



# Theatre West at the Alma Tavern

One theme | Five plays | Six actors | Ten weeks



# inside OUT



Bristol's leading new writing company brings you five new plays performed by six actors over ten weeks at the Alma Tavern, Alma Vale Road, Clifton

[www.theatre-west.co.uk](http://www.theatre-west.co.uk)



# inside OUT

One theme  
Five plays  
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What do you get if you give the same brief to 40 different writers? We gave it a try earlier this year and the results, as we hope you'll find out, were incredibly diverse. Taking the theme 'Inside Out' as their starting point our writers went in many directions - from the future to the past, the solitary inner life to the complexities of relationships, from the darkness of kidnap and torture to the shiny brightness of rhinestone studded boots. It was a fantastic display of imagination and talent and the task of choosing nine of these ideas to develop into scripts was not an easy one. An even greater challenge was to come - selecting four of these to be included in our season, but we did it and we're delighted with the result. Along with 'The Voice that Keeps Silent' which was commissioned from David Carter and is another co-production with Chrysalis Theatre, these four plays make up a season full of contrast and bursting with ideas.



Artistic Directors Alison Comley and Ann Stiddard

Photo: Ian Wilmot



As a bonus we're also presenting rehearsed readings of the five shortlisted scripts that didn't make it into the season - come along to see the ones that got away! Further details can be found towards the back of the brochure.

We've taken our inspiration for another innovation this year from looking backwards rather than forwards. For the first time we've formed our own small repertory company - those of you who thought the days of 'rep' had long gone, think again! Six actors will between them perform all five plays - quite a challenge as they'll be rehearsing one play in the day while performing another in the evening! Sounds exhausting for the actors, but fascinating to see how one person will tackle several very different roles.

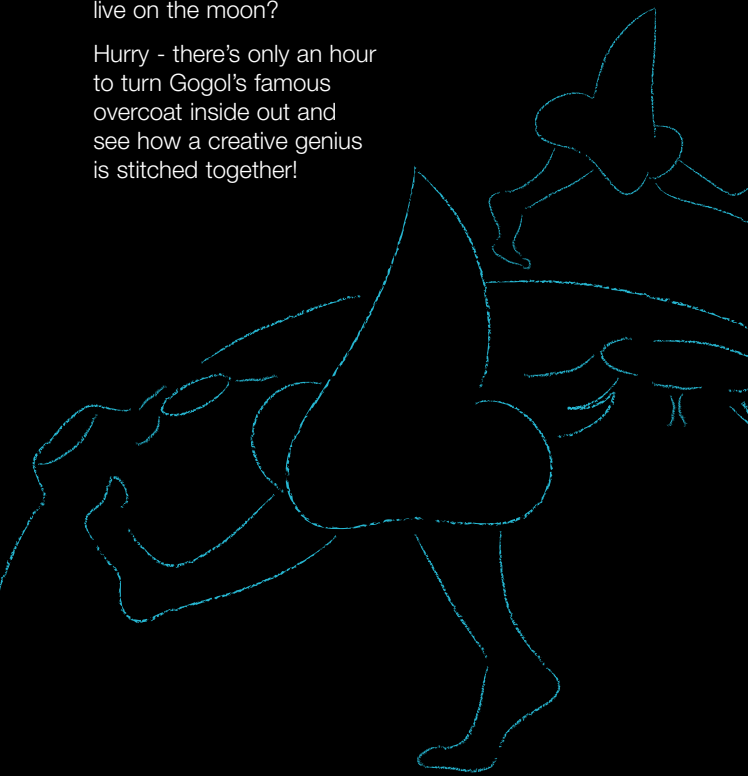
So head along to to The Alma this autumn to catch some of the most exciting new writing in the south west. All of our productions start at 8.30 and are around an hour long, so there's plenty of time for a drink or meal. We look forward to seeing you there.

# The Inhabitants of the Moon are Noses

by Steve Hennessey

The great Russian writer Nikolai Gogol lived a life as fantastical as his fiction. And his mother was as bizarre a character as any he created. So, how would the 'Diary of a Madman' sound if it were an account of Gogol's own life? Where is the line between imagination and madness anyway? And do noses really live on the moon?

Hurry - there's only an hour to turn Gogol's famous overcoat inside out and see how a creative genius is stitched together!



