



'great writing ... it simply took off
and soared ... loved every minute'

'Terrific!! Clever, complex
and moving'

'... had me in tears and left
me speechless.'

'A very powerful
play'

'It's rare to hear the voice of
an adoptee expressed so
compassionately'

A Shared Breath



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COPY FOR

A Shared Breath

Meg had two mothers, Evie and Gillian. Her first failed her. Her second struggles to understand her. And now she is a mother herself ... Linda Morse's revelatory new play about adoption is a gripping emotional roller coaster exploring the lives of these three women.

A single actor, Tori Deffee, plays all three roles, making startling and instantaneous changes between them, with consummate skill and absolute conviction.

The play is followed by a Question and Answer opportunity with the writer, actor, director and a skilled facilitator.



ABOUT THE SHOW

A Shared Breath



began life as a play for four actors. It was performed as a rehearsed reading at Theatre Fest West at Salisbury Playhouse in the Salberg Theatre, where it was directed by Pete Talman. The actor playing Evie was Tori Deffee. After recognising its potential as a solo piece writer Linda Morse developed the current script in 2019 with Pete and Tori in partnership with Wiltshire Creative.

'The script is grounded in naturalism, but the form is more stylistically achieved. The duality is reflected in both the use of props and the use of mime' Pete Talman

The central part of the play is chronological, Evie has suffered a deprived childhood, domestic abuse and falls into alcoholism. For her having children is 'as easy as shelling peas'. Gillian, a modern professional woman expecting to 'have it all', finds she is unable to have the child she longs for. At six years old Meg is taken from Evie to start her new life with Gillian and Tim. Everyone seems to imagine that this is the end of the fairy tale, 'they all live happily ever after', but for Meg it is only the beginning. Her life is still full of the 'wolves and witches and robbers' she must battle.

At the beginning and end of the play the audience is invited to imagine how it would be if these three women, now all mothers, could speak together as equals in the same moment, at the same age. If they could 'take one shared breath', maybe they would understand each other.



Actor – Tori Deffee

graduated from Rose Bruford. She has played Titania in A Midsummer Night's Dream, Adriana in A Comedy of Errors, Rosalind in As You Like It, Lady Macbeth in Macbeth, Nurse in Romeo and Juliet and Madam Zoyka in Madam Zoyka by Mikhail Bulgarov in its UK premiere. She subsequently trained as a teacher of Drama, and taught at St. Vincents College, Gosport. She is now director of Join the Company, based in Cranborne, Dorset. She has returned to professional acting after having her three children and is a regular performer at Salisbury Fringe Festival. She recently acted with Juno Theatre in a number of short plays. She played Evie in the rehearsed reading of the original four actor version of 'A Shared Breath' at Salisbury Playhouse.

Director – Pete Talman

directs regularly for the Dorset Theatre Company, Churchill Productions. Productions include 'Two' - Jim Cartwright and 'Honour' - Joanna Murray-Smith, both of which toured as well as playing at the Tivoli Theatre, Wimborne. He is currently working on 'All My Sons' - Arthur Miller. He has written and directed Schools Operas for the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra which have been performed at Lighthouse, Poole. Pete has directed plays in the First Cuts, Short Cuts and Rough Cuts for Salisbury Fringe over the past six years. He directed the rehearsed reading of the four actor version of 'A Shared Breath'

Writer-Linda Morse

trained at Dartington College of Arts. Linda has studied script writing with Angie Street - Salisbury, Barney Norris and Sam Potter (Out of Joint) and Sharon Clark and Matt Grinter at Bath Theatre Royal. She has had short plays produced throughout the South West and in London Fringe Theatres. Her full-length plays 'Empty Mirrors' and 'A Girl with No Feet' both reached the 'Top Twenty' in Bristol Old Vic's Open Session (2014, 2016) and the original version of 'A Shared Breath', written for four actors, was performed as a rehearsed reading in April 2015 in Theatre Fest West at Salisbury Playhouse, Salberg Theatre.

Linda was instrumental in forming the Salisbury Fringe Festival of New Writing. She and writer Sally Lewis have recently formed a new theatre company, 'Best of Both', with a view to touring new writing.



Facilitator-Sara Taylor

is a freelance drama & theatre practitioner. She is an actor currently working solely on new writing projects within the Salisbury area. She is the adoptive parent of children aged 19 and 17 years and founded a Salisbury Adoption Support group. In 2018 she co-founded and is a trustee of the county wide group WANDS (Wiltshire Adopters Networking Development and Support). She works closely with Adoption West, the regional adoption agency, with the aim of providing support to adopters and their families in the region. She is Adopter Voice Champion for the national charity Adoption UK. Sara is also a member of the Adopter Reference Group that meets at the DfE in Westminster to put forward the views of adopters in the region to help effect change within government on policies which impact adoptive families. Sara will facilitate the Q & A and discussion forum.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

A Shared Breath

RUNNING TIME : Play 1 hour
Q & A 20 mins
Total 1 Hour 30mins including
10 min break to re-set.

