



menagerie

**HOTBED
THEATRE
FESTIVAL
2024**

AT CAMBRIDGE JUNCTION

New Writing · Productions · Workshops

FRI 19, SAT 20 & SUN 21 JULY

www.junction.co.uk



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

**CAMBRIDGE
JUNCTION**

WELCOME TO HOTBED 2024!

We're back (for our 22nd year!) to bring you the very best of new writing for the stage - produced by Menagerie Theatre Company in association with Cambridge Junction.

Yet again we have assembled an outstanding line-up of new work to bring you a dynamic and memorable festival of theatre.

We call it Hotbed for a reason: it's where new ideas smoulder and crackle ready to burst into flames. You'll see international work from Sweden and Romania, world premieres of three new plays (and a discussion!) about the Climate Crisis, new Hidden Voices work from under-represented artists, new plays from our Young Writers' Programme and of course guest productions from some of the best writers in our region.

Come along, not just to watch, but to be part of the story - meet the writers, join in feedback, listen to talks and participate in workshops. Most of all, be here to witness the birth of 18 brand new plays.

The best way to truly immerse yourself in Hotbed's feast of new writing is with a **festival day pass** (obtainable for each day or half-day), allowing you to see multiple performances all day, every day - all at a hugely discounted price!

See you at the festival... where new writing comes of age on the stage!

Paul, Patrick and Sarah

 menagerie



ALBATROSS

Written by Martha Loader

Directed by Patrick Morris

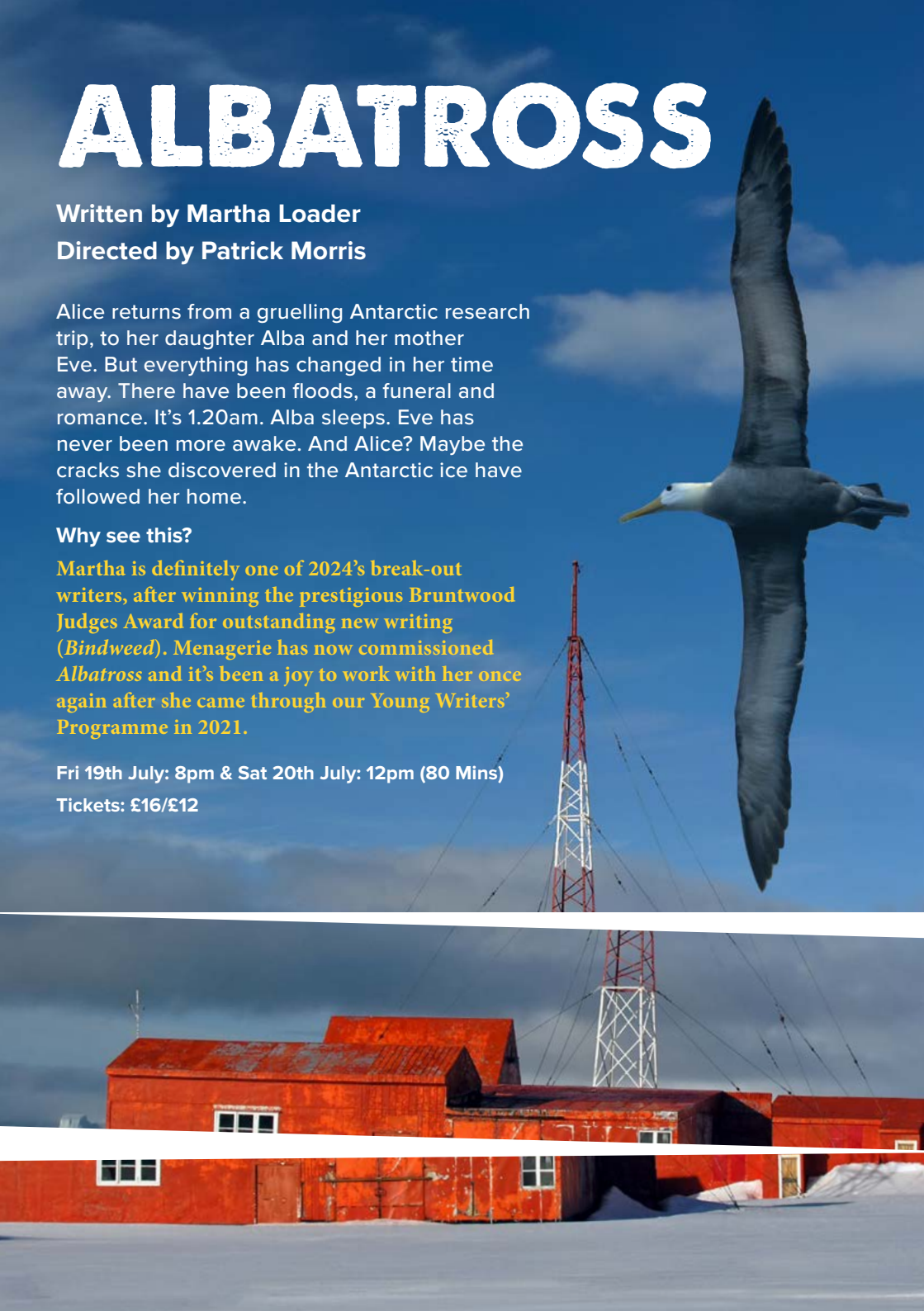
Alice returns from a gruelling Antarctic research trip, to her daughter Alba and her mother Eve. But everything has changed in her time away. There have been floods, a funeral and romance. It's 1.20am. Alba sleeps. Eve has never been more awake. And Alice? Maybe the cracks she discovered in the Antarctic ice have followed her home.

