

Programme





in association with

theguardian



Letters Home is
supported by the Scottish
Governments's Edinburgh
Festivals Expo Fund



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL



fringe
The Edinburgh Festival
01 – 25 August



If on a summer's night, a traveller...*

You are about to watch a performance of Grid Iron's new production, *Letters Home*. Relax. Dispel every other thought. Let the world around you fade. The performance you are about to witness will take you beyond the physical confines of Charlotte Square on a journey through time, a voyage that will transport you to the four corners of the world.

Why is the Book Festival collaborating with Grid Iron Theatre Company on a promenade theatre production? Key to the 2014 Book Festival is the idea of dialogue – the exchange of ideas between humans – both in books and in the heated discussions about Scotland's constitutional future. Can theatre help us approach the idea of dialogue from a different perspective? To answer that question, this production is built around letters, a form of dialogue in which two people reach out to one another across a long distance.

Letters Home is a theatrical adaptation of four short epistolary fictions, each written by an internationally-renowned writer. The four stories have been adapted into theatrical pieces of remarkable variety by four Scotland-based directors. Some are live, others are visual or auditory. Like a delicious anthology of short stories, *Letters Home* introduces us to characters who don't know one another; whose stories don't overlap, yet in some sense their experiences are connected.

So here you are now, ready to tune into the performance. You prepare to recognize the unmistakable tone of Grid Iron. But even if you've never experienced a Grid Iron show before, it's the performance in itself that arouses your curiosity; in fact, you prefer it this way, confronting something and not quite knowing yet what it is.

Nick Barley, Director, Edinburgh International Book Festival

**with apologies to Italo Calvino*

When Jude first spoke to me about this project, we were sitting in a café on a dreich Edinburgh day. She described this ambitious project connecting four different writers, four stage directors and a whole team of theatre makers, and finding a way to create a site-specific piece of theatre for the Edinburgh International Book Festival. It kind of breaks the rules; needless to say I was intrigued. The thing she needed was a creative friend to help her through the process. How could I say no to that? The thing I love about Jude, Ben and all of Grid Iron is their unending ambition to reach into new areas, to keep evolving and challenging themselves. What followed was a lovely process of working alongside the Book Festival to commission four unbelievably brilliant prose writers to write short pieces responding to the theme 'Letters Home', and then to work alongside four very different and inspirational theatre/film artists to bring these letters to performance. Our hope is that the result is like an anthology, the theatre equivalent of a chocolate box of different thoughts, stories and dramatic forms – if perhaps not as universally sweet...!

Linnie Harris, Creative Co-ordinator

The Letters

Details by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Director	Joe Douglas
Movement Director	Vicki Manderson
Composer/Sound Designer	Philip Pinsky

Performers

Chisara	Muna Otaru
Oyin	Rhoda Ofori-Attah

England in a Pink Blouse by Kei Miller

Director/Composer	Michael John McCarthy
Video Designer	Tim Reid

Voices

Maxine	Lorna Anders
Nicky	Katrina Beckford
Kei Miller	The Writer

Eve and Cain by Christos Tsiolkas

Director/Adaptor	Ben Harrison
Composer/Sound Designer	Philip Pinsky

Performers

Bondmaiden/Eve	Charlene Boyd
Bondman/Cain	Gavin Marshall
Voice of Eve	Joanna Tope

War Letters by Kamila Shamsie

Film Director	Alice Nelson
Film Producer	Lili Sandelin/ North Isle Productions
Motion Graphics	Lewis Gourlay
Sound Design	Zoë Irvine

Actors/voices

Wahid	Adam Buksh
Qasim	Bhav Joshi

*You will find
biographies for the
writers, casts and
the other creatives
who have worked on
specific pieces in
the individual
programmes that
you will be
receiving.*

