

FIRE  EXIT



CITY OF THE BLIND & HORIZONTAL COLLABORATION

David Leddy

David Leddy is a multi-award-winning playwright and theatre director based in Glasgow. He is artistic director of his company Fire Exit which aims to make theatre that innovates, illuminates and invigorates.

David has been described as a 'theatrical maverick' with 'propensity for fearless experiment' by the *Financial Times*, a 'site-specific genius' by *The Scotsman* and an Edinburgh fringe festival 'institution' by *The Independent*.

Outside Scotland his work has been shown all over the world from Boston to Buenos Aires, Delhi to Milan, Sao Paulo to Santiago. Recent prizes include the Edinburgh International Festival Fringe Award, two different Herald Angel Awards and a Fringe First.

The artistic work often combines the intellectual stimulation of performance art and the dynamism of new digital technologies with the emotional drive of dramatic new writing.

Recent work includes:

City of the Blind, an epic online political thriller available anywhere via smartphone or tablet.

Long Live The Little Knife, a dynamic, absurd and uplifting caper about forgery, castration and blind drunkenness.

Sub Rosa, a gothic promenade piece set in the backstage labyrinth of a Victorian theatre.

Susurrus, where the audience follow a map around a botanic garden and listen to the piece on headphones.

White Tea, which takes place inside a huge paper box where the audience don white paper kimonos and sip Japanese tea as the actors perform around them.

Home Hindrance, where an audience of six people move from room to room in David's own home and find a different actor in each room.

Untitled Love Story, where the audience take part in a group meditation on love and art while following four interweaving stories set on the silky nocturnal waterways of Venice.

★★★★★ 'Astonishing'.

The List (City of the Blind)

★★★★★ 'Extraordinary'.

The Stage (City of the Blind)

★★★★★ 'Thrilling'.

Edinburgh Festivals Magazine (Horizontal Collaboration)

★★★★★ 'Superb'.

The Stage (Horizontal Collaboration)

★★★★★ 'Fantastic'.

The Scotsman (Long Live The Little Knife)

★★★★★ 'Perceptive'.

The Herald (Long Live The Little Knife)

★★★★★ 'Glorious'.

Evening News (Untitled Love Story)

★★★★★ 'Magnificent'.

The Scotsman (Sub Rosa)

★★★★★ 'Exquisite'.

The Guardian (Sub Rosa)

★★★★★ 'Brilliant'.

Financial Times (Sub Rosa)

★★★★★ 'Superb'.

The Scotsman (Home Hindrance)

★★★★★ 'Unique'.

The Guardian (Home Hindrance)

★★★★★ 'Magnificent'.

The Scotsman (Susurrus)

★★★★★ 'Beautiful'.

Metro (White Tea)

★★★★★ 'Timeless'.

Sunday Herald (Home Hindrance)

City of the Blind

An epic political thriller that can be experienced anywhere via smartphone or tablet

Presented alongside *Horizontal Collaboration*.

Imagine a downloaded book that comes alive with audio, photos and video. *City Of The Blind* is an emotionally complex and intellectually provocative drama that follows a U.N. investigator and whistleblower caught in a web of surveillance, violence, and counter-intelligence. Throughout six thirty-minute-long chapters you access secret files to listen to voicemails, intercept emails, and watch CCTV. Created over three years and featuring thirty performers recorded in sixteen different locations, *City of the Blind* is groundbreaking drama for small-scale technology.

You are given access to surveillance files about investigative auditor Cassie Al-Khatib, who works in the United Nations headquarters. She unwittingly discovers evidence of an organised ring of gang rapists in Democratic Republic of Congo and is shocked to find that the rapists are U.N. peacekeeping soldiers. The piece leads you on epic journey from the corridors of power in New York City to the war-torn back-alleys of Kinshasa.

The text is based on shocking real events knitted together from research into cases where U.N. peacekeepers have committed appalling sexual abuse. It takes you inside the mysterious procedures of the U.N., an organisation that overshadows all our lives yet remains an enigmatic puzzle even to those who work inside it. As Cassie digs deeper she finds murky senior figures in the U.N. are trying to stifle her investigation. Events suddenly take a turn for the worse and she is plunged headlong into a web of betrayal, confusion and disinformation.

