

fierce

Performance Parties Politics Pop

TAKE ME,
I'M YOURS!

wearfierce.org

#fierce2017

16 - 22 October 2017, Birmingham, UK

I'm beyond excited to present the Fierce Festival 2017 programme which serves up a wide snapshot of the hugely varied performance being made around the world today. From raucous NYC cabaret to hardcore Mexican body art, the following pages paint a picture of a dynamic scene. With a world in turmoil the artists featured within these pages thrive Fiercely in the face of it all offering us new models of living and the possibility of a queerer, brighter future.

Brand New Commissions

The 2017 programme features World Premiere Fierce commissions from some of the most exciting young artists working today and with this comes exciting new partnerships with The Yard Theatre, The Marlborough Pub and Theatre and Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts. Looks out for new commissions by GETINTHEBACKOFTHEVAN, Last Yearz Interesting Negro/Jamila Johnson-Small, marikiscrycrycry, Owen Parry and more. Enfant terrible The Famous Lauren Barri Holstein, returns to the festival after an infamous appearance in 2011 with new show, *NOTORIOUS*, which then goes on for a run at the Barbican, London – fancy!

UK Debuts & Exclusive Premieres

This year's programme features no less than eight UK Premieres and six World Premieres. As is Fierce tradition, we're honoured to be presenting the UK debut performances of a number of acclaimed international artists. This year Louis Vanhaverbeke, Michele Rizzo, Marie-Caroline Hominal, Preach R Sun, Quarto and Erin Markey all make their long overdue UK debuts. We've also enjoyed working with Studio 303 in Montreal to co-curate a programme of exciting young Canadian artists: book soon for the three intimate works from Andrew Tay, Andréa de Keijzer & Erin Robinsong and Adam Kinner & Christopher Willes as capacity is very limited.

Performance Art Now

Fierce has its finger on the pulse when it comes to Performance Art. Hold the conceptualism, these artists are making uninhibited, brash, funny, angry, intensely political work. We're delighted to be staging ambitious works by Rocio Boliver, Preach R. Sun and Anne Rochat that will push limits of both artist and audience. Vivian Chinasa Ezugha presents a new durational work *Ghana must go and Britney Spears* and Eca Eps performs in the Moseley Road Baths accompanying her exhibition at Ort Gallery.

Can You Feel It?

It's no secret that Fierce loves clubbing and its associated artforms and communities. This year we delve deeper into our exploration of club culture as we present a duo of dance pieces that wouldn't be out of place at House of God. Lucy Suggate's already landmark piece *Pilgrim* is a rapturous journey through the sounds of techno producer James Holden whilst Michele Rizzo's *HIGHER* is a euphoric and stylish coming together of bodies. If you see *HIGHER* at 10pm on the Saturday night we suggest heading to Club Fierce immediately afterwards as we guarantee you're going to NEED to dance after seeing that show. We've pulled out all the stops for our big Club Fierce party this year – see page 20 for full details on a packed lineup which features Kiddy Smile and Gnučči .

Perceiving the world

In *Multiverse* Louis Vanhaverbeke becomes a multi-purpose Disk Jockey drawing on rap and hip hop culture to sample not only music but objects too, creating the whole world before our eyes on stage, before taking off. A number of other artworks in the programme question our understandings and perception of the world around us too. Aaron Williamson's *Demonstrating the World* does what it says on the tin, through an increasingly absurd performance of mundane tasks based on YouTube tutorials, (see also: Owen Parry's *fic.the.sky*). Ant Hampton's *Crazy But True* further destabilises our understandings of truth in a world of fake news and Steve Lambert's seemingly simple *Capitalism: It Works For Me* actually poses the viewer with a tricky question about their relationship to the status quo. Our Saturday night takeover of Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery with Free Radical sees an evening of activism with acts including Reverend Billy and the Stop Shopping Choir and a very physical experience for eight diners from Noemi Lakmaeir.

Not Dance As We Know It

In recent years Fierce has presented a number of performances that question our understanding of what dance can be. In 2017 we continue this enquiry with a number of pieces that don't look anything like dance as we commonly know it. In Quarto's *Durational Rope* two masked figures manipulate a mile long rope into life, whilst the Duchesses – Francois Chaignaud & Marie-Caroline Hominal hula-hoop until utter exhaustion sets in. Marie-Caroline returns again at Club Fierce with

Silver – a crescendo of lights, smoke and beats, alongside the astonishing movement of Imma Asher, formerly known as IMMA/MESS. A highlight of the programme must surely be the beguiling and experiential *Everything Fits in the Room*, where the performers move freely through the audience, who have to make sure to dodge Miguel Gutteraz and Colin Self the DJs on wheels. Colin Self also presents a solo presentation of his recent work *Siblings*.

Festival Hub

This year we're particularly excited about our Festival Hub, located at the cavernous Quantum Exhibition Centre on River Street in Digbeth. The Hub will be open Wednesday to Sunday, accessible until late into the night with a free programme of talks and events as well as special ticketed performances from Erin Markey and Simone Aughterlony & Jen Rosenblit and sexy and sweaty gigs from Splash Addict and Double Pussy Clit F*ck. Check the website for full hub details and event listings nearer the time, but one things for sure – the bar will be open!

SO GET OFF FACEBOOK and come down and spend some time with us this October, be it at an acclaimed dance show at one of our cities much loved institutions or actual sweaty dancing in the darkest depths of Digbeth – give something a try and if you still don't know where to start, have a look at our top tips to give you some ideas. Whilst we can't guarantee you'll like everything you see, we're pretty confident you'll not be bored. And if for whatever reason you can't make it along this year we've got Manuel Vason photographing so you can see what you missed out on. Oh and don't forget to tag us, using #fierce2017.

See you at a show or at the bar, or on a dancefloor soon.

Aaron Wright
Artistic Director, July 2017



Fierce Top Tips

Only time for one event?
A Very Fierce Grand Opening (p.4)

New to performance?
Louis Vanhaverbeke, *Multiverse* (p.19)

Best for a raucous night out
Erin Markey, *Boner Killer* (p.12)

For gig-goers
Colin Self, *Siblings* (p.28)

Best for performance art aficionados
Preach R. Sun, *Lord of Flies (Coronation)* (p.11)

For Fierce families
Ant Hampton, *Crazy But True* (p.27)

A dining experience?
Noemi Lakmaeir, *We are for you because we are against them* (p.20)

Five minutes to spare?
Aaron Williamson, *Demonstrating the World* (p.17)

For those who hate theatre
The Famous Lauren Barri Holstein, *NOTORIOUS* (p.13)

For experience seekers
Simone Aughterlony & Jen Rosenblit, *Everything Fits in the Room* (p.18)

Unleash your inner activist
Fierce and Free Radical Present Late at the Edwardian Tearoom (p.20)

Club kids come through
Club Fierce: *We Are Fierce* (p.22)

Wildest ticket
Rocio Boliver, *Sweet 60th* (p.28)

A Very Fierce Grand Opening

Wednesday 18 October

6pm til late

Festival Hub

Free! 😊

François Chaignaud 🇫🇷 & Marie-Caroline Hominal 🇨🇭 *Duchesses*

UK Premiere

6.25pm (34 mins)

Between arid ecstasy, radiant meditation and cruel hypnosis, *Duchesses* explores an unlikely dance, sovereign and prisoner from the most ancient game of humanity. The hula hoop, symbol of sexual liberation, becomes for the Duchess a choreographic device, instantaneous and incessant, without a past or future – a universal two wheeled vehicle.

Produced by Vlovajob Pru.



Quarto 🇸🇪 🇧🇷 (Anna Mesquita & Leandro Zappala) *Durational Rope*

UK Premiere

7.30pm (120 mins)

A performative exploration using a kilometer long rope, challenging the notion of what a body is capable of.

The metamorphoses of a black 1000-metre-long rope: a pile, a lasso, a whip, a snaky line, and then a spiral, an unknown pattern; an unforeseen ornament between ground contact and vertical tension becomes a massive manacle entwining the body. The rope is an object that simultaneously fills and measures the space, a mutable instrument in the choreographic flow of a two-hour performance. In black hoodies and white face QUARTO execute an animistic ritual, which seems to imbue a utilitarian object with movement energy. *Durational Rope* is a contemplative exploration of the dynamic relationship between object and subject. Two tamers perform exercises that transform the rope into an oscillating medium of communication between the sentient beings. We still don't know what a body is able to do, says philosophy. And we have yet to see what a rope can do when it is set in motion by bodies, awakening its own inner life.

Fierce says...

Fierce opening parties are the stuff of legend and this year we're turning things up to 11! Join us at the opening of our cavernous new Festival Hub in Digbeth and bear witness to a lightening lineup of international performances from rope conjuring and rrrriot girl to hula hooping and spandex cover versions. If you attend just one event this festival make sure it's this – and it's all completely free!



Splash Addict 🇬🇧

Presented with Grand Union

7pm

Splash Addict is a collaboration between artists Susie Green & Simon Bayliss. Inspired by shared romantic, filthy sensibilities and a love of '90s dance music, Green performs commanding, melodic vocals over Bayliss' synth basslines.

