

The Village and The Road

Promo Pack – Spring 2023



Image credit – Kim Ayres

The Village and The Road is a show about rural depopulation. For the first time in human history more people live in cities than in the countryside.

‘The response from our audiences has been quite overwhelming. The Village & The Road is something special...’ – Matthew Zajac

Following on from its curation for **Made in Scotland 2022**, **The Village and The Road** combines a depth of oral history collected by **Tom Pow** with the musical talents of **The Galloway Agreement** and the dramatic vision of **Matthew Zajac**.

THE PRODUCTION

A personal and collective story about rural depopulation, told through storytelling, live music and theatre. Tom Pow draws on his travels for this emotive journey exploring the abandonment of the countryside, refugee crises and the ‘great thinning’ of the natural world, whilst The Galloway Agreement musicians draw on their wide experience of European musical traditions, enlarging the emotional landscape and driving the narrative.

‘All human life is here, and if we cannot easily express what has been lost in the decline of rural places, we surely know it’s gone.’ – Patrick Laurie



Tom Pow received a Creative Scotland Award to respond in poetry and prose to the phenomenon of dying villages in Europe.

Travels to Northern Spain, Central France, Southern Italy, Eastern Germany, Bulgaria, Western Poland and Russia and to Northern Scotland resulted in a rich archive of recordings, photographs and writings, including *In Another World – Among Europe’s Dying Villages* (Polygon, 2012).

Tom Pow

AUDIENCE RESPONSES

‘A wonderful representation of life’

‘Stunned admiration... wonderfully intense, moving and passionate’

‘My concentration span is usually limited, but tonight I was totally gripped throughout’

‘It could almost have been written in the last 24hrs’

THE GALLOWAY AGREEMENT

The Galloway Agreement is a collaboration featuring four renowned traditional musicians; Wendy Stewart (harp, vocals), Ruth Morris (alto and tenor nyckelharpa), Gavin Marwick (fiddle), and Stuart Macpherson (double bass). These world class musicians are all based in Dumfries and Galloway. They originally came together as invited artists to record on Wendy’s album, ‘Folds in the Field’. They enjoyed playing together so much that they decided to form this quartet, with a quite different instrumental line-up and choice of material from a more usual string quartet!

Their repertoire is a mixture of original compositions and favourite tunes and songs from Scotland and other European traditions. The Galloway Agreement are well known for their sublime sound created by this lovely combination of instruments. They had tremendous fun composing the music for *The Village* and *The Road*.

THE TRAILER

<https://vimeo.com/646366339>



MADE IN SCOTLAND

Following the 2022 Made in Scotland Showcase funding and curation (Scottish Storytelling Centre, Edinburgh), we will be touring nationally and internationally through the Spring of 2023. Previous sold-out performances have informed future bookings in terms of the dramatic, multi-genre crossover appeal of the show, and we welcome any expressions of interest or booking queries.

Made in Scotland is a curated showcase of high-quality performance from Scotland at the world's biggest arts festival, made possible by support from the Scottish Government's Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund.

It is a partnership between Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society, Federation of Scottish Theatre, Scottish Music Centre and Creative Scotland.



Image credit – Andrew Wilson

TECHNICAL

Touring Company: Artists – Five, Technicians – One

Minimum playing area: 6m (wide) x 4m

LX – Lighting requirements: (full preferred but other two options acceptable)

Three different options:

Minimum: three 500/650 watt fresnels either side – three per stand on T bars. Each stand with a 3 channel ‘Alphapack’, powered from a normal 13 amp socket. Each stand needs 8 amps of power, well within the capabilities of a 13 amp socket.

Medium: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tMPdHg0pbimjJuTj9npQxP4dVMIC76Zt/view?usp=sharing>

Full: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/13KXOxLWfuegZIO1L8rjkwAlbCsb7tDuP/view?usp=sharing>

Sound: Sound effects are run from a laptop which just needs a stereo connection to the house amplifier and speakers. One person can operate both sound and lighting cues.

Get in: 10am on show day for minimum or medium lighting. With full lighting we need to have it pre-rigged or get in the day before.

Set/Props: Minimal set which we will bring

Running Time: 66mins

Availability: Apr 13th to May 10th
May 29th – June 19th
Other dates available subject to negotiation



POTENTIAL AUDIENCES AND ENGAGEMENT

WHO WILL THE SHOW APPEAL TO – Anyone who loves beautiful and powerful words and music. Anyone interested in one of the greatest demographic changes in our times. Anyone who has left home.

The performance lasts for approximately 66mins without an interval. After this there will be a ceildh in the traditional sense of the word i.e. music and conversation. This will offer audiences an opportunity to share stories and anecdotes about the village and the road within their own lives and communities, as well as sharing responses to the wider issues that the work touches on.

CONTACT

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LEAD PRODUCERS

Ruth Morris – +44 (0)7796 370 146
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CREDITS

Original script by Tom Pow
Original live score by The Galloway Agreement
Direction by Matthew Zajac
Lighting design/ photo credits Andrew Wilson
Sound design by Stuart Macpherson
Digital assets by Emma Dove
Photo credit – Kim Ayres

The Village and The Road gratefully acknowledges the support of Creative Scotland, Scotbelge Charitable Trust, Dame Barbara Kelly, DG Arts Festival, DG Unlimited, Pete Renwick, and Theatre Royal Dumfries

From Tom Pow:

‘The Village and The Road is a fluid theatrical experience; one in which the story (in a variety of genres: personal narrative, poetry, flash fiction, proverb and song) – told by a narrator/ commentator/participant, underscored and driven by the four musicians, who also act as a chorus. As much as the words, it is music and song that carry the narrative on a journey across geographical space and between cultures. At other times, added texture comes from site specific recordings of the natural world and of the human voice’.

Ed Littlewood Productions

Ed Littlewood Productions Ltd delivers productions and events nationally and internationally. The company provides support and consultation for the performing arts industry – funding / fundraising, touring, education / learning and participation, production administration – working with a wide range of freelancers and associates across the UK. Offices are based in Edinburgh and Bristol.



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