DIRECTED BY
COREY CAMPBELL

PRESENTS

FREEMAN

www.strictlyarts.co.uk
In 19th Century New York, a black man named William Freeman became the first person to raise 'insanity' as a defence in an American trial.

Inspired by his story, Strictly Arts explore the relationships between people of colour, the criminal justice system and mental health.

Spanning from segregated 1846 America right up to the death of Sarah Reed in the UK in 2016, Freeman features a mix of high-energy physical theatre, acappella singing, humour and powerful drama to create an extraordinarily moving and affecting experience.
William Freeman was born in Auburn, New York in 1824. He was initially arrested for allegedly stealing a stable horse from his employer. At the age of 16, Freeman was sentenced to five years of hard labour at Auburn State Prison. Soon after he was released, he was arrested over the murders of wealthy farmer, John G. Van Nest, and his family however his lawyer used a plea of insanity, the first of its kind in America.

Corey graduated from Birmingham School of Acting with (BA Hons) in 2013 and has become an entrepreneur in creating his own successful theatre company; Strictly Arts.

Credits: Mack the Knife (The Threepenny Opera), Pontius Pilate (The Last Days of Judas Iscariot), Horatio (Hamlets), Oberon (A Midsummer Night’s Dream), Ferdinand/Carer (Tempestory), Macbeth (Macbeth), Kieran Brown (Green Leaves Fall), Adrian Spence (Inside Out), Jay (Jump), William Freeman (Freeman), Mark Anthony (Julius Caesar), Theseus (Phaedra)
David Oluwale was a vibrant, energetic young man who had a great future ahead of him. Coming over to England from Nigeria in 1949 to pursue his career in clothing design he experienced a lot of racial abuse, both physical and verbal, especially from the police. He just wanted a better life but in that pursuit he unjustly met his death.

Marcel graduated from Birmingham School of Acting in 2015. He is very passionate about acting and storytelling and believes that through theatre we can actually change mind-sets, challenge social stigmas and define beliefs.

Marcel has recently been touring the UK with Saltmine Theatre Company in a production of ‘Darkness Falls: John’s Gospel’ in which he played John the disciple. He has also featured in an online advertisement of National Express, ‘The Journey Boys’.
Daniel M'naghten
Pip Barclay

Daniel M'naghten was the first person in Britain to be found not guilty on the grounds of insanity. His case brought about the M'naghten rules which meant a person could be deemed unfit to stand trial by reason of insanity.

Pip trained at Birmingham School of Acting. His recent stage credits include The Leaving of Things (Encompass Productions), Kristin Lavransdatter (Theatre Ad Infinitum), and Green Leaves Fall (Strictly Arts, Belgrade Theatre). Screen credits include The Man Who Knew Infinity (Ed Pressman Films), BRICKS! (BBC), Face Blind (POB Productions) and Disconnected (Makinov/Movie Mint Ltd)
Michael Bailey was a local man that was incarcerated at Rye Hill Prison. In his time there his mental health deteriorated and he was moved to suicide watch but later lost his battle and was found hanging from a shoelace in his cell. Discrepancies were found in the log books and some prison staff were put on trial.

Keire is a Midlands based actor and theatre practitioner. He was a part of the original cast of the début play of Strictly Arts’ ‘Solids and Liquids’ and has gone on to work with Birmingham Repertory Theatre, the BE International Festival as well as touring nationally. He has enjoyed success in script-writing and co-directing, most recently at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre.
Sarah Reed died in Holloway prison in January last year after being arrested for shoplifting. She had been suffering from mental health problems since the death of her baby in 2003.

Aimee trained at Birmingham Theatre School and recently featured in Strictly Arts’ first film ‘Consequences’, she is delighted to be working with us again on our Freeman Tour.

Credits: Macbeth (Heartbreak Productions) Feed The Beast and JUMP! We’ll Catch You (both for Birmingham Repertory Theatre).
Film work includes: A Dream I Had (independent short film, winner of best short drama at the Isle of Wight Film Festival), TV: Patricia Meer (BBC Doctors).
Sandra Bland was pulled over in her car for a traffic-stop, and after arguing with the policeman she was jailed at Waller County Jail, Texas. Three days later Sandra was found hanging in her jail cell. She believed in civil rights and social justice and was a proud advocate of Black Lives Matter. Sandra would post daily vlogs on Facebook and YouTube with her views on Police Brutality within the black community.

Kimisha trained at Rose Bruford College of Theatre & Performance, and is excited to be working with Strictly Arts on our Freeman Tour.