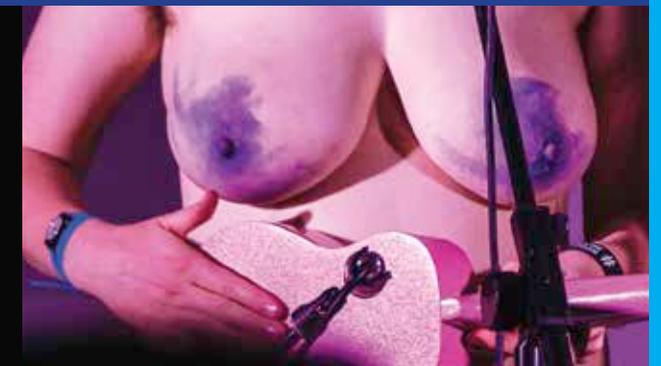
The duo's first video *Love Immersion* features the artists dancing in swimwear, together but alone, punctuated by clips of hands smacking bare backsides. This performance accompanies Susie Green's exhibition *Pleasure is a Weapon* at Grand Union gallery, Birmingham.

Double Pussy Clit F#ck 🇬🇧

9.30pm

Double Pussy Clit F*ck are an anti-genre, riot-grrrl-on-grrrl-on-boi-on-boi concept band from Glasgow. For the past few years they've been lovingly licking and poking the boundaries between bad music and art, right and wrong, sex and performance, creating strange anarchic live gigs in response to a world that they don't understand and that doesn't understand them. Their live shows are acts of deep queer love to each other, and loud cries to all to unleash their desires wildly and freely. WE ARE DOUBLE PUSSY AND WE DO CLIT FUCK.

'WE ARE DOUBLE PUSSY AND WE DO CLIT F#CK'



PILOT Nights

Monday 16 October

7pm (180 mins)

AE Harris

£7/5

PILOT Nights provide a space where artists can develop their work and try out new ideas in front of a lively and supportive crowd; the pieces presented are all works-in-progress. PILOT Nights has been running for over ten years and remains an important part of the creative landscape for the independent theatre sector in the West Midlands. Open to artists from across the UK, we're very excited to be presenting a special edition as part of Fierce Festival 2017!

The programme is always decided via an open call, which is now open for proposals. See our website for full details on how to apply. Deadline September 7th.

#artactivism

#outdoors

#installation

Steve Lambert Capitalism Works For Me! (True/False)

Tuesday 17 – Sunday 22 October

Various locations

Free! 😊

Presented with Ikon

Starting a conversation about capitalism is like walking up to a stranger and asking, "Can I talk to you about Jesus?"

The word 'capitalism' is a red flag. And for good reason because pretty soon someone will be talking at you about 'The System' or aggressively confronting you about taxes. As a culture, we need the vision and boldness it takes to discuss the system itself.

Capitalism Works For Me! (True/False), a public installation will travel around different iconic sites in Birmingham over the course of the festival. Keep your eyes peeled and tweet us using #fiercecapiatalism.

Engaging people in a deceptively simple true or false vote, the large LED-lit scoreboard sign will open up discussions about the way capitalism affects us all, inspiring critical thinking and new ideas.

Produced by Artsadmin.

GETINTHEBACKOFTHEVAN Frankenshow

Tuesday 17 October

8pm (60 mins)

The Patrick Centre

£10/8

A Fierce vs. The Yard commission

In partnership with Birmingham Hippodrome

Frankenshow marks GETINTHEBACKOFTHEVAN's misguided first foray into digital performance. They don't have much of the right equipment or know-how, but they've heard somewhere that digital is The Future. The two MCs seem disconnected. Come to think of it, they seem to not quite even be here at all.

In a landscape of battery-operated Armageddon, blockbusters, soundtracks and speeches are bolted together with glee, to create a lo-fi monstrosity of epic proportions.

Lurching towards a post-human terrain, a universe where even theatre is carried out by drones, *Frankenshow* is a middle-of-the-night waking dream about laziness, labour, control, the ethics of robotics, the craving of a human touch, and the unreal fear of a very real war.

GETINTHEBACKOFTHEVAN is a UK-based performance company, making work which plays with glory, endurance, artifice and the banal, since 2008.

Originally commissioned for Experimentica at Chapter, Cardiff.



Fierce says...

VAN are our favourite theatre company. Laugh out loud funny and edge of your seat uncomfortable in equal measure. This is their first show after a hiatus so we expect they'll have plenty to say.

Last Yearz Interesting Negro / Jamila Johnson-Small

i ride in colour and soft focus no longer anywhere

Thursday 19 October

7pm (90 mins)

Foyle Studio, mac Birmingham

£12/10



body as oracle, a trance, a rhythmic interface, an atmosphere, a landscape with the texture of my current mental state. a dance informed by everything and everyone i have ever encountered, seen, heard, felt, been beside that has become part of me, as i try to identify my own voice. and then see if i can stand it. nothing ever really goes away.



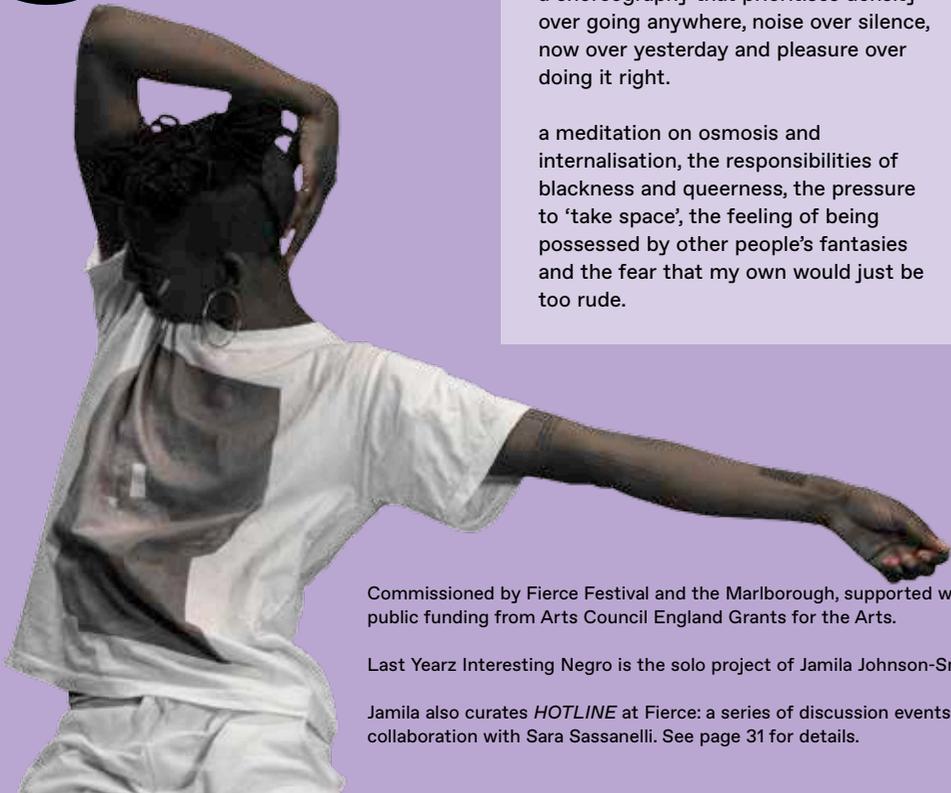
a choreography that prioritises density over going anywhere, noise over silence, now over yesterday and pleasure over doing it right.

a meditation on osmosis and internalisation, the responsibilities of blackness and queerness, the pressure to 'take space', the feeling of being possessed by other people's fantasies and the fear that my own would just be too rude.

Commissioned by Fierce Festival and the Marlborough, supported with public funding from Arts Council England Grants for the Arts.

Last Yearz Interesting Negro is the solo project of Jamila Johnson-Small.

Jamila also curates *HOTLINE* at Fierce: a series of discussion events in collaboration with Sara Sassanelli. See page 31 for details.



Marikiscrycrycry

\$elfie\$

Thursday 19 October

9.15pm (70 mins)

ACE Dance & Music

£10/8

\$elfie\$ is the third performance work in a series built around the ontologies of Black and Queer aesthetics against our current political moment. Operating with an expanded and leaky choreographic proposition, *\$elfie\$* reneges the imprints of the contemporary moment and places them in high-relief. In full view, it suggests another world that looks at/away from/and fiercely transverses the emotional landscapes of allostatic load (the wear and tear of the body due to repeated stress) alongside unabashed, unapologetic joyousness, the advent of political melancholia and ambivalence to extreme forms of desire and violence. An unravelling work, *\$elfie\$* holds the mirror to the audience and at the same time extricates itself into an existential and resistant aesthetic force – and that force says no to authoritarianism's stranglehold on our present and future aesthetics.



\$elfie\$ is co-commissioned by Fierce Festival and the Marlborough Pub and Theatre. Marikiscrycrycry is Malik Nashad Sharpe.



#dance #instagay

WORLD PREMIERE

WORLD PREMIERE

Andréa de Keijzer & Erin Robinsong *This ritual is not an accident*

Friday 20 October, 4pm (60 mins)

Saturday 21 October, 12noon

STRYX

£8/6

How does climate change, a vastly distributed emergency, become personal? What is it about the slow-motion accident that escapes our defense responses?

In *This ritual is not an accident*, time and scale are recalibrated as personal histories are shredded, recomposed, and the slow-motion accident of climate change becomes intimate. Women undergo surgery, first passive, then actively involved in their own operations.

