

## **INVITATION TO AN ARTS NETWORK MEETING - 26 FEBRUARY 5PM - 7PM**

Group members have identified that engaging with schools and young people is a priority and whilst there are many excellent individual relationships already taking place across the county, we would like to bring teachers and venues together more regularly to make sure we support each other as much as possible. Therefore we have discussed the possibility of the venues supporting a regular teacher's meeting which would enable us to get together, share opportunities, develop new ideas, opportunities and activities.

I would like to invite you to an **introductory event here at The Garage on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February, 5:00pm – 7:00pm**. The meeting will include a buffet so please feel free to come straight from work. Attendance to the meeting is free of charge and all you need to do is register online using the link below.

### **AFTER THE MEETING - ENJOY EXCLUSIVE OPENING NIGHT PERFORMANCE OF KATE TEMPEST'S [HOPELESSLY DEVOTED](#)**

Following the meeting you can stay to see the UK exclusive opening night of **Kate Tempests'** incendiary new play [HOPELESSLY DEVOTED](#) (7:30pm - 8:45pm + 15 minute optional Q&A). The show is produced by **Paines Plough** and follows Kate's smash hit debut 'WASTED' and recent Edinburgh sold out show 'Brand New Ancients'. (Show education pack attached).

Tickets for the performance are £10 or £5 to those lucky enough to be aged under 25 years. When you complete your registration to the meeting you will automatically be re-directed to the box office (managed by Norwich Theatre Royal) where you will be able to purchase tickets for the show. If you are not able to come to the meeting but would like to see the show, you can of course buy tickets from the Box Office: 01603 589646.

### **TO ATTEND THE MEETING (AND PERFORMANCE)**

**Please click here:** [I would like to attend the Norfolk Venue Network Teachers Meeting on Wednesday 26th February, at The Garage, 14 Chapelfield North, Norwich, NR2 1NY](#)

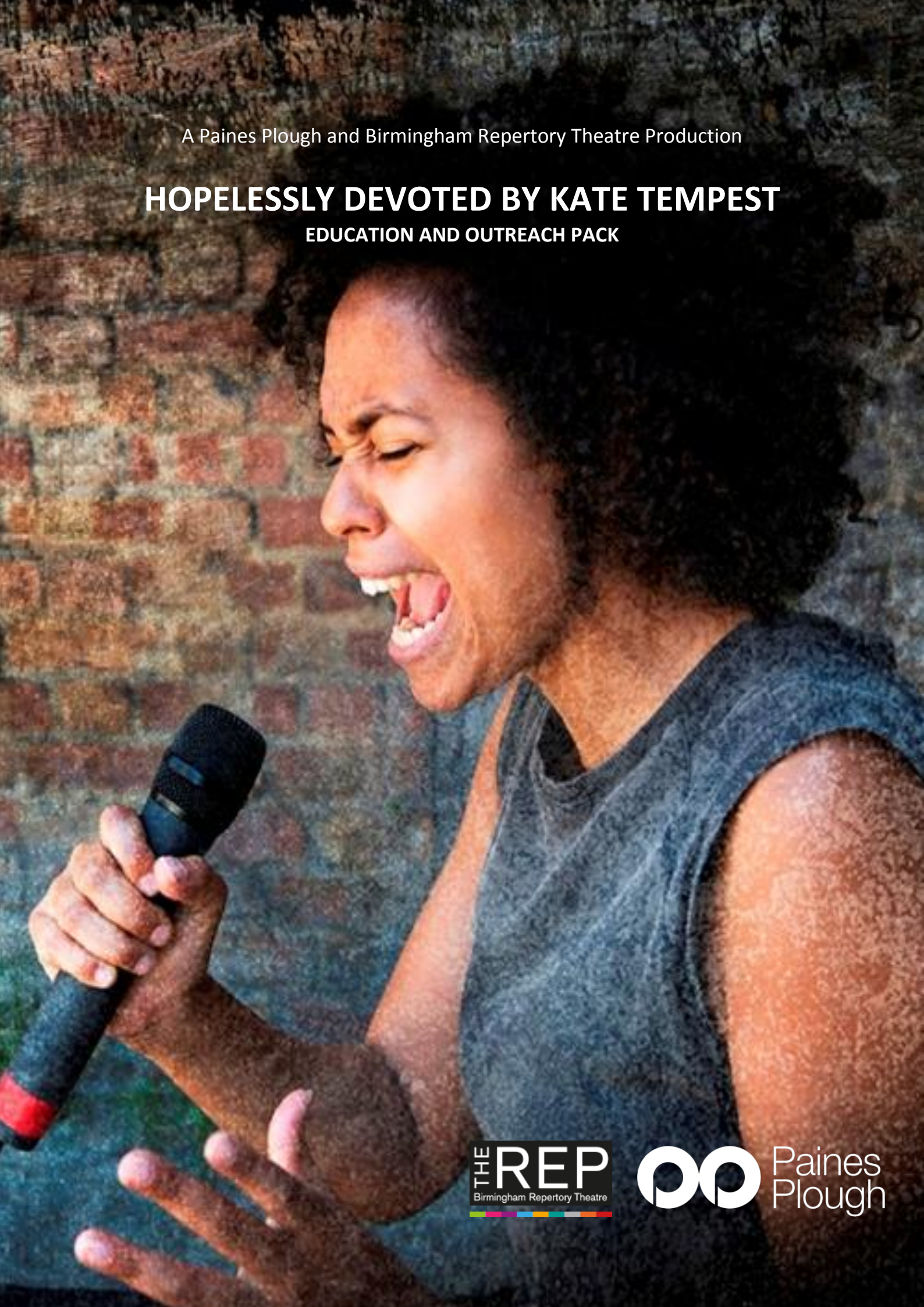
If the link above does not work please click here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/norfolk-performing-arts-teachers-network-tickets-9727321681>

