



**PRESS RELEASE  
TUESDAY 17 APRIL 2018**

**ROYAL COURT THEATRE, NORTHERN STAGE AND NEW WRITING NORTH ANNOUNCE READINGS FROM WRITERS BASED IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND.**

The Royal Court Theatre has collaborated with Northern Stage and New Writing North to create a new writers' group. The first public readings of the plays that have been developed by the group will take place in The Site at the Royal Court Theatre in May 2018.

*Royal Court Writers' Group: North* was open to playwrights based in the North of England. The nine writers selected have spent the last three months in sessions with UK leading playwrights Stacey Gregg, Emteaz Hussain, Alistair McDowall, Simon Stephens and Tom Wells.

The new writers include Olivia Hannah, Karen Laws, Mhairi Ledgerwood, Laura Lindow, Jack Nicholls, Tamsin Daisy Rees, Lindsay Rodden, Chris Salt and Zosia Wand. The readings will be directed by Royal Court Associate Director Lucy Morrison and Northern Stage Artistic Director Lorne Campbell.

Each writer has been developing a new play for the stage. Following the readings in May at the Royal Court, the plays will also be shared at Northern Stage in September.

Please find details of the readings below;

***Man Hours***

Written by Chris Salt  
Directed by Lucy Morrison  
The Site  
6.30pm Monday 21 May 2018  
A play about boys, Burnley and betrayal.

***Cheer Up Slug***

Written by Tamsin Daisy Rees  
Directed by Lorne Campbell  
The Site  
6.30pm Tuesday 22 May 2018  
A play about sex, slugs and the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

***Paper Tiger***

Written by Mhairi Ledgerwood  
Directed by Lorne Campbell  
The Site  
8pm Tuesday 22 May 2018  
A play about love, language, and fear.





***Braids***

Written by Olivia Hannah  
Directed by Lucy Morrison  
The Site  
6.30pm Wednesday 23 May 2018  
A play about friendship, identity and hair.

***Bones***

Written by Zosia Wand  
Directed by Lucy Morrison  
The Site  
8pm Wednesday 23 May 2018  
A play about a Polish headscarf, a teenage girl and a dead seagull.

***Island People***

Written by Lindsay Rodden  
The Site  
6.30pm Thursday 24 May 2018  
A play about sleeping giants, uprising women, and a dance hall at the edge of the world.

***Marikana***

Written by Karen Laws  
The Site  
8pm Thursday 24 May 2018  
A play about recrimination, loyalty and rape.

***Dear Pig***

Written by Laura Lindow  
Directed by Lucy Morrison  
The Site  
6.30pm Friday 25 May 2018  
A play about bones, bedding and bruises.

***Harsh Noise Wall***

Written by Jack Nicholls  
Directed by Lucy Morrison  
The Site  
8pm Friday 25 May 2018  
A play about limbs, brains and every member of The Fall.

Full biography information below.

Tickets are £5 per reading or £8 for two readings and can be purchased here:

<https://royalcourttheatre.com/whats-on/writers-group-north/>

**Ends:-**

For more information or images please contact Anoushka Warden on 0207 565 5063 /

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**Notes to Editors:**



**Biographies:*****Man Hours* by Chris Salt**

Chris is a Manchester-based playwright, arts engagement practitioner (Edgeways Productions) and award-winning documentary film-maker. As a playwright he has been a runner-up for the Papatango New Writing Prize, commissioned by Northumberland Touring Company, selected for Bolton Octagon's Top Five festival, had a rehearsed reading for 24:7 and written an ACE-funded documentary opera about invisible illness.

***Cheer Up Slug* by Tamsin Daisy Rees**

Tamsin Daisy Rees is a playwright and illustrator from County Durham, currently based in Newcastle. She is an Associate Artist at Live Theatre. This is her first full-length play.

***Paper Tiger* by Mhairi Ledgerwood**

Mhairi has had work performed at The Traverse, Northern Stage, Live Theatre, Alphabetti Theatre, and ARC Stockton. She currently has plays in development with The Six Twenty and Alphabetti Theatre.

***Braids* by Olivia Hannah**

Olivia Hannah is a Newcastle-based translator, short story writer and playwright. She has had work performed at Live Theatre in Newcastle and is one of their 2018/2019 Associate Artists.

***Bones* by Zosia Wand**

Zosia Wand is a playwright, novelist and occasional poet. She has lived in the Cumbrian festival town of Ulverston for most of her adult life and her stories are rooted in the local landscape.

***Island People* by Lindsay Rodden**

Lindsay was born in Scotland, grew up in Donegal and Liverpool, and is currently based in another rainy edgeland, North Shields. Recent writing includes *The Story Giant* (Liverpool Everyman, adapted from the book by Brian Patten); *Cartographers* (Theatre by the Lake); *A Modest Proposal* and *Sunday Morning, Dandelion Seeds* (women playwrights' collective Agent 160); *Man With Bicycle, '73* and *Writing in the Dark* (The Miniaturists); and her new writer-in-residence play for Live Theatre, Newcastle.

***Marikana* by Karen Laws**

Karen Laws lives in Newcastle. Her first play, *Dirty Nets*, was performed at Live Theatre in 2004 and in 2009 she co-wrote a radio play called *Beware the Kids*. She has written for television, both comedy and continuing drama, including *EastEnders*, *Casualty*, *Holby*, *Two Pints of Lager* and a *Packet of Crisps*, *Hollyoaks*, *32 Brinkburn Street*, *Waterloo Road*, *Stella* and *Shameless*.

***Dear Pig* by Laura Lindow**

Laura Lindow is a Scottish Playwright, Director & Clown Doctor proudly based in the North East of England. Recent credits include the award-winning *Key Change* (for Open Clasp), *The War of the Worlds* (for Northern Stage), and new musical *Beyond the End of the Road* (for November Club).

***Harsh Noise Wall* by Jack Nicholls**

Jack Nicholls is the author of the poetry pamphlet *Meat Songs* (The Emma Press, 2017), and has been published in *The Best New British and Irish Poets 2017* (Eyewear), *The Poetry*

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Review, and other places too. He produces and hosts the experimental cabaret FLIM NITE and makes comedy with the sketch group Beach Hunks.

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