Why see this?

Martha is definitely one of 2024's break-out writers, after winning the prestigious Bruntwood Judges Award for outstanding new writing (*Bindweed*). Menagerie has now commissioned *Albatross* and it's been a joy to work with her once again after she came through our Young Writers' Programme in 2021.

Fri 19th July: 8pm & Sat 20th July: 12pm (80 Mins)

Tickets: £16/£12



FRANKENSTEIN (ON A BUDGET)

Lamphouse Theatre

One man, one monster, one glorious dream to single handedly tell the most famous cult horror story of all time, and absolutely no budget whatsoever.

What could possibly go wrong? Frankenstein (on a budget) is the comedy musical Hammer Horror homage that you didn't know you needed.

Why see this?

Lamphouse Theatre Company is a Menagerie favourite, backed with a host of 5-star Edinburgh Fringe reviews for previous equally brilliant, chaotic and mayhem-inspiring work.

Friday 19th July: 9.30pm (60 mins)

Tickets: £12/£10



LIMITED LADY

Written by Angela Neenan
and Rachel Harvey

Another beautiful day. The birds are singing, the grass is freshly cut. You could close your eyes to the stiff lying on your front lawn. But she's not going anywhere. There are some things you can't leave out for the bin lorry.

Why see this?

Returning to Hotbed yet again (we love them!) - Angela and Rachel's sell-out shows always pack a punch and raise a laugh with their original takes on life.

Friday 19th July: 6.45pm (60 mins)

Tickets: £12/£10

TOY (S)TORIES

OR HOW NOT TO MAKE A LIVING AS AN ARTIST

Written and performed by Chris Dobrowolski

Directed by Paul Bourne


Toy (S)Tories is an odyssey through art, contemporary politics and twentieth-century history, from one of Britain's best artist-raconteurs. A dazzling journey from Scalextric to Nazis (yep!), told in Chris's signature style: satirical stand-up meets art lecture-demonstration.

Why see this?

Chris is a fantastic storyteller with the ability to turn the everyday into the extraordinary.

Saturday 20th July: 6.30pm (70 mins)

Tickets: £16/£12

Chris Dobrowolski is smiling and looking towards the camera. He has curly brown hair and is wearing a dark blue V-neck sweater. The background is a blurred scene of a protest or demonstration with people holding signs. One sign clearly says "SLOW DOWN" and another says "PIT STOP".

"If you can say yes to these three questions: Hate Tories? Love stories? You were once a child?... then this is the show for you!"

