

# PRESS RELEASE



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## Small Truth Theatre announces THE DIGITAL CARAVAN THEATRE

Bringing the best new writing to  
our digital micro theatre  
with a big heart.

While we sadly cannot open the doors of our retro 1950s Caravan Theatre to the public - we have created an audio festival of mini plays from some of our most exciting playwrights:

**Emma Dennis-Edwards**  
**Abi Zakarian**  
**Jessica Butcher**

Small Truth Theatre are delighted to announce our DIGITAL CARAVAN THEATRE will be launched from Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2021, with our first collection of audio plays by an extraordinary ensemble of award winning and acclaimed playwrights, Actors, Director and Sound Designer - all available to download for free to our wonderful audiences.

The collection has been curated with our local community in mind, but these plays are wonderful for everybody to enjoy.

Whether its listening while out walking in your neighbourhood with ENOUGH, celebrating the Carnival's roots and rhythms with SPIRIT OF CARNIVAL, or being a young person trying to make sense of where they belong in the world with SEPTEMBER SKIES – there is a story for everyone.

**Yasmeen Arden, Artistic Director of Small Truth Theatre said:**

*"We are working in spaces that are even smaller than our Caravan Theatre – inside people's ears, and also bigger than the county's largest stages, people's imagination – so our gorgeous stories and characters have become both the most intimate and most epic theatre. I love working so closely with Nicola Chang whose beautiful sound design is at the heart of all the Digital Caravan Theatre's collection. Community voice is still at the centre of this new work and we are honoured that our original writers and actors have wanted to come on this new digital adventure with us".*

**The three plays of our DIGITAL CARAVAN THEATRE first collection are:**

**SPIRIT OF CARNIVAL BY EMMA DENNIS-EDWARDS**

**Starring Danielle Vitalis**

(Credits: I MAY DESTROY YOU - BBC, SEVEN METHODS OF KILLING KYLIE JENNER - Royal Court, SOON GONE: A WINDRUSH CHRONICLE - BBC, SLICED - Lovely Electricity/Dave and DON JUAN IN SOHO - Wyndham's Theatre).

**Directed by Yasmeen Arden**

**Sound Design by Nicola Chang**

**Visuals by Daniel Renwick**

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## **Emma Dennis-Edwards said:**

*"I'm attracted to theatre in unusual spaces and how we can create work for local communities that is seen by those audiences. Growing up on the other side of London, I've always loved West London and seen it as a home away from home, so the challenge to creating a piece of theatre for a community that I have observed and loved is a great honour"*

Emma Dennis-Edwards is a Writer/Performer of Jamaican and Trinidadian heritage. Her play credits include Fringe First Award Winning play FUNERAL FLOWERS (Roundhouse, Hackney Empire, The Bunker, Bernie Grant Arts Centre and Freeword) and AMERICAN DREAM 2.0 (Young Vic).

In addition to her writing for Theatre also writes for Television; she was selected for the BBC Studios Writers Academy and is under commission by *EastEnders*, *River City*, *Casualty* and *Holby City*, she is also working on original television ideas for independent production companies Balloon, The Forge and Moonage.

<https://www.curtisbrown.co.uk/client/emma-dennis-edwards/cv>

## **ENOUGH BY ABI ZAKARIAN**

### **Starring Lilly Driscoll**

(Credits: JEKYLL & HYDE - ITV, TAG - BBC, BRICKS - Old Vic, THE NUMBERS - Ciaohandy)

### **Directed by Yasmeen Arden**

### **Sound Design by Nicola Chang**

## **Abi Zakarian said:**

*"I'm drawing inspiration for my piece - Enough - which I dedicated to Portobello Road, and all roads that hold a community together - from the local area, its history & people and the two beautiful trees on Tavistock Piazza. I want to create a little moment of magic; focusing on the idea of rebooting kindness in a world that seems to be out of control right now."*

Abi Zakarian is an award-winning British-Armenian playwright based in London. Her plays include: I AM KARYAN OPHIDIAN produced by Shakespeare's Globe Theatre for the Sam Wanamaker Theatre; ENOUGH, produced by Small Truth Theatre for the Kensington Karavan Festival; FABRIC, produced by Damsel Productions for SOHO THEATRE and a London Community tour, FABRIC also played at Underbelly, Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2016 and won a Fringe First Award; I HAVE A MOUTH AND I WILL SCREAM produced by Joyous Gard for VAULT Festival where it won the festival's 2018 People's Choice Award. She is currently under commission with Shakespeare's Globe and Damsel Productions and developing FABRIC for television.

<http://www.dalzellandberesford.com/writer/abi-zakarian>

## **SEPTEMBER SKIES BY JESSICA BUTCHER**

### **Starring Safiyya Ingar**

(Credits: THE CANTERVILLE GHOST – Unicorn Theatre, HOBSON CHOICE – Royal Exchange/Headlong, ABI - Derby Theatre/Queens Theatre, GROWTH – Paines Plough and HOLES - Nottingham Playhouse)

### **Directed by Yasmeen Arden**

### **Sound Design by Nicola Chang**

## **Jessica Butcher said:**

*"I like writing theatre that is honest, funny, with as little facade as possible, you can do so much with an audience when you have them really there with you, all up close and real."*

Jessica Butcher is a writer and actor. Her play SPARKS, which she both wrote and performed in, won Show of the Week at VAULT Festival 2018 and sold out at the Edinburgh Festival winning the Best Musical Award from Musical Theatre Review. Her acting credits include OFFSIDE, WHERE DO LITTLE BIRDS GO? and EASTENDERS.

<https://www.curtisbrown.co.uk/client/jessica-butcher/cv>

These three beautiful audio plays will be launched on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August and will be available to download for FREE from The Caravan Theatre website [www.caravantheatre.co.uk](http://www.caravantheatre.co.uk) on Small Truth Theatre's website [www.smalltruththeatre.com](http://www.smalltruththeatre.com) and also will be available on various other usual digital online platforms.

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All these audio plays within the collection will also be accompanied with British Sign Language (BSL) translation and Spirit of Carnival will also include a visual film from award winning Filmmaker Daniel Renwick.

We are incredibly proud to be supported by Arts Council England to bring this first DIGITAL CARAVAN THEATRE collection to our audiences. This enables us to offer these audio plays for FREE so they are open and welcoming to all to listen to - encouraging non-theatre going audiences to experience the absolute best of new writing plays online from some of our most exciting, urgent and relevant voices in the UK.

THE DIGITAL CARAVAN THEATRE second audio play collection will be coming soon with a new trio of play commissions announced, in partnership with Royal Borough of Greenwich and University of Hertfordshire.

## **Notes for Editors:**

### **On the company:**

Small Truth Theatre are an award-winning theatre company based in North Kensington. The collective is proud of its working-class roots and give priority to working class artists and seldom heard stories, seeking the extraordinary in moments of truth that often go unseen.

The Caravan Theatre is Small Truth Theatre's micro mobile arts venue with a big heart.

**FOR MORE INFO ABOUT SMALL TRUTH THEATRE VISIT: <https://smalltruththeatre.com/>**

THE  
CARAVAN  
THEATRE



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

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