



ARDENT
THEATRE COMPANY

ARDENT THEATRE COMPANY PRESENT

RETHINK

A NEW PIECE OF WORK CREATED BY ARDENT8 ENSEMBLE IN COLLABORATION WITH ANDREW MUIR

TUE 26 - SAT 30 OCT

UNION THEATRE www.uniontheatre.biz

A simple poster ad featuring an image of a ballet dancer putting on pointe shoes alongside copy that reads, 'Fatima's next job could be in cyber. (She just doesn't know it yet)'. It signs off with the government QA Retraining Programme's slogan: 'Rethink. Reskill. Reboot.'

The ad went viral but the questions that seemed to have no answer were: when did it originally go live, and which government department issued it?

The Culture Secretary distanced himself from the campaign, labelling it as 'crass', Boris Johnson commented that the piece of content was not appropriate and pulled it. But to pull something it needs to be there in the first place. And it was. For all to see. Including those young people who had trained for years in a discipline that was dear to them.

The campaign was cruel, insensitive, and full of the sort of contempt that continues to question the role of education within the arts.

RETHINK

Graduation is a day full of celebration and joy. The cloaks, the hats, the bubbles and the dreams all laid bare for the world to see. In July 2020, that class of graduating students had little to celebrate. There were no cloaks, no hats, possibly a bubble but whatever dreams there were, they were soon cut short when the world shut down.

RETHINK is a play about the aftermath of that sunny July in 2020, when six graduates from a performing arts course on the South Coast of England, are encouraged to think again, in the wake of theatre closures and lack of opportunity. What choice do they have? According to a Government-backed advertising campaign their next job could be in cyber, they just don't know it yet.

So, there's the choice. It's as easy as that. Isn't it?



Hugo Lucas Rowe



Georgia Bates



Georgina Pacifico



Vincenzo Viola



Jack Dunford



Chloe Brown



Gabrielle Holloway



Sam Jenkinson



CREATIVES

Director	Andrew Muir
Producer	Mark Sands
Stage Manager	Chloe Brown
Lighting Designer	Matthew Swithinbank www.luxlx.co.uk
Movement	Elizabeth Hill
Original music and lyrics	Gabrielle Holloway
Sound Effects	Hugo Lucas Rowe
Press	Nancy Poole PR
Poster Design	Sean Longmore
Rehearsal Photos	Jimmy Lee
Production Photos	Mark Douet

CAST

Georgia Bates	Georgina Pacifico
Jack Dunford	Hugo Lucas Rowe
Gabrielle Holloway	Vincenzo Viola
Sam Jenkinson	

THANKS TO:

Sasha Regan and everyone at the Union Theatre, the Lighthouse in Poole for supporting 2 days R&D through their Sanctuary programme, Theatre Deli, Tramshed.

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ABOUT ARDENT THEATRE COMPANY

Our Vision

Theatre is a place where no one feels like an outsider.

Our Mission

- We achieve this vision through the stories we choose to tell, the people we employ to tell them and the audience we engage to experience them.
- We are committed to producing theatre that speaks about the world we live in; both newly commissioned writing and established text with a contemporary relevance.
- Our work enables us to have a voice within the mainstream theatre scene or engages audiences on a grassroots, national level.
- As a result of our artistic development programme and casting policy we support early career theatre-makers from outside London.
- We work with non-theatre organisations that share similar ambitions to take a sector-wide approach to giving voice to those who struggle to be heard.
- We ensure our work is affordable through low ticket prices, concessions and, moving forward, by offering a 'pay what you can' option.

Our Vision

- We believe theatre should be for everyone, irrespective of their background or economic circumstances.
- We believe artists deserve fair pay based on industry-recognised rates.
- We believe theatre can be a vehicle for change, where we challenge or deepen our understanding of the world.
- We believe in bringing outsiders in.

BRINGING OUTSIDERS IN

Outsiders are people whose voices are unheard and whose stories are untold, people whose position in society is vulnerable and often invisible. This position of invisibility comes as a result of differing factors such as dis/ability, race and ethnicity, sexuality, gender, age, location, education and socio-economic deprivation. They share a common experience of feeling on the outside, looking in; a sense of exclusion, neglect and prejudice. It's feeling a lack of power and voice, when decisions are made for, rather than by or with, those on the outside.

The **ARDENT8** project aims to support emerging young actors from outside London who face barriers to pursuing their careers. Often, the most talented of actors will have given up before they've even realised their full potential because they are unable to access other cities that provide greater employment and development opportunities. The aim is to give them a taste of life as an actor in London to access opportunities within the industry they have otherwise found inaccessible, but which Ardent Theatre Company believe is no more than an equal opportunity. In doing so, they will develop their skills further in a professional context that also introduces them to key industry practitioners.

The programme consists of the following:

- 10 practical acting workshops led by industry professionals.
- 1-week professional performance at a London Theatre.
- Ongoing advice and mentoring.
- All travel, subsistence and accommodation costs paid covered.
- All performances treated as professional engagements paid at Equity minimum rates.



Creative Directors

Andrew Muir
Mark Sands

Trustees

Rebecca Hunt (Chair)
Saleem Fazal
Andrea Ortiz

Jacky Hilary
Thomas Mason

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