

7pm 11th September  
The Cockpit Theatre,  
London

*Tête à Tête: The Opera Festival  
2022 presents*



*The Journey*

*The story of a man who has been separated from everything he loves. He was forced to leave his home because of violence. His partner and unborn child are hundreds of miles away and he cannot see them because he has been unfairly imprisoned, with no knowledge of when he will be released and where he will be sent afterwards. All he can do is write his poetry on the walls, hoping that someone on the outside will see it and begin to doubt the lies they have been told.*

**Music By** Jeremy Gill

**Libretto Adapted By** Jeremy Gill And Marianna Suri **From "The Chaplain's Tale"** By Michael Zand, Published By Comma Press In Refugee Tales (2016)

**Directed By** Rosie Kat, **Set, Costume And Video Design By** Fenna De Jonge **Musical Direction By** Jeremy Gill  
**Stage Manager:** Abigail Philpott

**Storyteller:** Marianna Suri **A Man:** Chuma Sijeqa **Chorus:** Citizens Of The World Choir

**Flute:** Sarah Desbruslais **Clarinet:** Raymond Brien **Violin:** Flora Fontanelli **Cello:** Thomas Shelley **Piano:** Petra Hajduchova

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**Thanks To** David Osbon And The London College Of Music For Rehearsal Space

Richard Ault For Refreshments Sarah Playfair For Room Hire

Find out more about the Refugee Tales here: <https://www.refugeetales.org/>

*Refugee Tales*





*Jeremy Gill*

Jeremy Gill is an American composer, conductor and pianist. Born in Harrisburg, PA in 1975, Jeremy studied oboe, piano, and composition before entering the Eastman School of Music. Described as “vividly colored” (The New York Times), “replete with imaginative textures” (The Dallas Morning News), and “exhilarating” (The Philadelphia Inquirer), Jeremy’s music has earned him residencies and fellowships with the Bogliasco Foundation (2017), Chautauqua Opera (2016), Copland House (2015), the American Opera Project (2013–14), and the MacDowell Colony (2013), as well as major grants from New Music USA (2017, 2015) and Chamber Music America (2011).



*Marianna Suri*

A versatile and exciting soprano, Marianna Suri has captured audiences with impassionate and thought-provoking performances of operatic roles for Cyprus Opera Organization, Kazakh Abai National Theatre, Cyprus Youth Symphony Orchestra, and Erie Philharmonic. As a concert soloist she has performed with Chimera Orchestra, the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra, Rice University Symphony Orchestra, the Houston Sinfonietta, and the Engomi String Orchestra among others. A champion of contemporary music she recently recorded a newly commissioned song cycle by Mark Bowler with positive Note supported by Arts Council England.



*Chuma Sijeka*

Chuma Sijeka is a South African baritone, and he recently graduated from the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme at the Royal Opera House. He has performed the roles of Shaunard (Boheme) at Joburg Theatre, Don Bartolo (Le Nozze di Figaro) New Generation Festival, Harasta (Cunning Little Vixen) Opera Holland Park, Father (Prodigal Son) and Landlord (Poison, Passion and Patrification) Pegasus Opera, Angelotti (Tosca), Second Philistine (Samson et Delilah) and Second Nazarine (Salome) at Royal Opera House. Chuma has also won the Joseph Karaviotis Prize in the Les Azuriales Opera Festival.



*Rosie Kat*

Rosie Kat trained in MA Opera Directing at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. She is passionate about creating bold and highly physical performance which explores the human psyche and social relationships. Rosie has worked with companies including Welsh National Opera, Northern Opera Group, Charles Court Opera and Leeds Youth Opera. Upcoming: Cunning Little Vixen, Opera North (assistant di-rector); Opera Scenes, RWCMD (director).





*Fenna de Jonge*

Fenna de Jonge is a Dutch performance designer and maker. She attended the Royal Academy of Art in the Hague in 2016 where she pursued Interactive Media and Design. She trained in MA Performance Design at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Working across set, costume, performance, and installation Fenna's process is experimental and ever-evolving, transforming the ordinary through intuitive making, sustainable sourcing, and fluid collaboration.



*Citizens of the World Choir*

Citizens of the World Choir is a musical family that celebrates the artistry, heritage and humanity of people seeking sanctuary, and their allies. They advocate for understanding, dignity and kindness through the transformative impact of music and song. It has members from over 30 different countries and they have performed at the Royal Opera House, Shakespeare's Globe, and Glastonbury Festival, to name but a few!

Please consider donating to the Citizens of the World Choir here:

<https://www.citizensoftheworldchoir.org/>

£ 10 – £ 30

Will cover the travel to a rehearsal for one of our displaced members or get them some data so we can be in contact

£ 50 – £ 100

Will pay for our rehearsal space for up to a month

£ 500 – £ 750

Covers the cost of a coach for a gig out of London or to have our brilliant accompanist with us for an entire season

£ 2,500 – £ 3000

is what it costs to run our organisation for a week

According to the latest UNHCR figures at least **89.3 million** people around the world have been forced to flee their homes. Among them are nearly **27.1 million refugees**, around half of whom are **under the age of 18**.

Please consider donating to: <https://www.unhcr.org/uk/donate.html>