathy, hopefully through this Hidden Theatre project we will be able to convey those feelings and tell the audience what it is really like to be a young carer.’

‘I’ve never done anything like this before and its unprecedented.’

‘You don’t really get this opportunity ever, especially when you are a young carer because you don’t really get out much or have the money or time to look for things to do.’

THE HORSFALL is 42nd Street’s new venue and creative programme, dedicated to improving young people’s mental health and wellbeing. The opening programme of projects, workshops and events will see artists, makers and heritage experts working with young people to reinterpret stories from the past, examine their own stories and to imagine new futures.

42ND STREET is an innovative Greater Manchester mental health charity committed to supporting young people aged 11-25 years with their emotional well-being and mental health, promoting choice and creativity. With an excellent 35 year reputation, our unique holistic service model combines therapeutic psychological interventions with advocacy and social care. We reach 2000 young people each year via individual therapeutic support, projects and activities, leadership, peer research and a creative programme.

THE SHOW
The show is set on the day after tomorrow, in a world where artificial intelligence has reached a point where empathetic care robots are available to all. Our audience is cast as the board of a company creating care robots and are tasked with reviewing the archive of a 10-year experiment and deciding what sort of robot would provide the best care. Ultimately, our audience meets a group of young carers who have been watching their journey and challenge them on the choices they’ve made.