Created for small audiences, this performance becomes an emergent text, windstorm, and choir; a contemporary ritual to reset nervous systems collectively.

In collaboration with ELAN and co-curated with Studio 303 (Montreal).

UK
Premiere

Limited
Capacity



#performance

Adam Kinner & Christopher Willes *Listening Choir*

Friday 20 October, 5pm (90 mins)

Saturday 21 October, 5pm

Sunday 22 October, 2.30pm

City Centre meeting point confirmed in advance

£5

A group of people walk without speaking for an hour. Together they form a kind of mute yet noisy choir, listening as they walk, their movements becoming songs. They hear loud things, and unheard things, what's been drowned out or quieted; the endless refrain of a city.

Listening Choir is a project that takes audiences on walks in public spaces. Throughout the walk each participant carries a cardboard loudspeaker that records and plays sounds along the way. These sounds are choreographed in various ways, evoking the immediate past, the sonic dislocation of objects and voices onto others, and the folding of histories and places on top of one another. Agreeing to drift without speaking, audiences are invited into an encounter with a continually fractured soundscape that reflects on notions of public space, citizenship, and how a city changes.

Print design by Jeremy McCormick. *Listening Choir* was developed with support from Videofag (Toronto) and Waterfront Toronto.

In collaboration with ELAN and co-curated with Studio 303 (Montreal).



Limited
Capacity

UK
Premiere

#walk #listening

Preach R Sun *Lord of Flies (Coronation)*

Saturday 21 October

6am – 6pm (drop in)

Performance actions:

6am – The Wake

6pm – The Processional

AE Harris

Free! 😊

WORLD
PREMIERE

Fierce says...

We first met Preach in NYC back in 2013. Since then we've followed what has turned out to be an incredible body of activist performance works. Through a conversation across continents we're delighted to be working with him to create a performance especially for Birmingham, in his first UK performance.

They were kings and queens (once upon a time) that is, of course, when they were HUMAN.

They were progenitors and lords of ALL humanity. Until their children betrayed them.

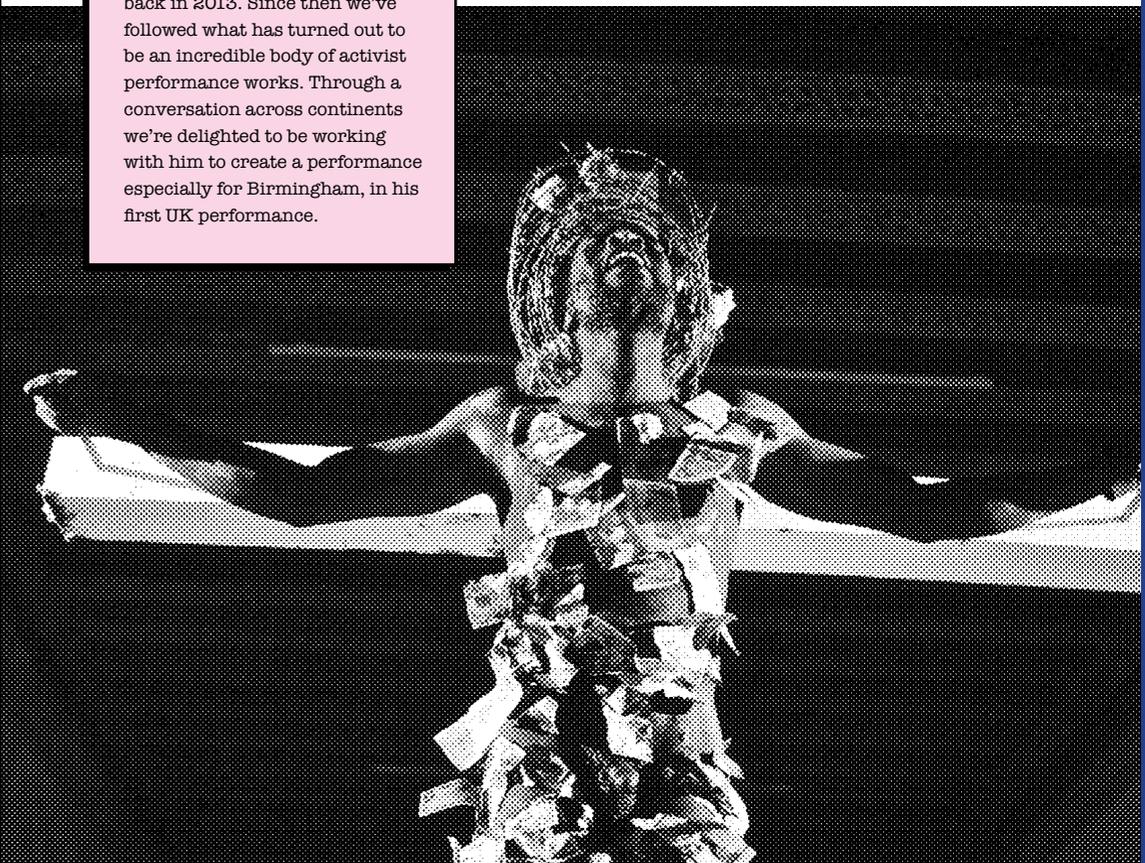
Their flesh branded. Their names erased. Their throne toppled. Their diadem revoked.

They are still kings and queens – if hell and damnation can be considered a coronation. They are now the rulers of death, misery, oppression, pestilence and savagery.

Where once the heartbeats of man responded to the calls of talking drums. The drums have since been silenced and the heartbeats have long faded away. Replaced by the clangor of shackles.

And where you could once hear GOD whispering peace and freedom in the winds – the air filled with the divine fragrance of frankincense and myrrh (Heaven and Earth). Now there is only stagnant and stifling winds carrying the rotten miasma of blood, piss, shit and despair.

Where once there were human beings, there is now only the presence of flies...



#performanceartrow



Erin Markey

Boner Killer

Thursday 19 October, 10.30pm (90 mins)

Friday 20 October, 11.30pm

Festival Hub

£12/10

18+

In collaboration with SHOUT Festival

Comprised of her signature story-driven stand-up and scored by sensual home-made pop, Erin Markey's *Boner Killer* is an intimate musical conversation between what Markey thinks she can't have and how she'd have it if she could. Driven by Whitney Houston's lesbian mythologies, Europe™, and a *Pretty Woman* accident, Markey sacrifices her own life to transform personal humiliations into naked feminist hope. Markey and frequent collaborator Emily Bate make up the two-girl band responsible for original and sampled music sopping with liquid emotion and troubled by knotty harmonies.

Fierce is delighted to be producing Markey's UK debut tour. Part of Fierce vs. The Yard.

UK Debut Tour



Fierce says...

We saw this show in NYC at 12.30am, straight from an eight hour flight and no sleep – yet we didn't blink once. Devastatingly funny with Markey's huge stage presence. Think standup, meets cabaret – and who hasn't thought about becoming a Craigslist whore? We can't believe she hasn't performed in the UK before.



WORLD PREMIERE

A Fierce commission

The Famous Lauren Barri Holstein *NOTORIOUS*

Friday 21 October, 8pm (75 mins)

Saturday 22 October, 2pm

The STUDIO, Birmingham Repertory Theatre

£15

Blurring the lines between live art, dance, theatre and fine art, The Famous Lauren Barri Holstein interrogates representations of women, looking at ways in which social media and consumerism have redefined how we relate to the female body, one's 'true self' and public shaming.

In this irreverent phenomenon of music, dance and 'witch-bitch' ritual, The Famous plunges into the ghostly underworld of popular culture, seeking, as she puts it, 'the real me, the pure me, behind this soiled shroud of promiscuity.'

Pulling from the myth of Medusa, Nicki Minaj and her own legendary self(ie), The Famous examines pop culture's take on the 'female monster'. She reveals, "I'll be ResurrecDEAD as your ultimate fantasy – a horny dead virgin." Expect visual overload and risk-taking from this raw, timely and uncomfortably hilarious interdisciplinary performance.

Commissioned by Fierce and Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts.

Fierce says...

We heart The Famous. We've wanted to bring her back to Brum ever since her infamous dozen eggs performance back in 2011, so we're thrilled to be commissioning this major new performance. Think American Idol vs Marina Abramovic and you're not far off...



#theatrenoththeatre

#witchyfeelings

Can

You

Feel

It?



Fierce says...

Many talk of clubbing like a religious experience, the dancefloor the place of ritual and ecstasy. The spontaneous love and solidarity that occurs can be intoxicating. In these dance pieces the artists simultaneously let go, lose themselves and yet somehow bring us together. Life. Love. Liberty.

Lucy Suggate 🇬🇧

Pilgrim

Friday 20 October

6.30pm (47 mins)

The Patrick Centre

£10

Presented with DanceXchange

Pilgrim is a physical journey through the mystical sound scores created by Electronic Musician James Holden. It is a reminder of the ancient and enduring kinship between Dance and Music and the deeply transformative qualities of both. The work is haunted by remnants of English folk heritage and pagan sensibilities shifting between hypnotic and euphoric states. Lucy's physical vocabulary is irreverent and eclectic; she guides us through minimal sophistication towards Acid House and arduous repetition, resulting in a variety of perceptual and physical shifts. Coaxed along by Holden's beguiling and epic rhythms she is constantly questioning and reminding us of why we Dance?



