

POST SHOW EVENT

Meet The Creative Team Thursday 9 November (after 7.30pm show)

The writer, director and cast discuss bringing Joana's story to the stage and issues raised in the play with representatives of charities that work with refugees in the region including Julian Prior, Chief Executive of Action Foundation and Dr. Mohamed Nasreldin, Director of North of England Refugee Service. The talk will be recorded and available to listen again on Live Theatre's website.

Free with a ticket for that evening's show.

THANKS

Action Foundation is an award-winning charity based in Newcastle upon Tyne providing support to disadvantaged refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants across Tyne and Wear.

<https://actionfoundation.org.uk/>

The North of England Refugee Service is an independent and charitable organisation which exists to meet the needs and represent the interests of asylum seekers and refugees who have arrived or have settled in the North East of England.

<http://www.refugee.org.uk/>

Freedom City 2017

From The Sky To Your Hands forms part of Freedom City 2017, a cultural programme of events across Newcastle and Gateshead marking the 50th anniversary of Dr Martin Luther King Jr receiving an honorary degree from Newcastle University.

www.freedomcity2017.com

Thanks also to Sophie Atkinson for transcription.



THE TERMINAL VELOCITY OF SNOWFLAKES

Written by **Nina Berry**
Directed by **Graeme Thompson**
Designed by **Luke W. Robson**

WEDNESDAY 22 NOVEMBER - SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER 2017

live theatre

"An exquisite, adorable, debut."
★★★★★
The Guardian

#Snowflakes
Tickets: £10-£18, concs from £6

What did you think?

We would love to hear what you thought of the show. Fill out a feedback card after the show, email feedback@live.org.uk, or join in the conversation online @LiveTheatre #SkyToYourHands #FreedomCity2017

Follow Live Theatre on:



Live Theatre, Broad Chare, Quayside, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 3DQ
Live Theatre is operated by North East Theatre Trust Limited, Charity No 513771

Box office: (0191) 232 1232
www.live.org.uk



live theatre

WEDNESDAY 8 - SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2017

World Premiere. A Live Theatre Production

FROM THE SKY TO YOUR HANDS

Told by **Joana Geronimo**
Written by **Juliana Mensah**
Directed by **Paul James**

A Word from the Director, Paul James

From The Sky To Your Hands is an exciting piece of verbatim theatre which charts the journey of Joana Geronimo and her baby son, Osvaldo, arriving to Newcastle from Angola as refugees in 2003. I first talked to Joana about the possibility of doing the show in November 2016 and after an extensive period of interviews, Juliana Mensah, the writer, was able to shape the material in to a script.

In 2008 I worked with Joana on another verbatim piece called *From Home To Newcastle* which involved a group of young asylum seekers working alongside some young people from the region. The stories that came out of this show were fascinating but we were only able to touch on Joana's experiences. We decided to re-visit her story in the context of the 50th anniversary of

Martin Luther King receiving an honorary doctorate from Newcastle University, and the Freedom City Festival to mark this. We were interested in delving deeper in to Joana's story and contrasting it with Osvaldo's experiences of growing up in Newcastle as a sixteen year old.

From The Sky To Your Hands includes a talented and diverse group of young people who supports the telling of Joana's story as the Chorus. They have been challenged emotionally and intellectually and have responded with great maturity to the material presented in the piece. For me, theatre, among other things, is about challenging prevailing orthodoxies and this show certainly does that.

It has been a privilege working with Joana on this piece and seeing her develop from a Youth Theatre member to a drama facilitator and actress. This is the kind of journey that we are proud of at Live Theatre and why we continue to invest in the personal and social development of the young people involved in our Children and Young Peoples Programme.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Joana for her bravery and willingness to share her compelling story with a North East audience. I appreciate that it must have been difficult re-living some challenging and painful memories.

Paul James
Director of *From The Sky To Your Hands*
Senior Creative Associate
Children and Young People, Live Theatre

#SkyToYourHands #FreedomCity2017

FROM THE SKY TO YOUR HANDS

CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

Performed by **Joana Geronimo, Finn Armstrong, Isobel Donkin, Osvaldo Geronimo, Elizabeth Guariento, Dawn Hardcastle, Wambui Hardcastle, Ore Olajide** and **Kalem Patterson**

Creative and Production Team

Told by **Joana Geronimo**
Writer **Juliana Mensah**
Director **Paul James**
Assistant Director **Michael Lockhart**
Designer **Alison Ashton**
Musical Director **Mariam Rezaei**
Lighting Designer **Nick Rogerson**
Sound Designer **Craig Spence**
Creative Producer **Graeme Thompson**
Dramaturgy **Gez Casey**
Production Manager **Craig Davison**
Stage Manager **Chloe Ribbens**
Costume Supervisor **Lou Duffy**

Told by Joana Geronimo

Joana Geronimo is an actor who was a member of Live Theatre's Youth Theatre for many years before becoming a Freelancer Drama Facilitator. In 2013 Joana embraced the opportunity to work with Open Clasp Theatre Company in the production *The Space Between Us*. Now, with this production, Joana hopes to touch the audience's heart by sharing her personal story.

Juliana Mensah - Writer

Juliana Mensah is a writer based in the North of England. In 2016 Juliana received a Northern Writers' Award from New Writing North and the Arvon Foundation. She is an associate at the Centre for Applied Human Rights at the University of York, where she was its first Leverhulme Artist in Residence in 2013 and 2014.

Juliana's work in theatre has had a focus on human rights narratives and the testimonies of survivors. Productions have included *A Restless Place* (Pilot Theatre) and *Crow on the Cradle* (Riding Lights Theatre).

