

WORKSHOP AND SHOW PACKAGE

To support the revival & national tour of Gary Clarke Company's multi-award-winning dance theatre show COAL, the company will deliver exciting, integrated Workshop & Show Packages to schools, colleges, universities, youth dance groups, adult learners and community groups.

As part of the package, participants will undertake an individually tailored, 3-hour (flexible) creative movement workshop, watch a live performance of **COAL** at their chosen venue and be invited to give a critical response to choreographer Gary Clarke as part of an engaging post show discussion. There will also be an opportunity to meet members of the company after the show (on advanced request).

As part of our mission to be inclusive and accessible, the company aims to provide bespoke and tailored experiences relevant to each group's needs and experience level. We can deliver sessions that sit within curriculum requirements at all levels and actively encourage teachers and group leaders to be open about how we can assist with their current work and assessments. This can be done through prior discussion with our Engagement Manager and Workshop Leaders.

MISSION STATEMENT FOR PACKAGE

'Using subject matters of historical and social relevance, our mission is to provide an exciting, supportive, educational and interactive environment where participants can flourish and develop their individual artistic voices and creativity. We actively strive to build confidence in those who are new to dance as well as nurture those who are more familiar. We pride ourselves on our unique delivery and aim to create a space that is inclusive and inspirational.

Our professional touring work aims to inspire and inform diverse audiences on social and political history whilst demonstrating the power of dance and storytelling.'

Gary Clarke, Artistic Director & Joint CEO of Gary Clarke Company

Responses to the **COAL** workshop and show packages from our 2018 tour:

"Just incredible. I left feeling really inspired."
Nubrico Youth Dance member

"Five stars – very enjoyable and fun!"
Tin Arts group members, Durham

Photography by Joe Armitage

WORKSHOP LEADERS

Workshops will be led by up to 2 members of **Gary Clarke Company**, bringing participants into direct contact with accomplished professionals, all with extensive experience of working in companies of international standing. They have a wealth of experience of working in educational and community settings and deliver their work with confidence, compassion, knowledge and rigour.

OUTLINE WORKSHOP CONTENT

Welcome — 15 minutes

Participants will be welcomed to the workshop and introduced to each Workshop Leader and their background in dance as well as the work of choreographer Gary Clarke and the production **COAL**. Participants will be introduced to the Workshop Code of Conduct, designed to create a space that is safe and supportive for everyone.

Research & Source Material — 15 minutes

Research is a huge part of Gary Clarke's creative process and is vital in forming and shaping our work. Participants will be given a rare opportunity to delve into Gary's incredibly rich, personal research and source materials (such as archive video footage, images, interviews and varied written texts) used to create **COAL**.

Warm up — 30 minutes

Workshop Leaders will lead a fun and interactive physical warm up to adequately prepare the body and voice, including simple exercises, movement phrases, physical games and improvisation. This warm up is an adapted version of that done by company members on tour, modified depending on level and experience it can range from light and simple to rigorous, advanced and technique-based.

Learn — 35 minutes

Participants will have the opportunity to learn selected sections from **COAL**. Workshop Leaders will use a step-by-step approach incorporating imagery and intention to physically explore Gary Clarke's dynamic and stylised choreography.

Create — 35 minutes

Working in pairs and small groups, participants will be led through a muti-layered creative process to produce their own movement material and choreographic responses to **COAL's** source material and movement language. Workshop Leaders will support all participants through this process and will actively encourage them to think about new ways of creating movement based on Gary Clarke's choreographic approach.

Share — 20 minutes

In a safe and supportive environment, participants will have the opportunity to share their creative work with the rest of the group. The opportunity to share work in a performative setting is a rewarding experience that helps build confidence and skills.

Cool Down & Reflection — 15 minutes

Workshop Leaders will lead a simple cool down to regulate breathing and centre the body. Participants will then have the opportunity to reflect on the session using a variety of methods and will be encouraged to share their thoughts on what they have learned and experienced.

Q&A — 15 minutes

Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions about the production **COAL**, choreographer Gary Clarke and the dance industry in general. As esteemed and experienced dance artists, **Gary Clarke Company** members have a wealth of experience to share and offer.



★★★★

"A visceral piece of physical theatre recalling the shattering impact of the pit closures in the 1980s."
The Stage

★★★★★

"A profound and highly relevant contribution to remembering this painful, life changing period in our history."
The Big Issue

Page 03 imagery by Elly Wel Photography
With thanks to Performing Arts staff and students at Trinity Academy, Doncaster













WORKSHOP INFORMATION

Our workshops are flexible in terms of length and content and can be modified as needed. We will work in partnership with you to ensure we can provide a tailored experience for your group. Please use this pack as a guide and get in touch if you have any queries or questions.

Package cost

Workshop fee of £400 plus show tickets for workshop participants and group leaders at a discounted rate organised by each tour venue (ideally based on a group of 20 – 30).

We recognise that workshop fees can be a barrier to participation for some groups. If this is the case, please chat with our Engagement Manager about how we might try to support you.

Tour dates / Post show talks / Meet the company

Please visit coaltour.co.uk for tour dates and details of post-show talks. Contact our Engagement Manager to discuss a 'Meet the Company' opportunity.

