





I	<i>Tomorrow's Gentle Rain</i>	Declan Rowe John	p.2
II	<i>The Tree That I See</i>	Hugh Prior	p.4
III	<i>An Amazing Purse</i>	Robyn Haddon	p.6
IV	<i>A Place of Solace</i>	Carina Murray	p.8
V	<i>The Oar of Courage</i>	Catherina Rowland	p.9
VI	<i>Rafts of My Mind</i>	Robyn Haddon	p.10
VII	<i>Rafts of Recovery</i>	Liam O'Connell	p.12
VIII	<i>Growing</i>	Dee Pessoa	p.15
IX	<i>The Towel</i>	Declan Rowe John	p.16
X	<i>Holding Back the Years</i>	Carina Murray	p.17

#### INTERMISSION

XI	<i>Voices From Idaho, Overcome</i>	Jacob Hieter	p.18
XII	<i>Rodeo Music</i>	Declan Rowe John & BDYD	p.19
XIII	<i>Beach There</i>	Robyn Haddon	p.20
XIV	<i>My Mate Eddie is an Artist</i>	Hugh Prior	p.22
XV	<i>The Ever-Changing Sky</i>	Mark Jones	p.25
XVI	<i>Flowers</i>	Kayden Fearon	p.26
XVII	<i>The Secret Garden</i>	Emily Khoury	p.27
XVIII	<i>Visioning</i>	Carina Murray	p.29
XIX	<i>Fast Lane</i>	Robyn Haddon	p.30
XX	<i>Epilogue</i>	Emily Khoury	p.32

Safe, only safe I feel  
 When free, free to truly be  
 When rain falls slow  
 Around

But if we wait  
 If we wait will there still be a home?  
 For there is not enough  
 In a phone  
 Or in a thought  
 To figure out  
 Figure out  
 To stay around  
 Stay around

So rain, tomorrow's gentle rain  
 Be kind, please be kind to all I know  
 To fall  
 Fall asleep and grow

If you can't fall  
 Can't fall asleep to all I know  
 Then call out to all I know and  
 roar  
 For it's now, for it's now  
 To figure out what we need  
 To stay around so we can dream  
 And dream aloud  
 Dream aloud

7,907 miles tall  
 7,926 miles wide  
 This precious ball  
 When is enough not enough?

So tell, tell me stories why  
 For when storms will multiply  
 So we are ready  
 For it's now  
 For it's now  
 For waves to rotate  
 And time to dissipate  
 On your knees  
 Separate in the trees  
 For it's time to figure out  
 To figure out how to stay around

So we can dream aloud  
 Dream aloud  
 And squeeze it  
 And breath it  
 Alive, alive, alive

So lock it to the wall and go  
 And I'll be there when you get home  
 Lock it to the wall I know  
 So you'll be there when I get home

There's a tree near me that I always see  
when I break free from the confines of TV

and head to the park for a wander

It's not the biggest tree or the tallest tree  
but it's the only tree that talks to me

when I head to the park for a wander

(it's a tree that has been torn asunder)

But within that tree there's strength for me  
and I nod to that tree and I thank that tree

when I'm in the park for my wander

It's a tree you see that's been savaged like me  
and left hollowed like me but still stands free

offering hope for the broken who wander

(it's a tree that has not gone under)

Rather it's a tree still strong following all the wrong and inviting song  
suggesting that all along there's a tune for the lonely who wander

And if I invoke that verse as I traverse  
then there's an end to terse and the belief in curse

when I'm in the park for my wander

(it's true)

And each time that I approach that tree,  
that had time for me and speaks to me

and helps provide me with the sense to see  
that I too am free,

I nod in praise to thee, most genial tree.

And it doesn't seem ridiculous to me.

And then neither does life  
and so I carry on.

