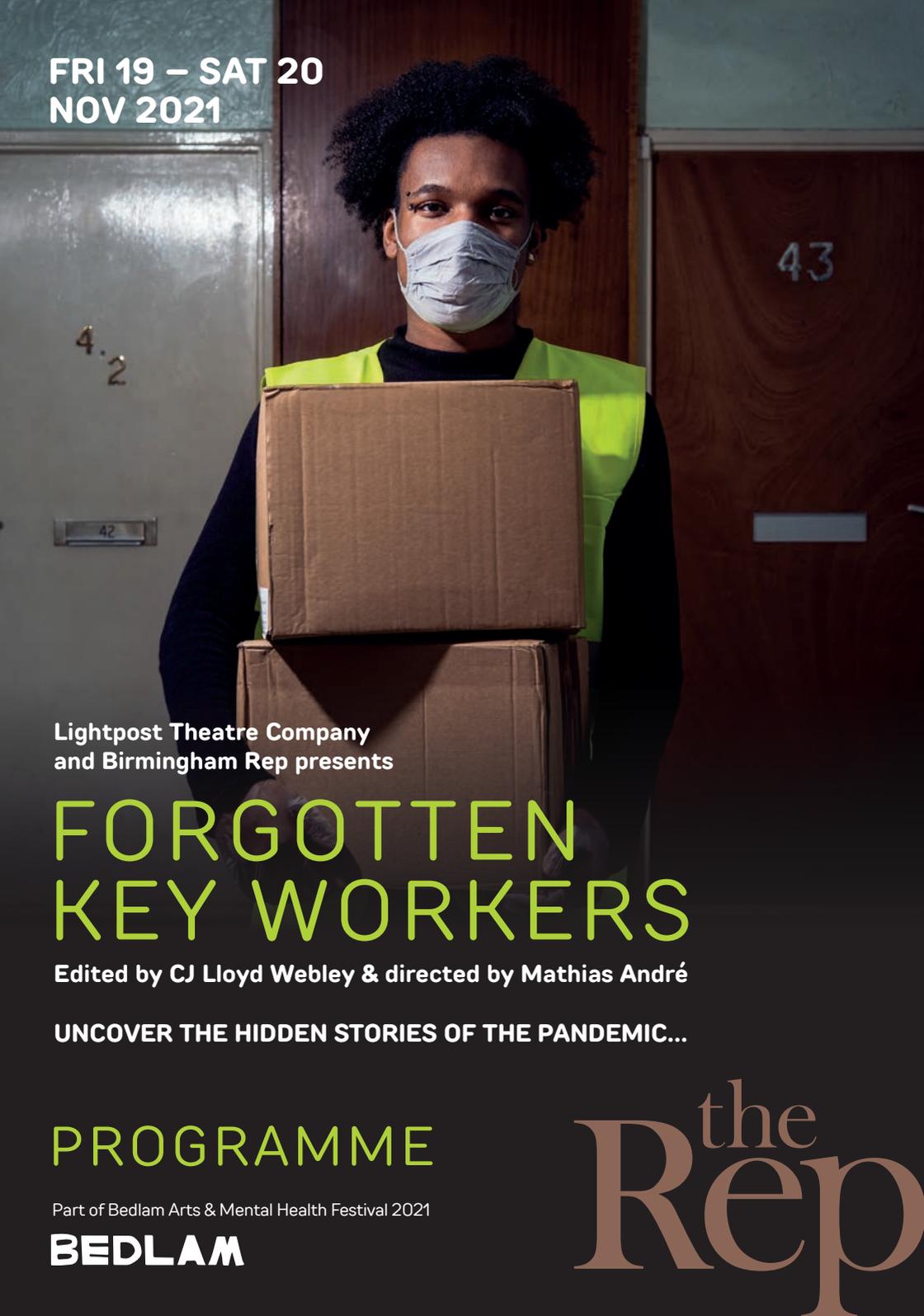


FRI 19 – SAT 20
NOV 2021



Lightpost Theatre Company
and Birmingham Rep presents

FORGOTTEN KEY WORKERS

Edited by CJ Lloyd Webley & directed by Mathias André

UNCOVER THE HIDDEN STORIES OF THE PANDEMIC...

PROGRAMME

Part of Bedlam Arts & Mental Health Festival 2021

BEDLAM

the
Rep



CJ Lloyd Webley – Editor & Producer

We're exploring the stories of those that continued working during the pandemic and throughout lockdown. We're focusing on delivery drivers, healthcare workers, taxi drivers, sports therapists and others who perhaps didn't get the recognition they deserved. Did they feel appreciated? How did working in these difficult times impact on their mental well-being? These are some of the topics that we will be exploring.

It's an exciting piece of experimental theatre which is completely different to anything that Lightpost Theatre Company has done prior. The piece draws from real life stories by utilising theatre's three-dimensional reality and verbatim techniques. I conducted interviews with friends, family and individuals from the community who work across various industries. Once I had their consent, I asked if they would be comfortable to conduct an interview with myself or a member of Lightpost. I documented the recordings and content that people wrote. Understandably, some individuals opted not to share their names. A few mentioned that it was out of fear that what they had said could be misconstrued, traced back to them and cause work related problems in the future.

The story of forgotten key workers is important now because we're in a society where often, people from racialised groups get overlooked the most. This rings even more true for those working lower paid jobs. I felt that there was a significant period during COVID-19 where society very much relied on those who's roles and experiences



were rarely acknowledged, particularly by the mainstream media.

People should see the play because it will be very enlightening. It's a chance to hear people from diverse communities whose voices are seldom heard publicly. It's a fascinating journey for audiences to embark on.

Mathias André – Director & Movement Director

I wanted to direct this show because it has an important message to communicate to the audience. It is also an opportunity to flex some creative flair with physical and immersive theatre.

As this is a verbatim piece of theatre, I wanted to use original audio from interviews we conducted within the community. We are using physical theatre as a stylised visual representation of what you will be hearing in the audio recordings. At times it is very clear what is being represented and on the other hand there are many moments of symbolism through abstract movements to convey the thoughts and ideas of the interviewees.

I want audiences to be exposed to and feel empathy for different industry key workers and their personal experiences. There were many roles within the research stage of this production that I had no idea were considered as key workers. I hope the audience feel informed and enlightened to what these people had to go through on the front lines as this was not heavily explored by mainstream media. We feel they have been overlooked.

CAST



Jerome Chambers



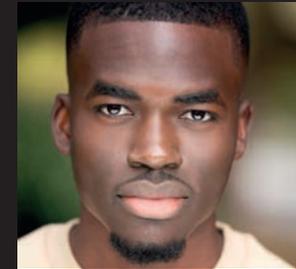
Janeel Shilo Brown



Yokio Walker



Brandon Hinds



Nathan Luwa



Jaidon Crawford



Lukan Smith



Cory McClane



Birmingham Repertory Theatre
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