Michele Rizzo 🇫🇷

HIGHER

Saturday 21 October

10pm (45 mins)

The Patrick Centre

£10

Presented with DanceXchange

HIGHER is inspired by the experience of clubbing and club dancing. This form of dance, not easily ascribed to any category, takes the cultural role of a social dance and features various techniques, styles and influences and exemplifies what is the ultimate purpose of dancing: self expression.

I interpret the cathartic power of dance, as a form of prayer and celebration of existence. I found in the club a place for such transcendent activity, upholding the comparison of clubs to churches, however obscured by the most common understanding of clubbing as a mere recreational activity.

While trying to transfer the magical essence of the club to the theatrical/representational context of the black box, and trusting in dance as the practice that compensates for the fact that we can never be each other, we attempt to become one.

With music by Lorenzo Senni and co-performers Juan Pablo Camara and Max Goran. Produced by Frascati Producties & ICK Amsterdam



Anne Rochat

Obsidian

Friday 20 October

10pm (60 mins)

AE Harris

Free! 😊

Obsidian is a new performance drawing upon Rochat's recent travels in China and the extreme landscapes of the Qinghai Province, the performance is a delicate balance between text, body and substance.

Anne Rochat immersively subjects her body to the matter of ice whilst nearby research materials and a collection of videos related to the travel experiences in China will be exhibited.

Obsidian is an ongoing project associated with a residency program of Pro Helvetia.

Fierce says...

We first came across Anne's work on Vimeo and were gripped by the risk and intensity to her various performances which include hanging as a human chandelier adorned with glassware and scaling a precarious pyramid made of sheets of rusting metal.



Aaron Williamson

Demonstrating the World

Saturday 21 October

12noon – 6pm

Victoria Square

Free! 😊

BSL Interpreted

Presented in city centre shopping areas, *Demonstrating the World* takes the form of a durational public performance disguised as an everyday consumerist demo.

The work began with an appreciation of the 'How To' video phenomenon on social media. In these short films, some single, banal aspect of everyday life is given a rigorous instructional demonstration by amateur filmmakers: how to climb steps, remove a jacket, sit on a chair, lift a bag, tie a shoelace. No activity or object would appear too mundane to be given the treatment, as though the demonstrations are being performed to an audience of aliens that have no experience of human activity.

Collaborating with architect Ida Martin to design a range of household furniture pieces capable of being transformed from one domestic function into another unrelated, or 'alien', one: a side table opens out to form an ironing board; a clock transforms into a vacuum cleaner; a TV set opens out into a bookshelf.

Supported by Unlimited with funding from Arts Council England, Creative Scotland, Arts Council Wales and Spirit of 2012.

Fierce says...

Aaron is a legend of UK Performance Art. This piece sees him at his absurd best in a preposterous demonstration of the most mundane things. We first saw him try this piece out in a car park in Hackney stood on a chair with a 7 foot high microphone. It's boring as hell, but bet you £5 you'll get engrossed for much longer than intended.



#performanceartnow



Eca Eps

From Chibok to Calais

Saturday 21 October

4pm (30 mins)

Moseley Road Swimming Baths

Free! 😊

Presented with Ort Gallery



Taking momentum from one of the key issues shaping public debate, artist Eca Eps explores the chaos presented by conflict and migration and civic nationalism. Utilising elements of speech, sound and play in a participatory performance, the artist draws on the materiality of water as a leveller that cuts across territorial boundaries, with emphasis on its dualistic capacity to constitute both a barrier and a lifeline, underscored by the spatial provenance of a derelict gala pool.

This event is presented as part of Eca Eps's *From Chibok To Calais* exhibition at Ort Gallery, Balsall Heath (12-5pm Tuesday – Saturday, until 11 November).

#performanceartnow

Simone Aughterlony 🇨🇭 🇩🇪
& Jen Rosenblit 🇺🇸
Everything Fits
In The Room

Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 October

4pm (60 mins)

Festival Hub

£12/10

16+

IS THIS A
CONSTRUCTION
SITE OR A
COOKING
SHOW?

Louis Vanhaverbeke 🇧🇪
Multiverse

Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 October

2pm (60 mins)

Foyle Studio, mac Birmingham

£10/8

In *Multiverse*, Vanhaverbeke is a multifunctional disc-jockey. The beat from the circular sound media may be hot, but is he a rapper? No, he's not. He bounces arguments back and forth, sands his lyrics down, folds his thoughts up so they're like a kit. He pumps up the best hits, brushes references off them until the thoughts bounce and we're blown into a new dimension.

Singing and dancing, a living colour wheel is born. Arranged in levels between statement and performance. The rest of his set of tools consists of plastic buckets, Frisbees, household stuff and other junk. Can he escape this tsunami of words and objects? Is he absorbed by all this mess? Or are they actually the tools he needs to keep ahead of the flow?

Dramaturge: Dries Douibi
 Production: CAMPO arts centre, Ghent

Fierce says...

Louis Vanhaverbeke is about to lift off. Catch him whilst you can in his debut UK performances before he majorly hits the big time. A visual theatrical treat with much more to it than initially meets the eye. This is one neat show that left us looking to the stars with a brilliant soundtrack to boot..



UK
 Premiere

IN THE BEGINNING
 THERE WAS NOTHING



UK
 Premiere

WHICH
 EXPLODED

#doesntlooklikedance

Fierce says...

We've loved Simone Aughterlony ever since she presented her show *Supernatural* at the festival in 2015 and discovering the art of Jen Rosenblit has been a highlight of the past year. When we saw this strange, immersive piece in a Berlin warehouse we knew we had to bring it. Whilst we left a little perplexed, we knew it felt it good, with a banging soundscape from Miguel Gutteraz and Colin Self too.

Inside the room, dungeon-esque encounters and ordinary domestic lingering exercise a politic that comes with care taking, danger and amnesia. Aughterlony and Rosenblit alongside Miguel Gutierrez and Colin Self on sound, maintain a complicated relationship to order that encourages cracks and leaks inside architectures for gathering. A free-standing wall, a roaming kitchen island and decaying bodies are part of a disruptive ecology that needs constant adjustment. Rhythmic sorcery drives the effort despite the un-governability of ingredients. Is this a construction site or a cooking show? The room offers an expanded horizon, no longer obliged to rid oneself of the things that supposedly suspend progress.

With local guest performer Emily Warner.

Created in the frame of *Utopian Realities*, a co-production of HAU Hebbel am Ufer and Haus der Kulturen der Welt as part of *100 Years of Now*, curated by HAU Hebbel am Ufer. Funded by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media. Supported by the NATIONALES PERFORMANCE NETZ (NPN) International Guest Performance Fund for Dance.

#newritual

#theatrenoththeatre

Fierce and Free Radical present *Be The Change* an Edwardian Tearoom Late

Saturday 21 October

6.30pm – 10pm

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Free! 😊

Fierce have teamed up with Free Radical to collide activism and art in grand surroundings at this special event. Featuring international artists with activism and politics at the heart of their work, as well as performances and film screenings there will be a crowd-sourced Protest-Playlist and a chance to go on activist-speed dates with artists, plus more to be announced.

Reverend Billy & The Stop Shopping Choir 🇺🇸 *Trump Depression Hotline Tour*

Reverend Billy and the Stop Shopping Choir is a New York City based radical performance community, with 50 performing members and a congregation in the thousands. We are wild anti-consumerist gospel shouters and Earth loving urban activists who have worked with communities on four continents defending community, life and imagination. Our Devils over the 15 years of our 'church' have remained the same: Consumerism and Militarism. In this time of the Earth's crisis – we are especially mindful of the extractive imperatives of global capital.

Noemi Lakmaeir 🇬🇧 *We are for you because we are against them*

'We are for you because we are against them' invites the public to take on the role of voyeur, and observe an elaborately staged dinner party. Eight diners will participate in this public gesture which combines both elements of the uncanny and absurd. A normally private dinner party becomes the object of the public gaze. Notions of 'we', 'them' and 'other' shift across the registers of both the personal and political.

To book a very limited place in this three course immersive dining experience for just £20 email contact@wearefierce.org.

Vivian Chinasa Ezugha 🇬🇭 *Ghana Must Go and Britney Spears*

Ghana Must Go and Britney Spears is a new performance exploring xenophobia and the cultural stigma that comes from this. *Oops I did it again* will explore the trenches of human activity when looking at xenophobia and how this process has led many people to leave a place they call home in this present day.

RESIST ACT UP FLIGHT THE POWER



Vivian Chinasa Ezugha

Reverend Billy



Noemi Lakmaeir

Fierce says...
We can't believe we've been let loose on BMAG for this very special after hours showdown! An institutional invasion and perfect Saturday night out! The bar will be open and performances will be popping up all over the place, all completely free!

WORLD PREMIERE

Fierce FWD '17

Club Fierce: We Are Fierce

Saturday 21 October

10.30pm til very late

Festival Hub

£12 on door / £10 adv

18+



Marie-Caroline Hominal

This is the big one. Over the years our club nights have earned us a hot reputation. Undoubtedly the best line-up in town: join us and throw some shapes on the dancefloor to some of the freshest acts in the world today. BIG looks encouraged; be your best self; come get your life!

Catapulted into the public consciousness by Beth Ditto, **Kiddy Smile** seeks to spread the retro love in his beats – all of which he produces, sings and sometimes even raps over himself. Deeply influenced by the sleazy, lazy feel of 80s and 90s house music and the fabulous legacy of the Ballroom scene, he has performed live alongside the likes of Hercules & Love Affair, The Gossip and LCD Soundsystem.

