



Bush Theatre

OLD BRIDGE

Papatango Theatre Company in association with the Bush Theatre
present the winner of the 2020 Papatango New Writing Prize

DIGITAL RESOURCE PACK

PREPARED BY THE COMMUNITY DEPARTMENT

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CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

Susan Lawson-Reynolds	Cast Member
Dino Kelly	Cast Member
Emilio Iannucci	Cast Member
Rosie Gray	Cast Member
Saffron Coomber	Cast Member
Papatango	Producer
Selma Dimitrijevic	Director
Oli Townsend	Designer
Georgina Lamb	Movement Director
Yarit Dor	Intimacy Director
Max Pappenheim	Sound Designer
Aideen Malone	Lighting Designer
Simisola Majekodunmi	Associate Lighting Designer
Lois Sime	Stage Manager
Matthew Carnazza	Programmer
Tabitha Piggott	Production Manager

OLD BRIDGE

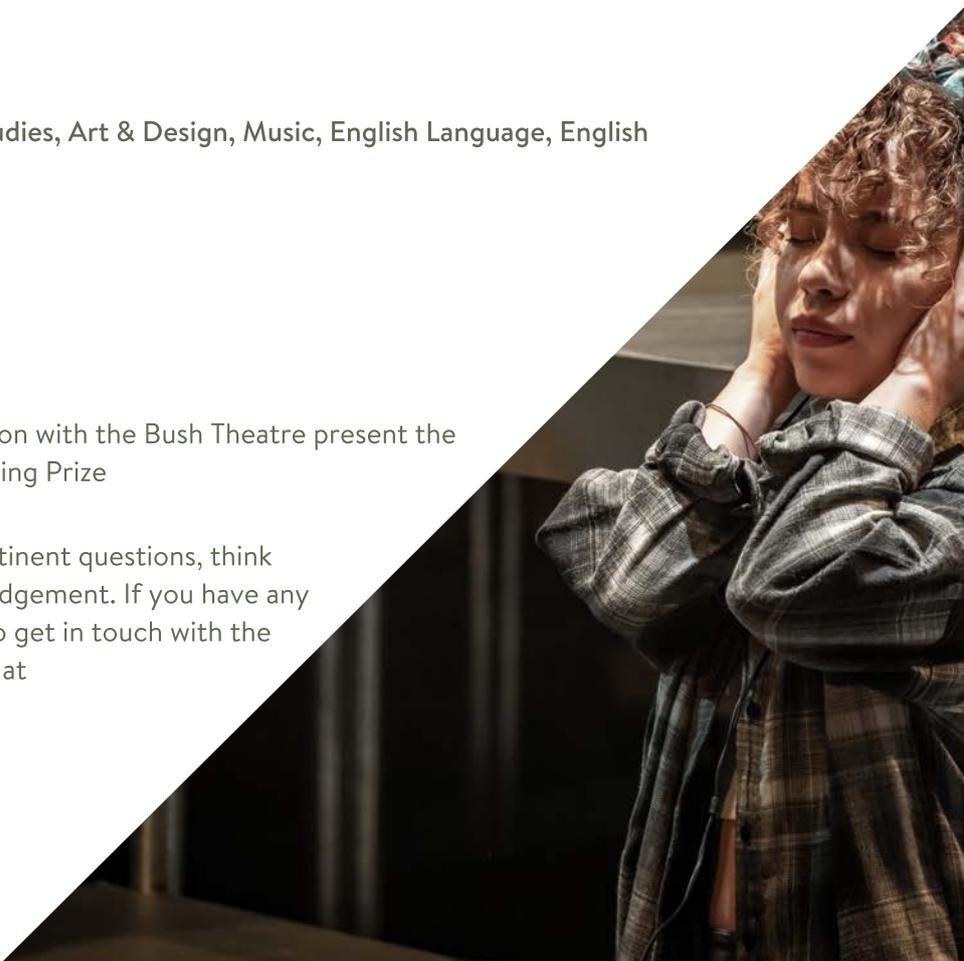
Cross-Curricular: Drama and Theatre Studies, Art & Design, Music, English Language, English Literature, Politics and PSHE

Key Stage 3,4 & 5

‘Written by Igor Memic

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The play will provoke students to ask pertinent questions, think critically, and develop perspective and judgement. If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to get in touch with the Community Team on 020 8743 3584 or at community@bushtheatre.co.uk



Meet the Writer

Igor Memic

Igor Memic is originally from Mostar. He grew up in London after leaving Yugoslavia in 1992 and studied at the University of Liverpool and the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. *Old Bridge* marks his professional debut.



Synopsis

‘One day all you care about is music, fashion, and boys. The next day there’s no food. Piece by piece your world starts to change so you change with it.’

Mostar, Yugoslavia, 1988. Mili, a boy from out of town, dives from the famous Old Bridge. Mina, a local girl, watches. As he falls, she begins falling for him.