HIDDEN VOICES

Hidden Voices is Menagerie's latest new writing initiative, designed to nurture and produce under-represented theatre makers and tell stories that demand to be heard.

This year we have selected three artists: Bobby Brill, Dora Colquhoun and Beth Mullen. Each bring their unique perspectives and experiences of life to present three exciting new works for Hotbed.

We are offering these shows with the choice of a 'pay nothing ticket' to ensure this work is accessible to all.

GATHER YOUR PARTY BEFORE VENTURING FORTH

Written and directed by Bobby Brill

Work in progress/scratch performance

Gather Your Party Before Venturing Forth is an intimate conversation facilitated (and hampered) by the shared experience of playing computer games. Exploring homelessness, disability, choice, neurodivergence and the value of human connection, it's filled with nostalgia and the mundanity and silliness of every-day play, hard-won victories and bruising losses.

Why see this?

It has been a privilege to be able to step into and embrace the wild and wonderful world of Bobby's stories - we encourage anyone who can, to do the same!

Saturday 20th July: 4.15pm (45 mins)

Tickets: £10/£8/Free



THE LODGER

Written and performed by **Dora Colquhoun**

Work in progress/scratch performance

Ever felt like you were on a quest to find home and a sense of belonging?

The world of *The Lodger* is a disparate, hilarious and sometimes heartbreaking one. We meet a Sunday school teacher, a holiday camp entertainer, and a lonely landlady, all trying to find their sense of belonging. What more could you ask for... apart from maybe a home?

Why see this?

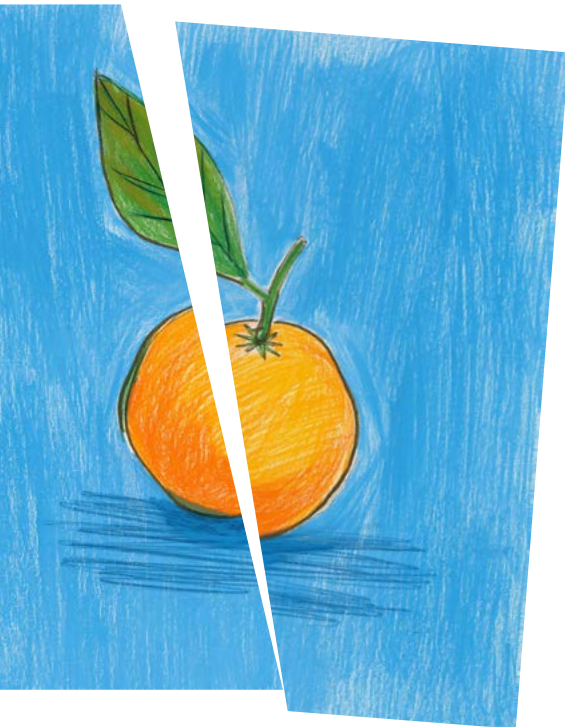
An honest and moving story, Dora's about to be a 'Hidden Voice' no more. Catch her while you can!

Sunday 21st July: 4.45pm (60 mins)

Tickets: £10/£8/Free



Image Credit: AB Photography



CLEMENTINE

Written and performed by **Beth Mullen**

A script-in-hand performance

Sophie's abducted a baby... She doesn't even want a baby... but she knows that this baby deserves a good life and a good mother that doesn't deep throat fags and viddy-cokes.

Why see this:

New writing is about new stories, new insights and new perspectives - Beth has these all, in spades.

Saturday 20th 5.15pm (60 mins)

Tickets: £10/£8/Free

CHILDREN'S THEATRE

THE GOAT AND ME

By Josefina Elvira Asker Beck

A UK premiere performance for 5-11 year olds and their families.

Join me on a journey out in the deep Scandinavian wilderness. Together we will explore how a day in my great-great-grandmother's time might have looked. Let's sing together and marvel at the extraordinary lives of our ancestors. I also have a goat! Call for her, and she may join us!

Why see this?