Creative and Production Team

Producer	Judith Doherty
Creative Co-ordinator	Zinnie Harris
Lighting Designer	Colin Grenfell
Composer/Sound Designer	Philip Pinsky
Set & Costume Designer	Becky Minto
Assistant Set & Costume Designer	Rebecca Hamilton
Finance & Development Manager	Deborah Crewe
Production Manager	Fiona Fraser
Technical Manager	Roy Fairhead
Stage Manager	Mickey Graham
Deputy Stage Managers	Samantha Burt Alice McKay Anne Page
Design Assistants	Emily Bates Elspeth Chapman

Technicians	Dave Cooper Kieran Diamond Chris Ferrie Francis Stevenson Andy Reid	
Front of House	Stephen Bangs (and PostScript) Alex Dickson Jack Kinross (and PostScript) Rob McDonald Laurence Motherwell Seth Oberlander Steph Smart Beata Zemanek	
Set Build	B Scenic	
Programme design	Emma Quinn	
Programme photography	Douglas Jones	

Production Partners: *Letters Home* is the result of a close partnership with the Edinburgh International Book Festival, who have been involved in the project from its inception. The production would have been impossible without the creative and practical work put in by each and every member of the Book Festival team.



A stylized graphic of a blue airplane flying upwards and to the right, with red and blue diagonal stripes below it. The text 'BY AIR MAIL' is written in a blue, serif font at the bottom left.

Creative and Production Team

Judith Doherty Producer

Judith is the Producer, Chief Executive and Co-Artistic Director of Grid Iron. She founded the company in 1995 and has produced all the company's shows. Since 2000 she has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and she has also sat on the boards of the Independent Theatre Council and NVA. Freelance work has included Edinburgh International Book Festival, Edinburgh International Festival, Edinburgh Fringe Society, Unique Events and BBC Scotland. In 2003 Judith received the Jack Tinker Spirit of the Fringe award for her services to the festival.

Zinnie Harris Creative Co-ordinator

As a writer her plays include *The Wheel* (NTS) joint winner of 2011 Amnesty International Freedom of Expression Award and a Fringe First Award, subsequent production at Steppenwolf Theatre in Chicago; *Midwinter, Solstice and Fall* (a trilogy of plays for the Royal Shakespeare Company / Traverse Theatre 2005 / 2006 / 2008). *Midwinter* won the 2005 Art Foundation Fellowship Award for Playwriting, and was shortlisted for the

Susan Smith Blackburn Award; *Julie* (National Theatre of Scotland 2006, Citizens Theatre 2014), *Nightingale* and *Chase* (Royal Court Theatre, London 2001), *Further than the Furthest Thing* (Royal National Theatre/Tron Theatre, then British Council Tour to South Africa) winner of the Peggy Ramsay Playwriting Award, John Whiting Award and Fringe First Award and shortlisted for the Susan Smith Blackburn, and Evening Standard Most Promising Playwright, subsequent production at MTC, New York; *By Many Wounds* (Hampstead Theatre 1999). Her television writing includes *Born with Two Mothers* and *Richard is my Boyfriend*, (both Channel 4) and several episodes for the BBC1 drama series *Spooks*. She was writer in residence at the RSC from 2000 – 2001, is currently an associate artist at the Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh, and a senior lecturer in playwriting at St Andrews University.

Colin Grenfell Lighting Designer

Theatre Credits: *Stevie* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *Beauty And The Beast* (Young Vic), *The Selfish Giant* (Edinburgh Festival Theatre), *Blue Remembered Hills* (Northern Stage), *Thursday* and *Tartuffe* (ETT), *American Justice* and *Alex* (Arts Theatre), *The Snow Queen*, *Mill*

