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## Stories of life and death on the streets in new work by Cardboard Citizens



- ***Bystanders* by UK's leading homelessness theatre company Cardboard Citizens premieres at Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2019**
- **Inspired by true stories of people who have lived or died on the streets**
- **Written and directed by Adrian Jackson, this new production is based entirely on personal accounts, court reports, newspaper articles and imagination.**
- ***Bystanders* runs from 31<sup>st</sup> July – 25<sup>th</sup> August, 11:30am, Summerhall (Tech Cube 0)**
- **Tickets on sale now at [www.edfringe.com](http://www.edfringe.com)**

Praise for *Cathy*, Fringe 2017:

***"Essential viewing... Gripping, soul-wrenching stuff"***

**★★★★★ Scottish Mail on Sunday**

***"Brilliantly performed"***

**★★★★★ EdFestMag**

A Windrush generation boxer, a Polish migrant marked with a tattoo and a man with a bottle of gin and a television in his shopping trolley. These are just some of the true stories and reasoned speculations about the lives and deaths of homeless people explored in new production *Bystanders*, by Cardboard Citizens.

Following the success of *Cathy* in 2017 which drew significant acclaim from audiences and critics, *Bystanders* by Cardboard Citizens premieres at Edinburgh Festival Fringe this summer.



After last year's revelations by [The Bureau for Investigative Journalism](#) on the largely unreported and unrecorded scale of homeless deaths in the UK - with the staggering reality of 800 homeless men and women having died between October 2017 and March 2019 - *Bystanders* gives those unheard voices the stage in true-life stories told with authenticity, wit and sadness.

All of the cast have different personal experiences of homelessness – though these are not the subject of the play. Each actor portrays multiple characters in the performance of these diverse histories, laying bare a callousness which may shock.

Cardboard Citizens has been producing and touring theatre work for over 28 years, collaborating with theatres and theatre companies including the Royal Shakespeare Company and English National Opera. The company is the UK's leading practitioner of Theatre of the Oppressed, a collection of techniques created originally by Augusto Boal in which theatre is used as an instrument for social and political change.

**Adrian Jackson, Writer, Director and Founder of Cardboard Citizens says:**

“Bystanders will be a theatrical eulogy, part commemoration, part celebration, part condemnation, part post-mortem, part intra-vitam, around homeless lives and deaths and the causes of both. These stories remind us how much is to be done.”

/ENDS

**To book press tickets or to arrange interviews please contact Kate Bouchier-Hayes, Eleanor Wilson or Will Moss at The Corner Shop PR: [kate@thecornershoppr.com](mailto:kate@thecornershoppr.com)/[eleanor@thecornershoppr.com](mailto:eleanor@thecornershoppr.com)/[william@thecornershoppr.com](mailto:william@thecornershoppr.com) / 0131 202 6220**

**Images available soon**

Twitter: @CardboardCitz  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/cardboardcitizens](http://www.facebook.com/cardboardcitizens)  
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/cardboardcitz/>  
YouTube: [www.youtube.com/user/cardboardcitztv](http://www.youtube.com/user/cardboardcitztv)  
[www.cardboardcitizens.org.uk](http://www.cardboardcitizens.org.uk)

## LISTINGS

### ***Cardboard Citizens: Bystanders***

Summerhall at the Edinburgh Fringe

Tech Cube 0, 11:30am (1hour)

Preview: 31 July & 1 August

Show dates: 2 – 25 August (not 12th or 19th)

Tickets are on sale now on [www.edfringe.com](http://www.edfringe.com)  
from £5 for previews, from £10 for week days and weekends

Age recommendation 12+

First review date: 2 August 2019



## CAST AND CREATIVES

### Cast:

To be announced

### Creatives:

Adrian Jackson (Writer and Director)

Carla Goodman (set and costume design), Sarah Readman (lighting and video design), Arun Ghosh (sound design).

Clare Robertson (Producer), Sarah Woods (Dramaturg).

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### About Cardboard Citizens

Founded by Artistic Director and CEO Adrian Jackson MBE, Cardboard Citizens is an award-winning Theatre Company and one of the world's leading practitioners of Forum Theatre. They have been making life-changing theatre with and for homeless people for over 25 years. Touring across theatres, hostels, day centres and prisons, they bring theatre to the most marginalised in society. Through bold and immersive work, Cardboard Citizens break down conventional divisions between audiences and performers.

The company runs a Membership programme for homeless, ex-homeless and at risk people, offering free workshops, information, advice and guidance, training and qualifications. Its Citz National Residencies reach vulnerable people across the country, exploring the barriers they are facing and identifying solutions, through fun, creative workshops and performances.

Past productions include the critically acclaimed *Cathy*; *Home Truths* at The Bunker; the Evening Standard Award-winning *Mincemeat*; *Pericles* and *Timon Of Athens* (with RSC); *The Beggar's Opera* (with ENO); *The Lower Depths* and *A Few Man Fridays*.

Cardboard Citizens is supported by Ambassadors Kate Winslet, CBE, David Morrissey and Rory Kinnear.

**Adrian Jackson (writer & director)** is the Artistic Director of Cardboard Citizens, a theatre company working particularly with homeless people, which he founded in 1991 whilst working for London Bubble; his last production for the latter was a punk rock musical by Catherine Johnson (of ABBA fame) *Too Much Too Young*. He has directed over 30 productions for Cardboard Citizens, including *Pericles* and *Timon of Athens*, co-produced with the Royal Shakespeare Company, *The Beggar's Opera* (with ENO), *The Lower Depths* (with London Bubble) and the Evening Standard award-winning *Mincemeat*. His 2012 play *A Few Man Fridays* about the expulsion of the Chagos islanders played to critical acclaim at Riverside Studios. Kate Tempest's *Glasshouse* (2014), Sarah Woods' *Benefit* (2015) and Ali Taylor's *Cathy* all toured nationally. In 2017 he co-directed a season of new plays around the history of housing, *Home Truths*, with commissions from Stef Smith, EV Crowe, Heathcote Williams, David Watson, Nessah Muthy, Chris O'Connell, Sonali Battacharya, Lin Coghlan and Anders Lustgarten.



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As Augusto Boal's translator on five books, he is a leading expert on Theatre of the Oppressed and has taught this work throughout the world. He was awarded an MBE in the 2018 New Years Honours. His first film, Here For Life, co-directed with Andrea Zimmerman and produced by Artangel, premiered in 2019.