A beautiful simple story for children and their families. Josefina joins us all the way from Stockholm in Sweden to perform her piece for the first time in England (and the first time in English!). Perfect for anyone that loves puppetry, folklore and... goats. Det är lysande!

Saturday 20th July: 11.00am & Sunday 21st July: 11.00am (60 mins)

Tickets: £12/£10

**HOTBED
FOR KIDS
AGE 5+**



PHOENIX, DODO, BUTTERFLY

Written by Steve Waters

Directed by Kay Michael

What future do we want to live in? On a farm near you, Martin and Becky seek to find their way through three futures of flood, fire and drought; does their estranged daughter Aimee hold the secret to survival? This unique show blends searing drama and insightful debate, through sharing three vividly imagined versions of our future and inviting you to explore the climate crisis close-up.

Why see this?

A powerful new piece of work by Steve Waters, the number one environmental theatre voice in the UK. Includes post-show response from a climate expert.

Saturday 20th July: 8pm (90 mins)

Tickets: £16/£12



Image Credit: Anita Staff

FORGOTTEN IN THE LAND OF EGYPT

By **The Mango Ensemble**

Written by **Tom Murray**

Directed by **Katie Thompson**

Work in progress/scratch performance

Bathsheba is a vicar in a dying Fenland parish. Clare is haunted by prophetic dreams. And The Waterman might be following them.

Why see this?

The Mango Ensemble are back at Hotbed (after last year's sell-out) with another play by Peter Shaffer Award-winning writer Tom Murray.

Sunday 21st July: 7.30pm (65 mins)

Tickets: £12/£10



Image Credit: Jasmine Pinson-Roxburgh

THE WRITING OF STONES

By **Emballage Ensemble**

Work in progress/scratch performance

The Writing of Stones is a guided visit to the museum of your imagination, a hijacked meditation, a psychedelic school trip, a reverie on the reality-altering nature of attention, the limits of language, and humanity's place in the natural world.

Why see this?

A wonderful concept from an exciting new company - we cannot wait to witness its first ever performance.

Sunday 21st July: 1.30pm (60 mins)

Tickets: £12/£10

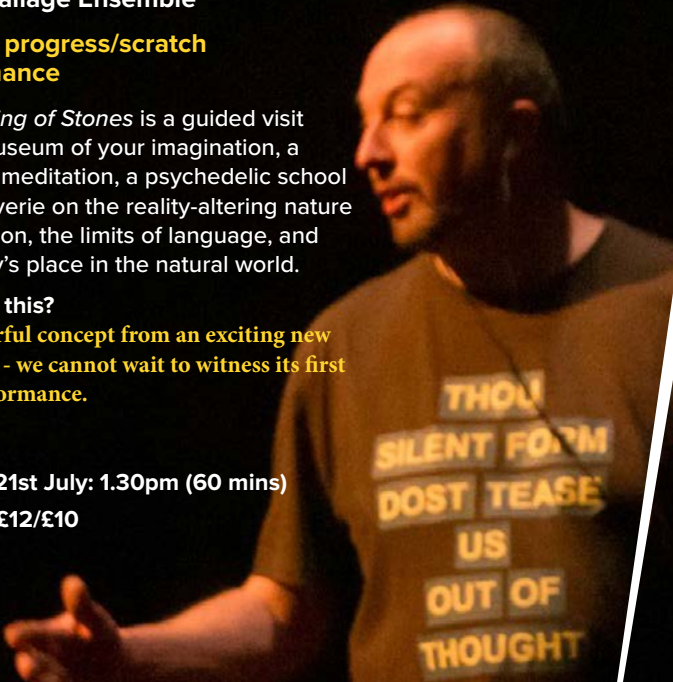


Image Credit: Kit Harwood

YOUNG WRITERS PLAYS

Every year at Hotbed, we feature selected work from graduates of our Young Writers' Programme.

Over the course of three months, the writers on the programme are supported by professional playwrights and the Menagerie team to explore and articulate their unique voice for the stage.

The three short plays selected this year tackle stories of environmental radicalism, the emotional price of being a professional listener, and the simple desire to escape the 21st century for a mythical past...

Why see these plays?

