A FORTUNATE MAN

INSPIRED BY A FORTUNATE MAN: THE STORY OF A COUNTRY DOCTOR
BY JOHN BERGER & JEAN MOHR

A STAGE EXPLORATION BY MICHAEL PINCHBECK
Fifty years ago visionary writer, John Berger, and Swiss photographer, Jean Mohr, published A Fortunate Man, a meditation on the role of a doctor that is still widely read by healthcare practitioners today. It followed the day-to-day life of English country GP John Sassall, witnessing through storytelling and photography his compassion as well as his practice as a physician. Fifteen years after the book’s publication, the doctor John Sassall committed suicide.

Taking this tragic event as a starting point, New Perspectives have developed the UK’s first stage exploration of the book to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the NHS.

"A Fortunate Man speaks of the way a doctor works, but back when the relationship between a doctor and their patients was very different to today. There’s a kind of romanticism about it, between the doctor and his work, the author and his subject. There is a lot of topical debate about the state of the NHS so we want to look at how things have changed since it was written." - Michael Pinchbeck, Writer and Director

A Fortunate Man was first explored as part of an artist training project, Emerging Perspectives in 2017, with Michael Pinchbeck and Julian Hughes, coordinated by Theresa Keogh. Project participants made an enriching contribution to our early creative discoveries: Lizzie Bettsworth, Ryan Chadwick, Clwen Davies, Susana de Dios, Mark Elmore, Joanne Perenczi, Mira Ho, Holly Jackson, Jess Thomas Owens, Susanne Reynolds, Ed Roberts, Laura Ryder, Kieran Spiers.

CAST
Matthew Brown
Hayley Doberty

CREATIVES
Michael Pinchbeck
Writer & Director

Eleanor Field
Design Consultant

Amy Kae
Lighting Designer

Chris Cousin
Sound Designer

Adam York Gregory
AV Designer

Ali Bakewell
Oran O'Neill
Stage Managers

Alison Willcox
Production Manager

WITH CONTRIBUTIONS BY:
Ryan Chadwick
Original Music

Julian Hughes
Production & Documentary Photography

Susana de Dios
dediosphoto.com
MICHAEL PINCHBECK
Theatre credits include: The man who flew into space from his apartment, The Trilogy (national tours); Concerto, Solo (currently touring); Nottingham Playhouse commissions: The White Album (2006), The Ashes (2011), Bolero (2014, Nottingham Playhouse, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo). Michael is a Principal Lecturer (Professional Practice) and joint MA Theatre Programme Leader at the University of Lincoln.

michaelpinchbeck.co.uk

MATTHEW BROWN
Theatre credits include: Kindertransport (Queen’s Theatre Hornchurch, Les Théâtres de la Ville Luxembourg & UK Tour), Harvest (New Perspectives UK Tour), Blue/Orange (Theatre Royal Brighton/AJT UK Tour), The Machine Gunners (Polka Theatre, London), The Riddle of the Sands (Jermyn Street Theatre), Pitch Black and Romy and Julian (Vienna’s English Theatre) and The Beaux’ Stratagem, Hedda Gabler and Much Ado About Nothing (Lichfield Garrick).

TV Credits include: The Revenge Files of Alistair Fury (BBC) and Grandpa in My Pocket (BBC).

NEW PERSPECTIVES WOULD LIKE TO GIVE SPECIAL THANKS TO:
Yves Berger for generously allowing us to explore his father’s book for this production. We would also like to thank John Berger’s friend and colleague Gareth Evans, Dr Gavin Francis who championed the book’s republication as well as Simon Enckell, John Snedden and Tom Overton for their generous insights into Sassall’s life. The Media Archive for Central England (MACE) for archive film footage. Amanda Farr, Dr Richard Lonsdale, Dr Helen Mead, Dr Andy Sommers, Dr Jane Turrell, Practice Managers Heather Simpson and Karen Gabriel, Ian Truemn, Principal Lecturer at University of Lincoln, Dr David R Hogg, John Wynn-Jones for sharing their professional insight; Rachel Baynton, Rhiannon Jones and the Department of Literature, Language and Theatre, University of Greenwich.
NEW PERSPECTIVES

New Perspectives is an East Midlands-based touring theatre company, specialising in bringing new work to rural and community audiences. Through an annual programme of original adaptations, rare revivals and new writing, we bring live theatre that is vital, affordable and accessible into the heart of wide-ranging communities, as well as to regional, national and international venues. We facilitate and provide career-defining training and mentoring opportunities for East Midlands’ theatre artists at all levels and manage the rural touring scheme Northants Touring Arts.

As a registered charity meeting the costs of taking our work into the heart of wide-ranging communities, including those with limited access to the arts, while maintaining low ticket prices is a real challenge. Public funding amounts to only 60% of the annual income we need to realise our ambitions. With your help, through generous donations we can raise vital funds to sustain our touring work and artist development programmes. Do something extraordinary - you can find out more and make a vital contribution online at newperspectives.co.uk

Jack McNamara
Artistic Director

Sally Anne Tye
Executive Director

Alison Willcox
Production Manager

Kara Cole
Communications and Administrative Assistant

Jayne Williams
Participation Director

Zoe Keen
Bookkeeper

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YOUR FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT TO US

New Perspectives in association with HOME present

THE FISHERMEN
by CHIGOZIE OBIOMA
adapted for the stage by Gbolahan Obisesan

A POWERFUL ALLEGORY OF LOVE, VENGEANCE AND FATE

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