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Cast announced for *Bystanders* from Cardboard Citizens ahead of Edinburgh Fringe Premiere



Cast images available to download [here](#)

Cardboard Citizens today announce the full cast for *Bystanders*, which will receive its world premiere at Edinburgh Festival Fringe as the company return following their 2017 success with *Cathy*. The company are known as the UK's leading homelessness theatre company and each of the four cast in *Bystanders* have experienced homelessness themselves.

The full cast includes: **Jake Goode** (*Mince meat, Visible, Woyzeck*), **Libby Liburd** (*Muvvahood, Temporary, and Fighter*), **Mark Lockyer** (*The Suppliant Women, Living with the Lights On and The Alchemist*) and **Andre Skeete** (*Glasshouse, Home Truths and Rising*). Full cast details in bios below.

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.

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.

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.

/ENDS

To book press tickets or to arrange interviews please contact Kate Bouchier-Hayes, Eleanor Wilson or Will Moss at The Corner Shop PR:



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Twitter: @CardboardCitz

Facebook: www.facebook.com/cardboardcitizens

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/cardboardcitz/>

YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/cardboardcitztv

www.cardboardcitizens.org.uk

Cast Biographies:

JAKE GOODE

Jake has been working with Cardboard Citizens almost since the beginning, appearing in many productions. One highlight was playing a squatter occupying a flat installed in the V&A.

Jake Goode is a street theatre and cabaret performer. He founded Other Half Productions with Jo Galbraith, and has been booked on six continents, including tours for the British Council. Jake also runs a tiny non-profit, JustPlay, teaching circus workshops and performing shows for oppressed communities around the world. Jake is a visiting lecturer at the National Centre for Circus Arts. He lives in Hackney with his partner Jo and son Roo.

MARK LOCKYER

This is Marks second appearance with Cardboard Citizens, having performed in Benefit which toured the UK in 2014.

LIBBY LIBURD

Libby is an actor, writer and activist. She trained at East 15 Acting School on their 3 year BA Acting course, graduating in 2000 and having her son shortly afterwards.

TV credits include 'Torchwood' (BBC), 'St Milligan's Wharf' (Pilot), pilot 'Autograph Hunters', which she co-created, wrote and starred in and various idents, adverts and shorts. Theatre includes new writing 'The Girls Next Door' and 'Second Class Parents' (Miller Prods), 'Kings' (Smoke & Oakum), panto and site specific/immersive work.

Libby is best known for her acclaimed solo show 'Muvvahood', a unique show that mixes verbatim, stand up and TED Talk to challenge society's perception of single mothers. The Stage described 'Muvvahood' as full of 'humour and heart...an excellent work'. The show ran at London venues including Stratford Circus, Camden People's Theatre, the Park Theatre and the Pleasance.



As a result of her campaign work challenging perceptions of single motherhood, Libby appeared as a regular guest panelist on BBC Radio London's Simon Lederman show. She has also featured on Fubar Radio and London Live. She has written for The Stage, the Evening Standard, Standard Issue and more. In 2017, she wrote and presented an opinion video for The Guardian called "What is our problem with single mothers?" which quickly went viral.

Libby's second play 'Temporary' addressed the crisis of single mother households displaced into temporary accommodation. The piece is based on verbatim testimony, personal experience and extensive research and was performed at Nottingham Playhouse in March 2018 before being featured as part of Camden People's Theatre's Common People festival of working class theatre.

Libby's latest play, 'Fighter', played earlier this year at Stratford Circus, featuring a cast of young genuine boxers. 'Fighter' is a show about women boxers, again based on personal experience - Libby used to box and has three fights under her belt. She fought in the famous East End venue The Troxy, fighting for Bad Boy Promotions. A broken thumb scuppered her fighting but she still continues to train.

Libby's plays have been described as 'funny, frank and authentic' and she has developed a unique voice, creating socially vigorous work that interrogates stereotypes and empowers women.

Libby is an Associate Artist at Stratford Circus and lives in East London with her son who is now 18.

ANDRE SKEETE

Andre Skeete has been acting for over 15 years and has worked with Cardboard Citizens many times. His theatre credits include: Rising (Cardboard Citizens) Home Truths (Cardboard Citizens) Hospital Chapel 6am (Bread and Roses Theatre) Glasshouse (Cardboard Citizens by Kate Tempest), Burst (Paper Tiger), The H Word (Shakespeare in Shoreditch Festival 2016 by David Watson), Inside (Playing On) The Interview (Cardboard Citizens) and Dust (Cardboard Citizens), Andre also had a role in BBC's short film Seven Dials.

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

from £5 for previews, from £10 for week days and weekends

Age recommendation 12+

First review date: 2 August 2019



CAST AND CREATIVES

Cast:

Jake Goode

Libby Liburd

Mark Lockyer

Andre Skeete

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).

Liz Ranken (Movement)

Arun Ghosh (Music/Sound)

Crin Claxton (Production Management)

Jasmin Hay (Company Stage Manager).

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 *Mince meat*; *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.

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.