



## **PRESS RELEASE: March 2018**

### **house touring shows, spring 2018**

- Remaining dates in the final-ever tour of 'stunning' show *Growing Pains* by Tom Gill, a major new acting talent and spoken-word performer
- Final dates for heartwarming and hilarious verbatim play *Carry on Jaywick*, by Dan Murphy (currently working with Alecky Blythe/National Theatre); directed by Hannah Joss
- Ongoing dates for a unique and personal one-woman play by Helen Seymour, exploring sickness and what it really means to recover.

**house** was established in 2012 as a development initiative to improve the range, quality and scale of theatre presented across the south east of England.

Since then, it has shared high-quality contemporary work from some of the most exciting theatre makers and producers around, taking it to communities and venues in the region that would not otherwise have easy access to this type of performance.

Every year, house presents at least two seasons of the best new work.

Recent highlights include:

*Jess and Joe Forever* by Zoe Cooper (presented with the Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond),  
*Evening with an Immigrant* by Inua Ellams (presented with Fuel)  
*Backstage in Biscuitland* by Touretteshero (supported by Unlimited, Graeae and BAC),  
*Harrogate* by Evening Standard award-winning Al Smith (presented with HighTide),  
the OFFIES award-winning *JOAN* by Lucy J Skilbeck (presented with Milk Presents)

### **The spring 2018 season is well underway.**

With stories of pain and recovery, sex and discovery, hardship and community, we are celebrating the solo, the verbatim and the autobiographical voice.

**Shows continuing include:**

***Growing Pains***

**written and performed by Tom Gill (ends 17 March)**

***Carry on Jaywick***

**written by Dan Murphy, produced by Kuleshov Theatre (ends 22 March)**

***To Helen Back***

**written and performed by Helen Seymour (ends 31 May)**

The house tour of the Royal Court Theatre production of *MANWATCHING*, written by an anonymous woman and performed by a different unprepared man each night has now ended.



written and performed by Tom Gill

**“These days, there’s nothing left here for me, mate”**

Carrying the weight of the world in his sports bag, a working-class lad trades his council estate for a one-way ticket out of Salford. Tom Gill’s genre-busting drama goes on a poetic journey from heartache to redemption, against a backdrop of broke lads and sh\*t dads.

*Growing Pains* is a semi-autobiographical story of a young working-class lad desperate to escape his Salford surroundings and difficult upbringing in pursuit of his dreams. It follows Tom through his early school days, through hanging in the park with ‘stoner’ mates, heartfelt chats with his Jamaican neighbour and trying to get served underage, to confrontations with his violent father. This is a likeable lad on a path towards self destruction. In a last-ditch bid to escape, he swaps his hometown for the capital, where he meets a girl who offers some advice and changes his outlook forever. He finally returns home to face the music (and his dad), armed with this new knowledge. It’s like *The Alchemist*, set in Salford, and told through quick-witted lyricism and original songs.

As an actor, Tom Gill’s recent work includes the forthcoming Mike Leigh film, *Peterloo*. *Growing Pains* was a sell-out at Edinburgh Festival 2016.

#### Final dates on tour with house:

**Colchester Arts Centre, Wed 14 Mar, 8pm**  
**Bay Theatre, Weymouth, Thu 15 Mar, 7.30pm**  
**The Place, Bedford, Sat 17 Mar, 7.30pm**

**Running time: 1 hour (no interval)**

**Age: 14+**

**Tickets, high-res images, further enquiries; Emma Gosden**  
**[emma@housetheatre.org.uk](mailto:emma@housetheatre.org.uk)**