I never really saw it, but I believed it  
 We never really solved it, but I called it  
 To ride it on a thought even though your not feeling brave  
 To ride it on a feeling it even though your not keeping safe  
 Don't keep fires on board

I saw you in the food aisle  
 I said release it, release it  
 I saw you in the car park  
 Just leave it, Just leave it  
 I though you'd caught my eye  
 I thought you'd wait awhile  
 Always on the cusp of too much  
 I always thought you'd fight for us

So release it, release it  
 Don't leave it, don't leave it  
 And don't take fires on board  
 Don't take fires on board  
 Don't take fires on board  
 Don't take fires on board  
 Release it, release it

I saw you in the car park  
 I had to delve my mind  
 I had to think  
 What I had to buy

So release it, release it  
 Don't leave it, don't leave it  
 And don't take fires on board  
 Don't take fires on board  
 Don't take fires on board  
 Don't take fires on board

For it's an amazing purse that holds it all  
 Puncture jewels and they will say what you needed to  
 These jewels made of stones from the earth that I choose  
 When I don't have fears to hold

So go shopping for ornaments  
 To decorate the sides of your cheeks lavishly  
 Cuz if you rent them out, these feelings  
 I can rejuvenate my feelings  
 So we can unfold

So release it, release it  
 Don't leave it, don't leave it  
 And don't take fires on board  
 Don't take fires on board  
 Don't take fires on board  
 Don't take fires on board

Cuz if you say what your looking for  
 In the ways that your holding for  
 I can only, only crave deep  
 And I can only, only believe

what  
is  
your  
place  
of  
solace?

An Oar of Courage is what you must have  
To overcome the stormy waters of despair  
The rolling waves will sink your raft without it.

My oar of courage was but a feeling in the air  
When the world stood still during the pandemic.

But now the oar is stronger  
Much stronger than ever before  
It shone a shining light  
It opened many doors.

My raft has always been my dreams  
And my oar that pulled me out of the abyss  
And if I could animate my dreams  
I'd draw them like this.

Keep me afloat  
Even if it's just a piece of a boat  
Something to sing  
Someone to take me under their wing

Fly like a bird  
Even if you only do it with words  
Trying to bring others to what I can sing

I can't stop feeling this way, I want to hear what the other person has to say

Rafts of my mind  
One of a kind  
Rafts of my mind  
I'm trying to find  
Thinking of you  
Thinking of me  
Thats how we'll be free  
On the rafts of our minds

Floating along  
To the beat of someone else's song  
Float to the beat  
I can feel myself tapping my feet  
Slowly I find  
What I'm looking for and looking behind  
I must unwind  
To find the rafts of my mind

