

# WORKING NOT BEGGING

## Writer

Connor Allen

Connor is Actor/Writer from Newport. He was inspired to write Working Not Begging when he encountered a homeless woman in Newport city centre making loom bands with a cardboard sign of the same title.

As an actor he has worked with such companies as Sherman Theatre, National Theatre Wales and BBC Wales.

As a writer he has written for such companies as Dirty Protest, National Theatre Wales and No Boundaries.

## Director

Ryan Romain

Ryan is London born director with over 20 years experience. He has been both Associate Artist and Director at Theatre Royal Stratford East and has been part of the Directing groups at both Theatre Royal and Royal Court.

He has directed for West Yorkshire Playhouse, Hamstead Theatre and Camden Roundhouse



## The Play

Working Not Begging is a One woman show about a homeless woman weighing up the decision to leave what she calls home whilst coming to terms with the grief of losing her Nan.

It tackles homelessness, grief and hope.

The play was visualised after I (Connor) encountered a homeless woman in Newport City Centre. She was sat on a piece of cardboard, making loom bands with a cardboard sign in the bottom corner which read 'I'm working NOT begging'

I instantly fell in love with the image as it stood out so strongly and defiantly. Here was a woman just trying to get by.

The piece has undergone a successfully funded Arts Council of Wales Research & Development period at The Riverfront Theatre where I had charities such as Shelter Cymru and EdenGate come and work with us to provide authenticity to





## Dramaturg

Kelly Jones

Kelly is a professional writer based in Wales and is a previous Wales Drama Award winner.

She has been a part of the Emerging Writers Group at The Bush and Shermans Young Writers Programme.

Her Credits include Drowned Girl, Blut, Tammy and Humaniquin.

## What People Say

- Relevant story which needs to be told to highlight relevant social issues
- I laughed, I cried and I felt for the character from start to finish
- Heartbreaking tale of how loss can lead to homelessness
- A lot of potential!  
I am looking forward to seeing the development of the writing and the piece as a whole
- Working not Begging is a raw portrayal of modern day homelessness. With well written characterisation and a setting to match, you'll be left questioning the state system we are all a part of.

the story I am telling. The script has also undergone a scratch night at The Other Room in Cardiff where I had audience feedback which has feed into the current draft.

From the start of the project I have had homeless charities and service users of these charities be an integral part of the script development and process. Feeding in and providing information and support to make the project and the script as strong as it possibly can be.

Homelessness effects approximately 7000 people in Wales each year with that number increasing year after year.

Newport, Cardiff and Swansea have some of the highest homeless and rough sleeping numbers in the country.

Along with this, there is also still a huge stigma attached to the homeless community that they're invisible and worthless and I know my script challenges that stigma and questions the reasons why people become homeless.

No one is born homeless so with that notion in mind every homeless person has a story, a reason why they are in the situation that they are in. And for me thats what makes it interesting and pushes barriers because its highlighting that we are all just human beings. We all have stories to tell.



\*\*All images are from R&D and Scratch Night\*\*

# THE TEAM

## Special Thanks

The Riverfront

Arts Council Wales

The Carne Trust

Rachel Lewis

Shelter Cymru

Shelter Cymru Service Users

EdenGate

Crisis

The Wallich

Pobl

Dearborn Consulting

Trinity Saint David

YMCA Swansea

Taking Flight

Abi Fitzgerald

Boo Golding

Helen Perry

Connor Allen - Writer

Kelly Jones - Dramaturg

Ryan Romain - Director

Rachel Kinchin - Marketing Specialist

Ava Plowright - Charity Consultant

Rachel Drowley - Producer

Naomi Underwood - Stage Manager

Hugely pleased to announce the script will go into production in April 2020 thanks to Arts Council of Wales and Riverfront Theatre.

Visiting the following venues:

- Riverfront Theatre
- Trinity Saint David
- YMCA Swansea

**More Information on how and where to book tickets to follow**