Mostar, Bosnia, 1992. In a town of growing divisions, Mina and Mili never doubt that their future lies together. But nor can they imagine the dangers that future will bring. This love story is a bold, fresh and contemporary take on real events. An epic story exploring the impact of a war that Europe forgot and the love and loss of those who lived through it.

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MEET THE WRITER

IGOR MEMIC



Image by Marc Brenner.

How Does History, Inform Art?

The History of Old Bridge



The Play 'Old Bridge' is set in Mostar, a town in the South of Bosnia and Herzegovina (formerly part of Yugoslavia). Its name Mostar was mentioned formally for the first time in 1474 and came from the word Mostari which means the keepers of the bridge. This bridge, Stari Most, meaning Old Bridge, was built in 1566 and is a central part of the history of the city as it connected the two sides across the Neretva river. Because the city was a part of the trade route across the country it became a melting pot for many different ethnicities, all finding their homes in the bustling, market town of Mostar.

A traveller passing through the town in the 17th century noted "the bridge is like a rainbow arch soaring up to the skies... I have passed through 16 countries, but I have never seen such a high bridge." The Old Bridge that the play is named after became a central part of the identity of the city.

"It's a rite of passage to jump off Old Bridge"

Mostar at the beginning of the play

At the start of the play the town was a part of the country of Yugoslavia. Mostar was an example of multiple different communities living side-by-side in harmony with Muslims, Christians and Jews all living together. There were mosques, churches and synagogues where each person could go to pray depending on their religion. In the 1991 Census (a document which collects information about the people living in a country) showed that one third of the marriages in Mostar were between people from different religions or cultural backgrounds. At the time Mostar was a bustling town with lots of shops, cafes and businesses, as well as being famous for groups of young men attempting to jump off the famous Old Bridge. This ancient tradition was a way for young men to impress the women of the town and prove their strength which is where our play begins.

The History of Old Bridge

Mostar in 1992

In April 1992 Bosnia and Herzegovina claimed their independence from Yugoslavia, they decided that they wanted to be a new and separate country. After this the country went through a turmoil with 2 different wars breaking out within different groups in the community. The main conflict that is focused on within the play *Old Bridge* is between the Croatian Defence Council who attacked the Muslim Community living there as they wanted the city of Mostar to be home to only Croatian Catholic people. There was a huge amount of violence and destruction of buildings within the city, including the destruction of the Old Bridge which happens at the climax of the play.



Exercise One – Research & Storytelling

Task Time: 60 minutes

Part One - 25 mins

Part Two - 30 mins

Part Three - 5 mins

Resource Needed

Computer, Pen, Paper, Books



Old Bridge was inspired by Igor's home town and therefore a lot of research went into creating the world of the play as authentically as possible. When using real landscapes in art, it's good practice to immerse yourself in that setting. For this exercise, pick a location in the world. This location can be connected to you or it can be a location you know nothing about.

Once you've picked this location, you have 25 minutes to do as much research as you can about its history. Great question to keep in mind

1. Where is it, geographically?
2. What is its political or religious history?
3. What is the local cuisine like?
4. Are there any notable landscapes or monuments like the Old Bridge?

Now that you've done all your research you have 30 minutes to present back to the class a story set in your chosen location.

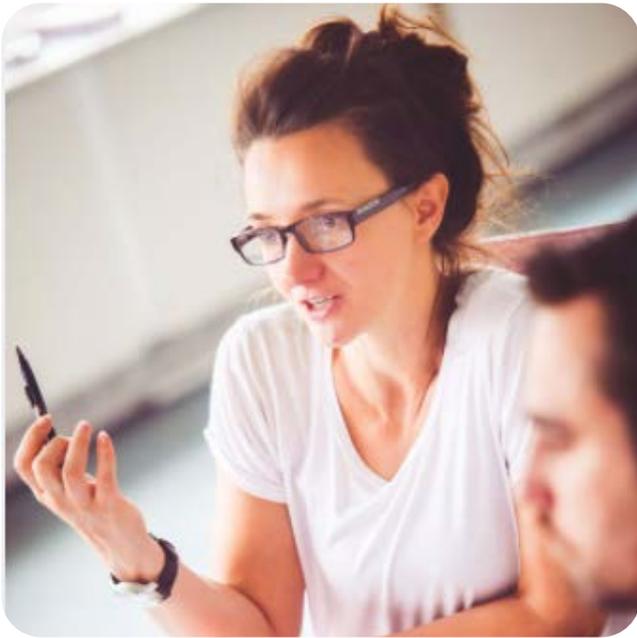
You can use images, music and or videos.

