

**A ten week
season of
new plays
at The Alma
Tavern Theatre**



Writing in the Margins



www.almataverntheatre.co.uk

0117 946 7899

Tickets £8 / £6 concessions

8.30pm Tues - Sat

16 Sept - 22 Nov 2008



LOTTERY FUNDED



ALMA TAVERN & THEATRE

The Alma tavern & theatre remains the very last pub theatre in Bristol. No pre-laid tables here - drinkers, diners & theatre goers all mingle with a natural ease.

The food menu changes on monthly basis with a weekly changing specials menu.

- Weekend Breakfasts from 10am
- Menu using locally sourced produce
- Frequently changing real ales
- Wi-Fi internet access
- Several wines by the glass
- Sun trap beer garden

Sample main courses:

West Country ham, eggs & chips	£7.50
Fresh tagliatelli, lemon cream, parsley & parmesan (v)	£6.50
8 oz ribeye steak, chunky chips, corn on cob, watercress, roasted cherry tomatoes, caramelised onion, garlic & thyme butter	£11.95
Ploughmans - crusty bread, pickles, coleslaw, celery & a wedge of Cheese, choose from Somerset cheddar, Cornish yarg or Dorset Blue (v)	£6.95
The Portarella burger - char-grilled portobello mushroom, buffalo mozzarella, rocket, tomato & pesto (v)	£6.95
Char-grilled lamb & vegetable skewers rosemary & garlic marinade, Mediterranean cous cous salad & citrus yoghurt	£9.75

Book your theatre tickets on-line and receive 15% discount on your main course



Welcome to Theatre West's Autumn Season at The Alma Tavern Theatre. This year all our writers were given the theme of 'Writing in the Margins'. From this common starting point our writers went off in many different directions - over ten weeks we journey from Ancient Greece to Iraq, via the shadowy world of espionage and the isolated community of The Exclusive Plymouth Brethren. And the characters we meet along the way are no less diverse - from a sexy blonde sipping champagne to a shambolic magician preparing for one final, staggering trick. We meet grieving lovers, desperate mothers, hunted writers, karaoke singers and one very scary Russian - all with their own, unique story.

So head along to The Alma this autumn to catch some of the most exciting new writing in the south west.

All of our productions start at 8.30 and are around an hour long, so there's plenty of time for a drink or meal. And remember when you book your tickets online you'll receive 15% discount on your main course. We look forward to seeing you there.

16 - 27 September

'Men are mere mortals who are not worth going to your grave for...'

BondGirls

A new play by Tim Massey
Directed by Shane Morgan

A blonde, a brunette and a Russian rendezvous in an exclusive nightclub, but it's no upmarket girls' night out as the club is a mink-lined prison.

The women take a view to a kill on learning that the spy who loved them was not for their eyes only, but will a latecomer bring a quantum of solace..?

