

·fuel

FUEL PRESENTS

BURN BABY BURN

BY TOM STUART

DIRECTED BY KIRSTY HOUSLEY





ABOUT THE SHOW

Burn Baby Burn is a theatrical exploration of queer culture and its position within urban communities versus the rising tide of gentrification, specifically looking at the pressures it is placing on LGBTQ+ communities in London.

The growing appetite for luxury apartments across UK cities has forced many LGBTQ+ venues to close their doors, leaving vulnerable people without a safe place to congregate, causing a once thriving collective to break up and disperse. Set in London today, against the backdrop of a rising skyline and deteriorating sense of community, we follow stories of five locals across one night as their lives overlap and they challenge and unpick their perception of contemporary life in the city. The play confronts gentrification, gender identity, contemporary queer culture & its place within a changing urban landscape, and examines what happens to a city if its citizens are a collection of lost souls.

Fuel will produce Tom Stuart's extraordinary play, with a creative team including director and dramaturg Kirsty Housley (*Misty*, *The Believers Are But Brothers*, *The Encounter*).

AUDIENCE

The show will attract the following audiences:

- LGBTQIA+ communities and audiences
- Contemporary theatre and live art audiences
- Audiences with an interest in queer-led work
- Fans of cabaret and drag
- Infrequent and new arts attenders including local residents who have been affected by gentrification (through partnerships with Local Tenants and Residents Associations who engage with long-standing local residents)
- People with an interest in social science, including students
- People with an interest in activism and social justice

Alongside the production we will create a programme of engagement, including workshops and Q&As on gentrification and queer spaces and representation of non-binary people with Dr MJ Barker.



LEAD ARTISTS

WRITER | TOM STUART

Tom Stuart has worked in theatre, film and television as an actor for the past fifteen years. His theatre credits include numerous productions at Shakespeare's Globe, as well as the Young Vic, Lyric Hammersmith and Manchester Royal Exchange. Six years ago, Stuart started writing after reading a beautiful book *I Am Not Myself These Days* by Josh Kilmer-Purcell.

Tom's adaptation was produced by Fuel, directed by Nick Bagnall and performed by Tom Stuart. Fuel toured the show around the UK, which included venues in Edinburgh, Belfast, Exeter and Liverpool before a London run at Shoreditch Town Hall. The play was well received by critics, audiences and even by the author of the original book himself.

Tom recently fulfilled a commission from Shakespeare's Globe to write an original play for the Sam Wannamaker Theatre and *After Edward* was programmed for the Winter Season 2018/19. Previously, a comedy pilot Tom wrote for television *Get Lucky* was commissioned by the BBC for a table read. He recently finished work on another play *Say You Love Me*.

DIRECTOR | KIRSTY HOUSLEY

Kirsty is a theatre director, dramaturg and writer. She has been the recipient of the Oxford Samuel Beckett Theatre Trust award and the Title Pending award for innovation at Northern Stage. She is an Associate of Complicite and Dramaturg for The National Theatre's Let's Play programme.

Current and future credits include: RICH KIDS: A HISTORY OF SHOPPING MALLS IN TEHRAN (with Javaad Alipoor, Traverse); MEPHISTO (Gate Theatre).

Theatre works include: TAO OF GLASS (Manchester International Festival); AVALANCHE (Barbican); GRIMM TALES (Unicorn); THE DISTANCE (Roundhouse); MISTY (Bush Theatre/West End - Dramaturg); THE BELIEVERS ARE BUT BROTHERS (Bush Theatre, Ovalhouse, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Transform festival and Northern Stage Edinburgh - Co-Director); MYTH (RSC); THE ENCOUNTER (Complicite, EIF, Warwick Arts Centre, Theatre Vidy, Bristol Old Vic - Co-Director); A PACIFIST'S GUIDE TO THE WAR ON CANCER (Dramaturg, National Theatre and Complicite); WANTED (Chris Goode and Company, Transform festival, West Yorkshire Playhouse).



PRODUCER

FUEL

Fuel work with brilliant artists to enable them to share their artistic vision. We develop and present an adventurous, playful and significant programme of live, digital, and multi-disciplinary work for a representative audience across the UK and beyond.

“One of the most exciting and indispensable producing outfits working in British theatre today.”

The Guardian

Fuel is a registered charity and a National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England.

Since our story began in 2004, we have:

- produced over 130 shows, 6 festivals, 4 films, 36 podcasts, an app and three books.
- supported the development of 90 artists and companies.
- reached over 500,000 audience members and 8,750 participants.
- won 17 awards

Recent projects include Inua Ellams' acclaimed hit Barber Shop Chronicles on tour across the UK and internationally, David's Greig's adaptation of Touching The Void and Fly The Flag, a human rights project co-produced by Fuel with Amnesty International, Donmar Warehouse, Human Rights Watch, Liberty, the National Theatre, Sadler's Wells and Tate.



PRAISE FOR TOM STUART

"a brutal story told with energy and compassion" - THE STAGE

"smart, enjoyable and intensely heart-felt" - WHATSONSTAGE

"an astonishing, all-consuming performance." - FESTMAGAZINE

"incredibly funny" - BROADWAY WORLD

FURTHER INFORMATION

TOM STUART'S I AM NOT MYSELF THESE DAYS:

<https://fueltheatre.com/projects/i-am-not-myself-these-days/>

FUEL:

<https://fueltheatre.com/>

TOM STUART:

<https://www.mrtomstuart.com/>

KIRSTY HOUSELY:

<http://www.kirstyhousley.co.uk/>

CONTACT

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