19 - 30 Sept

# The Keith Ashton Experience

by Mark Breckon

*'So this is what you do.  
Travel from Battersea to Bristol  
purging the middle classes.'*

*'All classes.'*

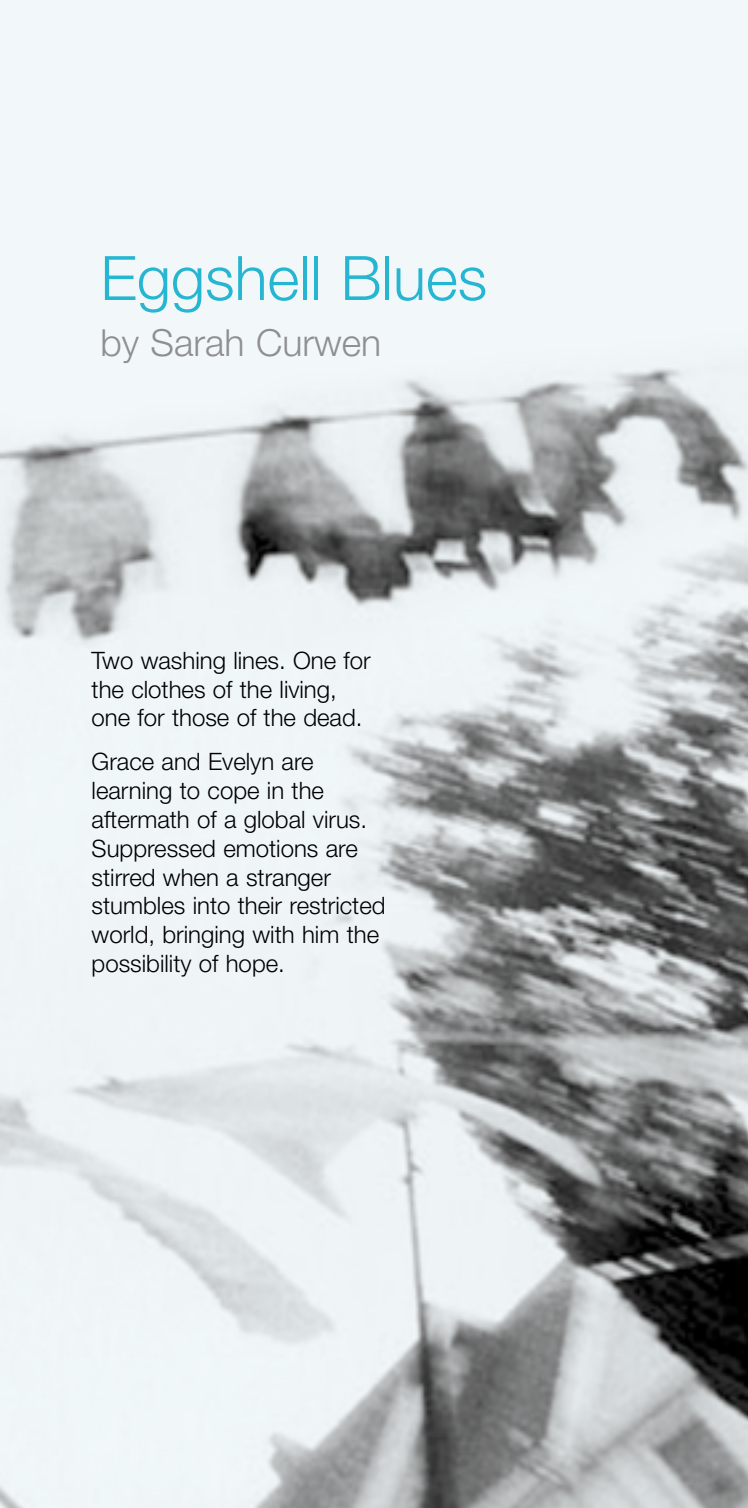
Keith Ashton is no ordinary guru. Banned in Battersea and currently subject to a court injunction, these nights at the Alma will be his last for sometime. But for 2 weeks only Keith invites you to experience the evening everyone is talking about.