#### Notes to Editors

Production title **Growing Pains**

Cast **Tom Gill**

Writer **Tom Gill**

Director **Matthew Landers**

Venues and tickets

**Wed 14 Mar, Colchester Arts Centre, 8pm**

**[colchesterartscentre.com](http://colchesterartscentre.com)**

**Thu 15 Mar, Bay Theatre, Weymouth, 7.30pm**

**<http://bit.ly/2FvDtZE>**

**Sat 17 Mar, The Place, Bedford, 7.30pm**

**[theplacebedford.org.uk](http://theplacebedford.org.uk)**

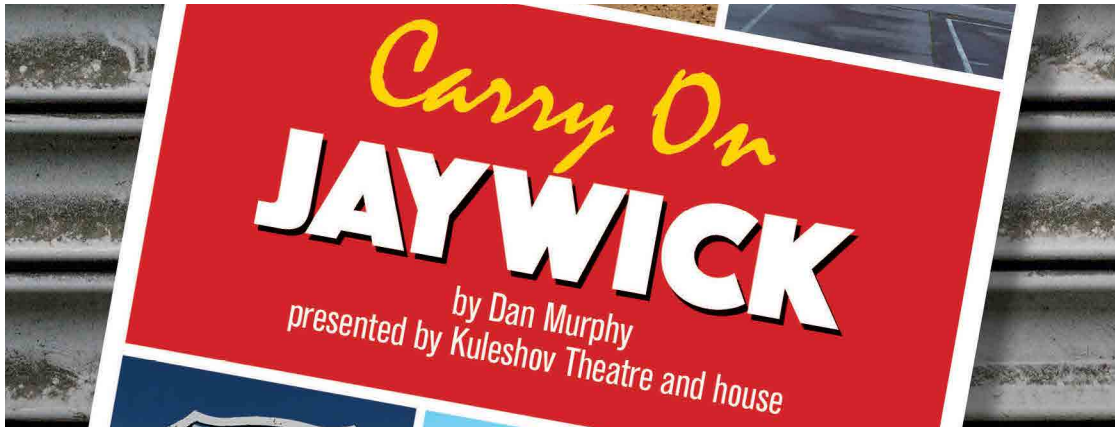
Twitter **@TomGillUK | @housetheatre | #GrowingPains**

Websites **[tom-gill.co.uk](http://tom-gill.co.uk) | [housetheatre.org.uk](http://housetheatre.org.uk)**

#### Tom Gill

Award-winning spoken-word artist, actor and UK Poetry Slam Champion, Tom Gill has collaborated with BBC Radio 1Xtra and voiced the spoken-word promo for Adidas and Manchester United’s official kit launch. He trained at the Guildford School of Acting.

As an actor, theatre includes *First Light* at Chichester Festival Theatre; *Buckets* at the Orange Tree; *Lines* at the Yard; *Dunsinane* for the RSC and National Theatre of Scotland; *Goodbye Barcelona* at the Arcola; *Life on a Plum/Banging Wolves* for Wilderness Festival; *Zig-Zag Zig-Zag* for Manchester International Festival; *How We Won The World* for 24:7 Festival; *Stomp* at Theatre503; and *Territory* in Salford. Films: the forthcoming feature, *Peterloo*, directed by Mike Leigh; *Dunkirk*, directed by Christopher Nolan; and *Angels in Small Change*. For TV, *Eden Lake*. Commissions: Sky 1 and Channel 4. *Growing Pains* was commissioned by Battersea Arts Centre and premiered at the Underbelly / Edinburgh Festival in 2016.



KULESHOV



**“Shine on, every day and night.  
And that’s how we get through Jaywick.”**

From the critically-acclaimed Kuleshov Theatre (*BU21* at Trafalgar Studios \*\*\*\*\* The Stage \*\*\*\* the Guardian, The Times, Evening Standard) comes *Carry on Jaywick*, a new play about Jaywick, the seaside town which has fallen on hard times but lives to tell the tale.

Jaywick Sands is a small seaside town on the east coast of England in the county of Essex, whose once idyllic holiday chalets are now in a state of dilapidation and decay. Jaywick’s unique history and astonishing levels of poverty have led to negative portrayals in the media, which characterise Jaywick as a desperate place of unemployment, anti-social behaviour, and hopelessness. These portrayals forget the important, but less quantifiable presence of a working class community spirit like no other.

