

'Spycops' scandal inspires immersive Welsh production

PRODUCTION NEWS JUN 5, 2025 BY GEORGIA LUCKHURST



A previous production from the Cardiff- and Bradford-based theatre company Common/Wealth, who are creating the spycop show Demand the Impossible

A world premiere immersive production will investigate how undercover police infiltrated and duped hundreds of political groups in the past 50 years.

Demand the Impossible is to explore the so-called "spycops" scandal, as an [official inquiry into undercover policing](#) continues to seek the truth about the shady practices of covert policing in England and Wales between 1968 and the 2010s.

Cardiff- and Bradford-based theatre company Common/Wealth said Demand the Impossible would be "part-performance, part-gig, part-sensory experience", created with those impacted by "police injustice".

News

'Spycops' scandal inspires immersive Welsh production

Greenwich and Docklands International Festival to open with parkour premiere

Roundhouse boss Marcus Davey to step down after 26 years

Dominic Cooke appointed artistic director of Almeida Theatre

Exclusive: Caryl Churchill withdraws Donmar production over Barclays sponsorship

Oldham Coliseum suffers setback as reopening is delayed by up to a year



Most Commented

Opening at the Corn Exchange in Newport on October 6, the show is a co-production with the Wales Millennium Centre, supported by National Theatre Wales, and is informed by "close collaboration" with organisations such as the Undercover Research Group.

The production follows in the footsteps of other recent shows inspired by public controversy, such as [Pentabus'](#) [touring musical Make Good: The Post Office Scandal](#), which unpacked the misfortunes of sub-postmasters accused wrongly of misdoing.

Continues...

RELATED TO THIS ARTICLE



The Stage 25: Evie Manning and Rhiannon White

[Common/Wealth artistic director Rhiannon White](#) told The Stage: "Lots of my friends were impacted by undercover police.

"I come from a community, a council estate in Cardiff, that has its own historic stories of police injustice. It felt really important to me, to work with my friends and to be able to highlight the injustice that they experienced."

White added: "Often the spycops story is quite sensationalised, in a sense."

Referring to the plight of women who had children with men who, unbeknown to them, were in fact undercover police, White said that was a "very important" issue, but that Common/Wealth hoped to draw greater attention also to "the wider impact" on activism and society.

"The police infiltrating movements that could potentially change the way the world works and who we have in power," White said, "that stunted the growth of our communities and kind of held us back."

From the question of how political activists were spied on, to how working-class and ethnic minority communities were handled by police, White said the production will attempt to understand "the lengths to which the state will go to uphold the status quo".



Alan Cumming and Forbes
Messin to star in *The High*

Back and Better

JOBS

Relief Duty Manager

City: [Brighton](#)

Salary: £13.46 per ...

[APPLY](#)

Senior Technician

City: [Nottingham](#)

Salary: Starting Sa...

[APPLY](#)

Senior Music Tutor (School o...

City: [London](#)

Salary: £39,000

[APPLY](#)

Most Read



Patti LuPone apologises and vows to 'change' after Broadway backlash

Patti LuPone has apologised after a controversial New Yorker interview in which she called fellow Broadway actor Kecia Lewis a "bitch"

Audiences will be treated to punk music performances, the likes of which could have been under surveillance by police in the early-2000s, while Common/Wealth has for the first time received funding from the Immersive Arts support programme to further its exploration of the form.

Nathaniel Mason, a creative technologist, is working on creating an "added layer" of the live performance through the addition of what White called a "mad, glitchy" app – designed to take attendees inside the "Black Mirror" world of undercover observation.

Demand the Impossible is presented in partnership with Police Spies Out of Lives, Undercover Research Group and Spycops Info podcast in a co-production with Wales Millennium Centre.

It is funded by Arts Council of Wales, Immersive Arts and the John Ellerman Foundation, and supported by National Theatre of Wales.

Back and Better

Hot Topics

SHARE THIS



Add New Comment

Type your comment here.

POST



More on this topic



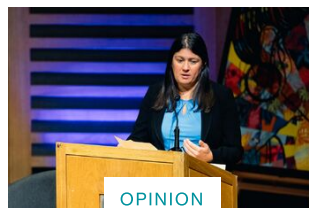
Performing arts workers fear job insecurity amid rise of AI, report warns

BY GEORGIA LUCKHURST



Ban on Leicester Square busking appealed by council

BY KATIE CHAMBERS



Can theatre make change as well as noise?

BY AMANDA PARKER



Lisa Nandy: We won't allow our AI bill to harm creatives

BY GEORGIA LUCKHURST

Production News



'Spycops' scandal inspires immersive Welsh production

BY GEORGIA LUCKHURST



Greenwich and Docklands International Festival to open with parkour premiere

BY GEORGIA LUCKHURST



Brian Conley joins cast of Back to the Future the Musical

BY KATIE CHAMBERS



Reading Rep announces first ever musical revival as part of new season

BY KATIE CHAMBERS

Recommended for you



Performing arts workers fear job insecurity amid rise of AI, report warns

BY GEORGIA LUCKHURST



Ban on Leicester Square busking appealed by council

BY KATIE CHAMBERS



Can theatre make change as well as noise?

BY AMANDA PARKER



Lisa Nandy: We won't allow our AI bill to harm creatives

BY GEORGIA LUCKHURST

Most Read *Across The Stage this week*

Patti LuPone
apologises and

The Curious Case
of Benjamin

- 1 vows to 'change' after Broadway backlash
- 2 Fiddler on the Roof review
- 3 Bullying backstage: star names are causing a power imbalance
- 4 Royal Central drama school sustains deficit in 'challenging' year
- 5 Tracy-Ann Oberman and Felicity Kendal among stars in Hampstead Theatre autumn season
- 6 Button to host space to connect solo theatregoers
- 7 Exclusive: Caryl Churchill withdraws Donmar production over Barclays sponsorship
- 8 My favourite play: Robert Glenister
- 9 EdFringe boss: Exorbitant accommodation is the festival's biggest threat
- 10 Alan Cumming and Forbes Masson to star in The High Life musical

Back and Better

Back and Better

Your subscription helps ensure our journalism can continue

Invest in The Stage today with a subscription starting at just £7.99

SUBSCRIBE

NEWSPAPER

News

Reviews

Opinion & Advice

MORE

Archive

Dating

Suppliers

INFO

About

Contact Us

Advertising Enquiries

AWARDS

The Stage Awards

The Stage Debut Awards

LEGAL

Terms and conditions

Advertising terms and conditions

DIGITAL

Digital Editions

Mobile Apps

Newsletter

Subscribe

Start a subscription today from just £7.99

SUBSCRIBE



Features	Get Into Theatre	Where to buy	Contributor agreement
Long Reads	Jobs	FAQs	Privacy policy
Big Interviews	Tickets	Press	House rules
	Training	Careers	GDPR Requests