30 September - 11 October

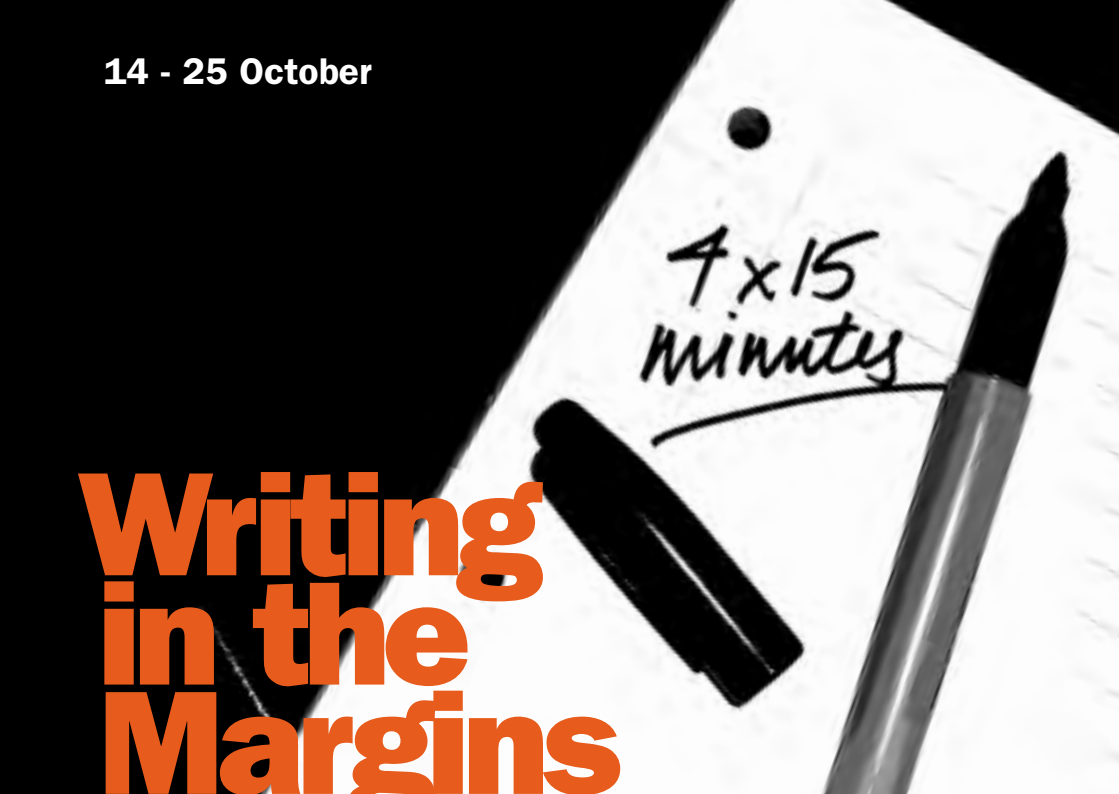
Shut Up

A new play by Shiona Morton
Directed by Caroline Hunt

Some people keep themselves apart.
For most it's a choice.
Seventeen years ago Beth left the Exclusive Brethren and with it, all contact with her family.
It's been a long silence.
Now her father stands at the door.
Should she let the past come in?
What does it sound like?
What damage can it do?

14 - 25 October

Writing in the Margins



4 x 15
minutes

***marginalise:** to treat someone or something as if they are not important*

For several months Theatre West have been working on writing projects with three local theatre companies who each have a focus on different groups of people whose voices are seldom heard in the theatre. Stepping Out works with people who have used mental health services and their allies, Boil and Bubble with older people and Chrysalis with users of drug, alcohol and HIV services.

Writing workshops, mentoring and readings resulted in over 30 fifteen minute scripts being submitted - mostly from first time writers. From this crop of inspiring, original work we present four new and very different plays, all performed each evening.

A joint production with Stepping Out Theatre Company and Boil and Bubble Theatre Company



Supported by



Loose Connections

A new play by Helen Bradbury
Directed by Pameli Benham

It's early morning in a park and Jason enlists the help of Marion in getting to grips with King Lear. But are they really the strangers to each other that they seem? And why does Marion go along with his increasingly bizarre demands?

Karaoke for One

A new play by Jimmy Whiteaker
Directed by Amanda Horlock

Dave has had breakdown, but now he's pulling himself out of it. This poignant, very human story is told with the help of humour, singing, a variety of characters - and a vibrating toning-belt.

Bittern End

A new play by Elaine Eveleigh
Directed by Pameli Benham

A lake. A bench. Two old school friends meet after many years. As they look out over the water and back at their lives they realise that although time has wrought great changes, they still share a common bond.

One More Trick

A new play by Alex Boyt
Directed by Amanda Horlock

An attempt at freedom of expression through the forgotten art of the anarchic gesture clashes with common sense and common sensibilities - Freud was right, Civilisation is repression.

28 October - 8 November

Cave

A new play by Steve Hennesy
Directed by Andy Burden

In a remote cave on an island, the playwright Euripides is holed up, desperately trying to write. But time is running out. His plays no longer win prizes, his audiences are dwindling and his political enemies are closing in.

A war is raging outside, a terrible war crime has been committed in the name of Democracy, and the cult of Dionysus with its violent and bizarre sex rituals is growing stronger every day.

Inside, something terrifying is hiding in the darkness deeper inside the cave, and a pregnant follower of Dionysus has arrived who is about to blow Euripides' world apart.

