

Press Release

news from nowhere, the Traverse Theatre and The Fruitmarket Gallery present

a world premiere from the author and performer of AN OAK TREE and MY ARM

ENGLAND

by **tim crouch**

performed at The Fruitmarket Gallery

(within The Fruitmarket Gallery's Festival exhibition by artist Alex Hartley)

August 3 – 26 2007

Press Performance August 4 @ 8pm

starts

"The patients like to look at the paintings. It helps them to feel better about their illnesses."

Forget thoughts of skinheads or nostalgia, ENGLAND is about an empire of a different kind – one of transmigrations and transplantations. It's the story of one thing placed inside another: a heart inside another person's body, a culture inside another country's culture, theatre inside a gallery, a character inside an actor, a play inside its audience.

Performed by two guides within an exhibition, ENGLAND travels the trade routes of art and human beings. It's about a sickness and the search for health at any cost. It's a tour through space and across borders: from an art gallery to a jam factory, from Edinburgh to Osaka, from a hospital bed to a hotel room.

It's a tour to the end of the world.

"She asks why this has happened to her family. She says she wants to know if you have an answer."

ENGLAND is a pictogram of a search for a new heart. It continues Tim Crouch's fascination with the nature of the theatrical experience; the communication of an idea from performer to audience – and back again. ENGLAND is performed in thin air, within space, between people. It is supported by a soundtrack by award-winning sound designer **Dan Jones**. The two actors are **Tim Crouch** and **Hannah Ringham**, a founder member of the Shunt Collective in London. ENGLAND is directed by **Karl James** and the artist **a smith**, both of whom worked with Tim Crouch on his play AN OAK TREE.

ENGLAND was commissioned by the Traverse Theatre. It is a **news from nowhere** production, produced in partnership with the Traverse Theatre, The Fruitmarket Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre and Culturgest (Lisbon). ENGLAND was developed at the National Theatre Studio.

stops

notes to ENGLAND

Tim Crouch's first play, MY ARM, opened at the Traverse Theatre in 2003 and has toured internationally with runs in New York and London. His adaptation for BBC radio won the 2005 Prix Italia for Best Adapted Drama. In 2005 Crouch premiered AN OAK TREE at the Traverse where it won a Glasgow Herald Angel. A play that requires a different second actor each time it is performed, AN OAK TREE won an Obie from its Off-Broadway run in 2006/7 and this year broke all box office records during its four week run at Soho Theatre, London. Actors who have performed the play with Crouch include Frances McDormand, Mike Myers, Christopher Eccleston, David Morrissey, Kathryn Hunter and Sophie Okonedo.

Tim Crouch has also written successfully for young audiences. His play SHOPPING FOR SHOES, commissioned by the National Theatre's Education Department, won the 2007 Brian Way Award for children's playwrighting.

ENGLAND is written and designed to be performed within exhibitions of art inside galleries. It represents the realisation of a long-held ambition for the Traverse Theatre and the Fruitmarket Gallery to collaborate together on a project. The play will be performed in both spaces of the gallery which contains the festival exhibition by English artist Alex Hartley.

The audience will be standing for part of the performance.

news from nowhere is Tim Crouch's production company. It is based in Brighton. For more details visit <http://www.newsfromnowhere.net>

a smith is the performance/public name of artist and theatre poet Andy Smith.

ENGLAND has been selected for the British Council's bi-annual Showcase of contemporary British performance.

Performance Schedule

Aug 3 – 26

Preview Thurs 3 Aug (8pm)

Press Performance Fri 4 Aug (8pm)

No performances on Mondays.

All performances at 8pm.

Additional 10pm performances on Friday and Saturday Aug 10/11 and 17/18 and throughout the final week (Tues Aug 21 – Sun Aug 26).

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