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 **AMPLIFY**
SEASONS:
SPRING 
 **PROGRAMME**

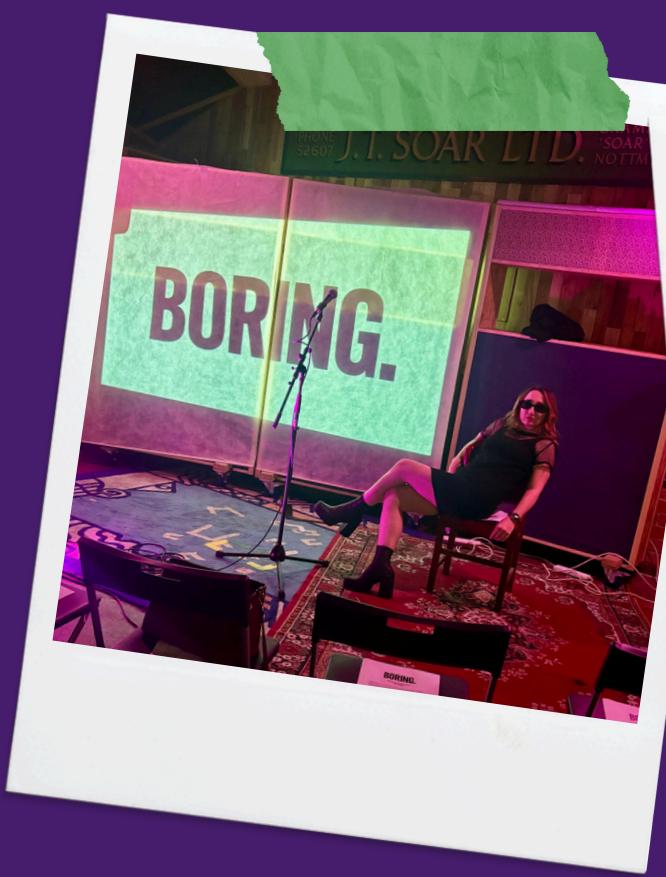
Friday 10 April 2026

NOTTINGHAM
PLAYHOUSE

FINDING OUR FEET

A Work-In- Progress Triple Bill

Start Time
6.45pm



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BORING

by Kat Engall



Triggers and advisories:
themes of drugs and sex.

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MORE**

BORING is a darkly comic one woman show that explores the exhausting performance of trying to be interesting. It follows a woman who is convinced she needs to be more fun, more exciting and more socially impressive in order to be accepted.

Through a series of confessional and comedic moments, she tries to prove she is interesting enough. She laughs at jokes she doesn't find funny, forces herself into social situations she doesn't enjoy and spirals through FOMO; all the while comparing her own life to the extreme achievements of people like Tom Cruise.

But, what happens when we stop trying to perform an interesting life and start being ourselves instead?

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More about **BORING**

The work is currently in development as a 15–20 minute work-in-progress, which Kat intends to expand into a full-length one-woman show. This scratch performance will allow her to test the balance between comedy and vulnerability, explore the pacing of the character's emotional arc, and understand which moments resonate most strongly with an audience. She is particularly interested in how audiences respond to the shifts between humour and discomfort, and whether the central theme of social performance feels recognisable.

The piece is aimed at audiences who enjoy contemporary solo theatre, dark comedy, and autobiographical storytelling. It is expected to resonate particularly with people who have experienced the pressure to perform socially, as well as anyone who has ever left a party wondering whether they were interesting enough.

Ultimately, BORING asks a simple question: what happens when we stop trying to perform an interesting life, and start being ourselves instead?

Jackdaw

by Alicja Shaw



Triggers and advisories:
strong language, themes
of emotional abuse.

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MORE**

In a world where guilt is the only truth and the law is everywhere, how does one man navigate his way to liberty?

Set in 1935 Prague, Jackdaw is a haunting exploration of identity, expectation and rebellion. Inspired by the life and writing of Franz Kafka, the play follows a young man caught between his inner world and the crushing weight of his father's ambition, revealing a deeply personal struggle that echoes far beyond one family.

Jackdaw is the story of a son trying to be seen — and a father determined to define him

More about Jackdaw

Jackdaw was developed as part of the Nottingham Playhouse Writer's Room. This performance showcases three scenes of a longer piece and is still in development. Jackdaw is set in a haberdashery and a cafe and performed by Peter Radford, Quentin O'Brien, Monica Dakin and Dominic Shaw. Directed, produced and written by Alicja Shaw.

About Alicja Shaw

Alicja Shaw - Writer

Alicja's writing spans interactive digital narratives, immersive theatre, live performances and film often incorporating cutting-edge technology and audience participation. Some notable projects include Stalker—an interactive digital narrative blending game design and storytelling—and The Malthusian Paradox, a multimedia experience that merged real-world and digital interactions to engage audiences.

