

## News and Events

Welcome to the The HopBarn's newsletter, which provides information and insights into The HopBarn, as well as offering further notification of up coming events and performances.

We hope that such information proves to be useful and informative to our readers, but if you would like to offer feedback and suggestions as to what to include or what to focus on, please feel free to e-mail or write in with your suggestions and we will try to accommodate them where best we can.

### The December Gig:

**Joshua Cook - The Key of Now**  
Saturday 1st December 2018

It's certainly a hard task for solo performer to engage an audience to such a level that you feel that you are listening to a larger 5 piece band, although for Joshua Cook, this is exactly what it felt like when he presented his recent album *The Key of Now* at The HopBarn on 1st December.

His dynamic and electric take on roots, hard R&B, rubber soul and electric blues is written about at length in many editorials and publicity pamphlets, although only when hearing him play do you fully understand and appreciate the complexity and level of musicianship Joshua possesses.

For Joshua, music must form part of his DNA. Whilst growing up, he soaked up the many influences and genres of music from America's



Joshua Cook

Deep South. before moving to San Francisco to become a regular feature of the psych-rock scene.

His inability to stay rooted to one place for any length of time means that he's always on the road, travelling between the US and Europe gathering further material and ideas for his next work. For the most part, it's one man, his guitar and small amp, although it's safe to say that this is all that's needed as his voice, energy and deep rooted connection to the music he produces does the rest. Occasionally he hooks up with

already acquainted musicians on the road to play larger venues, although in many respects it seems that he's most happier when accompanied by just his guitar and the call for his next solo gig.

*The Key of Now* is, in all pretexts a biography through music, charting Joshua's life and musical journey. The array of influences brought into Joshua's music, covering roots to rock 'n' roll, truly make for an original and fresh take on pre-existing musical genre's although Joshua brings all with such energetic zeal that it's impossible to ignore. He's truly a performer and his music must be recognised as having both an important and influential contribution to the way that music is constantly evolving. He's certainly an artist to follow.

Joining Joshua, The HopBarn was delighted that Sam Barker from Mansfield, who played recently as part of Plug In Tune Up in September 2018, offered support to Joshua. Although Sam has perhaps only just begun his musical journey, it is clear that his musical proficiency as a singer-songwriter needs no additional justification for his support prior to Joshua. Having attended song-writing workshops through Inspire Youth Arts, Nottinghamshire County Councils regular programme of arts and cultural activities for young people aged 7 to 25; Sam clearly means to work in the music industry. As with Plug In Tune Up back in September, Sam performed his own work that again cemented his reputation as an important music writer and performer and someone to look out for in the future.

Such was the level of respect that both Joshua and Sam had for each other prior to the event, that they were recorded in the green room jamming together. A spontaneous moment that encapsulated the positive energy and overall outcome for the event.

Joshua Cook will be playing at The Gate to Southwell Festival from the Thursday 6th to Sunday 9th June 2019 – visit [www.gtsf.uk](http://www.gtsf.uk)



Local Singer and Songwriter Sam Barker performing prior to Joshua Cook

### Matesna Performance Theatre – *Lies to be The Truth*

Welcoming our first residency for 2019, choreographer and company director Anthony Matesna was at The HopBarn from Monday 7th January to Friday 11th rehearsing his latest work *Lies to be The Truth* which featured as part of Resolution 2019 at The Place in London.

*Lies To Be The Truth* is influenced by the characters of Hamlet and Ophelia in William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. The work particularly questions the themes of sanity, revenge and religion.

Matesna Performance Theatre is a performance company, led by brothers Anthony Matsena and Amukelani Matsena. Having a strong background in different styles of Hip-Hop, African traditional dance and Krump, they madly merge contemporary movements together for a visceral and expressive experience of performance.

Strongly moved by aspects of theatre, poetry and writing, the work tends to combine

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different aspects of performative arts. Above all, the many mediums of the work serve as a body to empower, explore, and inspire, accepting no substitute for curiosity or innovation.



Anthony Matesna rehearsing *Lies to be The Truth* at The HopBarn

Resolution is the annual festival choreography that takes place at The Place Theatre in London and features over 80 new and emerging dance companies performing from Friday 11th January to Saturday 23rd February 2019.

The festival is an important platform for young choreographers and dance makers providing them with much needed opportunities for them to showcase their work.

To find out more visit:

[theplace.org.uk/whats-on/collections/resolution](http://theplace.org.uk/whats-on/collections/resolution)



#### Departure Lounge Festival Package Holiday 2019

Continuing our successful relationship with Derby Theatre and In Good Company we are delighted that Call Out applications are now open for the 2019 Departure Lounge Festival Package Holiday.