A Paines Plough and Birmingham Repertory Theatre Production

# HOPELESSLY DEVOTED BY KATE TEMPEST

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PACK



**THE REP**  
Birmingham Repertory Theatre

**PP** Paines  
Plough

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## ABOUT PAINES PLOUGH

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*"The lifeblood of the UK's theatre ecosystem."* - The Guardian  
Paines Plough is the UK's national theatre of new plays.

Paines Plough is an award-winning, nationally and internationally renowned touring theatre company. We commission and produce new plays on tour, and help playwrights develop their craft.

The Company was founded in 1974. It was named after the beer its founders were drinking (Paines bitter) and the pub in which they were drinking it (The Plough) at the moment the company was conceived.

Since then we've produced more than 120 new productions by world-renowned playwrights including Stephen Jeffreys, Terry Johnson, Abi Morgan, Sarah Kane, Mark Ravenhill, Dennis Kelly and Mike Bartlett. We've toured their plays to hundreds of places from Manchester to Moscow to Maidenhead.



## THE SHOW

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Following the massive success of *WASTED*, Kate Tempest has teamed up with Paines Plough again to produce her new play *HOPELESSLY DEVOTED*. As lyrically impressive as ever Kate Tempest's latest play is as powerful as it is beautiful. With exhilarating live music the dynamic performance from the actors is only heightened by their equally impressive voicing of the bold and moving lyrics Kate has written for the play.

*HOPELESSLY DEVOTED* premiered at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre in September 2013 and continues on its nationwide tour. The play appeals to young adults, mothers, anyone with an interest in spoken word, rap, anyone who appreciates the power of music on a person's life and fans of poets like: Kate Tempest, Luke Wright, Dockers MC, Polarbear, Byron Vincent, Saul Williams, and playwrights such as: Debbie Tucker Green, Simon Stephens, Phillip Ridley, Bola Agbaje, Sarah Kane.