3 - 14 Oct

# Eggshell Blues

by Sarah Curwen



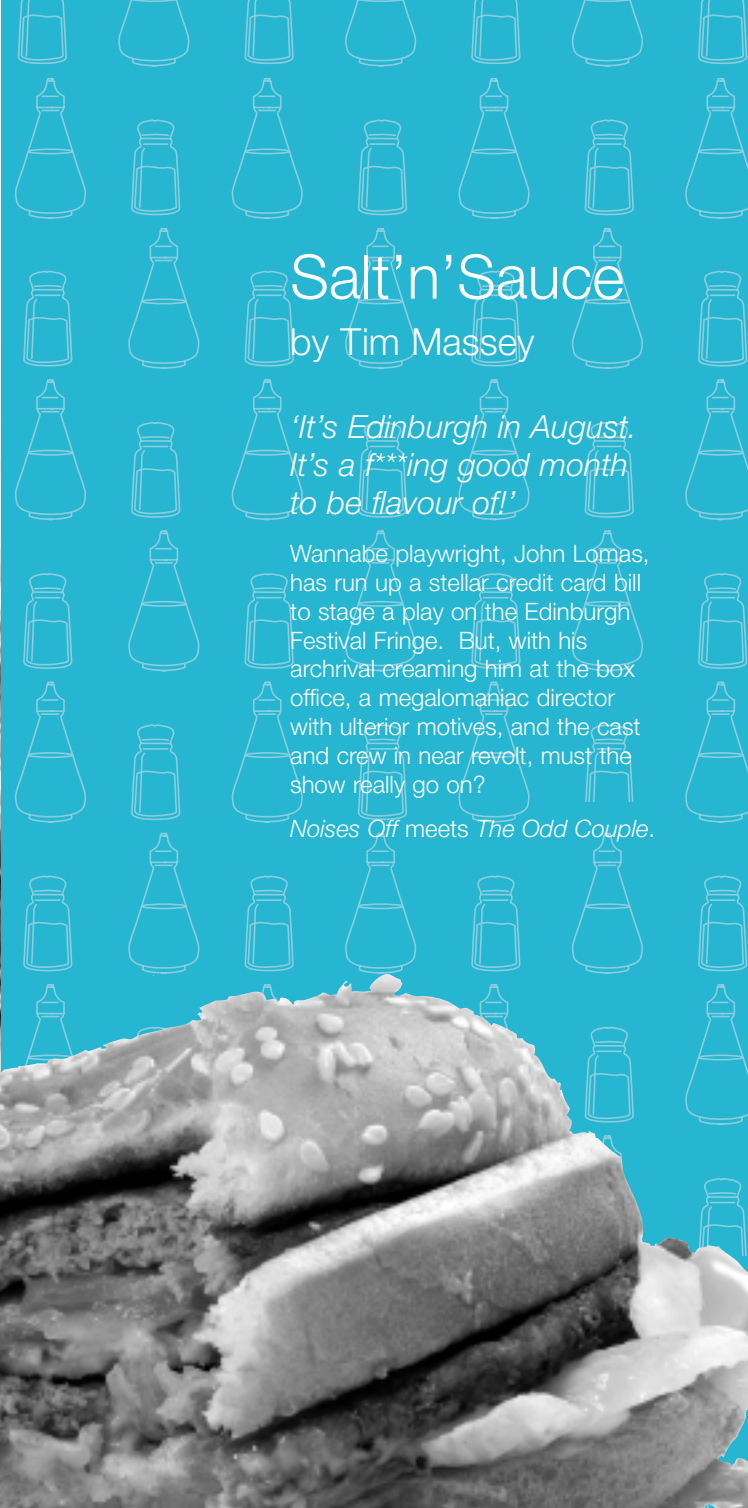
Two washing lines. One for the clothes of the living, one for those of the dead.

Grace and Evelyn are learning to cope in the aftermath of a global virus. Suppressed emotions are stirred when a stranger stumbles into their restricted world, bringing with him the possibility of hope.

17 - 28 Oct

# Salt'n'Sauce

by Tim Massey



*'It's Edinburgh in August. It's a f\*\*\*ing good month to be flavour of!'*

Wannabe playwright, John Lomas, has run up a stellar credit card bill to stage a play on the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. But, with his archival-creaming him at the box office, a megalomaniac director with ulterior motives, and the cast and crew in near revolt, must the show really go on?

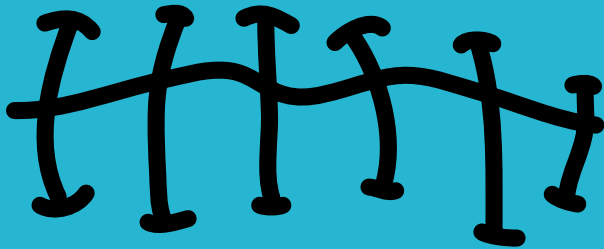
*Noises Off meets The Odd Couple.*

31 Oct - 11 Nov



# The Voice that Keeps Silent

by David Carter



**I** is obsessed with his health. **you** feels the medical establishment has let them down. **other** makes it up as she goes along.