Ana Rab, better known as **Gnučči**, is an exuberant, eclectic singer who has made a name for herself through the creation of pumping rap and club music. Of Serbian descent, she currently lives in Sweden, and is a one of the new generation of female hip-hop and rap performers on the international scene. Expect rap, bass, and dance music – but also pop, a complex hybrid style rich in sound. The rapid, energetic pulse of her witty rap hits home, making her live presence magnetic.

Silver is a dance and musical performance, a crescendo where **Marie-Caroline Hominal** brings text, light, smoke and choreography all together for a 30-minute show. *Silver* is a reflection on the idea of the 'show', what is a 'show' and how to present a 'show', but also on how energy, beats and movements affect us personally. UK Premiere!

Trans performance artist **Imma Asher** formerly known as IMMA/MESS is a major nightlife personality, trained at the Alvin Ailey School of Dance, they're one of the most spellbinding performers we've ever come across.

Room 4 Resistance is a berlin-based queer forward collective focused on community-building and creating space & visibility for women, gender queers, non-binaries, trans people, black people & people of color in Dance Music.

#THISISTHEBIGONE

Featuring:

KIDDY SMILE 🇫🇷

GNUČČI 🇸🇪

MARIE-CAROLINE HOMINAL 🇨🇭

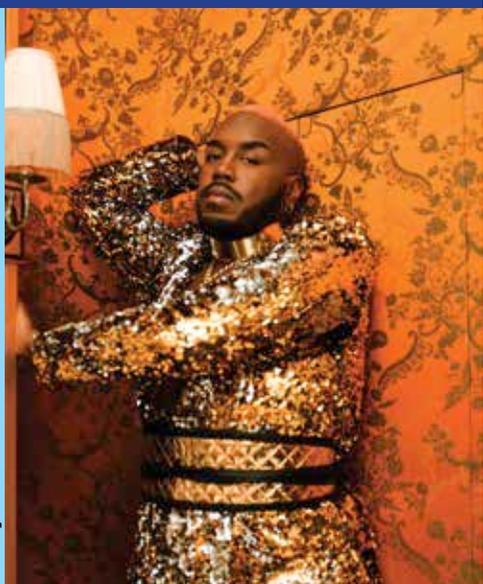
IMMA ASHER 🇺🇸

LMGM (ROOM 4 RESISTANCE) 🇩🇪

CLUB FIERCE DJs

Hosted by Birmingham's finest

YSHEE BLACK 🇬🇧



Kiddy Smile



Gnučči

Louisa Robbin

to care

Sunday 22 October

12noon (35 mins)

The DOOR,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre

£5

Presented with BEDLAM Festival

How do you distract yourself from negative thoughts? Herbal tea, meditation, booze, bubble baths? Louisa shares her musings away from the therapist's chair. Watch as she tries to cope, to care and not to disappear.

Louisa Robbin is a live artist and writer. A sad girl who projects her feelings on to glitter and gold and a queer black British (African) woman who is forever ticking boxes. Passionate about the alternative, the untraditional and the awkward; Louisa is intent on making art that explores the beauty in ritual, intimacy and the self (self-care, self-harm, self-esteem).

Part of the wellbeing day at BEDLAM Festival.



Fierce
FWD '17

#radicalcaring

Demi Nandhra

I'm Sick and Tired of Being Sick and Tired

Sunday 22 October

3pm - 7pm (drop in)

Eastside Jazz Club,
Birmingham Conservatoire

Free! 😊

Presented with BEDLAM Festival

What if the depression we endure is not just about biochemical disfunction, but the result of political failure?

Ann Cvetkovich suggests we have incomplete projects of liberation and I tend to agree; decolonisation, feminism, civil rights. We have the wounds of incomplete projects but what if the bandages are on too tight? What if the wounds need cleaning, investigating or maybe the wound just needs to see the light?

I'm Sick and Tired of Being Sick and Tired examines historical traumas in the everyday felt sensations of our lives. It's about the domestic and the grand; maybe the depression we feel is the result of being the other for so long? ... The energy it has taken to survive, endure, resist and have hope against it all.



#performance #hangout

Owen G. Parry

fic.the.sky

Sunday 22 October

2pm (4 hours)

mac Birmingham

Free! 😊

A Fierce
Commission

WORLD
PREMIERE

fic.the.sky is a performance 'hangout' created with performance troop Medeber Teatro, entwining music, dance, role-play and sculpture.

Drawing inspiration from the leftfield antics of Fandoms, Experimental Theatre, and Open-Source-Culture, performers carve out a different sense of time, where fantasy, the reworking of popular myths, and the invention of new folk narratives are made possible.

As salvaged jpegs, cutesy cat pics and fascist memes become monuments of contemporary democracy, *fic.the.sky* stages as its imperative: the desire to seek out new images and stories, to imagine new and better worlds, and to have a good time while doing it! This is 100% silly putty realness! Spiel Mit.

fic.the.sky is part of Fan Riot – an expanded project and Fan Club series by Owen G. Parry with contributing artists and fans. www.fanriot.tumblr.com

100% SILLY PUTTY REALNESS



The number of wild animals on earth has halved over the past 40 years.

You cannot commit suicide by holding your breath.

Butterflies taste with their feet.

Ant Hampton 🇬🇧

Crazy But True

Sunday 22 October

1pm – 5pm (drop in)

Theatre, mac Birmingham

Free! 😊

In collaboration with the Birmingham Repertory Theatre's The Young Rep

Children have an insatiable curiosity and hunger for facts – the kind so amazing, it's hard to believe they're true. In the interactive installation *Crazy But True*, children between the ages of 7 and 11 form a rolling panel of 'experts'. A text is whispered to them via headsets. They repeat what they hear, as they hear it. What comes across seems like a slow-motion internet, hyper-linking from hilarious LOLs to a picture of a darker world that as adults we're faced with on a daily basis, and for which we're often collectively responsible.

This simple proposal using minimal resources becomes increasingly addictive, the longer you stay with it. A tender, inter-generational confrontation involving both tragic and comic extremes.

Ant Hampton is known for automated devices (autoteatro) which frame and organise unrehearsed performance situations for the general public.

An Imagine2020 co-production with Rotterdamsche Schouwburg, Artsadmin (London), Kaaiteater (Brussels) and Kunstencentrum Vooruit (Ghent).

OPEN INVITATION TO CHILDREN (7-11)

Any children accompanying the adult audience will probably check out the situation before deciding whether to have a go. If they do, they're performing for around 12 minutes; and every four minutes there's a changeover. No rehearsal required. You can come and go as you please.

Andrew Tay 🇨🇦

Fame Prayer / EATING

Sunday 22 October

5.30pm (60 mins)

The Lab,
Birmingham Conservatoire

£8/6



Fame Prayer / EATING is an attempt to queer spirituality, and a counter point to neo-liberal notions of self care which keep telling us we should be fixing the things that are wrong with us. In this work we examine self help book ideologies and pop culture spiritual texts – instead of using their rules and philosophies as guidelines for living, we engage them as strategies for the body and choreography. Elevating crap materials into mystical objects, dances and rituals – the work confuses ideas of modern spirituality through the process of consumption – inviting the public to consider the complications that arise when consumer culture absorbs spiritual practices. A rigorously undisciplined performance created by dance artist Andrew Tay, visual and performance artist François Lalumière (Montreal), and photographer and performance artist Katrzyna Szugajew (Poland), *Fame Prayer / EATING* is a queer space of worship, a critique of healing culture, and a transgressive and disorientating performance for the audience to engage with.

In collaboration with ELAN and co-curated with Studio 303.

#fiercefamilies

#queerspirituality #doesntlooklikeadance

#theatrenottheatre

27

Rocio Boliver

Sweet 60th

Sunday 22 October

7.30pm (60 mins)

TOP SECRET LOCATION!

£7/5

18+

With her recent body of work *Between Menopause and Old Age* Rocio Boliver has created her own deranged aesthetic and moral solutions for the 'problem of age' exposing a broken society based on looks which has seen old age become synonymous with insult. Join Rocio to celebrate her Sweet 60th Birthday at this Birthday party of a life time.

Rocio Boliver's practice is a sharp and focused critique of the many repressive ideologies that burden the lives of women. "In this pasteurized society, I prefer to cause disgust, hatred, rejection, confusion, weariness, anxiety, hostility, fear ... to further promote mental asepsis."

#performanceartnow #menopauseparty!

Colin Self

Siblings (solo version)

Sunday 22 October

9.30pm

Festival Hub

£7/5

In *SIBLINGS* the musician and performer Colin Self presents a theatrical fantasy between opera and revue. Conceived as the sixth and final part of Colin Self's *Elation* performance series, it stakes out a proliferating meeting space for the alien drags, who advocate empathy for the disintegrated and unidentifiable and negotiate practices of sympathy and caring.

#music #radicalcaring



UK
Premiere

Fierce says...
We can't think of an artist that better sums up everything Fierce is about than Rocio Boliver. An absolute warrior woman, spectacular, disgusting, angry, explicit, campy and beautiful. The perfect way to close Fierce 2017.