Paul James - Director

Director Paul James is the Senior Creative Associate (Children and Young People's Programme) at Live Theatre. He established the multi award-winning Education & Participation Department at Live Theatre in 1998 and has directed and produced numerous projects. Paul has worked with many writers associated with Live Theatre including Lee Hall, Tom Hadaway, Michael Chaplin, Julia Darling and Paddy Campbell. He has also directed two productions for Monster Productions that went on national tours. Prior to this Paul worked as an actor for a variety of theatre companies including the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, Bristol Old Vic, Talawa, Northern Stage, Mercury Theatre, Colchester, Liverpool Everyman, Northumberland Theatre Company, Live Theatre and various community theatre companies.

Michael Lockhart - Assistant Director

Michael Lockhart started his acting career when he was 16 at Live's Youth Theatre. Since then he has gained a degree in acting and works as a professional actor in and around the North East. He has also set up his own company working with young people. Michael is excited to be working with Paul James again on such an inspiring show.

Alison Ashton - Designer

Alison gained a 1st class degree in theatre design and has since designed a wide range of productions for numerous theatre companies throughout the country. After learning her trade at the Birmingham Rep, RSC, Young Vic and Half Moon, London she was Associate Designer at the Royal Theatre Northampton where one of her favourite designs was for the lavish restoration comedy *The Way of the World*. Since moving to Newcastle she has designed for Open Clasp Theatre Company and Theatre sans Frontiers. Alison most recently designed *Harriet Martineau Dreams of Dancing*, *The Savage* and *Turning Pages* at Live Theatre.

Mariam Rezaei - Musical Director

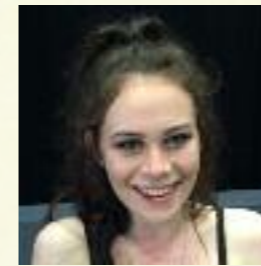
Mariam Rezaei is a multi-award winning composer, Director of The Old Police House, TOPH Collective and Composer in Residence at The Lit and Phil. She has just returned from performing at Glastonbury and is currently working on Daniel Bye's *Instructions for A Border Crossing*, David Almond's *A Song for Ella Grey* for Northern Stage and *Petrichor* for Zende, whilst directing Bradford Scratch Orchestra and The Old Police House Collective on several live film scores performed around the UK.

CAST



Finn Armstrong

Finn Armstrong is Newcastle born and bred and is currently studying Performing Arts at Gateshead College. He's a veteran on stage at Live Theatre and has been an active member of the Live's Youth Theatre for seven years. Finn's previous roles include a role in CBBC's *The Dumping Ground*, the artful dodger in *Oliver!*, roles in music videos and most recently a lead role in Gateshead College's production of *Earthquakes* in London. Finn is excited to be a part of this production as the subject matter really interests him and he's looking forward to gaining experience in an unusual style of performance.



Isobel Donkin

Isobel Donkin is 17 years old and has been part of Live's Youth Theatre for around two years now. She has been involved in a few performances that have explored the idea of a chorus in the past so she is incredibly excited to be revisiting the role within a chorus. She is looking forward to working with a new talented group of individuals and producing an impactful piece of theatre presented as part of the Freedom City Festival.



Osvaldo Geronimo

Geronimo is a young actor who has been part of Live's Youth Theatre for four years and is very excited about taking part in *From the Sky to Your Hands*.



Elizabeth Guariento

Elizabeth Guariento is 12 years old and loves acting, singing, dancing, netball and squash. So far she has been in one Live Youth Theatre show. She is looking forward to the experience of being involved in *From The Sky to Your Hands* - not just like the primary school *Mary and Joseph* performances - as well as the chance to meet new and interesting people. She is also keen to learn more about the experience of being a stranger in a new country.



Dawn Hardcastle

Dawn Hardcastle has been a member of Live's Youth Theatre since she was 11. She has participated in many performances including 11 plus which was presented as part of Live's Youth Theatre Festival in 2015. She is excited to be involved in *From The Sky To Your Hands*.



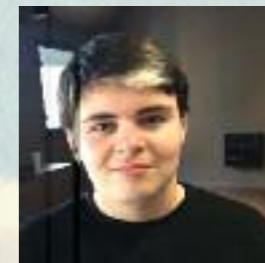
Wambui Hardcastle

Wambui Hardcastle is a young writer and actor. She has been part of Live's Youth Theatre for four years, and is also a member of Live Theatre's Gben! playwriting course. She can't wait to work on *From The Sky To Your Hands*, but moreover can't wait for audiences to come see it.



Ore Olajide

Ore, who began his involvement with Live Theatre via the Gben! playwriting course, is ecstatic to be joining *From The Sky To Your Hands* as it is his debut performance in a Live Theatre production. While a newcomer at Live Theatre, Ore has performed for and is a part of the National Youth Theatre, he has written and performed his own play *27* - based on the '27 Club' - and portrayed Banquo in *Macbeth*.



Kalem Patterson

Kalem Patterson has been a member of Live's Youth Theatre for three years. On two occasions he has taken part in the annual Youth Theatre Summer Festival and also played a lead role in Paddy Campbell's *Day of the Flymo*.

What he finds most interesting about *From The Sky To Your Hands* is how unique it is, he hasn't seen any other plays like this and as it was written by a new writer he is excited to see what he will be a part of.

HELP YOUNG ACTORS OF THE FUTURE

Your gift to Live Theatre can help provide mentorship, training and guidance for talented young artists like the cast of *From the Sky To Your Hands*.

Thanks to the support of donors like you, Live's Youth Theatre is completely free, and open to everyone.

Donate at Live Theatre's Box Office, online at www.live.org.uk/give-join or post your donation to Live Theatre, Broad Chare, Quayside, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 3DQ.