Credits: 4X15 (Sheffield Crucible), Last Dream (On Earth) (National Theatre of Scotland), Rise Up! (Theatre Centre), SEND: a game of textual tennis (Lyric Hammersmith/ Harts Theatre Company), Three Wise Monkeys (Bush Theatre/ RBC), Table (Stratford Circus/ RBC), Cat and Mouse (Belgrade Theatre)
CREW & CREATIVES

Strictly Arts Artistic Director – Corey Campbell

Director – Danièle Sanderson

Assistant Directors – Balisha Karra, Josh Morris

Writer – Camilla Whitehill

Executive Producer – Henry Bays

Assistant Producer, Administration – Jonathan Grant

Videographer and Photographer – Kieran Vyas

Stage Manager – Amy-Marie Field

Lighting Designer – John Constable

Sound Designer – John Roddy

Movement support – Maria Blundell-Palethorpe

Choreographic support – Verity Bray

Speech and Accent support – Ellen Hartley

With special thanks to Joanna Reid, Clare Mitchell, Chris Munn, Claire Simpson, Jackie Cottom, John Bailey, Jacqui Findlay, Charlie Kirkpatrick, Belgrade Theatre, and Birmingham Conservatoire for all of their kind assistance and support.
Our mission is to turn conventional theatre on its head. We aim to create and revisit theatre that inspires all races, creeds and cultures to explore and embrace the differences or similarities we have through the power of live performance.

The one thing we always talked about when forming this company is that everything had to have a purpose. We had to give back to the communities that raised us. It was all about the arts and how we could use that to benefit other people. Another important factor was our desire to unify people from all different walks of life to show the differences in cultures, but that ultimately we all strive towards the same things and the differences are interesting as opposed to threatening.

We therefore established Strictly Arts Company Ltd. A name that we feel expresses what we are about, especially alongside the cogs of our branding which symbolises the unifying of our different backgrounds.
Inspiration for the Arts

David Vann was a highly inspirational Acting Tutor and Course Director at Birmingham School of Acting. He sadly passed away in 2014 leaving behind many fond and loving memories to all who knew him.

He was classed as a wonderful tutor and friend, and was able to take your breath away with a single sentence, which encompassed his amazing passion for drama and theatre.

Working as an actor, director and tutor throughout his career, David believed in making the arts accessible to people of all different backgrounds and upbringings. Following his passing in 2014, the David Vann Bursary was set up in his honour to help students who couldn’t otherwise afford to enrol on to the Foundation programme.

Continue to rest David, your legacy lives on in the many lives and hearts you touched.
Strictly Arts Theatre presents

Consequences

Strictly Arts Theatre present a film by Corey Campbell. Keiren Amos Reisz Amos Phoebe Brown Aimee Powell Khalid Daley with

Nathaniel McIntosh directed by Corey Campbell. Director of photography Kieran Vyas. Sound Recoubist John Roddy. Produced by Corey

Campbell and Jonathan Grant. Music by Reisz Amos Corey Campbell and Jafro.

In collaboration with Derby City Council.
Strictly Arts were extremely excited to produce our first ever film this year called ‘Consequences’.

The project was funded by Derby City Council as part of their Anti Knife Crime Campaign, and tackles this important epidemic issue in society. The film will be released later this year.

It stars Keiren Amos, Khalid Daley, Phoebe Frances Brown, Reisz Amos, Aimee Powell and Nathaniel McIntosh, and is directed by our Artistic Director Corey Campbell.

The success of the film caught the attention of a high-profile organisation and Strictly Arts are currently negotiating a commission to extend the film into a web-series.
GREEN LEAVES FALL

STRICTLY ARTS THEATRE
Green Leaves Fall is another successful play in the company’s franchise written by Artistic Director Corey Campbell, and was performed at the Belgrade Theatre in 2015 and returned again by popular demand in 2016.

‘From despair to hope, then straight back to where we start. Disillusion only comes when there is hope found in our heart.’

Brixton, 1981. In the aftermath of the riots, 14 year old Kieran Benjamin Zephiniah Salassi Tyrone Brown finds himself in unfamiliar surroundings as he is adopted by an upper class family in Oxford. His new family send him to St Edwards, a prestigious boys' school, with his new brother George.

We follow his journey as he strives to fit into this new environment, as his classmates struggle to accept this new face and as he tries to find his identity.

This play explores some of the most pressing social issues of our time – inequality, unemployment and radicalisation.
The future for Strictly Arts

Strictly Arts have an exciting future ahead of us where we continue to strive for our aspirations to come to fruition.

We are so proud to be doing our first tour and we endeavour to build relationships throughout the country, and inspire as many as we can into the arts industry.

Here are just some of the exciting plans we have ahead:

➢ Performances at Edinburgh Fringe Festival
➢ The release of our first film ‘Consequences’
➢ The development and production of a web-series
➢ Strictly Arts’ first ever musical

…and much more to come!

Stay in touch and contact us:

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