Our Young Writers are all at the beginning of a fantastic journey - catch them now and say 'I saw them before they were famous!'

TOTALLY FINE

**Written and performed by
Susanna Wolff**

She just needs a break, a beach with no phone and no clients for a week or maybe six. This is all just a blip, a mistake, a few mistakes. She's fine, she's good, great, 100% completely totally fine...

Sunday 21st July: 9pm (45 mins)

Tickets: £12/£10



JUSTINE STOPS OIL

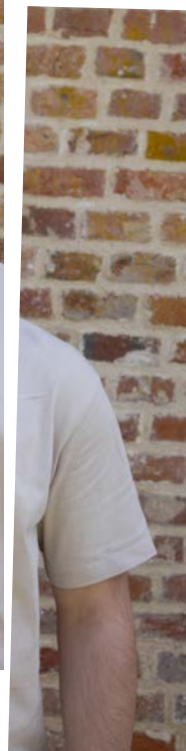
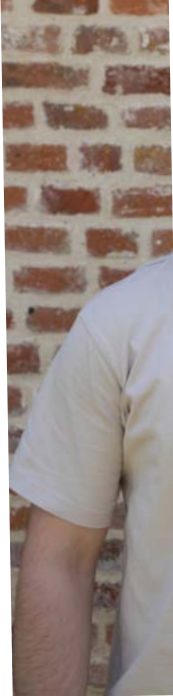
By Louis Catliff

A script-in-hand performance

When Justine's daughter leaves home, her cosy bubble is violently burst. Faced with a dying marriage and rising dread, Justine searches for meaning and finds it in a group of activists protesting oil and pissing off motorists on the M25. *Justine Stops Oil* is a fast-paced, funny exploration of rage, activism and hope.

Saturday 20th July: 3pm (45 mins)

Tickets: £12/£10



YOU FORGET YOURSELF

By Jenny Wall

A script-in-hand performance

Out on the coast, the Victorian sea cure is in full flow. Lacking sleep, appetite, or happiness? Saltwater and simpler living can save you. But in with the tide comes a new visitor, throwing everything — and everyone — into disorder.

Sunday 21st July: 6.15pm (45 mins)

Tickets: £12/£10

TRAFFIC JAM

Written by Alina Nelega
Translated by Jozefina Komporaly

A script-in-hand performance (UK premiere)

A brand new translation of this play by one of Romania's leading playwrights.

Six women, and a dog, all under pressure in their lives which – like the traffic – are brought to a sudden standstill. Forced to reflect on where they are, each of the women makes a decision which will forever alter the course of their life.

Why see this?

It is an honour to present this play in the UK for the first time. It was a hit when premiered in Romania, and Alina Nelega remains one of the country's most highly regarded playwrights.

Sunday 21st July: 3pm (75 mins)

Tickets: £12/£10



ICE MONOLOGUES: 7x7

MSt in Writing for Performance

A script-in-hand performance

Students from MSt in Writing for Performance programme at Cambridge University's Institute of Continuing Education present a series of original no holds-barred monologues. Seven writers, seven actors, seven minutes, seven stories.

Why see this?

Work by students who are taught by our Associate Artist Fraser Grace who we love and believe in very much. If he says they're good - we know they will be!

Saturday 20th: 9.30pm & Sunday 21st: 12.15pm (60 mins)

Tickets: £12/£10



Supported by



ROMANIAN
CULTURAL
INSTITUTE

WHAT ROLE CAN THEATRE PLAY IN THE CLIMATE CRISIS?

