



**MARCHING  
ON EMBERS**

*Marching On Embers*  
**ABOUT THE SHOW**

One family. One cause. Two paths...

Sean is struggling to find work and has recently just broken up with his girlfriend. Sinead, his sister, is back home from England. Sean thinks she's changed, she thinks he needs to change. Florie is proud of the two of them but is hiding her own demons.

The Connelly's are reunited in this gripping drama. *Marching on Embers* tells the story of radicalisation, the allure of violence and the toxic power of ideas against the backdrop of a fractured Northern Ireland...

'It's that image of Ireland, the emerald isle, landscapes straight out of a poem, the smell of the bog hanging in the air... a cold pint of the black stuff, three quarters pulled on the old oak bar as the fiddler plays in the corner... it's the beautiful dream, along with their ugly reality that kills them... it's dying for something, when you live for nothing.'

*Marching On Embers* has had a regional tour in Yorkshire and we are looking to take it on a National tour in Spring 2019.

**The show in three words:**

Raw, Powerful, Relevant

**The show in one sentence:**

A story about how the power of ideas can tear apart the fabric of a country, a community and also a family.



### **Buglight Theatre**

Richard Galloway is co- Artistic Director with Keeley Lane and he is a Northern Irish performer and drama facilitator. The project stemmed from his experiences in Northern Ireland

At the heart of our work is an exploration of untold stories or well-known stories told in a unique way. We create work through a unique creative process of research, devising, improvisation and experimentation. We work very collaboratively at all stages of development. Our audiences are integral to our work and part of our creative process is to run workshops and engage with targeted groups to help inform our work and give our audiences a part in the creative process.

Recent work includes: *The House Behind the Lines*, a portrayal of stories of sex workers on the front line in the First World War ('A refreshing take on a historical subject that is convincingly performed by the cast.... Buglight Theatre are one to watch!' Sarah Shead – Spin Arts. )

### **Ruth Carney- Director**

Ruth Carney is an experienced TV and Theatre Director who has worked both in the West End and on Broadway. She attained an MA in Theatre Directing at The Russian Theatre Academy, Moscow and Middlesex University, after which she completed the Emerging Directors Programme at the National Theatre and assisted directors such as Hettie Macdonald and Giles Croft.

Alongside her own successful independent work as a director, Ruth has also acted as Associate Director to Matthew Warchus on his West End/Broadway productions of *Lord of the Rings*, *Our House* and *Ghost*.

Most recently, Ruth completed the BBC Directors Scheme in 2016 with a placement on *DOCTORS* and she has since been directed seven of blocks on the programme

### **Chris O'Connor- Writer**

Chris is a Leeds based writer who has had work produced for The Park Theatre, The Carriageworks, The Lyric Theatre, the Southwark Playhouse and BBC Radio 4 amongst various other venues and platforms. He runs the Leeds Branch of Script Yorkshire, a writers' group meeting monthly at the West Yorkshire Playhouse. His writing focuses on unheard voices and he has a keen interest in the stories and characters that inhabit places like pubs and betting shops, both fascinating melting pots of drama.



## **SELLING POINTS**

A fiercely contemporary story of our times; vital, gripping, relevant.

An all Northern Irish cast with excellent performances, quality writing and a stunning set and creative design.

Strong audience appeal to people who enjoy narrative led work and devised theatre.



### ***Marching On Embers* will particularly appeal to:**

- Adults and teenagers who enjoy the entertaining twists and turns of gritty and contemporary tv drama.
- Irish communities within England and audiences in Northern Ireland and Ireland.
- People with an interest in socio-political issues.
- The play has two strong female characters and has a storyline about the female experiences of political unrest, so this will appeal to women of all ages and those interested in seeing a strong female story.
- As the piece deals with young people becoming radicalised this will also appeal to younger audiences at GCSE and College age as well as community groups that are engaging communities that are seen as at risk of becoming involved with terrorism.

### **People who might like this will also watch:**

Master Builder, Life & Soul, The Ferryman

### **If *Marching On Embers* were a TV drama it would be like:**

This is England, Top Boy, Shameless, Derry Girls

**The Yorkshire Post:**



<https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/what-s-on/theatre/review-marching-on-embers-1-8774915>

‘What immediately strikes home about Leeds based Buglight Theatre's new play is that it is perfectly timed, entirely contemporary’

‘sincere, compact, and thought-provoking.....cruel and tender’

‘the play proves that some of the very best drama happens outside London’

‘O’Connor has definitely got an ear for the honest, crude vernacular. Ruth Carney directs perfectly.’