Lavvies/She Town, *Steel Magnolias*, *A Doll's House* (Dundee Rep), *Black Watch*, *Men Should Weep*, *The Bacchae* (National Theatre of Scotland), *Monkey Bars* (Edinburgh/ Unicorn/UK Tour), *The Steamie* (25th Anniversary Tour), *The Caretaker* (Liverpool Everyman/Trafalgar Studios/World Tour), *Horse Piss for Blood* (Drum Theatre, Plymouth), *The Village Social* (National Theatre of Wales), *Macbeth* (Liverpool Everyman), *Through a Glass Darkly*, *When the Rain Stops Falling* (Almeida), *Canary* (Liverpool Everyman/Hampstead), *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* (Edinburgh Lyceum), *The Thief of Baghdad* (Royal Opera House), *I Am Yusuf and This is my Brother* (Young Vic), *Single Spies* (Theatre Royal Bath Productions), *Riflemind* (Trafalgar Studios), *No Idea, Panic, Theatre of Blood, Spirit, The Hanging Man, Lifegame, Coma, Animo, 70 Hill Lane (Improbable)* and *Kes, Separate Tables* (Royal Exchange Manchester). Opera Credits: extensive work for Opera Holland Park, *The Pirates of Penzance* (Scottish Opera), *Falstaff* (Mid Wales Opera), *Fidelio* (Opera Theatre Company, Dublin), *Falstaff, The Marriage of Figaro, Cendrillon* (RSAMD), *La Bohème* (English Touring Opera), *Cappriccio*.

Philip Pinsky Composer & Sound Designer

For Grid Iron, Philip has worked as composer and sound designer for *Leaving Planet Earth*, *Spring Awakening*, *Decky Does A Bronco*, *Huxley's Lab*, *Yarn*, *Once Upon a Dragon*, *Roam*, *Fierce*, *The Houghmagandie Pack* and *Fermentation*.

As Associate Artist at the Royal Lyceum Edinburgh he provided scores for *Pressure* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *Union*, *Dark Road*, *The Guid Sisters*, (NTS), *Mary Queen of Scots Got Her Head Chopped Off* (Dundee Rep), *Wondrous Flitting*, *Educating Agnes*, *Age of Arousal*, *The Importance Of Being Earnest*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Everyone*, *Peter Pan*, *Confessions of a Justified Sinner*, *Copenhagen*, *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*, *Mary Rose*, *Macbeth*, *Trumpets and Raspberries*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Living Quarters*, *The Winter's Tale*, *The Merchant of Venice* and *Faust*.

Other work includes, *Chaos & Contingency*, *Humanimalia* (Janis Claxton Dance), *Kora*, *Time And The Conways*, *After The End*, *Equus* (Dundee Rep), *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *Christine*, *La Reine Garçon* (TNM, Montreal), *Carousel*, *Dare To Care*, *The List*, *The Girls of Slender Means*, *Baby Baby* (Stellar Quines), *ANA* (Stellar Quines/Imago, Montreal), *Night time*, *Carthage Must Be Destroyed* (Traverse), *Oedipus* (NTS Young Company), *Variety* (Grid Iron/EIF), *A Chaste Maid in Cheapside*, *The Whizzkid*, *Ghost Ward* (Almeida), *The Man Who Was Thursday* (Red Shift).

TV credits include *Art & Soul*, *Ninewells*, *Harley Street*, *Seaside Rescue*, *What Not To Wear* (BBC). He has also worked on education projects for the SCO and NTS Learn. He has won a CATS Award for best use of music in theatre (for *Fierce*, Grid Iron) and a Sony Radio Academy Award (BBC Radio 3). Previously Philip was founder member of electro-acoustic group Finitribe, releasing five albums and performing over a period of fifteen years.

Becky Minto Set & Costume Designer

Becky works across Scotland as a set and costume designer. She has designed a wide range of productions for main-house shows, site-specific and large outdoor spectacles, dance and aerial performances for companies including National Theatre of Scotland, The Royal Lyceum, Vanishing Point, Visible Fictions, Perth Rep, Dundee Rep, Lung Ha's. Outwith theatre she has designed for Scottish Dance Theatre and Aerial Performance companies All or Nothing and Upswing. For Grid Iron she designed *The Authorised Kate Bane*, *Tryst*, *Barflies*, *Once Upon A Dragon* and *Fierce*. Becky designed the Opening Ceremony of the European capital of Culture in Turku, Finland in 2011 for Walk The Plank and most recently designed the set and costumes for the Closing Ceremony of Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Rebecca Hamilton Assistant Set & Costume Designer

Rebecca trained at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama where she specialised in set and costume design, scenic art and prop making. Rebecca works

throughout Scotland as a designer, model maker, scenic artist and painter for visual artists. Companies Rebecca has worked for include National Theatre of Scotland, Vox Motus, Iron Oxide, Tramway, BBC Scotland and Channel 4.