A PANEL DISCUSSION WITH DR ANDREW BURTON

Panellists: Martha Loader, Steve Waters, Hannah Dunne

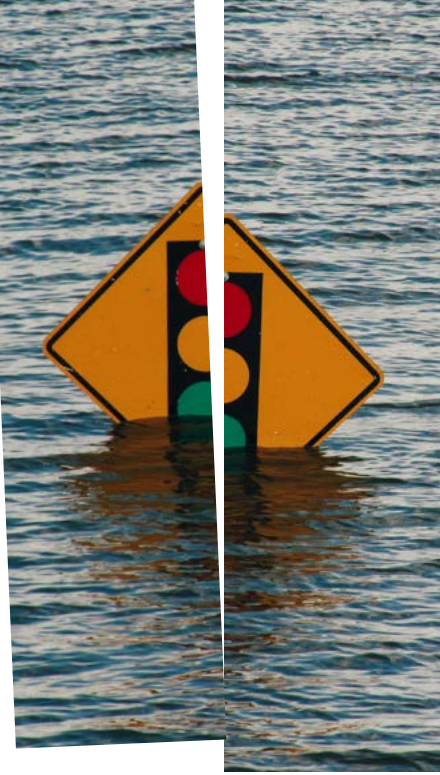
Theatre has been slow to respond to the climate crisis. Now that the disastrous impacts of human behaviour on a planetary scale have become undeniable, theatre-makers must ask themselves what role theatre can play in addressing the issues. Bring along your own questions and join us for a spirited debate!

Why go to this?

A vital discussion with an excellent panel.

Saturday 20th July: 1.45pm (60 mins)

Tickets: Free (but you must still book)



THE TRIALS OF DEMOCRACY: WHO GIVES A



WORKSHOP

As of going to print, we do not know the result but we do know that on July 4th we voted in a new Government. What is your relationship to this democracy? Did you vote or did you stay at home? Come and join us to launch 'The Trials of Democracy' a Public Art project led by Hilary Cox Condon and Patrick Morris.

Why go to this?

There'll be speeches, heckling and – of course – voting. But will it be free and fair? Well, this launch is FREE – can't get fairer than that!

Sunday 21st July: 10.30am (90 mins)

Tickets: Free (but you must still book)



HOTBED 2024 FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

All performances take place at Cambridge Junction

Friday 19th July

6.45pm	Limited Lady	J3
8:00pm	Albatross	J2
9.30pm	Frankenstein (On a Budget)	J3

Saturday 20th July

11:00am	The Goat and Me	J3
12.00pm	Albatross	J2
1.45pm	Panel - What Role Can Theatre Play in the Climate Crisis?	Mezzanine
3.00pm	Justine Stops Oil	J3
4.15pm	Gather Your Party Before Venturing Forth	J2
5.15pm	Clementine	J3
6.30pm	Toy (S)Tories	J3
8.00pm	Phoenix, Dodo, Butterfly	J2
9.30pm	ICE Monologues: 7x7	J3

Sunday 21st July

10.30am	Workshop - The Trials of Democracy: Who Gives a XXXX?	Boardroom
11.00am	The Goat and Me	J3
12.15pm	ICE Monologues: 7x7	J3
1.30pm	The Writing of Stones	J2
3.00pm	Traffic Jam	J2
4.45pm	The Lodger	J3
6.15pm	You Forget Yourself	J2
7.30pm	Forgotten in the Land of Egypt	J3
9.00pm	Totally Fine	J2

Booking Information and tickets: www.junction.co.uk

HOW TO BOOK:

TICKETS

All individual tickets are priced in ranges to suit your budget as **Pay What You Feel (PWYF)**. Some events are free - but please still book a ticket!

All individual or day pass ticket prices include a booking fee.

Day Passes:

Will get you into every performance, event or workshop on that day:

Friday 19th: £22/£18

Saturday 20th: £44/£38

Sunday 21st: £40/£34

BOX OFFICE

Cambridge Junction,
Clifton Way,
Cambridge CB1 7GX
01223 511 511



Ticket Sales:

online: www.junction.co.uk/festivals/hotbed/
or tickets@junction.co.uk

Full information regarding age guidance, content warnings, and access can be found on Cambridge Junction website upon booking.

Hotbed Festival is produced by Menagerie Theatre Company in association with Cambridge Junction. Menagerie is one of the leading national and international theatre companies producing new writing.

www.menagerie.uk.com

Supported by:



Garrick
Charitable
Trust



ROMANIAN
CULTURAL
INSTITUTE



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

Idlewild Trust

**CAMBRIDGE
JUNCTION**

HOTBED THEATRE FESTIVAL 2024