



## **Sherds**

### **Five Verses on Six Sacks of Earth**

*I know small things. I let time go slow. Preserving a record – wearing it – bent bodied*

Hawthorn. Curlew. Catherine. A Milk Bowl. Greg. An ensemble of musicians, vocalists, and sound-emitting sculptures perform five perspectives on landscape, history, and the process of excavation, articulating the out of sight and out of time.

*Sherds* is a new performance which inhabits the parameters of a six-week archaeological field school in a silage meadow during the record hot summer of 2018. The five verses unearth, reassemble, and form anew from passing conversations, local news, and the rhythms of the dig, incorporating energy production, moorland nesting sites, ceramic sherds, early modern melody, and geological vibrations.

The piece draws on the specialist practices of the ensemble, combining text, improvisation, live audio, acoustic chamber music, and collaborative scores.

In summer 2018, Nastassja Simensky and Rebecca Lee were commissioned by In-Situ and Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership to be artists-in-residence on an archaeological dig at Malkin Tower farm. The resulting 'micro-opera' was shared locally in performances across Pendle.

The development of a full-scale performance based on this commission is being funded by Sound and Music, Jerwood Arts, Arts Council England, and The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

*Sherds* was produced by Nastassja Simensky and Rebecca Lee with musicians Kelly Jayne Jones, Sophie Cooper, Alison Cooper, Caroline Trutz, and Bobby Cotterill.

## PERFORMANCES

[The Harris, Preston, Sunday 8 December, 2.30pm](#)

Nottingham Contemporary, Saturday 25 January, 7.30pm

## CREATIVE TEAM

Written and directed by Nastassja Simensky and Rebecca Lee

Composition: Rebecca Lee with the ensemble and Mark Dennis

Performed by Kelly Jayne Jones, Sophie Cooper, Alison Cooper, Rebecca Lee, Caroline Trutz, Nastassja Simensky, and Bobby Cotterill

Set and Costume: Nastassja Simensky

Pattern Cutter: Karen Harrigan

Lighting Design and Engineer: Seth Rook Williams

Sound Engineer: Jim Brouwer

Production Assistant: Sophia Simensky

Graphic Design: Dr Joseph Lilley - Holodeck

Editorial Consultancy: Maria Fusco

Choreography Consultancy: Simone Kenyon

Photography: Reece Straw

Press and Marketing: Emily Sherwood

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