Deborah Crewe Finance & Development Manager

Deborah has worked part time and full time with Grid Iron since 2003 although she has been closely involved with the company, as a member of the Board of Directors, since it began in 1995.

Fiona Fraser Production Manager

Fi has worked with many companies including: The Traverse, Perth Rep, SDT, Mull Theatre, Pitlochry Festival Theatre, The Citizens, The Byre, Unique Events, Stellar Quines, Suspect Culture, Licketyspit, Visible Fictions, Scottish Opera, Dundee Rep, Vox Motus (*How to Steal a Diamond*, *SLICK*, *Bright Black* and *The Not-so-fatal Death of Grandpa Fredo*), ThickSkin, NTS (inc, *Extreme*, *Black Watch 2006 & The Day I Swapped My Dad for Two Goldfish*) and Vanishing Point (*Interiors*, *Saturday Night*, *Wonderland*, *Tomorrow & The Beautiful Cosmos of Ivor Cutler*).

Fi has production managed for Grid Iron since 2002 heading the Stage Management team who won the 2004 SMA excellence in Stage Management Award. She was also part of the team who conducted workshops in Lebanon and Jordan, returning to Beirut with *Those Eyes*, *That Mouth* and creating a new show as part of a capacity building and skills transfer project developed by Grid Iron for the British Council.

Roy Fairhead Technical Manager

Roy trained at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and graduated in 2006. He has worked with numerous theatre companies since, including Grid Iron, Birds of Paradise, 7:84, Theatre Workshop, Scottish Opera, Scottish Ballet, Forced Entertainments, Visible Fictions, Stellar Quines and many others. He works on various projects from local, small-scale work to large scale theatrical and musical productions. Roy is based in Glasgow and therefore a large portion of his time is spent in Scotland and the UK. However the nature of the industry takes him all over the world and he spends most of his year within the live music industry, touring with bands and at festivals.

Mickey Graham Stage Manager

For Grid Iron, Mickey has worked on *Leaving Planet Earth*, *Barflies*, *Tryst*, *Once Upon a Dragon*, *Yarn*, *Roam*, *Those Eyes*, *That Mouth*, and *The Houghmagandie Pack*. He has also worked with many Scottish companies including; National Theatre of Scotland, Vanishing Point, Visible Fictions, The Tron, Magnetic North, macRobert, NVA, Janice Parker Projects, Vox Motus, Dundee Rep, The Gaelic Arts Agency, Stellar Quines, Mull Theatre, Catherine Wheels, Bench tours, Traverse, Wee Stories, Boilerhouse and Edinburgh International Festival. He has also worked for Walk The Plank (Turku European City of Culture 2011), The Bush Theatre (London) and The Lyric Theatre (Belfast.)

Samantha Burt Deputy Stage Manager

Samantha Burt graduated from the Royal Conservatoire of Glasgow with a BA in Technical and Production Arts, specialising in Stage Management in 2012. She has recently worked as Stage Manager for Iron Oxide on *White Gold*, Assistant Stage Manager for Struileag on *Children of the Smoke*, Deputy Stage Manager for One Academy Productions on *Avenue Q* the musical at last years' Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Samantha was the Deputy Stage Manager for Grid Iron's production of *The Authorised Kate Bane* in 2012 and is very excited to be back working with them again at this year's festival.

Alice McKay Deputy Stage Manager

Alice is delighted to be joining Grid Iron this year on *Letters Home*. It will be her first time participating in the Edinburgh festivals. Trained at Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Technical Production Art, Alice has been working full time since her graduation in July 2013, at various theatre and music festivals across the country in a variety of roles. Some of her highlights have been working with Visible Fictions on their UK tour of *The Spokesmen* and working at Wickerman Festival as part of the sound crew.

