



**ADELAIDE
FESTIVAL**

28 FEB-15 MAR 2020



Image: Stewart Armstrong

THEATRE / SCOTLAND

Mouthpiece

Traverse Theatre Company

**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE /
AUSTRALIAN EXCLUSIVE**

**6 - 10 March 2020
12-14 March 2020
ODEON THEATRE**

Duration 1hr 35mins, no interval

Supported by British Council, Creative Scotland and
the City of Edinburgh Council.

Written by Kieran Hurley

Directed by Orla O'Loughlin

Associate Director Katherine Nesbitt

Designer & Lighting Designer Kai Fischer

Composer & Sound Designer Kim Moore

Costume Designer Sophie Ferguson

Cast Shauna Macdonald, Angus Taylor



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KIERAN HURLEY

PLAYWRIGHT

Kieran Hurley is an award-winning writer, performer and theatre-maker based in Glasgow whose work has been presented throughout the UK and internationally. Recent work includes: *Square Go* (with Gary McNair, Paines Plough Roundabout); *A Six-Inch Layer of Topsoil and the Fact It Rains* (Perth Theatre); *Heads Up* (Show And Tell); *RantIn* (National Theatre of Scotland); *Chalk Farm* (with AJ Taudevin, ThickSkin).

Awards include:

Scotsman Fringe First Awards for *Square Go* and *Heads Up* and a Critics' Awards for Theatre in Scotland, Best New Play for *Heads Up* and *Beats*. The film adaptation of *Beats* was released in 2019, after premiering at the Glasgow Film Festival.

ORLA O'LOUGHLIN

DIRECTOR

Orla O'Loughlin is a British theatre director. She is currently the Vice Principal and Director of Drama for Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London, and was previously Artistic Director of the Traverse Theatre. Alongside this role, she also works as a freelance theatre director.

Over the course of her career Orla has directed an eclectic mix of award-winning and internationally-acclaimed work at a range of theatres, festivals and non-conventional performance spaces.

She was listed in *The Observer* as one of the top fifty Cultural Leaders in the UK and in *The List* Hot 100 of Women in the Arts.

TRAVERSE THEATRE COMPANY

As Scotland's new writing theatre, the Traverse Theatre is a dynamic centre for performance, experience and discovery, often referred to as Edinburgh's 'beating heart of the Fringe'. For the second time in a row at Adelaide Festival, they bring new stories and live performances that challenge, inform and entertain. They aim to empower artists and audiences to make sense of the world today, providing a safe space to question, learn, empathise and – crucially – encounter different people and experiences. They believe that conversation and the coming together of groups are central to a democratic society.

Traverse are critically acclaimed and recognised the world over for their originality and artistic risk, which they hope will create some of the most talked about plays, productions, directors, writers and actors for years to come.

**A message from
Kieran Hurley**

I suppose Mouthpiece is a play with a lot of me in it. It's about storytelling and theatre, but more than that it's about who gets to shape and tell the stories that we hear about the world and about each other. Neither Libby nor Declan is a stand-in for me in any sense, but I've moved in and been moulded by both their worlds. Their life together comes from my attempts to explore and examine a lot of my own stuff about power and privilege in a territory close to home for me. Quite literally too, in that it's also a play about Edinburgh, the city I grew up in, whose Georgian New Town terraces, suburban housing schemes, inner-city crags and hills, upmarket cafés and art galleries all add up to something like a kind of third character in the play. But the social themes of class and power and appropriation aren't actually specific to Edinburgh or Scotland at all (in fact the action of the play has already been relocated to Istanbul in a Turkish adaptation). And anyway, really, it's a play about love. About two people who, for a moment, answer something fundamental in each other before the irreconcilable demands of the relationship and other forces begin to destroy it from the inside out. I'm pretty sure you don't have to be from Edinburgh to recognise something in that. There's also jokes in it too, it's okay to laugh.



THE CAST



Shauna Macdonald

Libby

Shauna has worked extensively across theatre, television and film, including performances in *Born to Run* (Traverse Theatre Company), *King Lear and Pal Joey* (Citizens Theatre), *The Cry* (BBC), *In Plain Sight* (ITV), *The Five* (Sky), and films *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* (2017), *The Descent* (2005), *The Descent: Part 2* (2009) and *Filth* (2013).



Angus Taylor

Declan

Angus Taylor is currently in his third year of training on the BA Acting course at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Credits include: *Mouthpiece* (Traverse Theatre Company), *San Diego*, *Three Sisters*, *A View from the Bridge*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland) and *A Christmas Carol* (Children's Classics Concerts).

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