

Fuel presents

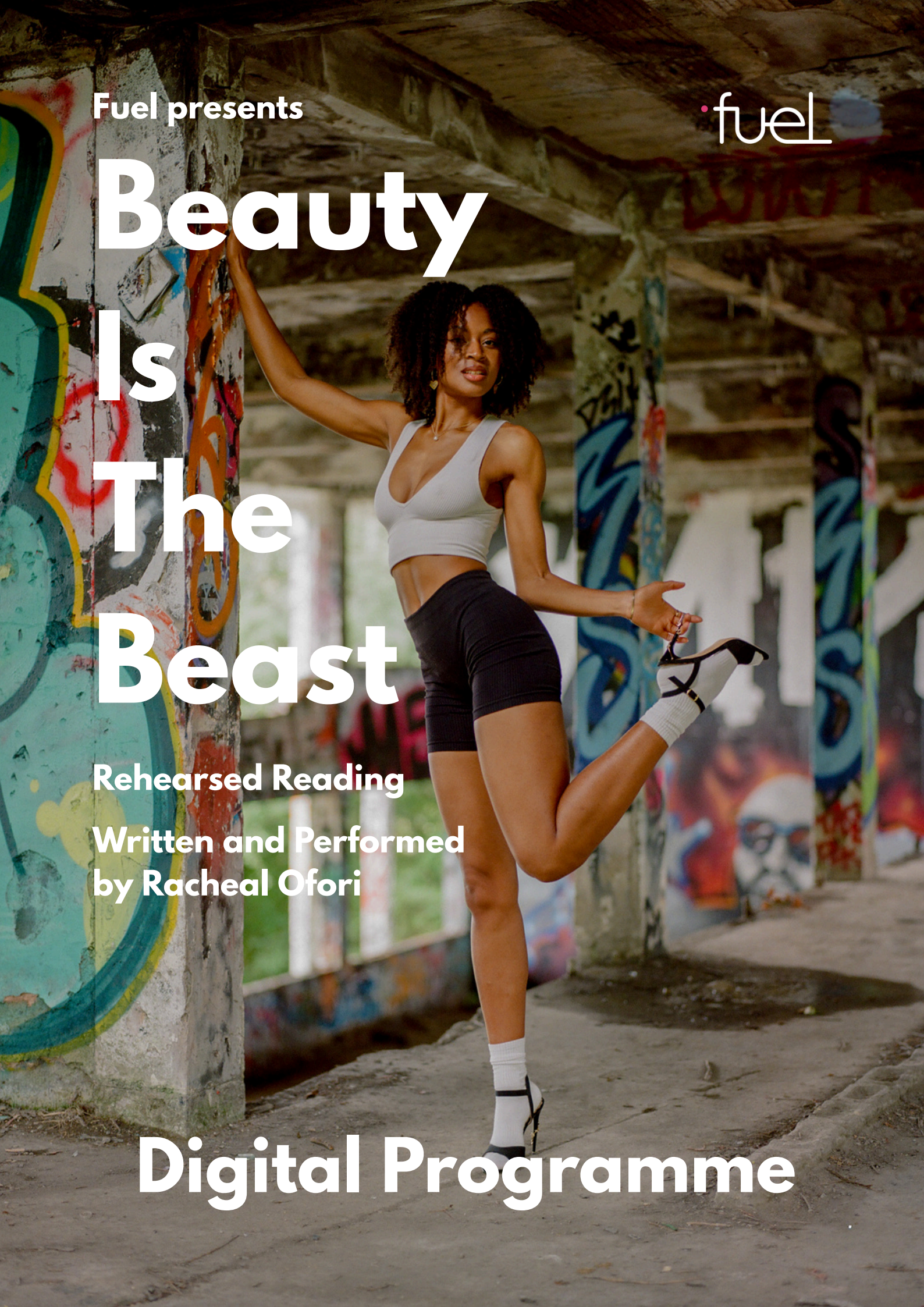
fuel

Beauty Is The Beast

Rehearsed Reading

Written and Performed
by Racheal Ofori

Digital Programme



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Programme Note

I'm trying out my latest show, **Beauty is the Beast**, as a rehearsed reading – it's a playful and sharp look at the pursuit of beauty under capitalism (it's fun, I promise!). In this show, I tackle the 'beauty' beast that lurks below the surface in our everyday lives – from shampoo ads to lip filler to make-up influencers.

After a successful work-in-progress at **FuelFest** at the Barbican, London, this rehearsed reading is a sharing of the piece at its latest stage of development.