Age

Due to the mature themes explored in **COAL**, the age guidance for our Workshop & Show Package is 12+. For more details, please contact our Engagement Manager.

Experience & Access

Workshops are tailored to fit individual groups and are suitable for groups with little or no dance experience aged 12+ as well as more experienced dance / theatre / performing arts students at all levels. We are also happy to lead workshops for participants with mixed experience levels.

Please notify us of any access needs in advance and we will endeavour to accommodate them.

Preparation

Prior to each workshop, our Engagement Manager will liaise with you to complete a detailed booking form. The information provided will ensure the workshop is tailor made and that the content and level is appropriate for everyone. This also provides an opportunity for us to identify how we can support or compliment any work that is already being delivered.

In addition, we ask all workshop participants and leaders to agree to our Workshop Code of Conduct. This helps us to create a respectful, supportive and inclusive environment for everyone. We may also ask participants to complete a media consent form, if we would like to share content from the day on our social media or website. Please chat with our Engagement Manager for more details.

Duration

Workshop: 3 hours (flexible)
Show: 80 minutes with no interval
Post Show Discussion: 30 minutes

Workshop Requirements

- At least 1 member of support staff (e.g. group leader) must be present at all times
- A large, warm studio space suitable for physical work with good lighting
- Access to play music from devices such as laptops or smart phones and the appropriate cables / attachments to do so (if Bluetooth connections are unavailable)
- Access to cold water (bottled or tap)
- Access to First Aid support
- Wi-Fi
- Large TV / projector screen to play footage from a laptop and the appropriate cables and attachments to do so
- Participants must be dressed in practical clothing suitable for moving and trainers. Hair should be tied back and jewellery removed

Liability

All workshop leaders are DBS checked (or European equivalent in the case of international performers) and carry full public liability insurance through Gary Clarke Company.

BOOKING DETAILS

Contact

If you would like to find out more, or to book a Workshop & Show Package, please get in touch with:

Laura Barber, GCC Engagement Manager
Phone : **07999 548775**
Email : **laura@garyclarkecompany.com**



"COAL is a direct response to my upbringing in the working class mining village of Grimethorpe, South Yorkshire. It's about trying to capture a time in British history that is too easily forgotten. It is an attempt at keeping the memories of the mining industry alive, an industry that I believe shaped the fabric of our society and how we live our lives today. These communities are at the heart of COAL."
Gary Clarke

THE SHOW

Winner of a UK Theatre Award and a Critics' Circle National Dance Award.

Originally created to mark the 30th anniversary of the 1984/85 British Miners' Strike and described as 'emotional dynamite' Gary Clarke Company revives their multi-award-winning production **COAL** — a riveting dance theatre show which takes a nostalgic look at the hard-hitting realities of life in the coalfields. **COAL** brings together Clarke's striking choreography performed by 7 professional dancers, a local cast of women and a live brass band, in an ever-relevant story about community, solidarity and survival.

★★★★ **"An absorbing, immediate slice of history rendered with the kind of emotional truth that deepens its impact as popular entertainment."** The Times

"One of the most powerful, moving pieces of theatre I've ever seen on the miners' strike"
Paul Winter (Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign)

POST SHOW TALK

After seeing **COAL**, participants will have the opportunity to take part in a unique post show discussion with Gary Clarke and company members, where they will be able to share their critical responses and opinions as well as contribute to a question and answer session about the work.

There will also be an opportunity to meet choreographer Gary Clarke and the cast of **COAL** (on advanced request).

GARY CLARKE COMPANY

Co-founded and led by Artistic Director Gary Clarke and Executive Producer Annabel Dunbar, Gary Clarke Company is a pioneering, award-winning dance theatre company based in South Yorkshire. Renowned for high impact, high quality and high legacy work, the company tours extensively to middle scale venues across the UK, most recently the award-winning **COAL** (2016 – 2018) the critically acclaimed **WASTELAND** (2019/20 – 2023) and their newest creation **DETENTION** (2025).

GARY CLARKE

Gary Clarke is a multi-award winning British Choreographer, Director, Performer, Mentor, Teacher and Facilitator who has been contributing to the UK dance scene for over 25 years. In 2017 Gary was awarded with an inaugural Honorary Fellowship from The Northern School of Contemporary Dance. Gary is currently the co-founder and Artistic Director of Gary Clarke Company where he has created 3 major mid-scale works for the company which have toured nationally to critical and audience acclaim. Gary has also created work for other companies including: **Akademi The Troth**, (Winner of The Herald Angel Award & The Summerhall Lustrum Award), **The National Theatre**, **Opera North** (South Bank Award Nominated), **Sky Arts and Hull City of Culture 2017**. Gary has also worked as a performer with some the UK's leading dance companies including **Lea Anderson's The Cholmondeleys & The Featherstonehaughs**, **Matthew Bourne's New Adventures**, **Lloyd Newson's DV8 Physical Theatre**, **Liv Lorent's balletLORENT**, **Candoco Dance Company / Jerome Bel** amongst others.



Gary Clarke

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