

**‘Unseen’ Tour**

**October 2024**

Wed 16th October at 4pm-5pm – Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton

Thurs 17th October at 5.30-6.30pm – The Lowry, Salford

Wed 23rd October at 4.30-5.30pm – Bloomsbury Festival, London

Wed 23rd October at 7-7.45pm – Bloomsbury Radio

Mon 28th Oct at 7-8.30pm – Extant Connect (Online)

Extant presents a live event to accompany ‘Unseen’, a gripping new audio drama that examines the subtle and insidious effect of domestic abuse on the blind and visually impaired community. ‘Unseen’ is available to stream via <https://extant.org.uk/unseen>

The work is a creative response to [The Unseen report](https://www.fightforsight.org.uk/what-we-do/insight-reports/the-unseen-insight-report/), commissioned by Fight for Sight (forged from the merger of Fight for Sight and Vision Foundation), and researched and compiled by the charity SafeLives. This report highlights the inaccessibility of domestic abuse services to visually impaired people, despite the fact that disabled people are nearly three times more likely to experience domestic abuse than non-disabled people.

Excerpts from the audio drama will be performed live by visually impaired actors, followed by a panel discussion with members of the creative team and representatives from organisations that have supported the making of the work.

“Extant is proud to continue its trend of dramatizing report outcomes with this new important piece, funded and originally commissioned by the Vision Foundation. Even though the new government ‘Flee Fund’ released to help those experiencing domestic violence is welcomed, for many disabled people in this situation, a host of other factors makes escape more difficult. However, we hope that Unseen will uncover this and have great impact, as other recent dramatisations of social injustices such as the Post Office scandal have had on the population.”

* **Maria Oshodi, Artistic Director, Extant**

“Extant always want to tell nuanced stories of VI people and help to champion and challenge issues vital to the VI community. We’ve put together an incredibly talented team of VI people to bring this audio drama to life. Each one of them has poured their heart and soul into making sure we are honouring the stories of the victims and survivors who contributed to the Unseen Report. The learnings of the report need to be shouted far and wide, and we hope our audio drama can be part of that mission.”

* **Ben Wilson, Trainee Artistic Director, Extant**

**Tour Cast & Creative Team**

Actor (playing Lucy) Georgie Wyatt (formerly Morrell)

Actor (playing Joli) Anita Barzey

Director Ben Wilson

Sound Designer Ian Rattray

Script Editor Louise Hall

Creative Producer Louisa Sanfey for Extant

Stage Manager Leigh Arthur

Access Worker Becky Newman

**Tour Panelists**

Arena Theatre:

* Helen Brown (Head of Impact and External Income, Beacon Vision)
* Anna Walsh (CEO, CHADD) + Dani Walker (IDVA/Independent Domestic Violence Advocate, CHADD)
* Saima (Independent Domestic Violence Activist)

The Lowry:

* Kerry Firth (Grants Manager, Fight For Sight)
* Helena Ascough (Workshop Facilitator)

Bloomsbury Festival:

* Louise Hall (Workshop Lead / Script Editor)
* Charlotte Giarnese & Heather Carmichael (SafeLives)
* Kim Creus (Marketing and Communications Manager, Fight For Sight)

Extant Connect:

* Louise Hall (Workshop Lead / Script Editor)
* Saliha Rashid (Independent Domestic Violence Activist)
* Charlotte Giarnese & Heather Carmichael (SafeLives)
* Kerry Firth (Grants Manager, Fight For Sight)

**Audio Drama Cast**

Voice of the Report Maisie Greenwood

Zoe (Helpline worker) Lily An

Lucy Georgie Wyatt (formerly Morrell)

Joli Anita Barzey

Faye Michelle Felix

Hayley Maisie Greenwood

Nurse Aqua Ephraim

Mary Maria Oshodi

Sandra (Refuge worker) Lily An

Policeman Steven George

Additional voices by the cast and Tahira Malik

**Audio Drama Creative Team**

Director: Ben Wilson

Sound Designer & Extant Associate Artist: Ian Rattray

Devising Team: Anna Clarkson, Esther Irving, Georgie Wyatt (formerly Morrell), Tafsila Khan, Tam Gilbert

Script Editor and Workshop Lead: Louise Hall

Workshop Consultant: Martia Bevan

Assistant Workshop Lead: Helena Ascough

Creative Producer: Louisa Sanfey for Extant

Assistant Producer: Tam Gilbert

Sound Technician: Han Sayles

Sound Mentor: Adam McCready

Access Workers: Phoebe Moore, Becky Newman, Chikodi Nwaiwu, Hannah Quigley

Research Group: Karina Jones, Alice Christina-Corrigan, Anita Barzey, Lily An, Robin Paley Yorke

**Extant Team**

Artistic Director: Maria Oshodi

Trainee Artistic Director: Ben Wilson

Operations Director: Ian Abbott

Accounts: Kate Kempin

Administrator & Project Coordinator: Ellen Jupp

Artist Development Manager: Louisa Sanfey

Enhance Programme Manager: Caroline Jeyaratnam-Joyner

With thanks to: Fight For Sight, Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, Arts Council England, Refuge, SafeLives, Rising Sun, Care First, Camden People’s Theatre, RNIB. Thanks most of all to the survivors who shared their stories with us, and those who contributed to the Unseen Report.

To learn more about the ‘Unseen’ Cast and Creative Team, please visit: <https://extant.org.uk/productions/unseen>

*Content warning: This audio drama contains themes of domestic abuse, violence, trauma and strong language.*

*If you have been affected by any of the issues raised in Unseen, you can contact the organisations via their websites and phone numbers below.*

If you are in an emergency, please call 999

*Domestic Abuse Helplines:*

**Refuge** Tel: 0808 2000 247 [www.refuge.org.uk](http://www.refuge.org.uk/)

**National Helplines:**

**Northern Ireland** Tel: 0808 802 1414

**Scotland** Tel: 0800 027 1234

**Wales** Tel: 0808 8010 800

**Men's Advice Line** Tel: 0808 8010327 <https://mensadviceline.org.uk/>

**Galop LGBT+** Tel: 0800 999 5428 <https://galop.org.uk/>

**Survivors UK** Chat via SMS Text: 020 3322 1860 [www.survivorsuk.org](http://www.survivorsuk.org/)

**Women’s Aid** Email: helpline@womensaid.org.uk [www.womensaid.org.uk](http://www.womensaid.org.uk/)

*Mental Health Helplines:*

**Samaritans** Tel: 116 123 (Lines open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free for landlines and mobile phones.) <https://www.samaritans.org/how-we-can-help/>

**Mind** Tel: 0300 123 3393 (Lines open 9am to 6pm, Monday to Friday (except bank holidays). Calls charged at the standard rates.)

<https://www.mind.org.uk/>

**Shout** Text ‘SHOUT’ to 85258 <https://giveusashout.org/>

  

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