Workshops

WEEKENDER with Simone Aughterlony *A Necessary Ecology*

Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 October
10.30am – 5.30pm

Note, this workshop takes place in London
£60 (All places subsidised by Artsadmin)

This WEEKENDER is presented by Artsadmin in partnership with Fierce, where *Everything Fits In The Room* will be presented on 21 and 22 October.

Simone has most recently been engaging with alternative forms of kinship, evolving a creative process which seeks a culture of togetherness and a reappraisal of what is meant by 'family'. This WEEKENDER lab will draw on this enquiry and on the research with specific materials and their maintenance developed with Jen Rosenblit during the making of their performance *Everything Fits In The Room*.

Participants are invited to engage with materials, bodies and architectures through a series of improvisation sessions and discussions that pay attention to the states of being, becoming and decaying, and playing with the central question, 'what is it to be in a place of meaning?'

This lab is open to all artists with an interest in choreographic thought and practice. No dance training is required. Bookings will open on the Artsadmin website soon: artsadmin.co.uk

Lucy Suggate *Professional Class*

Thursday 19 October
10am – 11.30pm

DanceXchange, Level 5
£5 (booking not necessary)

DanceXchange, in partnership with Birmingham Dance Network (BDN) offers regular classes to professional dancers and vocational second and third-year dance students led by existing visiting companies or experienced dance teachers working in the West Midlands.

To coincide with her performance of *Pilgrim* at Fierce 2017 Lucy Suggate will lead a Professional Class for professional dancers/performers.



#participate

29

28

Talks and Discussions



Preach R Sun

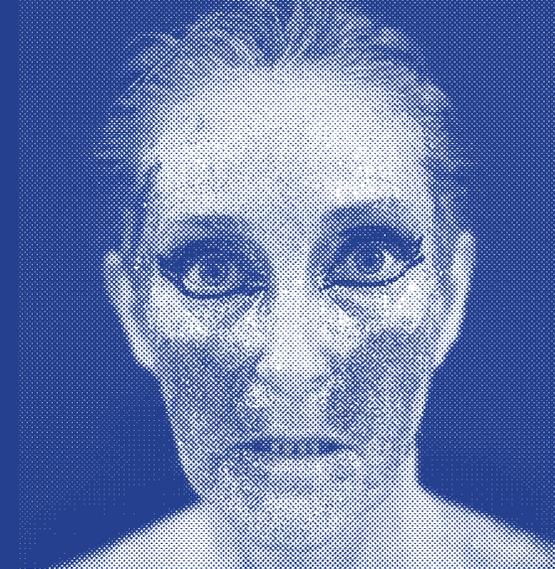
Thursday 19 October

5.30pm (45 mins)

Birmingham School of Art

Free! 😊

Preach R Sun's work, a combination of protest activism and social critique (described as, Fugitivism and Conjuring) incorporates and fuses art and activism as a means to investigate and interrogate the nature and limits of freedom, while simultaneously posing a direct challenge to systems of oppression and injustice. Sun accomplishes this through implementation of unconventional protest tactics geared towards the conception and fomentation of revolutionary action. And through – what he likes to call – an, 'ANY MEANS NECESSARY', interdisciplinary approach that involves multimedia, experimental (extemporaneously driven) theater performance elements, site specific social experiments and other visual art practices e.g. assemblage and digital collage.



Rocio Boliver

Friday 20 October

5.30pm (45 mins)

Birmingham School of Art

Free! 😊

The acclaimed Mexican performance artist Rocio Boliver will give an illustrated talk about her life and art. Rocio's story is particularly compelling: once a teenage model Rocio became one of Mexico's leading News Readers before having to leave the job when news of her pornographic feminist texts spread. Rocio then dedicated her life to Performance Art. Come listen to this brilliant and often hilarious story ahead of Rocio's performance closing the festival on Sunday 22nd.

Director's Q&A

Sunday 22 October

12noon (60 mins)

Festival Hub

Free! 😊

Fierce Artistic Director Aaron Wright will be in conversation with Lois Keidan, Director of the Live Art Development Agency, London about the 2017 programme and issues raised within. There will also be time for the audience to ask questions about artistic decisions and pieces presented within the festival.



HOTLINE

Friday 20 October, 1pm

Saturday 21 October, 11am (180 mins)

Festival Hub

Free! 😊

HOTLINE IS NOT AN ARTIST TALK OR PANEL DISCUSSION

HOTLINE aims to be a critical space that can facilitate and hold complex conversations that don't look to agreement as a point of entry or conclusion. The events start from our own intrigue, attractions and research, there are no given themes or topics of conversation. For each event three people are invited to share provocations/presentations/thoughts.

We are interested in why people do what they do, how the particular logics are formed that drive and direct decisions/actions/tastes and art-making. We want to look at the more invisible parts of people's practices – with their specific interests and intrigues becoming catalysts for group conversations. We work with the understanding that everyone attending is involved in the creation of that space and how the conversation unfolds.

We hope for those conversations to nurture a deeper need for connection, communication and generative live encounters that motivate and mobilise bold creative action. We both work within the arts and presenters are often but not exclusively artists; *HOTLINE* is not an artist talk or panel discussion.

HOTLINE is a constantly shifting format for a public conversation, a space to share in the love the hate the ambivalence and the complexity of things, hosted by Jamila Johnson-Small and Sara Sassanelli. Each event happens at a different location that we can access at no cost.

HOTLINE will feature artists from the festival please check the website for the lineup nearer the time.

Club Fierce:
Deadpan Disco

Saturday 23 September

10.30pm til late

TOP SECRET LOCATION

£6 on door / £5 adv

18+

Part of
Birmingham
Weekender



Figs in Wigs

Featuring:
LORRAINE BOWEN
REBEKAH UBUNTU
VICTORIA SIN
FIGS IN WIGS
CLUB FIERCE DJs

Hosted by
YSHEE BLACK

For those that simply can't wait for the festival proper, join us for some very special warm up events to get your appetite well and truly WET.

Nothing to laugh at here, It's the most straight faced party in town! Expect warped cabaret from deadpan dance troupe Figs in Wigs; armed with her Casio keyboard Britain's Got Talent star Lorraine Bowen is deadly serious; lifeless cookery demos from premiere bio-queen Victoria Sin and live music from multimedia performance artist and musician Rebekah Ubuntu - all this and more to be announced, plus Club Fierce DJs. Advance booking recommended!

Rebekah Ubuntu



**Digbeth First
Friday – Fierce
Takeover!**

Friday 6 October

6pm til late

Venues in Digbeth

Free! 😊

Digbeth comes alive on the first Friday of each month with exhibitions, late-night openings, special events, culture in unexpected spaces, live music, street food and more. Look out for Fierce interventions at this October edition as we welcome in the Fierce month and start the final countdown to the festival. With performances at STRYX from Eothen Stearn, Arma Agharta, Alex Billingham and more. Susie Green's (who also features in the festival) exhibition at Grand Union. Club Fierce resident DJs and a host of cabaret artists will be at Centrala from 9pm, limbering up with a bit of a drinky dancey so be sure to join us!

Full listings online in autumn 2017, we recommend checking listings in advance to make the most of your evening. Maps are available online a few days before the event and at participating venues on the evening.

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Hip-hop meets The Wizard of Oz

Wed 27 - Fri 29 Sep
£12

Birmingham City Centre

CLASH OF DRUMS

Les Commandos Percu (France) and Deabru Beltzak (Spain)

Part of BIRMINGHAM WEEKENDER

Sat 23 Sep
FREE

Instructions for Border Crossing

An exposed gearbox of a political thriller
Written and performed by Daniel Bye

Fri 13 Oct
£10

ACOSTA DANZA Debut

with guest appearance by Carlos Acosta

Wed 18 - Sat 21 Oct
From £12

WNO WELSH NATIONAL OPERA CENEDLAETHOL CYMRU

Tue 31 Oct
Khovanshchina
Musorgsky

Thu 2 Nov
From the House of the Dead
Janáček

Fri 3 Nov
Eugene Onegin
Tchaikovsky

Tue 31 Oct - Fri 3 Nov
From £18

THE SNOW DRAGON

From the company that brought you The Gruffalo

Thu 21 Dec - Sun 2 Jan
£12.50

**29 SEP
- 7 OCT**
I KNEW YOU

The brand new play from Birmingham-born writer and performer, Steven Camden aka Polarbear



26 - 28 OCT
DELIGHTFUL

By Olivia Winteringham
A frank exploration of love, grief and the state of our minds



2 - 4 NOV
BABY DADDY

Written and performed by Elinor Coleman
A personal and humorous account of life in your twenties with a baby in tow



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9 - 11 NOV
(SORRY)

By Susie Sillett
Performed by Phoebe Frances Brown
A highly-charged tale of young people in the 21st century

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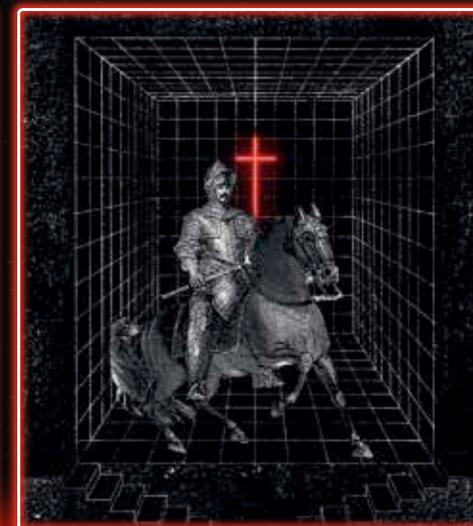
Birmingham City Council
Arts Council England
Registered in England 295910 Charity No.223660