Anne Page Deputy Stage Manager

Anne graduated from the RSAMD, Glasgow in 2006 with a BA in Technical and Production Arts. Her recent credits include Citizens Theatre, *The Libertine*; National Theatre of Scotland, *Reasons to Dance*, *The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart*, *My Shrinking Life*, *Tin Forest Opening Event*; Imagine Theatre, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Dick Whittington*, *Cinderella*, *Snow White* and *Jack and the Beanstalk*; Vox Motus, *Bright Black*, *The Not-So-Fatal Death of Grandpa Fredo*, *Slick*; and Barrowland Ballet, *A Conversation with Carmel*. She is delighted to be able to add *Letters Home* to her Grid Iron credits to join *What Remains* and *Leaving Planet Earth*.

Emily Bates Design Assistant

Emily is a final year student in Performance Costume at Edinburgh College of Art. She has enjoyed placements with many national theatre companies including Glyndebourne, The National Theatre, Opera Holland Park, National Youth Theatre of Great Britain and Opera North. This is her first time working for Grid Iron and she has really enjoyed working with such a creative team on such an exciting project. After completing her degree Emily hopes to study for an MA in Set Design and pursue a career in the Theatre industry.



Elspeth Chapman Design Assistant

Elspeth has just finished her second year of studying Performance Costume at Edinburgh College of Art and is thrilled to be working with Grid Iron this summer. Previous costume experience includes internships at Scottish Ballet and Scottish Opera. She loves theatre and hopes to, one day, have a career in that world creating beautiful things to help tell a story. Other interests include: tea, cake, cats and puppet-making.

Dave Cooper Technician

I spend most of the year as a tech in the corporate AV world working conferences and award ceremonies. I was introduced to the theatre world by Grid Iron on last year's *Leaving Planet Earth* giving a welcome break from the conference life. Looking forward to next year already.

Kieran Diamond Technician

Kieran has worked in the Scottish events industry for the past seven years. In that time he has worked in venues all over Scotland and the North of England. Recent roles have included Site Manager for Bristol Comedy Garden and Production Technician for *Leaving Planet Earth*, Grid Iron.

Chris Ferrie Technician

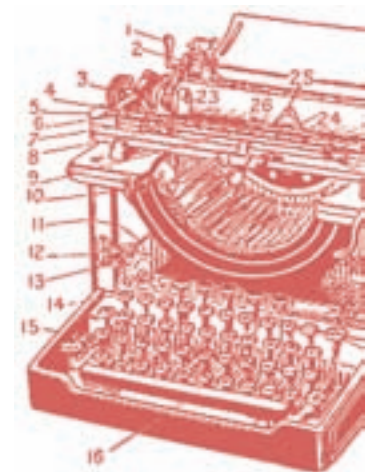
Chris has been working in the theatre and events industry for around two years, having trained as a sound technician in Glasgow. He has previously worked with several diverse companies, including the National Theatre of Scotland, Underbelly and InsideOut Productions. Most recently, he has been working at Glasgow's newest theatre (Websters Theatre) and the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.

Francis Stevenson Technician

Born in China during the cultural revolution, since university Francis has done very little other than work in theatre. He has been a Head of Department at several theatres including The Albery (Noel Coward Theatre these days), Alexandra, Stephen Joseph and Hackney Empire. For six years he toured with Forced Entertainment, travelling all over the world. This year he has worked for Perth Theatre, British Dance Edition and The Arches. The last time he did the festival was in 1998, but he has now recovered.

Andy Reid Technician

Andy is a freelance stage technician working on a broad spectrum of events between Glasgow and Edinburgh. His recent roles include LED technician for NVA's *Speed of Light* and *Ghost Peloton*. He also toured abroad in 2013 as AV technician for Vanishing Point's *Interiors*.



Edinburgh International Book Festival

The Edinburgh International Book Festival began in 1983 and is now a key event in the August Festival season. Biennial at first, the Book Festival became a yearly celebration in 1997. Throughout its history, the Book Festival has grown rapidly in size and scope to become the largest public celebration of the written word in the world.