Over two years of research, writer Dan Murphy formed a substantial body of audio recordings which he has shaped into a play more moving and humorous than you might expect. The production is presented using the recorded delivery technique, to bring the subtleties of the original utterances to the stage. It’s a play with interviews, yet also reimagines scenes of community forums, line dancing evenings, and talent shows. *Carry on Jaywick* follows a number of residents as they prepare for their local talent show, trying to generate positive change in their community, and reflecting on the place they call home.

**Final dates on tour with house:**

*Norwich Arts Centre, Wed 14 Mar, 8pm*  
*Stantonbury Th, Milton Keynes, Fri 16 Mar, 7.30pm*  
*North Wall, Oxford, Tue 20 Mar, 8pm*  
*Forest Arts, New Milton, Wed 21 Mar, 7.30pm*  
*Marlowe, Canterbury Thu 22 Mar, 8pm*

**Running time: 1 hour (no interval)**

**Age: 12+**

**Tickets, high-res images, further enquiries:  
Emma Gosden**

*emma@housetheatre.org.uk*  
*or hollyannehooper@gmail.com*

**Notes to Editors**

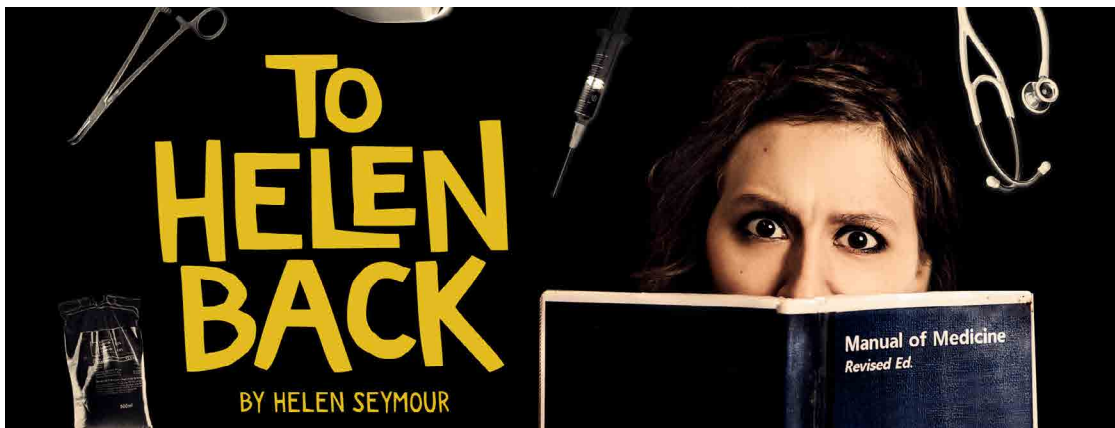
Production title **Carry On Jaywick**  
Cast **Georgia Brown, Laura Curnick, Clive Keene, Mathew Wernham**  
Writer **Dan Murphy**  
Director **Hannah Joss**  
Producer **Holly Hooper - Kuleshov Theatre**  
Designer **Cécile Trémolières**  
Sound Designer **Chris Prosho**  
Lighting Designer **Dan Saggars**

Dan Murphy grew up in Essex and his work seeks to bring the life and voices of his home county to the stage. He was shortlisted for the Royal & Derngate/Hightide Award 2014 (for the Jaywick project), BBC Trans Comedy Award 2013 and Old Vic New Voices 24 Hour Plays 2013. He is currently supporting Alecky Blythe on her National Theatre production.

**Venues remaining and tickets**

14 Mar **NORWICH** Arts Centre, 8pm  
norwichartscentre.co.uk  
16 Mar **MILTON KEYNES** Stantonbury Theatre, 7.30pm  
stantonburytheatre.co.uk  
20 Mar **OXFORD** The North Wall, 8pm  
thenorthwall.com  
21 Mar **NEW MILTON** Forest Arts, 7.30pm  
hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk/forest-arts-centre  
22 March **CANTERBURY** Marlowe, 8pm  
marlowetheatre.com

Twitter @kuleshovtheatre @housetheatre #carryonjaywick  
Websites kuleshovtheatre.com | housetheatre.org.uk



## written and performed by Helen Seymour

Helen is a burglar. Helen likes breaking into hospitals. She admits you into a surreal hospital as she sneaks around wards, x-ray rooms and cupboards to discover the bizarre, the bemusing – and the badger.

