

**PENTABUS**

**ThickSkin**

# **DRIFTWOOD**

**A NEW PLAY BY TIM FOLEY**

**TOURING AUTUMN 2023**

**INFORMATION PACK**



*Pentabus are champions of rural touring and are 'one of British theatre's unsung treasures.'*

The Guardian

*[ThickSkin's] elusive new, fresh, and cool material you have been searching for*

ManchesterTheatres.com

These are the shores of Vikings, Victorians, van drivers and visions. The tide is out but the chips are hot.

Two brothers go for walks along the beach at Seaton Carew. Their Dad is dying, and their town is crumbling. Family rifts and political divides try to pull them apart, and a figure made of driftwood stalks the shore at night... An inspiring, expansive story about hope, love, belonging and the tides within us.

Pentabus and Thickskin present this intoxicating and mystical new play by award-winning writer Tim Foley in a distinctive physical and cinematic production.

# DRIFTWOOD

A NEW PLAY BY TIM FOLEY

DIRECTED BY ELLE WHILE & NEIL BETTLES

# ABOUT PENTABUS

**Pentabus is the nation's rural theatre company.** We are the only professional theatre company in the UK whose vision is singularly rural. We tour new plays about the contemporary rural world to new audiences in village halls, fields, festivals and theatres, telling stories with local relevance, plus national and international impact. We believe that every person living in an isolated rural community has a right to exceptional theatre.

We are based in rural Shropshire, and to date all of our work has been made here. We then tour to village halls and theatres locally and nationally.

Over four and a half decades Pentabus has produced 175 new plays, reached over half a million audience members, won a prestigious South Bank Show award for our show about racism, a Fringe First for our play about climate change and were the first to live stream from a village hall.

We have hosted a writer in residence since 2014 and they have gone on to be commissioned by the Royal Court, Birmingham Rep, Royal Welsh College, Bush Theatre, Hightide and Nottingham Playhouse. We are a champion for rural young people aged 16 to 30 and Pentabus Young Company is our new initiative offering workshops, masterclasses, work experience and mentorships, as well as the opportunity to join our Young Writers' programme, which has been running for seven years. Previous participants of the Young Writers' programme have had their work presented at Ludlow Fringe, Latitude Festival and Hereford Courtyard. It is a springboard into further study and the arts industry, with over 50% of Young Writers from the first four years of the programme going on to be published and professional writers, or to study an arts subject at university.

**pentabus.co.uk**

**2022 Season Launch:** <https://youtu.be/NFrqOXo2l8U>

# ABOUT THICKSKIN

**Extraordinary stories told in unexpected ways**

ThickSkin is reinventing theatre for the next generation. We are reimagining what theatre can be and looking to share human stories through quality, future-facing, multi-disciplined formats. We're developing 360° artists of the future for a hybrid world where physical and digital collide in more ways than ever before.

An award-winning theatre company, ThickSkin creates work across live and digital platforms. We produce bold and ambitious theatre; using our distinctive physicality and cinematic style to reach and inspire young, new and diverse audiences across the world. We nurture talented theatre makers, providing a springboard for artists who are ready to take a leap.

Our work includes a wide range of creative approaches to tell stories in new and inspiring ways. From live stage productions to virtual reality experiences, to immersive audio plays, we make theatre that is rooted in contemporary culture.

**thickskintheatre.co.uk**

**Showreel 2020:** <https://youtu.be/AZQ5K4702VA>



# CREATIVE TEAM

## **TIM FOLEY, writer**

Tim Foley is an award-winning writer for theatre and audio drama based in Manchester. He was Pentabus' Channel 4 Writer-in-Residence in 2016, when he wrote Electric Rosary (winner of the 2017 Bruntwood Prize Judges' Award; premiered at the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester, in 2022). Other theatre credits include Astronauts of Hartlepool (2017 VAULT Festival, winner of the VAULT Origins Award for Outstanding New Work); The Dogs of War (Old Red Lion Theatre, 2015). He won the 2016 OffWestEnd award for Most Promising New Playwright. Tim also writes audio drama set in the worlds of Doctor Who for Big Finish Productions. His original podcast, North West Footwear Database, was featured on BBC Radio 4 Extra.