The Package Holiday supports a theatre company with 1-weeks residential rehearsal space at The HopBarn in order to conceive a produce work that will then feature as part of In Good Company's Package Holiday from Thursday 18th to Sunday 21st July 2019.

As well as receiving a full weeks residential rehearsal space at The HopBarn, the successful theatre company will also receive guidance and support from In Good Company, £500 towards the performance and further opportunities to showcase their work with In Good Company and Derby Theatre's programming team.

In Good Company are particularly interested in work that is made by artists of colour (BAME) as it is evident such work is largely underrepresented in contemporary British Theatre.

The work should fit within a studio size theatre and be approximately 50 - 60 minutes in length and be developed sufficiently in order to be ready for the Departure Lounge Festival 2019.

For the first time, In Good Company are also open to receiving split applications, a bespoke opportunity to present a finished

show at the Festival and to develop a different show at The Hopbarn.

#### HOW TO APPLY

Please submit an application outlining the following on one A4 sheet:

- Who you are (biography or CV) and where you are based
- Information about the show/s you would like to develop and perform,
- Why this Package Holiday opportunity would benefit you, your company and the work
- What stage your production is currently at, how you will be supporting the production financially and if you intend on taking your show to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

All submissions should be sent to Sophie Hack at [s.hack@derby.ac.uk](mailto:s.hack@derby.ac.uk)

Deadline: Tuesday 26 February 2019.

Interviews will take place at Derby Theatre on Friday 8th March 2019.

All applications in relation to Departure Lounge are reviewed by an Advisory Artistic Panel, a team made up of artists drawn from the industry, IGC's previous associate companies and the Festival's previous participants, then selection will be undertaken by Ben, In Good Company's Creative Producer and Sarah, Derby Theatre's Artistic Director and Chief Executive.

Due to the high number of applications that will be received we are unfortunately unable to respond to every application. However, we will announce the selected the artists/companies a short while after the deadline.

THE  
**BIG**  
HOUSE

#### The Big House Project 2019 – Derby Theatre and In Good Company

The HopBarn is indebted to the continued relationship with Derby Theatre and In Good Company and we are delighted that further support will be offered to 3 successful theatre makers as part of The Big House Project in 2019.

The Big House project has been awarded by The European Union Development Fund and offers business development support to theatre companies and individuals through In Good Company, the regions development programme for new and emerging theatre.

As the creative and digital industries are seen to be an integral part of the UK's economy, The Big House Project seeks to provide professional advice and guidance towards growing and successfully running an independent company. The offer features an array of professional help via workshops, seminars, networking events, mentoring, business developments grants and other such important opportunities.

Over the coming months, 3 selected theatre practitioners will be residing at The HopBarn in order to begin their creative process and development as part of The Big House Project. The first artist Neal Pike was in residence at The HopBarn from Monday 21st to Friday 26th January.

Neal Pike is a poet and playwright and is currently touring *5 Years*, a solo performance that details his personal experience of attending a SEN School (Special Educational

Needs) back in the 1990's. Having attended a writing retreat in Devon in 2015, Neal was inspired to turn his disability into art when he saw a guest speaker who suffers from Tourette's detail her own decision to turn to art in order to convey her experience of living with the disorder.

For Neal, 5 Years touches on his personal experience of attending a SEN school, although the play goes further by drawing on Neal's vulnerability as well as his desire to escape a box that he was placed into without his control.



Neal Pike - 5 Years / Photo Credit Chris Bishop

This is considered a new direction and opportunity for theatre, invoking an artist who despite being categorized in such a way, has demonstrated his gift for making thought provoking theatre. In 5 Years, Neal first presents a theoretical top-down approach to the education that he received before suddenly juxtaposing it with the reality and lived in experience that he holds deep within his memory. This is an opportunity to understand from someone who has undergone schooling in an SEN institution, and to gain empathy towards what the real experience must have been like from his perspective.

The success 5 Years has enabled Neal to apply for additional Arts Council Funding

in order to develop a new production that focuses on the depiction of male masculinity in music. This current Grant for the Arts application included within the budget match funding provided by the Big House Project and awarded through In Good Company. Neal's time at The HopBarn towards the end of January was used to begin the writing process for this new production and to shape the work into something more tangible.

For much of the time, Neal worked alone, intently beaver away on his laptop to put thoughts into words. By the end of the week some 8000 words had been written although further time was needed to edit and re-focus the writing into something that was more cohesive. Joining Neal towards the end of the week, was Director Matt Miller who had the task of reading the collective of words Neal had produced, before finding a suitable thread line from which the play could begin to be structured.

Despite in its early stages, Neal's vision for this new work was already being conveyed within the short

extracts that he presented. His rhythmic timing when reading out his work, is musical in itself and it becomes obvious that the strength within his work is his poetry. Through short and dynamic sentences that in many cases don't quite get to a conclusion before he switches our attention to something else, Neal is able to convey deep emotions and imagery that resonate well beyond their timed delivery.