11 - 22 November

Metal Remains

A new play by Natalie McGrath
Directed by Alison Comley

'A divide
widening
like a border
flattening out
expanding
chipping away
at what is delicate
precious.'

A soldier is posted to Iraq and her lover mourns her departure. A mother searches desperately for her son and a daughter becomes consumed by the beauty of the desert. Four women, all caught up in the crossfire search for personal liberation, understanding, hope and love. As unstoppable forces collide, brutality and tenderness meet.

'Sometimes a heart wants to keep things hidden for a little while.'

Play readings

Sunday 16 November (no set charge - pay what you like)

A chance to see the plays that narrowly missed being included in the season in a 'script in hand' performance. Actors will work on the script with a director for half a day, culminating in a public reading in the Alma Theatre.

6pm **Jellied Eels** by Jimmy Whiteaker

Adam and Kelly are mates - ordinary kids trying to make sense of a world that's not playing fair. As Adam draws cartoon characters and Kelly watches crap TV, around them kids they know are killing themselves. And all the while, at the periphery of it all, Shooter stands and waits.

8pm **The Distance** by Craig Norman

Outside the door, sinister forces are at work. Inside, the pressure is building. As Alex wraps food preparing for who knows what, Darby dreams of taking off to somewhere ... anywhere. And through it all their baby sleeps a fitful, restless sleep. A poignant story of love, passion and loss.

PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
Bond Girls	16 ^{Sep} 23	17 24	18 25	19 26	20 27
Shut Up	30 7	1 ^{Oct} 8	2 9	3 10	4 11
In The Margins	14 21	15 22	16 23	17 24	18 25
Cave	28 4	29 5	30 6	31 7	1 ^{Nov} 8
Metal Remains	11 18	12 19	13 20	14 21	15 22

All performances start at 8.30pm

Performances Tuesday - Saturday
No admission after the start of the performance.
All performances last approximately one hour with no interval.

Booking Information

24 hour booking online at www.almataverntheatre.co.uk by phone (answerphone) on 0117 946 7899 or on the night from the box office which is open one hour before the performance. Please note that uncollected tickets will be sold at 8.15pm.

Unfortunately we cannot accept payment by credit/ debit cards, but there is a cashpoint machine in the bar.

Tickets for all performances **£8 (£6 concessions)**

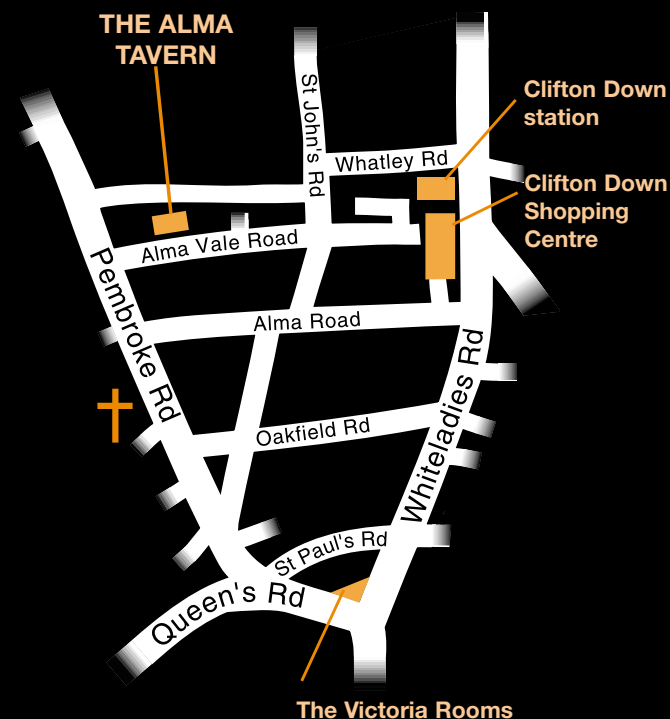
Play readings - **pay what you like**

We regret that the theatre is not fully accessible - please phone for details of disabled access.

How to find us

Buses

Buses 8/8A & 9/9A run regularly to Whiteladies Rd from Temple Meads station and the centre
First Travel: 0870 608 2 608 www.firstgroup.com



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