



PRESENTS

~~FAREWELL~~ ~~WELFARE~~

a cabaret of cutting and chopping

*"It will last as long as there are folk left
with the faith to fight for it"*

TOUR DATES DECEMBER 2015

4th, Everyman Theatre, Hope Street, Liverpool, L1 9BH

7th, Link Centre, St Chads Drive, Kirby, L32 8RE

9th, St Helens Small Cinema, Former Unitrian Church
Corporation Street, St Helens, WA10 1SX

11th, Spider Project, 56 Hamilton Street, Birkenhead, CH41 5HZ

Book your **FREE** tickets :

www.farewellwelfare.eventbrite.com

or call 0151 3456266

suggested age 16+



PROGRAMME

Suggested donation £1



COLLECTIVE ENCOUNTERS

Collective Encounters is a professional arts organisation specialising in theatre for social change through collaborative practice. Collective Encounters creates and tours theatre, aiming to engage those on the margins of society, telling untold stories and tackling the local, national and international concerns of our time. Collective Encounters uses theatre to enable those who are disengaged and disenfranchised to have their voices heard.

Collective Encounters has a strong commitment to :

- providing high-quality participatory theatre services to individuals and groups across Merseyside that aim to develop skills, confidence and use theatre to explore ideas & issues.
- providing opportunities for those working in the field of participatory arts to develop their practice either through research or practical training.
- working collaboratively with campaigning organisations and agencies whose aim it is to improve the experiences of those affected by poverty and inequality.
- undertaking research into the international theatre for social change sector with a view to spearheading best practice in the UK.

Collective Encounters Staff

Artistic DirectorSarah Thornton
 Executive Director.....Annette Burghes
 Head of Participation.....Amanda Redvers Rowe
 Transitions Director.....Abi Horsfield
 Youth Theatre DirectorMatthew Elliott
 AdministratorHarriet Warnock
 Volunteer Marketing CoordinatorDorian Stone

For more information or to join our mailing list contact:

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Charity No: 1105790

FAREWELL WELFARE

"The non-working people must pay for their sins as the destruction of welfare begins" MC

Together with the participants of the **Transitions** project, we have created a new satirical cabaret which aims to engage and stimulate debate about the real impact of austerity, and in particular the Welfare Reform Act 2012, on some of the most impoverished people in our society.

Farewell Welfare has been created at a time when austerity, changes to welfare rules, the rising cost of living, falling incomes and cuts to public services have come together to create a toxic situation where we find more and more individuals and families struggling to make ends meet. The use of food banks has quadrupled since 2013 (Trussell Trust), and according to figures released by the Department of Communities & Local Government in 2015 there has been a 55% rise in homelessness since 2010. In 2012-13, 346, 992 people in crisis across the UK accessed emergency food aid compared with 1, 084, 604 in the year 2014-15. In 2010 there were 48, 010 households in temporary accommodation compared with 61, 930 in 2014.

Farewell Welfare was developed in workshops in support settings for homeless people and those in recovery across Merseyside. **Transitions** participants were asked -what's important to you right now? What are you most concerned about in the wider world? What would you like to change? Responses brought up a wide range of issues from benefit cuts to the bedroom tax, from privatisation of the NHS to poverty, and in particular child poverty. This research led to a further desk based investigation into the impact of the myriad of austerity measures at a grass roots level. All this research came together to create the performance you see today.

The **Transitions** project was set up in 2010 to provide professional arts activity to the homeless and recovery community across Merseyside. **Transitions** provides theatre services that help participants develop skills, confidence and gain qualifications. Each year **Transitions** participants create a new play with professional theatre makers and this is their 2015 show. All activities are free and there are no auditions.

For further information please contact:

Abi Horsfield, Transitions Director: 0151 345 6266 abi@collective-encounters.org.uk

CAST LIST

Performers: Abigail McKenzie, Anne-Marie Knowles, Cassius James, Daniel Willcox, Duncan Parks, Edward Lawless, Gail Dodd, Keith Barber, Lisa Kirwin, Loraine Fear, Michelle, Natasha Oditia, John Dermody, John Paul Smith, Richard Thompson, Sandy Williams, Scott Forde, Tinkerbell.

Director/Writer.....Abi Horsfield
Musical Director.....Craig Gamble
Costume Designer.....Rebecca Collins
Musicians.....Paul Regan, Gareth Knight
Stage Manager.....Lucy Graham



FIVE THINGS YOU CAN DO

If you feel inspired to take action, here are a few mechanisms you can use to get your voice heard .

1. ATTEND AN EVENT: The People's Assembly is a national campaign against austerity. Join their mailing list, donate or attend one of their events. Find out more here www.thepeoplesassembly.org. The **Liverpool Against the Cuts** facebook group is also very active and here you can find out about local events and share articles and ideas.

2. HOLD YOUR MP TO ACCOUNT: Don't know who your local MP is? Ever wondered what your MP does for your local community or how they voted in Parliament? The www.theyworkforyou.com website gives all this information including: voting records, MP interests, committee attendance, written questions and speeches.

3. SIGN OR START A PETITION: Rules for starting a petition can be found on www.parliament.uk. A petition must get 100, 000 signatures before it will be considered for debate in the Commons. There are many e-petition websites that can help you start a petition of your own or link in with other campaigns. Try www.38degrees.org.uk or www.change.org. E-petitions have proved their effectiveness over the last few years. The **WOW (War on Welfare)** campaign and petition www.wowpetition.com is good starting point.

4. ATTEND YOUR MP SURGERY: There is no legal or constitutional requirement for MPs to hold surgeries, however many do. Surgeries are usually one-to-one and provide you with the opportunity to raise concerns with your MP. Details of surgeries can be found on your local MP's website, or if there is no such thing you can call the **Parliamentary Switchboard** on 0207 219 3000 and ask your local MP's office to send you details of surgery dates.

5. JOIN, VOLUNTEER OR DONATE TO A PRESSURE GROUP: Pressure groups aim to mobilise public support on a single issue. There are many pressure groups working to raise the profile of wide-spread hardship and deprivation caused by the austerity agenda such as **National Housing Federation**, **Child Poverty Action Group** and the **Citizens Advice Bureau**. Pressure groups welcome anyone with free time who can help support their campaign.