## REVIEWS

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*"Outstanding... The writing is fantastic, with just the right balance of spoken word, song and dialogue"* ★★★★★ **-The Public Reviews**

*"The production is acted with a simple lucidity that, arrow-like, wings its way straight to the heart. And when the music and poetry kick in, the play sings and soars, a little shard of lyrical brilliance."* ★★★★★ **-The Times**

*"Tempest's play is a thing of passion and power – in her world music might not be able to heal all but it can bring hope."* **-The Stage**

*"The writing simply fizzles with truth"* **-The Guardian**

## AUDIENCE RESPONSE

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*"Amazing performance's from all the cast last night. I was absolutely blown away by the show."*

*"Kate Tempest's writing was beautifully poetic whilst being full of character and a boldness that was portrayed excellently by the cast."*

**Audience members, Birmingham Repertory Theatre**

*"The performance was moving, touching and evoked so many emotions and feelings. Not seen a piece of theatre that's been able to do that in such a long time! Thank you."*

*"Tightly produced and a strong range of emotion from all performers. The musical development was central to the performance and was presented with power and total conviction. Paines Plough are as creative as ever, and thank you Theatre Absolute for getting them to Coventry."*

**Audience members, Shop Front Theatre, Coventry.**

## HOPLESSLY DEVOTED SYNOPSIS

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*'Chess ain't nothing like life.'*

*'Course it is.'*

*'Where's the jail, then?'*

*'The whole thing's the jail. The whole board.'*

*'How'd you get out?'*

*'You finish the game.'*

Chess is in prison, but has found happiness with her cellmate-turned-soulmate Serena. After signing up for a 12-week music rehabilitation course, she meets music producer Silver, who's there to battle her own demons.

As Chess continues to work with Silver, they develop a mutual understanding. Chess channels her pain and longing for daughter, which comes out in a deep and soulful voice. To her surprise, Silver finds a powerful voice in Chess, and begins to have bigger dreams for her.

Soon after, Chess finds out that Serena will be released on parole. On her release, Serena promises Chess that she'll find her now 13-year old daughter Kayla, and give her a CD of the songs Chess is making with Silver.



When Serena is released, Chess feels lonely – truly isolated from the world for the first time, claustrophobic in the cell she now shares alone. Serena finds it hard adjusting to life on the outside and reconnecting with her kids.

Chess gives Serena her completed CD of songs when she comes to visit her. Serena promises again that she'll find her daughter, but Chess won't hear any of it; won't allow herself to hope. She gets back to her cell – where she tries to kill herself.

Silver visits Chess after she's put in segregation, where she reveals she sees the ghost of the abusive husband she murdered everywhere she goes. But she's now ready to face the ghosts of her past and fight back.

Serena uploads one of Chess' songs online, in the hope to reach out to Kayla. It ends up an instant hit on the radio, but misconceived to be Silver's song by the public. Chess agrees to finally do a gig that will be live-streamed from the prison, to correct the mistake made – so Kayla knows her mother is reaching out to her. She lets out an explosive song, bearing it all. *'Be stronger, don't fall down underneath it no longer.'*

## KATE TEMPEST ON HOPELESSLY DEVOTED

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I am still relatively new to theatre and feel like I am discovering more about what it can be and do every time I see or read a play or spend time in a space where a play is being shown.

I believe that theatres can be spaces where people - staff, cast, crew and audience - feel comfortable, excited and inspired. Where you don't feel silly or intimidated but welcomed and where your ideas, as audience members, are acknowledged as being the most important ideas in the room - If a play can live one day outside the theatre, it's only because someone in the audience has taken it home and thought about it.