17 - 18 NOV
MEDEA

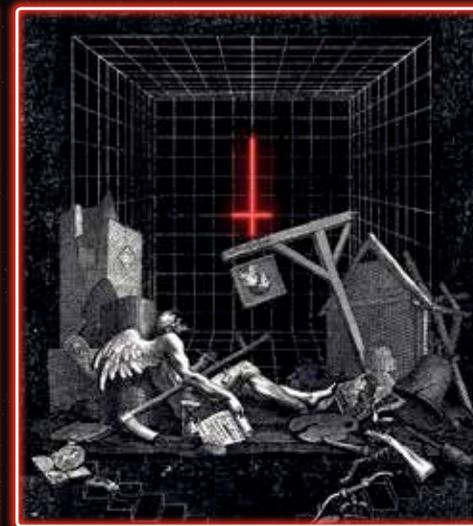
By Jean René Lemoine
Directed and translated by Neil Bartlett

A startling, contemporary reimagining of the ancient Greek legend



KINGDOM COME

I THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN SILENT. BUT THIS IS A TIME OF WAR.
GEMMA BROCKIS & WENDY HUBBARD



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PART OF FESTIVALS AT THE OTHER PLACE

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CURIOUS DIRECTIVE

Frogman

Tue 17 - Thu 19 Oct

A coming-of-age, supernatural thriller, experienced in VR headsets, from double Fringe First-winners, curious directive.



Image: Maria Falconer

YANGSON PROJECT

Factory Girl

Tue 10 & Wed 11 Oct

Factory Girl explores the struggle against sexual and class violence during the Korean industrial boom of the 1930s.



AUTUMN HIGHLIGHTS 2017

FISHAMBLE: THE NEW PLAY COMPANY

Silent

written and performed by Pat Kinevane

Thu 23 - Fri 24 Nov

A touching and challenging story of homeless McGoldrig, who once had splendid things. But he has lost it all.



CLERKINWORKS AND OVALHOUSE

The Secret Keeper

written by Angela Clerkin

Tue 24 & Wed 25 Oct

A witty and playful adult fairytale with a murderous gothic heart featuring music, puppetry and fiendish storytelling.



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Warwick Arts Centre, The University of Warwick Coventry CV4 7AL

Fierce FWD 2016/17

Fierce FWD is Fierce's development programme for emerging artists in/from the West Midlands. The scheme is aimed at those developing performance and Live Art. Each artist receives £500 towards a new idea as well as a number of research trips and workshops.

After an open call 12 artists were selected to be part of the 16/17 Fierce FWD cohort. They were: Suriya Aisha, Sean Burns, Vivian Chinasa Ezugha, Thomas Doherty, James Harris, Myah Jeffers, Malik Nashad Sharpe, Louisa Robbin, Benedict Stewardson, Emily Warner & Kaye Winwood & Olivia Winteringham.

A number of the FWD artists will be presenting work in the festival. Look out for full details of all the FWD performances on our blog soon.

Fierce FWD is generously supported by Jerwood Charitable Foundation.



Benedict Stewardson

Elsewhere in Birmingham

Culture

There is plenty else to do in this wonderful city of ours in between Fierce events, we particularly recommend Susie Green's exhibition *Pleasure is a Weapon* at Grand Union and Eca Eps' *From Chibok to Calais* at ORT Gallery. Also check out other local galleries, Eastside Projects, Ikon and Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, or if street art is more your thing, take a wander through Digbeth and see a vast array of brilliant street art. Catch a film at the oldest working cinema in the country - the Electric Cinema, visit Europe's biggest library, and see views across the city from the roof garden, or shake that hangover with a walk through our extensive network of canals (more than Venice don't you know). There's also plenty of museums, heritage sites and oddity's including the Pen Museum and the Coffinworks both in the Jewellery Quarter. Thinktank is a 21st century Science Museum and nearby Perrot's Folly & Sarehole Mill allegedly inspired Tolkien. And don't forget a classic Fierce outing to the Gay Village to see some cabaret at Glamorous, The Village or Eden.

Accommodation

If you're coming from outside Brum and need somewhere to stay, Hatters Hostel in the Jewellery Quarter is a favourite haunt and Birmingham Backpackers is just round the corner from our Festival Hub, or for a more boutique experience visit *Staying Cool* at the top of Birmingham's iconic Rotunda. Cheap chain hotels include the recently opened Easyhotel on John Bright Street and Bloc on Caroline Street. There's also an Ibis Budget and depending on who you ask The Paragon is okay for a couple of nights.

Food

Art can be hungry work so make sure to try some of Birmingham's international culinary delights. Here are our recommendations. In Digbeth, near the festival hub: vegetarian fare at the Warehouse Café; nurse your hangover with one of Original Patty Men's awardwinning burgers, sample the tasty Spanish tapas at Rico Libre; try out some Polish classics amongst traditional decor at The Karczma. Around the Gay Village and Chinese Quarter try local favourite Café Soya, Korean staple Topokki or an artier Korean vibe at MODU; wake yourself up on Saturday morning with a coffee in FACULTY, 200 Degrees or Quarterhorse. Sushi Passion does what it says on the tin in the Great Western Arcade where you'll also find Bistrot 1847 - named best vegetarian restaurant outside of London. If you head over to the Jewellery Quarter Pig and Tail do great small plates and the Lord Clifden pub does a huge Sunday Roast. If you want to explore a little further then the iconic Balti Triangle is a short car journey away. We love The Spotted Dog in Digbeth for a good local boozier oh and Birmingham's very good for gin... we're told. And if that's not enough for you, check out the Independent Birmingham website for more ideas of places to eat and things to do while you're not being Fierce.

Venues

Festival Hub

Quantum Exhibition Centre
30–34 River Street, B5 5SA
+44 (0)121 771 3775
quantumexhibitioncentre.com

ACE Dance & Music

54–57 Floodgate Street, B5 5SL
+44 (0)121 314 5830
acedanceandmusic.com

AE Harris

109–138 Northwood St, B3 1SZ

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Chamberlain Square, B3 3DH
+44 (0)121 348 8032
birminghammuseums.org.uk/bmag

Birmingham Repertory Theatre

Broad St, B1 2EP
+44 (0)121 236 4455
birmingham-rep.co.uk

Birmingham School of Art

Margaret Street, B3 3BX
+44 (0)121 331 5000
bcu.ac.uk/art

Eastside Jazz Club and The Lab

Birmingham Conservatoire
200 Jennens Road, B4 7XR

mac

Cannon Hill Park, Queen's Ride, B12 9QH
+44 (0)121 446 3232
macbirmingham.co.uk

The Patrick Centre

Birmingham Hippodrome, Hurst St, B5 4TB
+44 (0)121 689 3170
dancevchange.org.uk

STRYX

Unit 13, Minerva Works, Fazeley Street, B5 5RS
stryx.co.uk

Victoria Square

1 Victoria Square, B2

Travel

Birmingham is an easily accessible city. The city centre is a short 30 minute car journey from Birmingham Airport or 15 minutes by rail. The city is served by three train stations (New Street, Moor Street and Snow Hill), with direct trains running from all major cities cross the UK. Trains running from London Euston are 1 hour 25 minutes and run three times an hour. The city is well served with black cabs, mini cabs and uber. By road the city can be accessed from the north via the M6, the south via the M40 or M1, M6 and the South West via the M5.

Most venues are walking distance from each other and from the Festival Hub, they are city centre based but do always check the route and leave yourselves plenty of time to get around. Our Fierce Festival team will be on-hand to give you directions and help you find your way around, so ask for help whenever you need it. mac is a couple of miles outside the city centre, and is easily accessible by bus; you can get to mac on buses 1, 35, 45, 47, 62 and 63 (depending on where you're leaving from).

Tickets

Advance tickets can be bought online at wearefierce.org

For tickets to shows at mac birmingham visit macbirmingham.co.uk

For tickets to shows at the Birmingham Rep visit birmingham-rep.co.uk

For tickets to shows at DanceXchange and the Birmingham Hippodrome visit birminghamhippodrome.com

Individual tickets can be purchased for all shows.

A Friday to Sunday Weekend Pass that gets entry to the following eight ticketed shows is available for the heavily discounted price of £65/£55. Only 100 of these passes are available, so don't hang around!