There is still a long way to go before the new production is performance ready, although over the next few months, The HopBarn will continue to follow Neal as he continues his tour of 5 Years, whilst also developing this new work.

## Coming to The HopBarn in March



**Keith James in Concert**  
The Songs of Leonard Cohen  
16 Mar 2019  
£14

Keith James in Concert - The Songs of Leonard Cohen, his wonderful Tower of Songs - stripped back, desolate, naked and sensual

Enigmatic, mysterious and sub textural, songwriter Leonard Cohen was an unflinching character, with an exact sense of prose, a wry humour and courage to wrestle with the unspoken, forgiving human frailty with the stroke of each line.

The chilling announcement of Leonard's passing marked the end of an era. His music befriended an entire generation. Within every line of his writing, he has been challenging us to listen more carefully, speak more thoughtfully, think more deeply and recognize our own fragility. A Man of Grace. This World will miss him very much!

With a lifetime reputation of performing in this exact way and an undying love of the 'pure song' Keith James gives you a concert of Cohen's amazing material in the most intimate and sensitive way imaginable, exposing the solitary inner strength of his greatest songs in their original perfect form. Keith has performed an extensive tour of this concert in Theatres and Arts Centres across the UK, giving close to 400 concerts to well over

100,000 people. This has proved to be one of the greatest honours in Keith James' 40 year career in music. Keith lives in Powys, Wales and Andalucia, Spain

Amongst a concert of such songs as; *Famous Blue Raincoat*, *Sisters of Mercy*, *Suzanne* and *Hallelujah*, are also Poems by Lorca that Keith has set to music; Cohen's greatest influence. There will also be songs from 'You want it Darker' released only weeks before his death – produced by his Son, Adam.

*'Some of the most atmospheric and emotive music you will ever hear'*

**The Independent**

*'Keith James has become a pillar of trust. A sublimely intimate and engaging voice'*

**Sunday Times**

*'an elegant and beautifully crafted reinterpretation of a great Artist's words'*

**BBC Radio Scotland**

*'certainly the UK's most celebrated and evocative interpreter of golden music'*

**The Guardian**

*'All the tears of time are shed in a few brief lines'*

**Times Literary Supplement**

*'a sensitive and pleasingly understated delivery, all the better that the songs might speak for themselves'*

**Acoustic Magazine**

**To Book Tickets visit:**

**thehopbarn.org.uk**



**Maria Dziedzan - Book Reading**  
28 Mar 2019 / 2pm  
£4 (including refreshments)



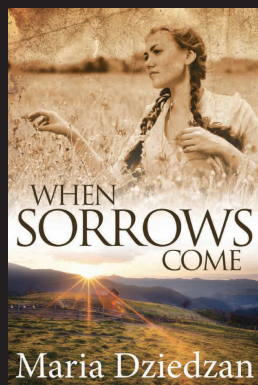
MARIA DZIEDZAN was born in Grimsby in 1951. She studied Philosophy at Nottingham University before becoming an English teacher. She taught for several decades in Nottinghamshire and then retired from teaching to focus on her writing.

*My Lost Country* series is largely fictional although draws inspiration from real life events that took place during the 1940's and 1950's in Eastern Europe.

Having a Ukrainian father who witnessed devastating events inflicted upon many small communities in Ukraine, Maria has never forgotten the distant family that her father left behind and the 3 novels that form the series *My Lost Country*, depict the struggles the Ukrainian people faced from both the Bolsheviks and Fascists when war broke out in Europe.

Maria will present and read from her 3rd novel *Bread and Salt* at this planned event, introducing the conflicts that feature in her work whilst relating back to real life events that took place in Ukraine during the 1940's and 1950's.

This is an opportunity to discover more about events that took place in Eastern Europe during and after the 2nd World War, those that are largely forgotten or ignored by western society.

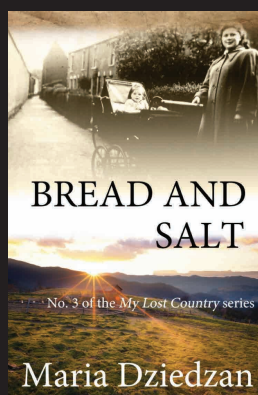


*When Sorrows Come* was Maria's first novel.

It won The Big Bingham Book Read in 2015 and was one of the finalists for the Historical Novel Society Indie Award 2016.



*Driven Into Exile* is the second book in Maria's *My Lost Country* series and is linked to the first novel by its minor characters.



Maria has recently completed the sequel to *Driven Into Exile*, *Bread and Salt*, which was launched on 23 November 2018.

To Book Tickets visit: [thehopbarn.org.uk](http://thehopbarn.org.uk)



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