Racheal Ofori

About the Show

A brand new satire by Racheal Ofori (*Portrait, So Many Reasons, FLIP!*) that explores the ugly cost of beauty – from scalp-burning perms to injectables, from skinny tea to fat jabs.

Yvonne is losing her mind.

She walks into Boots looking for shampoo and has a breakdown, paralysed by the oppressive abundance of bright plastic bottles.

Mina always kept a trim figure.

Her mother's ever-present scales in their family used to do the trick. But since her mother's death, she's finding it harder to keep the weight off. So she's ordered some fat jabs online.

“I want to be wafer thin. So thin that at some point I practically disappear. Isn't that the point? The literal erasure of women?”

Commissioned by Fuel and Women in Theatre Lab.

Produced by Fuel.

Supported by Arts Council England.

Creative Team

Racheal Ofori

Racheal Ofori graduated from Italia Conti Academy in 2013 and has since worked in both theatre and television, as a writer and actor.

As an actor, in 2020 she performed in Inua Ellams' adaptation of *Three Sisters* at the National Theatre, co-produced by Fuel, and most recently in 2024, she performed in Matthew Xia's *Skeleton Crew* at the Donmar Warehouse.

In summer 2015 she created and toured her first solo-show *Portrait* with Fuel.

It was the first show Racheal had written and performed. The tour was a great success: it opened at the Edinburgh Festival and then toured in autumn 2015 to 10 different venues. On the back of touring *Portrait*, Ofori was featured in a BBC2 Arts night piece about the meaning of Black Culture.

As a result of Racheal's writing as part of the Soho Six cohort, *FLIP!* premiered in 2023 at Alphabetti Theatre, before runs at Soho Theatre and Summerhall, to much critical acclaim, and a nomination at the UK Theatre Awards.



Creative Team



Madeleine Kludje

Madeleine is currently the Deputy Artistic Director at The Birmingham Rep leading on Door and Studio Programming and Talent Development.

Madeleine is an alumnus of The Regional Theatre Young Directors Scheme, the National Theatre Directors Course 23 and Clore Leadership Pulse 24.

Past directing work includes Swim Aunty Swim (Belgrade Theatre), Parklife short comedy plays by Mahad Ali, Alice Etches, Mari and Lowri Izzard and Ed Amsden and Tom Coles (Sky Comedy Rep 22 & 23), Grimeboy by Birmingham Poet Laureate Casey Bailey (The Rep, Barry Jackson Tour, Birmingham Festival 23), City of a Thousand Trades by Choreographer Miguel Altunaga (Birmingham Royal Ballet) Park Bench Plays, short plays by David Edgar, Janice Connolly, Liam Steel and Lucia Deyi (The Rep, Barry Jackson Tour, Sky Arts).

About Fuel

Fuel leads the field in independent producing in the UK's live performance sector, collaborating with curious, insightful and skilled theatre makers to create fresh experiences for adventurous people.

Since 2004, we have evolved a pioneering producing model that develops innovative ideas through attentive collaboration, a spirit of curiosity, and an emphasis on trust. We have developed a reputation for spirited and surprising new theatre, deep relationships with a wide range of artists, and a passionate commitment to inclusion and care for young and diverse audiences.

We have produced shows, festivals, films, installations, podcasts, apps and books. In doing so we have supported the artistic development of over 120 lead artists or companies and reached more than 1.5 million people, live and digitally. We have hosted over a hundred internships and been recognised with awards for our work.

fueltheatre.com

Instagram, Facebook, Bluesky, LinkedIn: @fueltheatre



About The Schwarzman Centre

The Schwarzman Centre is a stage set for boundless creativity. Under one remarkable roof,

Academia and culture are breaking a new kind of common ground – bringing seven humanities faculties and research institutes together with world-class libraries, collections, exhibitions, cinema, music, theatre, and performance.

Based at the University of Oxford, open to all.

Our world's biggest challenges are human challenges – humanities hold the answers.

The Schwarzman Centre is a meeting place for the talent and ideas of our time, and a testing ground for global action.

Here, people from all disciplines are questioning how humans can transform our world to inspire collective change.



Fuel Team

Angela Bryan-Brown - Assistant Producer

Yingnan Chu – Executive & Fundraising Assistant

Alex Ferguson - Development Producer

Caitlin Gleeson - Senior Producer

Luke Holbrook - Senior Producer

Greg Howe - Production Manager

Todun Iluyomade - Assistant Producer

David Lewis - Head of Finance

Kate McGrath - Artistic Director & CEO

Makeda Newman - Programme Assistant

V Reynolds - Communications Manager

Ine Van Riet - Executive Director

Marina Sacco – Senior Engagement Producer

Tanya Stephenson - Production Manager

Joanne Williams - General Manager