<https://alicjashaw.covernomics.co.uk>

Jackdaw Cast

Quentin O'Brien - Karl

Quentin is a young emerging performer and theatre-maker currently involved in the Homegrown Performers programme at Nottingham Playhouse. Passionate about storytelling and live performance, Quentin is developing his craft through this pre-professional training scheme, which supports young artists with hands-on experience in rehearsal and performance processes. Through Homegrown, Quentin collaborates with other early-career creatives, gaining insight from industry professionals while building confidence on stage and is particularly interested in creating engaging, character-driven work and hopes to pursue a career in theatre. qsmobrien@yahoo.com

Jackdaw Cast

Peter Radford - Herman

Peter is an experienced actor with roles spanning multiple genres and formats from theatre and educational tours to music videos, short films and audio books. He brings full energy and commitment to every production and meets the challenges of new roles head on. He is a professional boxer with experience in both gloved and bare knuckle bouts, nicknamed "Little John". He has brought this combat experience, and that of sword fighting, to previous roles. Peter is getting back into acting after a break and recently appeared in *The Sabled Rite*.
pradfordactor@gmail.com

Dominic Shaw - Max

Dominic trained at East 15 Acting School and has appeared in several films and plays. He is an actor, director, educator and film maker. He has run several theatre companies and has directed and produced immersive theatre performances and experiences.

Silent Tsunami

by Jess Driver



Triggers and advisories:
reference to dementia
and loss.

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Silent Tsunami immerses the audience in an elderly woman's world where time shifts, stories blur and memories resurface in waves. As she folds, tidies and recounts her life, she invites her audience on an emotional journey, revealing truths while navigating home. A story that captures connection, memory and confusion – the silence before a storm. Some waves you never see coming.

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More about **Silent Tsunami**

Silent Tsunami is an early-developed piece being showcased for the first time in front of a live audience. This is the script in its entirety, with the option for future development and duration, with the intention to deepen its themes and purpose.

The creative team consists of all East Midlands emerging and established creatives. Directed by Quentin O'Brien; produced and written by Jess Driver; performed by Ria Ashcroft and Kathy Taylor.

About Jess Driver

Jess Driver is a Nottingham based, emerging writer and producer, she wishes to challenge social conventions, inspire reflection on overlooked topics and advocate accessibility and inclusivity throughout all her work.

From being an access ambassador for festivals to working with individuals with learning disabilities, she wishes to continue advocating for inclusivity in the arts and hopefully one day become a participation producer who specialises in arts events promoting inclusion.

Having been part of Nottingham Playhouse's Homegrown Creatives and graduating from the University of Lincoln's Drama and Theatre course, she is eager to continue taking these next, exciting steps with her writing to bring her visions to life. She has loved working with the Amplify creative team and can't wait to see where this journey takes her next.

Keep an eye out on Instagram: [_jessdriver_](#)

Silent Tsunami

Cast

Ria Ashcroft

Ria Ashcroft is an actress, theatre maker, award winning director and producer.

She is co-founder & co-artistic director of Rebel Sparks (formally The Gramophones) and Circus Hub.

She is drawn to scripts that combine dark comedy with fast-paced, "punk" energy that rejects polished, traditional narratives in favor of flawed, relatable, and unapologetic female protagonists.

She is an advocate for inclusive theatre and circus practice and creating accessible working environments.

She has worked on a range of projects for theatre, screen and film.

www.riaashcroft.com

Silent Tsunami Cast

Kathryn Taylor

Kathryn has been a member of the Nottingham West Music and Drama Society (Nowmads) for over 26 years, mostly in the chorus but occasionally stepping into featured roles—her favourite being Connie in Made in Dagenham.

Also with Nowmads in recent years, she's helped to develop summer musical theatre workshops for young people, supporting them to build confidence and, most importantly, enjoy performing.

After a long career in social work, she's now happily retired—loving being a grandma, going to the theatre, and taking things a little easier.

It's been a real privilege to be part of Silent Tsunami, and she wishes Jess all the very best with this piece and whatever comes next.

F**k You, Claire

by Sugar Theatre



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F**k You, Claire

by Sugar Theatre

Penelope is 24 years old. She spends most of her life in her tiny bedroom and fears pretty much everything. As existential anxieties begin to mount, functioning as an adult human being starts to seem impossible – particularly with the introduction of her unwanted, fiendish new roommate: Claire.

Dealing with some heavy topics but in a fluffy, lighthearted way, working WITH the audience to create a night at the theatre that we hope will stick with you.

Start Time

8.30pm

Triggers

Strong language, themes of anxiety and depression, flashing lights.

This show is BSL interpreted by Laura Goulden.

F*ck You, Claire was a part of the work-in-progress double bill during AMPLIFY: SEASONS – SUMMER 2025

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About Sugar Theatre

Sugar Theatre is messy. We work quite chaotically to piece together visuals, sound, BIG emotions, and often an important story that we believe needs to be told. We tackle some heavy stuff and tricky adult issues with extreme playfulness and childish charm.

We want to go on a journey with our audiences and give them a sense of the magic in the rehearsal room and the journey we've been on within the show – we want to laugh, cry, share, explore and be together in one space. Come and join us!

Become an Amplify Member

We know that the Midlands – both East and West, is full of talented theatre-makers and we want Nottingham Playhouse to be a hub for artists.

Whether you're fresh out of education, early in your career, or someone who has been making professional work for several years, we want to be there for you. We are committed to developing a network where ideas can be shared, challenged and grown.

Become an Amplify Member for free and get access to opportunities including:

- Quarterly AMPLIFY:SEASONS events
- Scratch nights
- Networking events
- Masterclasses
- Co-working opportunities
- One to one mentoring & guidance sessions
- Access to our Amplify Forum

FIND OUT MORE

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