

PARK
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Freesheet

Company Three in association with Park Theatre presents

This City

Created by Nuna Sandy
and Company Three

About

This City

Talking, listening, eating, belonging
- This City traces the city we live in
through the eyes of our teenagers.

Through the intertwining, autobiographical stories of eight teenagers shared journeys through London, this is a play about the importance of community, belonging, friendship and togetherness.

But the unpredictable, ever-changing seasons mean London can also feel isolating and unwelcoming. And for many, their ability to call it home is conditional, whether that's praying Rashford, Sancho and Saka score the penalty in the England semi-finals, not being stereotyped, or being scared to walk home alone.

Exploring growing up in a diverse city, This City showcases these young people's stories in a variety of forms.

Navigating this city is complex and the cast tell their stories authentically, courageously and with generosity.

Company Three returns to Park Theatre with This City, co-created by the company, and written and directed by Artistic Director Nuna Sandy. Created as part of the Cities Exchange, a collaboration between 20 Stories High, Beyond Face, Company Three and Zoo Co.



The Story of *This City*

This City started off in 2024 as a co-created, 20 minute play about ambition, struggles and how to overcome them. When I asked the cast what connected all their different ambitions and passions, they said 'That we live in London, and the city allows us the opportunity to pursue all our different ambitions.'

I suggested we call that earlier version of the show 'Londoners' but the majority of the cast paused. I asked them 'do you call yourselves Londoners?' and was met with a mixture of silence, a couple of yeses and lots of nos, despite the whole group being born and raised here. We discussed why that was, and their answers were complicated, sad, beautiful and frustrating.

This opened up more conversations in our process. All the young people who didn't call themselves Londoners shared stories of when they visited their parents' motherland and were called English or other colloquial terms. We discussed what non-Londoners noticed or identified in us when we left the city - things like our humour, fashion, the way we walk and our slang, and realised that we do have a London quality about us which they admitted and celebrated. We talked about diversity being a huge part of London's personality and agreed that it was the thing we loved the most about living here.

It was clear that these questions were personal and important to our young people, and that it was the right moment to be having these conversations with audiences too. It was also clear that if we and our young people were feeling this, that other young people in other places would be too. So we decided to make This City a flagship performance, and knew that it should be an Exchange Play, so we could collaborate with other brilliant companies working in other places across the country.

In the Summer of 2024, the race riots happened across the UK and shook us all to the core. Our young people told us they were seeing an overwhelming amount of racism online and people attending riots in places we recognised. It felt the message was that Black and Brown people are not welcome in this country. And this message was coming from a lot more people that we all thought - we're often told it's the minority that feel this way, but these numbers made it feel like the majority.

Our annual residential fell during the second week of the riots in an area where a riot was planned. I had to reassure all parents that we were safe in a gated space - a message I never thought I would have to send in 2024. The replies were heavy to hold as the fear in the parents' messages was palpable. On the night before the riot was planned in that area, we had an open mic night and a party where we all did the Candy dance. I looked around the room and saw the unity and joy between races, religions and genders. We brought everyone together and reminded them that Company Three is proof that we can all mix, work, create, argue, make up, dance and live together. It was both a beautiful and heavy moment for the staff. When we got back to London and started talking about This City, we checked that the young people still wanted to explore these topics in the current climate - they said they were galvanised to.

We used all the material gathered across this process, as well as in sessions over six months, to create the script for This City, and are excited to go into rehearsal for the show in July. We can't wait to share it with you.

Nuna Sandy

**Artistic Director of Company Three, and
Writer and Director of *This City***

Cast and Co - Creators



Basiru



Harlem



Kian



Messie



Ozan



Ronnie



Sara



Sophie

Headshot photography by
Alicia Clarke.
Poster photography by
Sophie Bradbury.

Creative Team

Nuna Sandy (she/
her)
Writer & Director

James Kent
Associate Director

Gabi Spiro (she/her)
Producer

Ehireme Omoaka
Facilitator

Matt Neubauer
Production Manager

Jida Akil (she/her)
Set and Costume
Designer

Mercy Ola
Stage Manager

Abi Turner (they/
them)
Lighting Designer

Nick Bankiyan-
Monfard
Composer and Sound
Designer

Marius Arnold-
Clarke (he/him)
Stage Manager

Guleraana Mir
Dramaturg

Ricky Cui
Producing
Placement

Sophia Constance
Scenic Painter

Tian Glasgow
Production
Management
Consultation

About Park Theatre

An inviting and accessible venue, delivering work of exceptional calibre in the heart of Finsbury Park. We work with writers, directors and designers of the highest quality to present compelling, exciting and beautifully told stories across our two intimate spaces. Our programme encompasses a broad range of work from classics to revivals with a healthy dose of new writing, producing in-house as well as working in partnership with emerging and established producers. We strive to play our part within the UK's theatre ecology by offering mentoring, support and opportunities to artists and producers within a professional theatre-making environment. Our Creative Engagement strategy seeks to widen the number and range of people who participate in theatre, and provides opportunities for those of all ages with little or no prior contact with the arts. In everything we do we aim to be warm and inclusive; a safe, welcoming and wonderful space in which to work, create and visit. Park Theatre was recently accredited by the Mayor of London as a Dementia Friendly building.

As a registered charity [number 1137223] with no regular public subsidy, we rely on the kind support of our donors and volunteers. To find out how you can get involved visit parktheatre.co.uk

Jez Bond Artistic Director
Catherine McKinney Executive Director

**With thanks to all of our supporters,
donors and volunteers.**

About Company Three

Company Three is a leading force for change for teenagers in our local community and around the world. We are a theatre company led by the ideas of our 75 members aged 11-19. We recruit our members through deep-rooted relationships locally and share our practice globally to impact teenagers everywhere.







Working in Islington, North London, we make transformative theatre through long-term collaboration between young people and professional theatre-makers. Our plays have been performed at the National Theatre, Battersea Arts Centre, the Royal Exchange Theatre, the Yard Theatre, the Park Theatre, New Diorama Theatre and on the BBC. At Company Three we believe youth theatre can be a place of community, radical art and social change. Despite our global reach, we are fiercely local to and are proud to work with the young people of Islington about the issues which affect them most.

Find out more: www.companythree.co.uk/
Support our work: www.companythree.co.uk/support

Nuna Sandy Artistic Director and Co-CEO
Ros Terry Interim Executive Director
Mariana Aristizabal Pardo Associate Director
Gabi Spiro Producer (Exchange and Relationships)
Angie Peña Arenas Producer (Core Company and Projects)
Perihaan Khan Administrator
Yael Elisheva Resident Artist
Stan Hodgson Resident Artist



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*Telephone booking fee applies.