Review Quote



Meet the Director of Old Bridge

Selma Dimitrijevic



Selma Dimitrijevic is a director and writer and artistic director of Greyscale. Her directing credits include *Baroness And The Pig* (Shaw Festival), *joey* (gobscure/Greyscale), *Hedda Gabler*, *This is Not a Love Story* (Northern Stage – also writer), *The Gamblers* (Dundee Rep – also writer), *Gods Are Fallen And All Safety Gone* (Almeida /UK tour/International tour – also writer), *Dead To Me* (Edinburgh Festival Fringe/UK tour), *A Prayer* (Almeida/Northern Stage/Hull Truck Theatre – also writer), *A Beginning, A Middle And An End* (Tron Theatre/tour), *Harmless Creatures* (Hull Truck Theatre), *Tonight David Ireland Will Lecture, Dance and Box* (Oran Mor/tour), *What Would Judas Do?* (Almeida/Northern Stage), and *Incident at the Border, Cyrano de Bergerac and Waterproof* (Òran Mór); and as a dramaturg, Sting’s musical *The Last Ship* (UK and USA tour). Further writing credits in opera and theatre include *Berenice*, *To See The Invisible*, *Dr. Frankenstein*, *Night Time*, *Game Theory*, and *Re:Union*. Her plays have been translated and performed around the world. She is Jerwood Artistic Adviser and Unlimited Ally.

QUOTE

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MEET THE DIRECTOR



Selma Dimitrijevic



Image by Marc Brenner.

Exercise Two – Reflecting On Production



Images by Marc Brenner.

Task Time: 30 minutes

Part One - 10 mins

Part Two - 10 mins

Part Three - 10 mins

Resource Needed

Computer, Pen, Paper, Books

Use this exercise to get your students responding to work that they have seen onstage. This tool enables students to respond to any piece or dance, theatre or live performance that they have seen. Organise the class into groups of 4 or 5 and give each group a large sheet of paper and some pens. Write the name of the production on the whiteboard, then assign each group an area of the production to explore including:

• The set and staging • Directing • Costume • Music and Sound • Acting • Themes of the play

Each group should write their chosen area of the production as a heading on their flip chart paper. Each group then has five minutes to brainstorm thoughts and comments around their assigned area of the production, noting them in a spider diagram on their flip chart paper. After five minutes each group must pass their paper onto the next group and repeat this process until every group has commented on all areas of the production listed by the class. These sheets can then be photocopied and handed out. You could also put the sheets up in the classroom for inspiration when discussing the production.

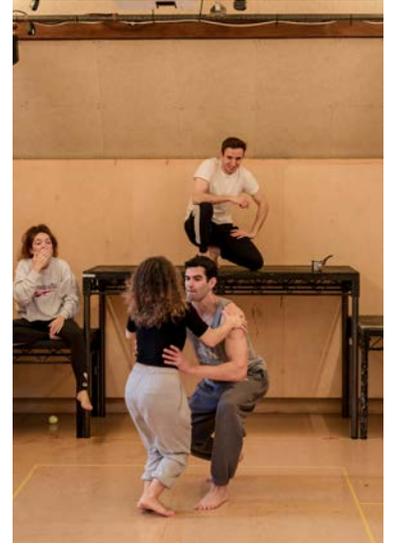
Discussion topic ideas:

How was sound used in the production to evoke emotion?

Did space and movement convey the characters feelings?

How was costume used as an aid to tell us whether it was 1988 or 1992?

A Glimpse Into The Rehearsal Room



Images by The Other Richard.

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MEET A  CAST MEMBER

Dino Kelly

Exercise Three – Back Story & Character Relationships



Images by Marc Brenner.

Task Time: 60 minutes

Part One - 25 mins

Part Two - 30 mins

Part Three - 5 mins

Resource Needed

Computer, Pen, Paper, Books

Review Quote

At the heart of Old Bridge is a unique love story. But how do they directors and actors make that relationship seem genuine and visible?

Some actors write back stories, their lives before the audience meets them at the beginning of the play.

Pick one character from Old Bridge and write their backstory, think about where they live, their age, what their everyday looks like, where they have been. Who are their immediate and extended family? How do they know the other people in the play?

Once you've done that, swap your back story with someone else. Then get into pairs and explore that relationship between the two of you.

You can either present your favourite memory back to the class or act out your favourite memory

Quiz Time

1. What country is Mostar a part of at the start of the play?

2. What River does Old Bridge cross?

3. Which group attacked the Muslim Community in 1992?

4. How did the town Mostar get its name?

5. What is the ancient tradition in Mostar?

6. Which country is Mostar a part of now?

7. In the 1991 census what percentages of all the marriages in Mostar were made up of people from different cultural backgrounds?

8. In what Month and Year did Bosnia and Herzegovina claim their independence from Yugoslavia?

1. Yugoslavia
2. Neretva river
3. The Croatian Defence Council (Croatian Catholic group)
4. It's named after the word Mostari, which means keepers of the bridge.
5. Young men would jump off the Old Bridge to impress women and prove their strength.
6. Bosnia and Herzegovina
7. One Third. $\frac{1}{3}$
8. The Set Designer or if budget allows the costume designer.

Answers



Image by Marc Brenner.