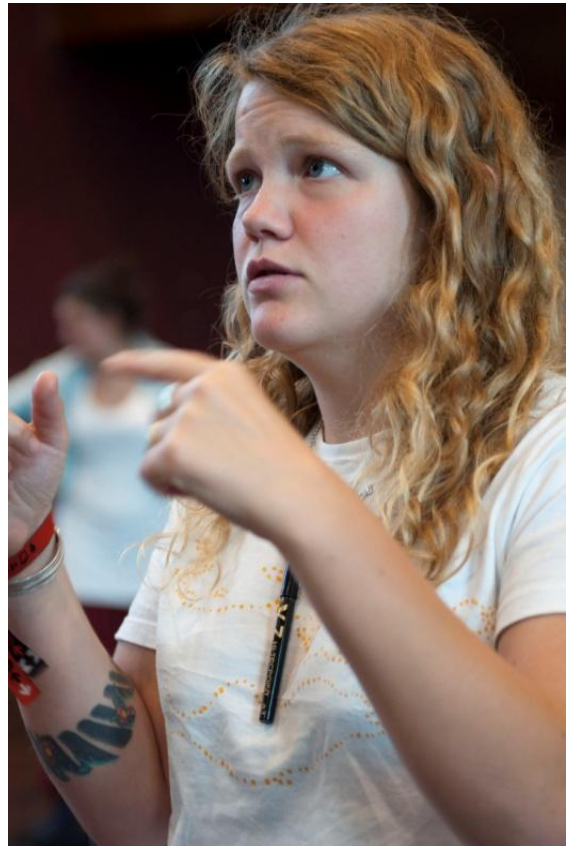
Hopelessly Devoted is essentially a play about love and creativity, and what these things can mean for people, even in the most restricted environments. I was deeply moved by the experience of visiting HMP Holloway earlier this year, when a forum theatre play I wrote for homeless theatre company Cardboard Citizens was touring. Although

Hopelessly Devoted doesn't tell anyone's individual story, I would like to thank the inmates and staff at HMP Holloway, and Cardboard Citizens, for allowing me an insight into what we can too easily forget is happening to our mothers, sisters, friends and lovers. I began to wonder whether the transcendental powers of love and creativity would be strengthened or destroyed by a prison cell.

I wanted to play with music. I feel like when you're watching a singer, you know that it's live and it feels like it's happening only for you. I wanted to bring some of those feelings into the theatre. I hope that when Chess sings it feels like a gig, in the sense that you feel like someone is showing you their heart, not just their best heart impression. I've never written songs for others to sing, or even thought about how a musical might unfold, this has added to the excitement and terror of trying new things in new places.

No matter what my hopes for the play are though, it means nothing until its seen and felt by an audience. This is the thing about theatre that I love the most - It's truly about the experience of the thing when it's on its feet and happening in the room. It's been amazing to work with such a talented team and watching the actors and director at work has been like a masterclass in how to be excellent at doing what you love.

Kate Tempest



## WORKSHOPS

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“Hopelessly Devoted comes across as a great awareness-raising piece about women in prisons, and offers rich possibilities to leaders of post-show workshops on the schools and colleges leg of its tour.”

**Clare Brennan, The Observer 29/09/13**

We offer workshops to accompany Paines Plough productions to give students a deeper insight into the work and our creative process. As a new writing company, our workshops focus on writing, directing, acting or setting up a company, and draw on the process we use in working with writers to move from a first draft to a full production.

HOPELESSLY DEVOTED workshops will give students a practical insight into the creative process, drawing on themes in the play, and will provide students with skills to embark on their own projects as writers, directors and actors. Workshops will enhance students abilities in the areas of performance, directing and critical analysis.

Our workshops take place either with actors from the production or one of our Artistic or Associate Directors. They are suitable for students at GCSE, BTEC, A level and Degree level. A typical workshop will include:

- An insight into the journey of HOPELESSLY DEVOTED from page-to-stage.
- Insights into writing, directing, acting and producing.
- Practical acting and directing exercises working with the HOPELESSLY DEVOTED script.

Each workshop will be bespoke, responding to the particular interests and needs of participants.

*“Thank you for the In-the-Round workshop last week. It was such a fun day & I loved watching the other actors work, watching you gently direct them and having the opportunity to knock round ideas and get involved.”*

**Gemma Reynolds, Workshop Participant 2012**

## COST

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2 hours: £200 + VAT (+ travel as necessary)

2 x 2 hour workshops: £350 + VAT (+ travel as necessary)

## PARTICIPANTS

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10-24 people per group

Participants should be aged 14 upwards

## LINKS

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Interview with Kate Tempest on HOPELESSLY DEVOTED:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0D32LY7sqEA>

Birmingham Repertory Theatre audience response to HOPELESSLY DEVOTED:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfO-96nhhaA>

Paines Plough Website and Twitter:

<http://www.painesplough.com>

@painesplough

HOPELESSLY DEVOTED Rehearsal Shots:

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HOPELESSLY DEVOTED Production Shots:

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