

BE JUST AND FEAR NOT
POCKETS THEATRE
26.08.16

CAFÉ LUX

PUDSEY

What do you stand for?

Where are you standing?

Whose shoulders do you stand on?

Do you stand,
 aside?

We vote. With our pencils.

With our pounds.

With our pennies.

With our feet.

This world of ours is made and remade by all
of us here.

We either change it, or we make it the same.

We stand for something, even when we think we
are sitting.

We aren't. We -

Stand.

When I asked whose shoulders you stand on did
you think I meant the giants of our histories
who lift us up, or the people we trample and
use as ladders?

I would say,

We all do both.

When we oppress, it is rarely a stampede.
Rarely a stampede of people pushing disposable
lives into the ground. No not a stampede. It
is more like a tap dance. Stamping people down
yes, but dancing all the while.

Music.

Song.

Life.

Rhythms of hate we don't even know are our
own.

Who do you stand for?

Do you watch the dance, or do you see through
it?

Do the rhythms wash over you or are you
listening?

Who do you stand with?

Be just. Fear not.

Do you stand?

Are you standing? How?

A tweet during the news is better than a tut
during the news but it is -

Not

Enough.

Make your stand, take action, do. Speak.
Protest. Write. Sing. Walk. Blog. Chat. Serve
soup. Serve words. Serve glitter. Make them
understand.

And.

To make this show, we spent time interviewing people from the LGBTQ+* community in and around Pudsey. Some of the people we spoke to have lived here all their lives, some have moved away and haven't been back for years, some are new, and some are just passing through.

We wanted to offer a challenge to the town. A lot of people outside of the LGBTQ+ community think that the job is done. Same sex marriage arrived in 2013, the final hurdle. But if you are a part of the LGBTQ+ community, you will have noticed the rise in hate crime, talks of scrapping state protected rights, the rise of far right organisations launching attacks and campaigns against LGBTQ+ people. A third of young gay men think about, or try to, end their own lives. A quarter of homeless young people in the UK are LGBTQ+. We wanted to share stories, because we all walk through the world differently, and it's through stories that we can find our common ground, learn about our differences, and decide what to do about it.

Nearly everybody we interviewed spoke unprompted about the shooting in Orlando. The situation in the states is shocking. There are some areas that the British Home Office advises LGBTQ+ people do not travel to. We can be refused business, hotel rooms, rent, emergency healthcare even. But Orlando brought

up long gone fears, and shook our communities to the core.

It also brought people together. People were ready to take a stand. There was a vigil in Leeds, alongside every other major city in the country. Gay pride flags flew at half-mast on the civic hall. Shamefully, major political players and media outlets scrambled to give the shooting a sense of meaning that erased the LGBTQ+ identities of the people murdered. They spoke of party goers, people having a good time, the right to have a night out.

But as a community, we saw through that. The resolve amongst LGBTQ+ people was strengthened. It's one of the reasons we decided to share the stories of our home town.

The LGBTQ+ rights movement is one of the most significant and wonderful parts of our British history. It didn't just happen in London, it happened here in Pudsey. Real people, with real lives, and real stories. So we want to celebrate that, honour that, challenge ourselves, and take a stand.

Samuel McKay

*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, +

Pockets Theatre is a community arts and theatre company growing out of Pudsey in West Yorkshire. We ask tricky questions, share untold stories, make noise & celebrate community.

Unpacking the world with pocket sized theatre.

Over the past year we have delivered a number of projects around Yorkshire. Here are a few of our favourites:

HE WORKSHOPS

Every Friday in spring 2016 we invited children from the home educated community to discover drama and theatre together. We made up stories, looked at history, created imaginary worlds and played lots of games.

SCRAPTASTIC ADVENTURE

In partnership with fairandfunky, and with funding from Kirklees IYSS, we took the children of Holmfirth on a holiday adventure, making sets and props out of recycled scrap, performing stories in space, the jungle and under the sea.

SCHOOLS CONFERENCES

Pockets regularly provides workshops at conferences for primary schools, thinking about environmental sustainability and Fairtrade.

FAIRTRADE FARMER DRAMA

Working with fairandfunky we offer workshops to primary schools that use drama and creativity to explore the benefits of Fairtrade, and our role in changing the world.

CAST

Mabeth Davies

Shelley Anne Horne

Gerica McMullen

Olivia Race

Rosie Watters

Written and directed by Samuel McKay

Produced by Samuel McKay & Olivia Race

POCKETS THEATRE 2016

FUNDERS

Mags

Frances

Kelli

Maggie

Franky

Cathy

Julia

Sam

Sofia

Mary-Kate

Paul

Zoe

Jane

Heidrun

Anonymous

We want to give an enormous thank you to everyone who donated to make this show possible.

We also thank Café Lux and Love Pudsey for allowing us to use their community hall as a rehearsal space and this wonderful café as our performance venue.

When I asked whose shoulders you stand on did you think I meant the giants of our histories who lift us up, or the people we trample and use as ladders?

Because we are all both.

We are trampled, but we are giants.

We are lifted, and we lift.

When we hope
It is not lost.

It is hope that has changed our world, because hope makes you stand.