Weekend Passes include:

The Famous Lauren Barri Holstein, *NOTORIOUS* (p.11)
Erin Markey, *Boner Killer* (p.10)
Simone Aughtlerlony & Jen Rosenblit, *Everything Fits in the Room* (p.18)
Michele Rizzo, *HIGHER* (p.15)
Club Fierce, *We Are Fierce* (p.22)
Louis Vanhaverbeke, *Multiverse* (p.19)
Rocio Boliver, *Sweet 60th* (p.28)
Colin Self, *Siblings* (p.28)

Access

Fierce strives to be welcoming and accessible to all parts of the community. The vast majority of our venues are wheel chair accessible, and further accessibility details will be released on our blog ahead of the festival. For specific access enquires please email access@wearefierce.org

Credits

Team Fierce

Artistic Director – Aaron Wright
Festival Producer – Pippa Frith
Operations Manager – Catherine Groom
Production Coordinator – Sara Crathorne
Production Coordinator, mac – Lizzie Moran
Production Partners – Cloud One
Cloud One Project Manager – Robb Cartin
Step Change Produce – Katie Cooper
Governance Support – Sadie Newman
Volunteer Coordinator – Katy Baird
Marketing Coordinator – Shekayla Maragh
Queen of Visas – Toni Lewis
Design – An Endless Supply
PR – The Corner Shop
Photography – Manuel Vason
Film – Rachel Bunce

Fierce Festival Board of Directors

Christie Horton-Cremin (Contact Manchester)
John Diviney (Brunswick Arts)
Eileen Evans (Forced Entertainment)
Timothy Hodgson (Independent producer)
Cath Lambert (The University of Warwick)
Brian Lobel (Artist, Lecturer, Wellcome Trust fellow)
Marianne Mulvey (Curator, Writer, Educator)
Sam Trotman (Scottish Sculpture Workshop)
Jess Wolinski (mac Birmingham)

Thanks

We would like to thank all our brilliant partner organisations and their staff teams, our fabulous festival volunteers, the team at the Safety Advisory Group, Laura McDermott, Harun Morrison, Alex Lawless, Helga Henry, Carol Wright, Lois Keidan, CJ Mitchell, Caroline Barton, Miriam Ginstier, Emilia Alvarez, Mark Ball, Alexandra Wellensiek, Bean, Jon Opie, Shonagh Manson, Polly Hudson, Emily Bartlett, Simon James Holton, Roxana Silbert, Deborah Kermode, Karolina Korupczynska, Anna Katarzyna Domejko, Thomas Wildish, Jo Gleave, Mike Pony, Amy Letman, Roisin Caffrey, Laura Killeen, Stans Café, Paul Geary & University of Birmingham, Oli McCall, Sarah De Ganck, Jo Bligh, Julia Asperska, Tom Jenkins, Stuart Whipps, Caleb Hammons, Sabra Khan, Orit Azaz, Kim McAleese, Cheryl Jones, Ben Pryor, Adam Carver, Lara Ratnaraja, Ian Francis, Sam Groves, Mark Godber, David Sheppeard, Matthew Poxon, Ashleigh Wheeler, Jay Miller, Greg Wohead, Simon Casson, Anthony Roberts, Paul Russ and many more!

The Warm Up

	Event	Venue	Time	Price	Page
Saturday 23 September	Club Fierce: Deadpan Disco	TOP SECRET	10.30pm	£6/5	32
Friday 06 October	Digbeth First Friday: Fierce Invasion!	Various locations	6pm	Free	33

Throughout the Festival

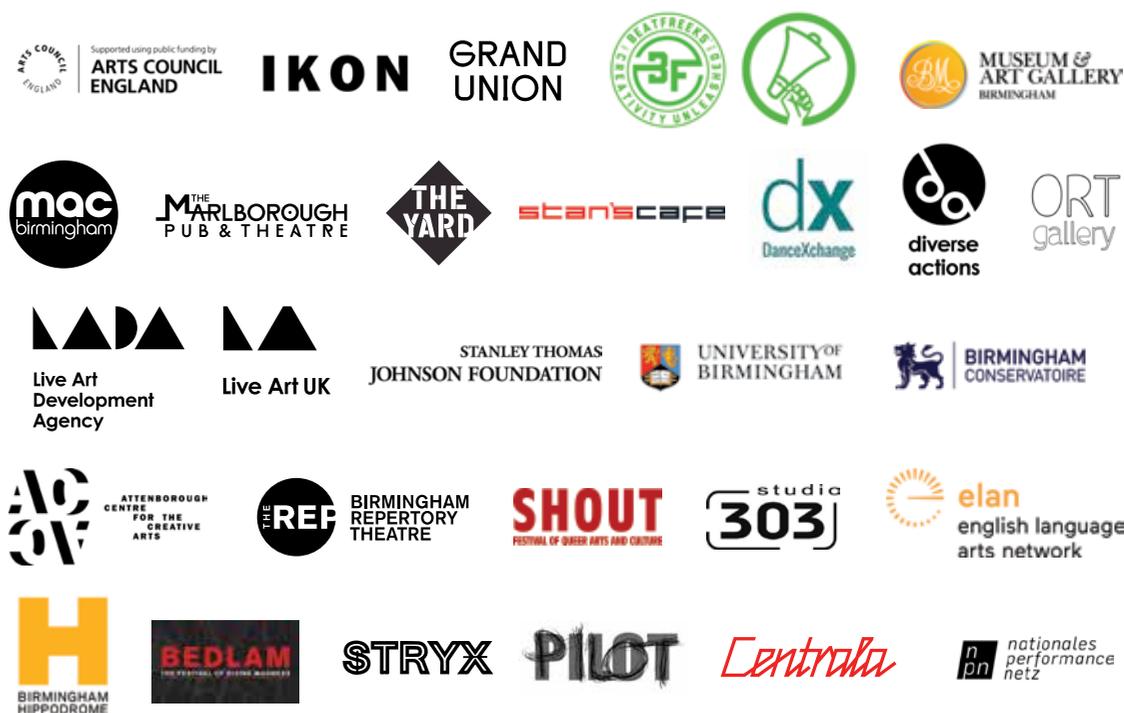
	Event	Venue	Time	Price	Page
Throughout the festival	Steve Lambert – Capitalism Works For Me! (True/False)	Various locations		Free	6

The Festival

	Event	Venue	Time	Price	Page
Monday 16 October	Pilot Nights	AE Harris	7pm	£7/5	6
Tuesday 17 October	GETINTHEBACKOFTHEVAN	The Patrick Centre	8pm	£10/8	7
Wednesday 18 October	THE VERY FIERCE GRAND OPENING	Festival Hub	6pm	Free	4
Thursday 19 October	Artist Lecture: Preach R Sun	Bham School of Art	5.30pm	Free	30
	Last Yearz Interesting Negro/ Jamila Johnson-Small	mac	7pm	£12/10	8
	Marikiscrycrycry – \$elfie\$	ACE Dance & Music	9.15pm	£10/8	9
	Erin Markey – Boner Killer	Festival Hub	10.30pm	£12/10	12
Friday 20 October	Hotline #1	Festival Hub	1pm	Free	31
	Andrea & Erin Robertsong – This ritual is not an accident	STRYX	4pm	£8/6	10
	Adam Kinner & Christopher Willes – Listening Choir		5pm	£5	10
	Artist Lecture: Rocio Boliver	Bham School of Art	5.30pm	Free	30
	Lucy Suggate, Pilgrim	The Patrick Centre	6.30pm	£10	15
	The Famous Lauren Barri Holstein NOTORIOUS	The STUDIO Birmingham Rep	8pm	£15	13
	Anne Rochat	AE Harris	10pm	Free	16
	Erin Markey – Boner Killer	Festival Hub	11.30pm	£12/10	12
Saturday 21 October	Preach R Sun – Lord of the Flies	Bham School of Art	6am	Free	11
	Aaron Williamson – Demonstrating the World	Victoria Square	12noon	Free	17
	Andrea & Erin Robertsong – This ritual is not an accident	STRYX	12noon	£8/6	10
	The Famous Lauren Barri Holstein NOTORIOUS	The STUDIO Birmingham Rep	2pm	£15	13
	Louis Vanhaverbeke – Multiverse	mac Foyle Studio	2pm	£10/8	19
	Eca Eps – From Chibok to Calais	Moseley Road Baths	4pm	Free	16
	Simone Aughterlony & Jen Rosenblit – Everything Fits in the Room	Festival Hub	4pm	£12/10	18

The Festival

	Event	Venue	Time	Price	Page
Saturday 21 October	Adam Kinner & Christopher Willes – Listening Choir		5pm	£5	10
	Be The Change	BMAG	6.30pm	Free	20
	Michele Rizzo – HIGHER	The Patrick Centre	10pm	£10	15
	Club Fierce: We Are Fierce	Festival Hub	10.30pm	£12/10	22
Sunday 22 October	Louisa Robbin – to care	The DOOR, Birmingham Rep	12noon	£5	24
	Artistic Directors Q&A	Festival Hub	12noon	Free	30
	Ant Hampton – Crazy But True	mac	1pm	Free	27
	Owen Parry – fic.the.sky	mac	2pm	Free	25
	Adam Kinner & Christopher Willes – Listening Choir		2.30pm	£5	10
	Louis Vanhaverbeke – Multiverse	mac Foyle Studio	2pm	£10/8	19
	Demi Nandhra – I'm Sick and Tired of Being Sick and Tired	Bham Conservatoire	3pm	Free	24
	Simone Aughterlony & Jen Rosenblit – Everything Fits in the Room	Festival Hub	4pm	£12/10	18
	Andrew Tay – Fame / Prayer	Bham Conservatoire	5.30pm	£8/6	27
	Rocio Boliver – Sweet 60th	TOP SECRET	7.30pm	£7/5	28
	Colin Self – Siblings (solo version)	Festival Hub	9.30pm	£7/5	28
	Closing Party	Festival Hub	10pm	Free	



Last Yearz Interesting Negro/Jamila Johnson-Small
photo by Katarzyna Perlak & Carlos Jimenez.



16 – 22 October 2017, Birmingham, UK

#fierce2017

wearfierce.org