**On Stage:**

<http://www.onstageblog.com/reviews/2017/9/29/review-marching-on-embers-uk-tour>

‘The small cast does an excellent job of executing this text, demonstrating a clearly harmonious relationship between actor and writer, with director Carney completing the creative triangle that allows for sublime storytelling on a gorgeously intimate level.’

‘Marching On Embers is a beautiful piece that tragically portrays the harsh reality that accompanies radicalisation.’

‘If Buglight continue to craft drama and theatre of this calibre, they will undoubtedly continue to speedily ascend as one of Yorkshire's most exciting new companies. I can't wait to see what they do next.’

**The Reviews Hub:**

<http://www.thereviewshub.com/marching-on-embers-seven-arts-leeds/>

‘shocking and convincing’

‘The women are particularly strongly characterised, Maggie Hayes powerfully and sympathetically encompassing the many sides of Florie and Christine Clare radiating intelligent open-mindedness, together with conviction and a sense of tradition, as Sinead.’

‘Barrie Calvert (Sean) makes much of the affectionately amusing family scenes.’

‘Richard Galloway’s (Cathal) humanity is never in doubt, not least in a sweetly played scene with Florie early in the second half.’

‘Ruth Carney’s unfussy direction and Kevin Jenkins’ imaginative and functional pub-and-kitchen set work well in the intimate setting’

## ***Marching On Embers*** **AUDIENCE FEEDBACK**

### **ENTERTAINING**

'I saw the Ferryman in the week before seeing this at Harrogate and this was by far the better play. The writing was powerful, taking the audience on a rollercoaster ride with an ending that was very dramatic. The acting was superb. All in all highly recommended- if you want a great night out go and see the Connolly family!!'

'I was enthralled watching this show. Gut-wrenching, real, sad and hopeful and then the ending - a complete shock. Super writing, incredible performances from every one of the actors and beautifully directed. The staging, lighting and sound were amazing too and added even more depth to the show. Wishing you all the very best of luck with the rest of the run and for the very bright future this show has. Thanks for a fantastic evening of theatre.'

'Everything good drama needs-- great script set and acting. Made me think about lives behind the headlines.'

### **EXCELLENT PERFORMANCES**

'Fantastic production to a Harrogate packed theatre. Acting was superb which evoked every emotion. Powerful performances by all from start to finish. Bravo!'

'Really pleased to see authentic voices on stage- great to have a full Northern Irish cast. '

### **EDUCATIONAL**

'Thoroughly enjoyed. Good balance between ideology, politics but more importantly humanity and human cost. Strong female characters showing a diversity of perspectives. Provided stimulus for reasoned discussion and a need to better understand Irish history' (Michael H)

' A brilliantly well crafted piece of theatre that shows the honest impact of conflict and its legacy.' (Ann Marie Stuart)

' Excellent. Important themes brought to an audience who might not have been exposed to them before.' Wonderfully acted. Great script.' (Emily Marion)

' Well cast- topical, historical, political'

' I didn't think a story about Irish history and the troubles could be so good, interesting and at times funny.'

### **CURRENT & RELEVANT**

'Loved the fact that the characters were relatable and the references to "terrorism" as we know it today. So eye-opening to the fact that we all believe we are fighting for the right cause.'

'The incredibly current context of the production was amazing. Incredibly powerful.'

## HOW TO BOOK

### **How to book:**

If you would like to bring *Marching on Embers* to your venue please contact Keeley Lane of Buglight Theatre to discuss dates and a financial package.

buglighttheatre@gmail.com/07766418883

### **Minimum playing space:**

6m x 5m

### **On the road:**

Four performers with touring stage manager/technician.

### **Running Time:**

50 min (first half) 40 min (second half)

### **Get In:**

Minimum four hours. One hour get-out.

### **Lighting:**

Lighting using house desk, dimmers and lanterns. Please advise if any equipment is not available from your spec.

### **Sound:**

Sound playback through house system via Q Lab.

### **Other:**

Use of two venue stage weights. Access to a microwave and kettle for preparation of food used in performance.

Technical staff required- Please provide a minimum of 1 technician at get in to assist with LX and sound fit up, not required to operate show. Minimum 1 technician at get out to assist