Within the refuge of memory the present is no longer a gift, good lines are expensive and normal is what other people are.

The silence is over.

Let the spiral spin.

This is a co-production with  
Chrysalis Theatre Company



14 - 25 Nov

# inside OUT play readings

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. No fixed price but please put a donation into the bucket.

## Saturday 18th November

5pm **Squat** by Mark Shand

A long time ago three little girls used to play a game. Now they've grown up and grown apart - their lives have taken very different directions. When successful Lucy tracks down Mary and Jen in their squat, their childhood suddenly doesn't seem so far away.

## Sunday 19th November

5pm **Cowboys & Campers** by Shiona Morton

Outdoor girl Wilma and line-dancing Bill have absolutely nothing in common. Oh, except country music. Can Dolly and Kenny weave their magic lovin' spell. Will Wilma see the beauty in Bill's fringed cuban heels and can Bill bear to wear Wilma's woolly walking socks?

7pm **Death in the Garden** by Julian Armitstead

A garden. A writer looks on; auteur/voyeur of his own thoughts. A woman. An apple drops down, as it were, from the sky. And then a serpent. The writer takes the serpent and turns it, as if by magic into its contemporary equivalent: a gun....

## Monday 20th November

7pm **Falling Angel** by Caspar Walsh

Frank likes to run. From everything. Friends, family, love, the lot. He did a good job for a while but Frank's out of excuses. He ain't running away from this one, not with that many broken bones. Life has plans for Frank and Frank will listen.

9pm **Touch** by Steve Lambert

A young woman who falls victim to a predatory couple finds herself in a place of absolute darkness. Yet this isn't a story of good exposed to evil, but what happens when evil is exposed to good.

18, 19 & 20 Nov £pay what you like

# inside OUT

## PERFORMANCE DIARY

	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
The Inhabitants of the Moon...	19 <sup>Sep</sup> 20	21	22	23	24
The Keith Ashton Experience	3 <sup>Oct</sup> 4	5	6	7	8
Eggshell Blues	17 18	19	20	21	22
Salt'n'Sauce	31 7	1 <sup>Nov</sup> 8	2 9	3 10	4 11
The Voice that Keeps Silent	14 21	15 22	16 23	17 24	18 25

### All performances start at 8.30pm

(for times of play readings, see previous page)

#### Performance Times

8.30pm Tuesday - Saturday

No admission after the start of the performance.

All performances last approximately one hour with no interval.

#### Booking Information

**(Booking line open from 10th September)**

Tickets can be booked via the booking line answerphone

up to 24 hours prior to the performance

(0117 946 7899) or are available on the day from the Alma

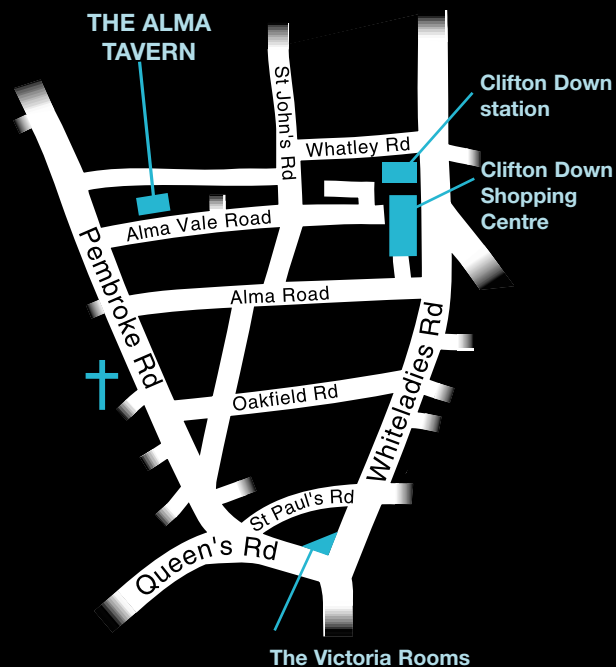
one hour before the performance. Please note that we cannot

accept payment by credit/debit cards.

We regret that the theatre space 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

Tel. First Travel 0845 602 0156