For 17 days every August, writers, poets, politicians, journalists and thinkers from around the world discuss the things that shape our lives. With around 800 authors from over 40 countries appearing in events, the programme offers audiences the chance to meet Nobel Prize winners and debut novelists, scientists and children's illustrators, poets and tomorrow's Man Booker Prize candidates.

The Book Festival attracts over 200,000 visitors every year to Charlotte Square Gardens, an historic Georgian Square in the heart of Edinburgh, the world's first UNESCO City of Literature.

Book Festival Bookshops

The Book Festival runs its own two large independent bookshops in Charlotte Square Gardens, including one for children, where you will find books by all the authors in the Book Festival's programme.

To find out more about the Book Festival:

www.edbookfest.co.uk | [@edbookfest](https://twitter.com/edbookfest) | facebook.com/edbookfest

The Edinburgh International Book Festival Ltd is a Scottish Charity (SC010120) and a limited company (registered in Scotland no. SC 79939) and has its registered office at 5A Charlotte Square, Edinburgh EH2 4DR.



in association with

the guardian



“Grid Iron is not just a Scottish national treasure but one of the companies that has shaped British theatre over the last 20 years” *The Guardian*

Grid Iron is an Edinburgh based new writing theatre company which specialises in creating site-specific and location theatre although we have also produced work for the stage. In our 19 years, we have received 27 awards and a further 20 nominations for all aspects of our work, from acting, writing and use of music to stage management and technical expertise.

Our adventures have taken us to extraordinary places; from a boat-builders island in a Norwegian fjord, to the former General Security building in Beirut, a working cancer hospital in Jordan, the old City Morgue in Cork, the largest climbing arena in Europe and many, many unusual sites in Scotland, Ireland and Britain.

We have made co-productions with many partners including the National Theatre of Scotland, the Traverse Theatre, Dundee Rep Theatre, and The Almeida Theatre, London, and we have performed ten times as part of Edinburgh Festival Fringe, twice as part of Edinburgh International Festival and at both Edinburgh International Science Festival and Imagine, Edinburgh's international festival of performing arts for children and young people. We are truly delighted to become the first theatre company to work in co-production with Edinburgh International Book Festival.

For more information on us please visit www.gridiron.org.uk



Follow us on Twitter @gridirontheatre
Facebook gridirontheatre

Or contact us at:

**Grid Iron,
Suite 4/1, 2 Commercial Street,
Edinburgh EH6 6JA**

T: 0131 555 5455

E: admin@gridiron.org.uk

Board of Directors: **Rob Conner, Deborah Crewe,
Judith Doherty, Ben Harrison, Chris Hunn,
Kath Mainland CBE, Neil Weir.**

Patrons: **Owen Dudley Edwards, Jim Haynes, Emma Quinn**

Grid Iron Theatre Company Ltd is a Scottish Charity (SC024185)
and a limited company (registered in Scotland no. 161379)
and has its registered office at 19 Rutland Square, Edinburgh EH1 2BB



Huge thanks to Nick Barley, Julie Weston and absolutely everyone at the Edinburgh International Book Festival for their artistic and practical input and support and, of course, to Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Kei Miller, Kamila Shamsie and Christos Tsiolkas for their wonderful writing. Also thanks to everyone at the Norton Park Conference Centre for housing our rehearsals, Serpent's Tail, Vanishing Point, The Citizen's Theatre, Angel Wynter, Judy Steel, Summerhall, Professor Jon Oberlander, Greta Kaufeld, Professor Graeme A. Auld, Beata Zemanek, all at Nestival, Emma, Andy, Amy and Oliver Quinn, Ann Davies and Francis Bickmore.

Very special thanks to The Charlotte Square Collection www.charlottesquarecollection.com and the Roxburghe Hotel www.theroxburghe.com for providing our performance spaces.

You will also find some special thanks in the individual programmes.



THE
CHARLOTTE
SQUARE
COLLECTION



CROWNE
PLAZA
EDINBURGH
THE ROXBURGHE