

International Festival of Women Making Theatre to Inspire Change



You are invited –

To a day of performances and discussion, celebrating and exploring the work of women from around the world who are making social and political theatre to inspire change.

Saturday June 24th 2017; Mercury Theatre, Colchester

Mercury Theatre: Festival Outlook

This unique event brings together a global company of actors, directors, musicians, dancers, writers, choreographers and academic experts. Looking at peace-building through the arts and its role in fostering relationships between young and old, between the past, present and future, this day will be a chance to explore and discuss the work of women theatre-makers from across the globe.



Dear Children, Sincerely – Performed Main Stage, Mercury Theatre, 7:30pm

This is a unique opportunity to see an experimental new collaboration from some of the foremost theatre practitioners of Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Palestine, India, Serbia, Burundi, as well as the UK. Dear Children, Sincerely is a global performance project where young people have sought the advice of elders. Founded by Susannah Tresilian, [Ariadne](#) is a network of women theatre-makers who have come together to share practice, to debate, to create, and to question what women can do as artists to provoke and inspire change.



Cold Season in Calcutta – Performed Studio Theatre, Mercury Theatre, 2:00pm

Written by Elizabeth Kuti in collaboration with a company of actors from India and the UK, this is an original and playful response to Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*, exploring how the legacy of the past plays out in future generations. Directed by Trilby James and starring Shelley King and Madhayama Segal (one of India's most celebrated performers of Odissi dance).

Saturday June 24th - Festival Programme

10:30am	Coffee and arrival at the Mercury Theatre, Colchester
11.00 -11:30am	Welcome and introductory remarks – Studio Theatre
11:30 – 12pm	Opening address: Professor Caroline Rooney, University of Kent
12 – 12:15pm	Break
12.15 -1.15pm	First Panel Discussion – Studio Theatre Dr Katharine Low, RCSSD, in conversation with Hope Azeda Dr Emma Cox, RHUL, in conversation with Iman Aoun
1.15 – 2.00pm	Buffet lunch at the Mercury Theatre (Additional £6, must be pre-booked)
2pm – 3:30pm	Cold Season in Calcutta rehearsed reading – Studio Theatre
3:30 – 3.50pm	Break
3:50 – 4:30pm	Second Panel Discussion – Studio Theatre Professor Jerri Daboo, University of Exeter Post Show Q&A with Cold Season in Calcutta Company – Gallery Bar
4.45 – 5:15pm	Plenary: Dr Clare Finburgh, University of Kent, in conversation with Dijana Milosevic – Main Stage
5:15 – 5:45pm	Closing keynote speech: Dr Ananda Breed, University of East London in conversation with Frederique Lecomte & Hope Azeda – Main Stage
5:45pm	Conference close
6.15pm	Dinner – available at the Mercury Theatre (Additional £10, must be pre-booked)
7.30pm	Dear Children, Sincerely performance – Main Stage(Additional £10/£5 conc.)

For further Information on the University of Essex and AHRC 'Tales of Winter and Spring' research project, and the Ariadne residency at the Lakeside Theatre, please contact Elizabeth Kuti ejkuti@essex.ac.uk & Anney Lax alax@essex.ac.uk. The conference costs £10/£5 concessions, the evening performance of Dear Children, Sincerely also costs £10/£5 concessions. The buffet lunch is available for £6 and evening meal for £10. These must be pre-booked. Tickets are available from: <https://www.mercurytheatre.co.uk/event/international-festival/> or by calling 01206 573948.