COMPANY ON TOUR: 1 performer, 1 technician

PERFORMANCE SPACE: Flexible. Ideally
the stage should be no smaller than
5m x 4m.

LIGHTING: Warm wash - splittable to SL, centre, SR
Cool wash 2 spots soft focussed with
frost - downstage centre, downstage left.
Dark blue cyc. wash.

SOUND: In-house sound system required. All cues
are mp3 files.

Photography: James Puttick



LIGHTING AND SOUND

Emily Trevett



currently works as Stage Manager for
Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. She is a freelance Lighting and
Sound technician, whose work has included Ballet Ireland as Touring
Lighting Technician, Apple Farm Art and Music Centre, Elmer, New
Jersey, USA. as Technical Theatre Instructor, Join The Company
Performing Arts Academy as casual technician and Local band Mr
Chord as casual sound technician.

BOX OFFICE INFORMATION

WHAT IS THE SHOW ABOUT: Adoption Social Deprivation
Motherhood

WHO WILL LIKE IT: Audiences interested in:

social commentary, anyone with links to the adoption
process, theatre with a blend of realism and poetry, strong
female roles, hard-hitting contemporary theatre

KEY INFORMATION: Running time: 1hour 30mins

Age guidance: 14 + years

Content: some strong language

Presented by: Best of Both

CONTACT DETAILS:

morse63@btinternet.com

SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

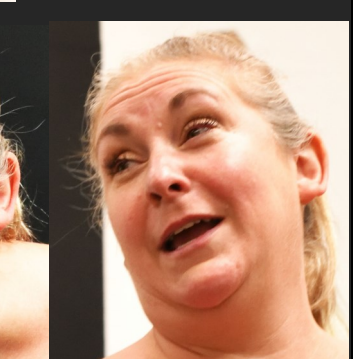
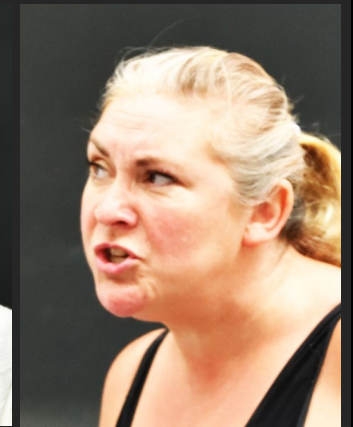
A Shared Breath

A revelatory new play about adoption, 'A Shared Breath' by Linda Morse, is the story of Meg and her two mothers.

The drama cleverly interweaves the stories of the three women in a broad narrative sweep, condensing their lives into an hour of riveting theatre. Linda's writing sensitively exposes both the resilience and the vulnerability of the characters, while director Pete Talman's ability to create dramatic visual and emotional impact, shapes this moving piece of theatre.

In a superb performance Tori Deffee, single-handedly plays all the roles, making startling and instantaneous changes between them with absolute control and conviction.

This is a play which combines humour and sadness, tenderness and savagery and with devastating poignancy demonstrates how the bruised fates of these women are inextricably and irreversibly linked. A Shared Breath opens the gateway labelled 'Adoption' and steps through into a minefield.



A Shared Breath

Salisbury Arts Centre, White Room October 4th, 2019



Photography: James Puttick

A Shared Breath

presented by BEST OF BOTH Theatre Company

formed by writers Sally Lewis and Linda Morse in 2019 to present original theatre.



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Also in production: **Impact** in conjunction with Nags Head Productions.

IMPACT- casts light on the 'unseen' illness of male mental health, sufferers of which mostly continue to lead outwardly normal lives. The show deals in particular with the 'masculine' habit of not talking about things, which has led to male mental health being ignored, with significant consequences.

NEIL GWYNNE plays four men who were there on the day when many lives were changed forever. A crash of such proportions that it made national headlines, cannot help but affect the lives of all of those that witnessed it.

But what if your life was a difficult one before this event? Does such a public tragedy help you overcome your troubles? Or make them worse? Or, ultimately, make no change to it whatsoever?

Directed at Edinburgh by BENET CATTY, IMPACT gives four men an opportunity to talk, an opportunity which they had never previously had, and asks the question: what next?

A huge amount of revelation and drama is packed into a short hour. Watch. SCOTSMAN [?](#) [?](#) [?](#) [?](#)

"Impeccably delivered in possibly the most captivating and compelling performance I've seen at the Fringe... ..bold, courageous and innovative... ..one not to be missed this year. BROADWAY BABY [?](#) [?](#) [?](#) [?](#)

"a stunningly intelligent, subtle and relentlessly real piece of writing... ..the finest acting from a single performer I've seen this Fringe...

