

Transcript for

Love, Liverpool: an A-Z of Hope - Introduction

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This audio recording features the voices of three people. **Frank**, who is our New Works Associate at the Everyman & Playhouse theatres, **Gemma**, who is our Artistic Director and **Peter**, who is our Marketing Officer. They are explaining our new digital project called *Love, Liverpool: an A-Z of Hope*.

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Frank: [00:00:00] Hello, and welcome to Love Liverpool: an A-Z of Hope.

Peter: [00:00:03] It's May 2020 and here in Liverpool, England, we're still in lockdown to help slow the spread of coronavirus.

Frank: [00:00:11] My name is Frank and I am the New Works Associate.

Gemma: [00:00:14] I'm Gemma Bodinetz, the Artistic Director.

Peter: [00:00:16] and I'm Peter, the Marketing Officer at the Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse theatres.

Gemma: [00:00:20] When the theaters were put into lockdown, like everybody, we lost touch with each other and our audiences and our auditoria still stand empty.

Frank: [00:00:29] Theatre at its best as a place of human connection of sinking heartbeats, of stories and of place. Right now, many of us can't be close to our loved ones, let alone to an auditorium of strangers and we can't visit parts of our city that means so much more than points on our map.

Gemma: [00:00:45] As a team, we decided we wanted to communicate with our many audiences and with our artists, and actors, writers, performers.

It felt wrong that even though the buildings were closed, we couldn't talk to you.

Peter: [00:00:58] So we wanted to make a digital project

Gemma: [00:01:00] and we wanted it to be about Liverpool, about the places that we miss and the people that we can't see in this wonderful city of ours.

We asked some of our alumni to create little picnics, so that along this roadmap of Liverpool, you could enjoy some cultural tidbits that some of our friends and family from the artistic community could place along the route.

Frank: [00:01:25] We commissioned four Liverpool writers to choose a place they love in Liverpool and take us there. We did not direct them as to where to pick.

How could we have know of Mandy Redvers-Rowe's love for Merseyrail? Or, Chloe Moss's favorite pub. Instead we asked our artists to lead us there and on the way we gathered more memories, poems and stories from the ever generous people of Liverpool.

Peter: [00:01:44] We asked the public to send us their love letter to Liverpool

Gemma: [00:01:47] A place or a journey or an experience in Liverpool that they could no longer enjoy.

Frank: [00:01:52] And so we bring you Hope Street as a site of revolution and longing, the endless possibilities of a drunken night out in Moorfields, the majestic many crossings of the Mersey, even the sticky dance floor of the Krazyhouse becomes an important romantic milestone. Well, when seen through the right pair of eyes.

A city is so much more than a place.

A city is the people and the things that happened here. Here is our Liverpool. Here is our A-Z of Hope.

Gemma: [00:02:18] We've been overwhelmed by your response, and we're still sifting through and recording the many stories, poems, songs that you sent us.

Peter: [00:02:27] So how it works is we'll release a letter on our website, which will be made up of loads of stories.

We'll have videos, pictures, recipes, and definitely some awful jokes, as well as these audio stories, that are available wherever you listen to your podcasts, from our commissioned artists, friends of the theatres, and from you. So check out our social channels or visit our website, everymanplayhouse.com.

Gemma: [00:02:50] We do hope you enjoy listening to this virtual Liverpool and to the many wonderful people that this city contains.

See you soon. [00:03:00]

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We hope this transcript was useful. If you do have any feedback we'd more than welcome it. Please email communications@everymanplayhouse.com.

Thank you.