Directed by Hannah Silva, *To Helen Back* analyses sickness, health and what it really means to recover. It's a funny, unique and powerful theatrical experience, blurring boundaries between spoken word, comedy and performance art.

Nominated for New Writing South's Best New Play, Brighton Fringe 2017. Audiences say: "Humorous, witty, dark and thought provoking"; "Really something special and unique...like nothing I have ever seen before"

Helen has experience of sickness and health and has a lot to say about them. She wanted to create a performance that is both funny and sad. By being more open about them, the better we can look after each other and ourselves.

*To Helen Back* seeks to subvert the idea that we 'recover' from illness in a designated amount of time: the trauma of illness can endure a long time after the scars have healed.

The show celebrates Helen's disabled body and how it likes to move when she jumps, crawls and rolls about in her onesie. She never refers to her body as disabled; instead, it's "snazzy."

### More dates on tour with house:

**Thu 22 March OXFORD Playhouse, 7.30pm**  
**Wed 04 April, COLCHESTER Arts Centre, 8pm**  
**Sat 07 April, HARLOW Playhouse, 7.30pm**  
**Fri 20 April, BRIDPORT Arts Centre, 8pm**  
**Weds 16 May, READING South Street, 8pm**  
**Thu 17 May, GRAVESEND The Woodville, 8pm**  
**Thu 31 May, BEDFORD, The Place, 7.30pm**

### Running time: 1 hour (no interval)

Age: 14+

Tickets, high-res images, further enquiries: Emma Gosden  
[emma@housetheatre.org.uk](mailto:emma@housetheatre.org.uk)

## Notes to Editors

Production title **To Helen Back**  
Performer **Helen Seymour**  
Writer **Helen Seymour**  
Director **Hannah Silva**

Helen Seymour is a 'Spoken-Word-Artist-Human-Performance-Person' who likes to break the boundaries between Spoken Word and Theatre. She won the Gold Award in the Creative Future Literacy Awards 2017 for her poem *Crack* and was longlisted for the Jerwood Compton Poetry Fellowship 2017. She has headlined many spoken-word events and has collaborated with artists on various projects, including the Apples and Snakes Public Address Soapbox Tour and the Experimental Words project.  
Twitter [@HeronSeasaw](https://twitter.com/HeronSeasaw) | [@housetheatre](https://twitter.com/housetheatre) | [#ToHelenBack](https://twitter.com/ToHelenBack)  
Websites [whatthehelen.net](http://whatthehelen.net) | [housetheatre.org.uk](http://housetheatre.org.uk)

## Venues and tickets remaining

**Thu 22 March OXFORD Playhouse, 7.30pm**  
[oxfordplayhouse.com](http://oxfordplayhouse.com)  
**Wed 04 April, COLCHESTER Arts Centre, 8pm**  
[colchesterartscentre.com](http://colchesterartscentre.com)  
**Sat 07 April, HARLOW Playhouse, 7.30pm**  
[harlowplayhouse.co.uk](http://harlowplayhouse.co.uk)  
**Fri 20 April, BRIDPORT Arts Centre, 8pm**  
[bridport-arts.com](http://bridport-arts.com)  
**Weds 16 May, READING South Street, 8pm**  
[readingarts.com/south-street](http://readingarts.com/south-street)  
**Thu 17 May, GRAVESEND The Woodville, 8pm**  
[woodville.co.uk](http://woodville.co.uk)  
**Thu 31 May, BEDFORD, The Place, 7.30pm**  
[theplacebedford.org.uk](http://theplacebedford.org.uk)

**ENDS**