Watch *City of the Blind*, see the trailer or find out more at:
[HTTP://WWW.DAVIDLEDDY.COM/SHOWS/CITY-OF-THE-BLIND](http://WWW.DAVIDLEDDY.COM/SHOWS/CITY-OF-THE-BLIND)

★★★★ 'Astonishing achievement... unforgettable experience' *The List*

★★★★★ 'Grips throughout... will delight lovers of John Le Carre' *British Theatre Guide*

★★★★★ 'Complex... inventive and dramatic' *The Scotsman*

★★★★★ 'Extraordinary... heart racing' *The Stage*

PICK OF THE FRINGE 2014 – *New York Times*, *The Scotsman*, *The Guardian*



Horizontal Collaboration

Intense live drama performed every day by four new actors reading blind

Horizontal Collaboration is an intense drama where sex, power and politics collide with emotion, seduction and destruction. It is performed each time by new actors who read the text blind. There are four desks and four laptops. Four U.N. lawyers have been brought in at short notice to read pre-prepared texts in an explosive tribunal. They are reading blind and have no idea what happens next. The lawyers read interview transcripts from Judith K, an African warlord's wife. After her husband's assassination, Judith becomes leader. She takes her people on a treacherous path towards peace... or does she?

Thematically, the piece focuses on the psychology of power in times of war. It asks whether women can ever be given the freedom to lead in a different way from men. It features a case of 'horizontal collaboration,' the name given to the supposed wartime crime of having sex with an enemy soldier. The roles of the U.N. lawyers are written without gender so that on different nights the piece is performed by two men and two women, all women or all men. Thus, the implicit sexual and racial politics of the piece shift from night to night.

The piece is theatrically simple and stripped down. Leddy describes it as a minimal chamber piece as a counterpoint to the epic complexity of *City of the Blind*. As *Horizontal Collaboration* progresses, the lawyers turn off their desk lamps one by one until they are lit only by the intense, blue light of their laptops. Then, one by one, they close down their laptops until everyone is left in darkness.

See the trailer or find out more at:

[HTTP://WWW.DAVIDLEDDY.COM/SHOWS/HORIZONTAL-COLLABORATION](http://www.davidleddy.com/shows/horizontal-collaboration)

★★★★ 'Superb... a highly honed theatrical event' *The Stage*

★★★★ 'Intense... thrilling... thought-provoking' *Edinburgh Festivals Magazine*

★★★★ 'Intense... dark imaginings' *The Stage*

PICK OF THE FRINGE 2014 – *New York Times, The Scotsman, The Guardian*



Technical requirements

Promoters can quickly and economically create their own presentation of the piece without the need for Fire Exit staff to travel to the venue.

Fire Exit can advise on all aspects of production via Skype /phone/email.

Promoter provides:

- ◆ 4 actors each night, local to the venue, who will read the script unseen
- ◆ Simple staging & set-up, see requirements opposite
- ◆ Technical staff to operate sound and lights
- ◆ Local licenses and permissions
- ◆ Local marketing and publicity
- ◆ Ticketing

Fire Exit provides:

- ◆ Copyright License to present the work
- ◆ Music on CD
- ◆ Consultation on the most effective way of running the piece
- ◆ The script (available in English, Spanish or Portuguese)

Stage area dimensions: Very flexible. No specific dimensions. Suitable for many different spaces.

Lighting requirements:

1 x Technical operator (light & sound)
 1 x lighting state (general cover). Full black out.
 1 x programmable lighting desk
 8 x matching desktop lamps (4 x daylight bulbs, 4 x soft bulbs)

Sound requirements: CD playback.

4 x mics and leads
 1 x small mixing desk
Set requirements:
 1 x long conference table (or 4 smaller tables)
 4 x matching chairs
 4 x laptops for actors to read from
 1 or 2 x large extension reels

Number in touring company: None.
 Promoter provides all staff locally.

Touring availability: From August 2014. Available at short notice.

Any additional touring info:

Fire Exit licenses the production and then promoter stages their own version.

Fire Exit advises via email/Skype on set-up, casting & staffing.

Usually presented as a double bill with downloaded drama *City of the Blind*.

Contact
Viviane Hullin
 Tel: 0 (44) 141 552 6719
 Mob: 0 (44) 7472 657380
 Email: Viviane@davidleddy.com

