



Highlights of the project

Great show, very inspiring for me as a 13yr old girl - audience member.

Gorgeous, imaginative, clever direction, such a super cast and a delightfully playful and moving script plus a full house and a totally appreciative audience - industry colleague.

I'm so grateful to Pursued by a Bear to have kept me involved in this project that has meant so much over the years - cast/creative team.



Audiences were really moved, especially those with experience of loss to dementia - cast/creative team.

A breathtaking play - audience member.

Very powerful and moving. Amazing what you can do with such a small cast - audience member.

Very cleverly staged, informative and well written and acted - audience member.



Superb production. Talented actors, well directed. Costumes/outfits very realistic. Atmospheric sound/music - audience member.

How important 'Nothing on Earth' is as a piece of work giving voice to those amazing women - industry colleague.

Anna's beautiful text was a joy and easy to compose because of it echoes and complex simplicity - cast/creative team.



Incredible storytelling and dialogue. Anna Reynolds is a national treasure - audience member.

Highlights were getting to perform this beautiful play in small venues and studios where it really flew and connected with the audience - cast/creative team.

It should have been longer - 9 year old audience member



Production and tour

Following a successful application to ACE, we recruited the creative team, many of whom had been attached to the project since 2019; secured administrative, marketing and technical support; and cast 5 actors. New venues were booked, existing venues were confirmed and our partners were fully involved in planning their engagement. 'Nothing on Earth' went into a 4 week rehearsal process, opened at South Mill Arts on International Women's Day on 8 March 2023 and toured throughout Women's History Month. The tour covered venues in Hertfordshire as well as 3 performances at Chats Palace and further afield in Surrey and South East England. As well as performing in traditional theatre venues, a bespoke version was created for non-theatre spaces and toured to libraries in Herts and a Dorset village hall.

2023 touring company

Cast (* also singing captain)

Writer

Director

Composer

Designer

Lighting Designer

Relighter

Sound Designer

Movement Director

Film Associate

Production Manager

Company Stage Manager

Associate Artist/Workshop Leader

Workshop Leader

Marketing Consultant

Graphic Design (*main concept)

Press Representative

Production Photography

Project Manager/Associate Producer

Supervisory Producer

Sarah Agha, Lebogang Fisher, Joanna Foster*, Lincoln James, Rhiannon Meades

Anna Reynolds

Rosamunde Hutt

Helen Chadwick

Sophia Lovell Smith

Holly Ellis

Mitch Broomhead

Anna Short

Emily Gray

Grant Watson

Crin Claxton

Jack Scanlon

Géhane Strehler

Karene Horner-Hughes

Charlotte Furness, Leviart Marketing

Steph, Pyne Design*, Donna Heath

Nancy Poole

Greta Zabulyte

Rachel Barker

Thomas Kell



[Click to visit PBAB website to read cast and creative team biographies](#)

Participants feedback

We delivered two types of community-based workshops as part of our participatory work accompanying the tour, reminiscence workshops and singing workshops. The reminiscence workshops culminated in Curtain Raisers being performed before the start of some shows and the singing workshops enabled participants to learn two suffragette anthems and to join in singing with the cast during the show. Over 100 people participated in over 9+ workshops. Highlights included:

Performing in the audience; being with people; talking and sharing with others; great company; learning songs about women even though I am a man; character dramatisations; inspiring women; sharing stories; singing in part; hearing everybody's stories, learning about the history of some determined ladies, telling the tale of my very hard working grandmother; This is one of the best workshops I (have) attended. Very educative with good ideas – workshop members.



It's been a pleasure to be involved in the tour. It's great that we could all work in partnership to make it happen. One lady who used to attend our classes went to the performance, she was very involved with Herts Hidden Heroines in this area. She emailed me after the show to say how much she enjoyed it, and how it brought back memories of the other project - Elaine Johnson, Arts Development Officer, Three Rivers District Council.

Future life and impact

Immediate impact

- Our existing audiences and venues were engaged, new ones were developed in Herts, Hackney, Dorset and Surrey.
- We attracted an excellent London audience with 3 full houses at Chats Palace, Hackney.
- Our viability was established anew as a new writing company with popular appeal, able to attract a wide variety of audiences with high quality work.
- The tour and workshop engagement programme created new networks of stakeholders – audiences, cultural ambassadors, local councils, workshop participants.
- We provided paid work and professional profile for 14 artists, adding new artists now committed to our community.
- We are delivering the legacy of a new play and two new texts made up of local and global majority stories by elders in Herts and Hackney, plus a podcast and a Digital Short celebrating previously unheard community voices.
- With thanks to the University of Hertfordshire, publication by Aurora Metro Press of the 'Nothing on Earth' script, making the play available to a UK and international audience, and celebrating the work of Anna Reynolds.

