

London transfer of 'The Canary and the Crow' by Middle Child to Arcola Theatre

Grime and hip hop-inspired gig theatre about the journey
of a working class black kid who's accepted to a
prestigious grammar school

Written by Daniel Ward Music by Prez 96 and James Frewer



Award-winning Middle Child are to transfer their Edinburgh hit, 'The Canary and the Crow', gig theatre about a working class black kid who's accepted to a prestigious grammar school, to Arcola Theatre, London.

This lyrical, semi-autobiographical piece from writer and performer Daniel Ward uses grime, hip hop and theatre to tell the story of the struggle between a new environment that doesn't accept you and an old one that has no opportunity. Featuring original live music by Prez 96 and James Frewer, 'The Canary and the Crow' won the Brighton Fringe Award for Excellence at the 2019 Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

It transfers to Arcola Theatre from Thursday 16 January – Saturday 8 February.

Press night: Monday 20 January at 7pm.

Middle Child are a Hull-based company creating gig theatre that brings people together for a good night out with big ideas. They tell untold stories which capture the electrifying moment when the beat drops, mixing original live music with bold new writing.

"The audience was on their feet before the show was even finished" The List

Middle Child Artistic Director Paul Smith said: "We are incredibly excited to bring 'The Canary and the Crow' to London and the Arcola Theatre for an extended run in January. We've already had lots of fun sharing this show with audiences at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and on the Paines Plough Roundabout tour and know that London audiences will really take to it. Daniel's story is an important one that needs to be heard by so many people and Arcola is the perfect space for us to do that."

Arcola Theatre Artistic Director Mehmet Ergen said: "I am delighted that The Canary and The Crow is coming to Arcola for its first full-length London run in 2020. This electrifying story of a young man struggling to find his place in a divided society will resonate just as strongly in London as it did in Edinburgh. I am looking forward to sharing it with you next year."

Creative team

Daniel Ward - Writer and Performer

As an actor: Nora: A Doll's House (Citizen's Theatre); Hearing Things (Omnibus Theatre); Awake in Progress (Vault Festival); Abigail's Party (Hull Truck Theatre); Divas (The Pleasance); The Barber Shop Chronicles (Fuel Theatre); 24 Hour Plays (The Old Vic); The Amen Corner (National Theatre); Fathers Inside and White Boy (Soho Theatre); Measure for Measure (Liverpool Everyman). Daniel trained at the National Youth Theatre and LAMDA. The Canary and the Crow marks his debut as a writer.

Prez 96 (Nigel Taylor) - Co-composer and Performer

Prez 96, real name Nigel Taylor, is a producer and MC. Under his previous alias, Player One, Prez supported the likes of Giggs, Big Daddy Kane, The Sugarhill Gang and Skepta. Prez is also a director of Beats Bus, a community project in Hull which gives young people a voice through music and art workshops. Beats Bus and its directors featured in Sean McAllister's 2018 documentary film, A Northern Soul. The Canary and the Crow is his debut acting role.

James Frewer - Co-composer and Musical Director

For Middle Child: Us Against Whatever; One Life Stand; Beauty and the Beast; I Hate Alone; All We Ever Wanted Was Everything; Mercury Fur; Weekend Rockstars; Modern Life Is Rubbish: A Musical Manifesto; Saturday Night & Sunday Morning. Other recent theatre includes: Mixtape (Royal Exchange); The Hundred and One Dalmatians (Birmingham Rep); Twelfth Night (Orange Tree). James is an associate artist of Middle Child.

Paul Smith - Director

Paul is a founding member and the artistic director of Middle Child. For Middle Child: Us Against Whatever; One Life Stand; All We Ever Wanted Was Everything; I Hate Alone; Ten Storey Love Song; Weekend Rockstars; Mercury Fur; Saturday Night & Sunday Morning. Paul is an associate artist of Hull Truck Theatre, where he was assistant director on The Rise and Fall of Little Voice and A Taste of Honey. He trained on the LAMDA Directing Course in 2011 and the National Theatre's Directing Programme in 2018.

SOCIAL MEDIA

#CanaryCrow

Twitter

@middechildhull

@datywar

@PLAYERONEWINS

Instagram

@middlechildhull

@datywar

@96prez

Facebook

/middlechildhull

YouTube

/middlechildtheatre

Website

middlechildtheatre.co.uk





arcola
theatre

Arcola Theatre produces daring, high-quality theatre in the heart of East London and beyond. We commission and premiere exciting, original works alongside rare gems of world drama and bold new productions of classics. Our socially-engaged, international programme champions diversity, challenges the status quo, and attracts over 65,000 people to our building each year. Ticket prices are some of the most affordable in London, and our long-running Pay What You Can scheme ensures there is no financial barrier to accessing the theatre. Every year, we offer 26 weeks of free rehearsal space to BAME and refugee artists; our Grimeborn Festival opens up opera with contemporary stagings at affordable prices; and our Participation department creates over 13,500 creative opportunities for the people of Hackney and beyond. Our pioneering environmental initiatives are award-winning, and aim to make Arcola the world's first carbon-neutral theatre.

LISTINGS INFO

Arcola Theatre and Middle Child
Theatre present

The Canary And The Crow

Written by Daniel Ward
Music by Prez 96 and James Frewer
Directed by Paul Smith

ARCOLA THEATRE

24 Ashwin Street
London E8 3DL

Studio 1

Thu 16 January – Sat 8 February

Best £25 (£22 concessions,
£22 previews)
Standard £22 (£20 concessions,
£19 previews)
Value £15 Restricted £10

Monday - Saturday at 7.30pm
Saturday matinees at 2.30pm
Wednesday matinee on 5 Feb at 2.30pm

Press night:
Monday 20 January at 7pm

Relaxed performance
Saturday 1 February at 2.30pm
(touch tour from 1.30pm)

Running time: 70 minutes, no interval

Age guidance: Suitable for 14+

Priority booking now open
Public booking opens 10am
Thursday 31 October