

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Monday 20 & Tuesday 21 January 2020
Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall

BOYS by The PappyShow

Part of London International Mime Festival 2020

After-show discussion: Monday 20 January
BSL-interpreted performance with Kam Deo:
Tuesday 21 January

Performers

Maxwell Chartey
Jules Chan
Dior Clarke
Conor Glean
Arran Green
Nickcolia King-n'da
Mohammed Mansaray
Kwami Odoom
Kamran Vahabi
Adam Strawford

Director Kane Husbands

Designer Helena Bonner

Composer/MD Roly Botha

Lighting designer Saulius Valiunas

Dramaturg Lewis Hetherington

Assistant director Marc Benga

Associate collaborator/choreographer

Matthew Rawcliffe

Stage manager Grace Lewis

Deputy stage manager Lesley Talbot

BSL interpreter Kam Deo

The PappyShow is an award-winning playful, physical and visual ensemble theatre company, formed in January 2013 by Kane Husbands in order to provide a much-needed space for actors to train in physical theatre. It is a diverse company; difference and diversity are the cornerstones to its work and process. It uses exercise, training and a physical and therapeutic approach to devise and create its work.

The PappyShow is an Associate Company of New Diorama Theatre, National Youth Theatre and The North Wall.

Kane Husbands is Artistic Director of The PappyShow theatre company, dedicated to diverse approaches to visual narratives, with movement training at the heart of its practice. For the company he has directed *BOYS*, *GIRLS*, *CARE* and *Wait Til the End*.

He choreographed the London Olympic, Paralympic and Glasgow Commonwealth Team welcome ceremonies. As movement director, he worked on *Butterfly Lion* for Chichester's Minerva Theatre, *Last King of Scotland* for Sheffield Crucible and *One Night in Miami* for Nottingham Playhouse.

He continues to work for venues including the National Theatre, Old Vic New Voices and Sheffield Crucible. He is a lecturer at University of the Arts London, St Mary's University and University of West London.

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Director's note

For a long time I have been really interested in unpacking the questions I had when I was growing up about how men behave with other men, and how women behave with other women.

As a boy growing up, I was witness to these beautiful, brilliant, complicated relationships between men: brothers, friends, fathers, grandpas, cousins, lovers, boys. Why were the rules so hard to navigate? Why were sensitivity, play and tenderness seen as signs of weakness, when underneath it all, vulnerability seemed like our greatest strength?

I remember one night before bed, when I was maybe six or seven, I went to give my dad a goodnight kiss and he stopped me in my tracks and said: 'we don't kiss anymore, we shake hands.'

The rules were changing. I shook his hand, kissed my mum, hugged my grandpa, and headed to sleep. It was confusing.

Whilst making this show we've been researching and investigating and witnessing men interacting with other men. A tender complicated dance of negotiation.

We've sunk deep into into the many different identities men navigate; the complexity of their cultures, histories, sexualities, spiritualities and relationships.

As we peeled off the layers, we found the bright, bold, joyful colour of youth bursting through. The playfulness and pressure of being a boy, trying to be a man. To be brave and scared all in one breath.

The boys I grew up with, that look like me, are rarely seen standing together on a stage.

I wanted to see more of that. I wanted to see the full expression of all of the shades of their uniqueness.

So here is our contribution to the conversation. There are no tokens here.

... and as for seeing women being with other women – we've saved that for *GIRLS*.

– Kane Husbands

The PappyShow are Helena Bonner, Josie Daxter, Sam Hardie, Bea Holland, Rachel Hosker, Kane Husbands, Kwami Odoom, Jeffrey Sangalang, Seda Yidiz

Thanks from The PappyShow: It takes a million people to make a show, and we are so grateful to all of the teams who have created, performed and advised us on BOYS. We are ever grateful for your support and kindness.

You can train with The PappyShow throughout the year at workshops in London. Visit their website to find out more: thepappyshow.co.uk

London International Mime Festival (LIMF)

promotes contemporary visual theatre. Its productions have been nominated for and won Olivier Awards, and in 2017 the festival was honoured with the Empty Space - Peter Brook Special Achievement Award for its work over four decades. Founded in 1977, LIMF is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.

Festival Directors Helen Lannaghan & Joseph Seelig

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