

# SBC Stand & Be Counted Theatre

In partnership, with



City of Sanctuary



THE WHITE  
RIBBON  
ALLIANCE  
HEALTHY MOTHERS  
HEALTHY WORLD

## 'TANJA' – Marketing and Audience Development

“A story with real emotive power that leaves one questioning our government’s policies towards asylum seekers... unquestionably great theatre.”

- Forge Today ★★★★★



Developed with:



CONTACT | W: [sbctheatre.co.uk](http://sbctheatre.co.uk) | T: @SBC\_Theatre | F: SBC Theatre | M: 07723401127

## **SYNOPSIS**

An impassioned call to arms, a play and a campaign: 'TANJA,' a new piece from SBC Theatre, is a dramatic exploration of immigration detention centres starring Emily Ntshangase-Wood, a former Yarl's Wood detainee.

Central to this play are the lived experiences of asylum seekers and refugees across the world. 'TANJA' (the pseudonym used in the British press in reference to asylum seekers speaking out against abuses within the system) takes audiences inside an immigration detention centre whilst examining and challenging the UK's position in the 'Refugee Crisis.'

## **TOUR DATES NOVEMBER 2017**

**Carriageworks, Leeds** – Tuesday 7, Wednesday 8

**Theatre in the Mill, Bradford** – Friday 10 November

**MAC, Birmingham** – Monday 13

**Unity, Liverpool** – Tuesday 14

**Camden People's Theatre, London** – Wednesday 15, Thursday 16, Friday 17, Saturday 18

**York Theatre Royal** – Thursday 23

## **PREVIOUS TOUR DATES 2016/2017**

**The Lowry, Salford** – Friday 16 & Saturday 17 September 2016

**Cast, Doncaster** – Wednesday 21 September

**Town Hall, Skipton** – Thursday 22 September

**Crucible Studio, Sheffield** – Thursday 29 September

**Square Chapel, Halifax** – Friday 30 September

**Camden People's Theatre, London** – Tuesday 11, Wednesday 12 & Thursday 13 October

**ARC, Stockton** – Thursday 20 October

**Pulse Festival, New Wolsey Ipswich** – Sunday 4 June 2017

**Migration Matters Festival, Sheffield** – Friday 23 June

## **VIDEOS/IMAGES**

**FULL VIDEO** | <https://vimeo.com/191376986/df06c9cdf9>

**TRAILER** | <https://vimeo.com/191398375>

**TEASER** | <https://vimeo.com/176805247>

**IMAGES** | <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B8eSq3TfDLaOXBIOvpKQWwtM1E>

## **CITY OF SANCTUARY**

Seeking asylum is a human right yet asylum seekers in the UK face detention at any time, despite committing no crime whatsoever. Detention has no time limit and is not automatically subject to judicial review. Many endure months and some endure years of indefinite detention. This harmful and expensive practice is unnecessary and deprives people of their freedom, their dignity and is damaging to their mental health. The City of Sanctuary welcomes plays that highlight this important issue and will work with SBC Theatre to help raise awareness of detention. – *Rose McCarthy, City of Sanctuary's National Streams Co-ordinator.*

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“Brutal and unforgettable... politically, this piece is doing something remarkable”

-The British Theatre Guide

### **REVIEWS OF 'TANJA'**

The Reviews Hub 4.5 STARS ★★★★★'s - <http://www.thereviewshub.com/pulse-festival-tanja-new-wolsey-theatre-studio-ipswich/>

Female Arts 4 STARS ★★★★★'s - <http://femalearts.com/node/2675>

Forge Press 4 STARS ★★★★★'s - <http://forgetoday.com/press/76672-2/>

### **PRESS FEATURES – 'TANJA'**

BBC Radio Sheffield features SBC Theatre and City of Sanctuary:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p056j0v7>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p056k5lw>

Big Issue blogs from the company in the lead up to the sharing at The Houses of Parliament:

<http://www.bigissuenorth.com/centre-stage/2016/09/blog-emily-ntshangase-wood/>

<http://www.bigissuenorth.com/2015/11/blog-john-tomlinson/15698>

<http://www.bigissuenorth.com/2015/12/blog-rosie-macpherson/16287>

Emily Ntshangase-Wood singing at Glastonbury (Park Stage) with Michael Eavis and White Ribbon Alliance - <https://youtu.be/kDncIWtLEkQ>

Bedfordshire on Sunday interview and feature

<http://po.st/345FhP>

### **VENUE/PARTNERS FEEDBACK**

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'The show brought a very live topic to audiences in Stockton, and the retention of 95% of the sold-out audience for the post show talk demonstrated not only the positive response to the show itself, but also that people in the room felt what it was saying was important. It highlighted something that mattered to people, and provided not only a voice for 'TANJA', but a platform for discussion and debate. It is a show that can and will genuinely change people's perception of asylum seekers, something we desperately need to do - especially in place such as Stockton where so much is misunderstood.'

– **Annabel Turpin, Chief Executive, ARC Stockton**

'It was great to see the portrayal of a real life story so common in its context but one that only exist at the margins of our day to day consciousness. It serves to remind us that theatre can address uncomfortable realities that society seems unable to face up to. Cast was really proud to host a theatre company of sanctuary - and an associate company at that - and help to bring these hidden stories to light.'

– **Clare Clarkson, Deputy Director, Cast Doncaster**

'We at CPT were delighted to have Tanja as part of our autumn programme. It's a passionate, political and humane piece of theatre, the campaigning nature of which never eclipses the play's human dimension (nor indeed its lightness of touch). I was very impressed by it: it raised awareness, and combined substance with playfulness & formal adventure in just the way we like here at CPT. It was a big hit with our audiences, too. We'd be very interested to welcome 'TANJA' back to our theatre, and indeed to work with the company again.'

– **Brian Logan, Artistic Director, Camden People's Theatre**

'Square Chapel were honoured to present 'TANJA' as part of our 'Other Rooms' programme (a series of pop-up cinema and theatre experience in other, non-traditional performance spaces all over Halifax). It helped us to establish a wonderful partnership with St. Augustine's Centre and gave the perfect platform for the launch of Calderdale as a Valley of Sanctuary, which we are extremely proud to support. SBC Theatre were a brilliant company to work with; the piece resonated with audiences both new and existing and sparked an ongoing conversation for Calderdale.'

– **Alison Ford, Development Manager, Square Chapel Halifax**

'St. Augustine's Centre were delighted to be involved in the production of 'TANJA' in Halifax, and used it as a springboard to launch Calderdale Valley of Sanctuary. Many people were incredibly moved by the performance, including Centre Users from St. Augustine's who have been in Yarl's Wood, and this has motivated them to engage in both St. Augustine's and Valley of Sanctuary. We are immensely grateful to all involved, and are very much looking forward to working together again in the future.'

– **Vicky Ledwidge, Manager, St Augustine's Centre Halifax**

'I love the passion, drive, commitment from SBC. It is great to see the efforts they have made to raise awareness about refugee issues, the value they have placed on including a refugee in the performance and the positive impact she has had on the theatre company. I wish them every success with all of their projects, beyond the tour of 'TANJA' and hope that they continue to produce plays around the issues asylum seekers and refugees have to face in the future.'

– **Rose McCarthy, City of Sanctuary National Co-Ordinator**