## **ELLE WHILE, Director**

Elle is the Artistic Director of Pentabus Theatre and an Associate Artist of Shakespeare's Globe she received an MFA in Theatre Directing from Birkbeck College. Directing includes One Of Them Ones & Idyll (Pentabus); As You Like It (cbeebies); Private Peaceful (Nottingham Playhouse & UK Tour); The Silence and The Noise & Destiny (Pentabus/Rural Media); Blue Stockings (Storyhouse); The Merry Wives of Windsor, As You Like It and Hamlet (Shakespeare's Globe); 2017/2018 Revival director UK and International tour of The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time and West End (Gielgud); What The Moon Saw (2Faced Dance); Dance Nation, Blindsided and RAGE- UK Premiere (RWCMD); Wretch (Shoreditch Church and tour of London homeless shelters); Glory Dazed (Soho Theatre, Adelaide Festival and Underbelly, Edinburgh-Winner of Holden St. Theatre award and Critics Choice award); Country Music (West Yorkshire Playhouse); Frisky and Manish: Just Too Much (Udderbelly, London and Edinburgh); That Face (BOVTS); and recording director for the Old Vic's production of Cause Celebre on Radio 4.

## **NEIL BETTLES, Director**

Neil is a Theatre Director, Choreographer and Movement Director. As co-founder and Artistic Director of ThickSkin, his directing credits include How Not To Drown, Chalk Farm, The Static, Blackout, Boy Magnet, White Noise. Recent work includes Movement Director for James IV, Queen Of The Fight, (Raw Material and Capital Theatres) Scottish tour 2022. Choreographer for Disney's Bedknobs and Broomsticks, UK and Ireland tour 21/22. Movement Director for Private Peaceful, UK tour 2022. Neil was Associate Director for Frantic Assembly and was nominated for the Off West End award for Best Director for The Unreturning (2019). As Movement Director, Carmen (Opera Wuppertal, Germany); The James Plays 1, 2 & 3 (National Theatre of Scotland, EIF and National Theatre); Blood Wedding and The Bacchae (Royal & Derngate). As Associate Movement Director, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child 2016 - 2021; Heisenberg (Wyndhams Theatre); The Light Princess (National Theatre) and The Full Monty (Sheffield Theatres and West End).

# KEY INFO

<b>Suitable for:</b>	Aged 12+
<b>Making Shows Accessible:</b>	Creative captions will be integrated into the set design for D/deaf, deafened and hard of hearing audiences.
<b>Ideal performance area:</b>	5m wide x 5m deep x 4m height
<b>Minimum performance area:</b>	4m wide x 4m deep x 3m height
<b>Format of the show:</b>	End on. We require a hall or studio theatre space
<b>Get In time:</b>	5 hours (2pm for a 7.30pm performance)
<b>Get Out time:</b>	1.5 hours
<b>Running time of the show:</b>	70 minutes
<b>Interval:</b>	tbc
<b>No. of people on tour:</b>	3 (2 Performers and 1 Stage Manager)
<b>Technical Requirements:</b>	Power - 13amp (standard domestic sockets). We use a basic theatre rig and tour with our own staging sound and lighting kit.
<b>Food &amp; Refreshments:</b>	A nourishing meal, drinks and snacks to be provided for the company
<b>Touring Booking:</b>	October / November 2023
<b>Cost:</b>	To be negotiated

# AUDIENCES

Pentabus tours to village halls and studio theatres, we hope to reach a broad range of audiences. For each tour we create a marketing pack and support promoters to sell the show.

We are keen to reach younger audiences, and as an incentive, we work with the promoter to offer up to 10 free tickets per performance to those under 25 (Pentabus covers the cost of these tickets so that the promoter is not out of pocket).

## Our targeted audience includes:

Traditional village hall audiences:	60+, living in rural areas who might not see professional theatre anywhere else.
Under 25's:	12+, school, college, university
Rural Reality:	30+ often with young families
Dormitory Dependables:	Suburban and small towns interest in heritage activities and mainstream arts
Trips and Treats:	Mainstream arts and popular culture influenced by children, family and friends
Home and Heritage:	Rural areas and small town, day-time activities and historical events
Commuterland Culturebuffs:	Affluent and professional consumers of culture



## COVID-SAFETY

We are committed to ensuring shows are Covid Secure and that Governments Guidelines are adhered to.

- A detailed Covid Safety plan will be issued with the contract and tour rider, which we will liaise closely with all venues on in the lead up to the performance to ensure compliance with Government guidelines.
- Venues are responsible for ensuring their venues are Covid secure and that current government guidelines are being followed.

## CONTACT

To find out more or to book this show, please contact Amber Knipe, Producer

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