Long term impact

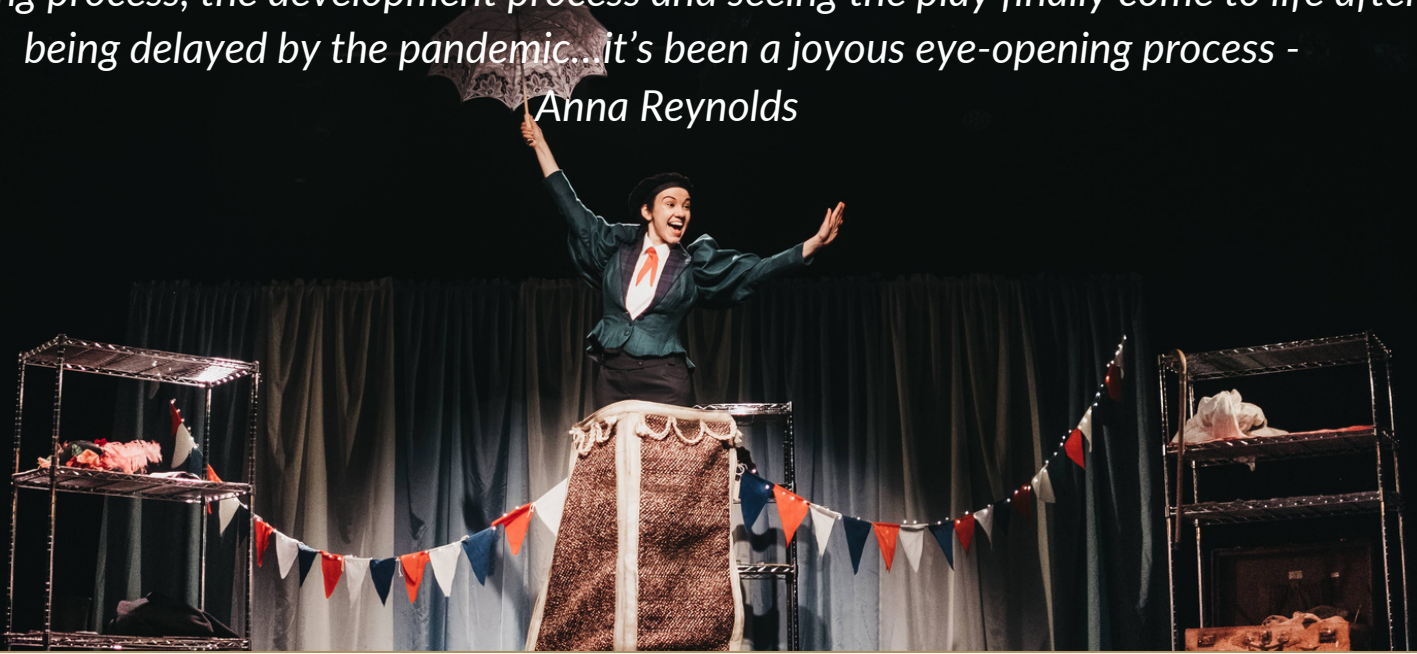
After a 7 year period of not touring due to the intensive development of 'Nothing on Earth', embedding in our new home in Herts, building partnerships with cultural stakeholders and the pause necessitated by the pandemic, with 'Nothing on Earth' we have proven anew our viability as a touring new writing company. The positive response to the work has been wholehearted by audiences, promoters and industry colleagues. We have helped open up new venues, strengthened the Herts small scale touring circuit as planned, and are truly embedded in Herts cultural life. We have proven that our product can be both local and nationwide in its reach.

We are now in a strong position to revive 'Nothing on Earth' - a piece of work that exists on multi-platforms; live performance, publication of text; 6 Digital Shorts; 2 Curtain Raiser performance texts; a podcast and a new film - with content that celebrates both artists, e.g. playwright Anna Reynolds, and the communities of Herts and Hackney with workshop participants' recollections and creative writing presented to audiences on the 2023 tour and beyond.

3 stakeholders, Dacorum Borough Council, Three Rivers Council and Rickmansworth Library, have initiated discussions on continuing and developing our work, e.g. being involved in a future Artist in Residency programme at Rickmansworth Library. We are maintaining a long term sustainable relationship with partners who couldn't take the show in 2023 e.g. we are in discussion with University of Hertfordshire regarding future activities, including participation in their Festival of Ideas 2024.

I think this has been the defining piece of work of my career as a playwright – the writing process, the development process and seeing the play finally come to life after being delayed by the pandemic...it's been a joyous eye-opening process -

Anna Reynolds





Photography

Page 1 - Production photography by Greta Zabulyte of the tour in 2023

Page 2 - The company in rehearsals, 2023; Singing workshop at Dorchester Arts Centre, 2023

Page 3 and 4 - Production photography by Greta Zabulyte of the tour in 2023

Funders and partners

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