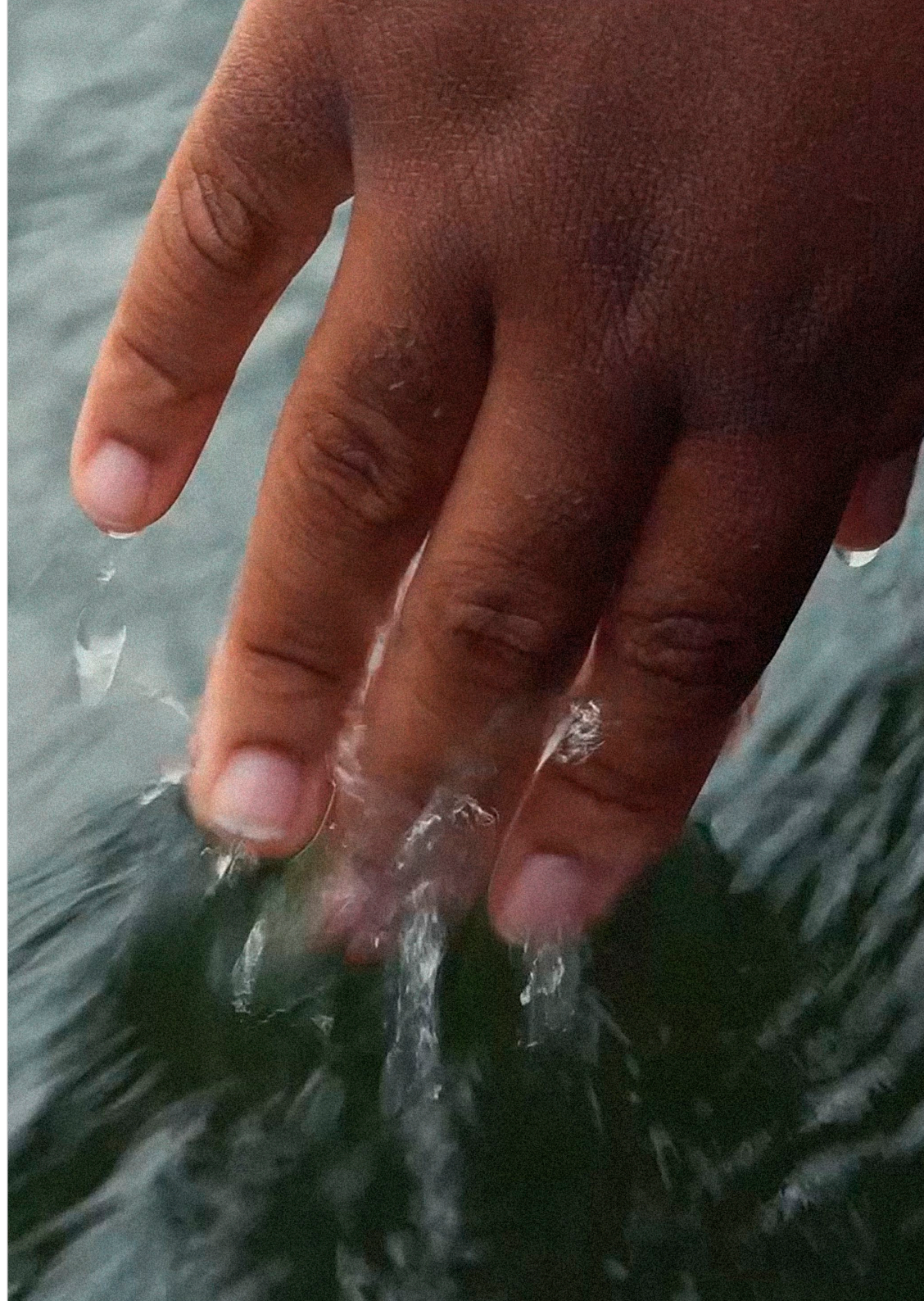
As I'm listening  
To the water flowing  
On my journey  
Nurturing  
The resources and their spaces  
Support from different faces  
Dreaming of new horizons from their places

Rafts of my mind  
One of a kind  
Rafts of my mind  
I'm trying to find  
Thinking of you  
Thinking of me  
Thats how we'll be free  
On the rafts of my mind



Recovery is a raft,  
Even though that might sound daft.  
Come with me to tell a story,  
Over the waves that are stormy.  
Villages full of people,  
Eating food that is simple.  
Recovery is a journey,  
You're surrounded by people who make it easy.

Connection is important,  
Online every day.  
Not listening to one another,  
Not seeing others.  
Everyone needs to feel a sense of belonging.  
Connection is the life-force  
That flows through our veins.  
I would be lost without connection,  
Others might say the same.  
Never-ending connection until the end of time.







Going somewhere on an unknown road,  
Redesigning myself as I go.  
Optimism, strength and courage I am gathering,  
Who am I becoming?  
I am transforming into the person I want to be,  
Never will I stop  
Growing.

There's a hole in your heart  
 There's a hole in this instance baby  
 There's a hole in your heart  
 There's a hole in this instant baby  
 Baby!

It's so close you can feel it  
 Catch fire when you breath it  
 No way to escape it  
 Hardcore best believe it!

Hmmm

So tend to it fast and stop it from bleeding  
 A hole in your heart but we can't even feel it  
 But it hurts, it hurts  
 Backwards, Forwards, Greenwards  
 Backwards, Forwards, Greenwards

There's a hole in your heart  
 There's a hole in this engine baby  
 There's a hole in our heart  
 There's a hole in this instance baby  
 Baby!

When it falls really fast  
 Bring your car and catch me baby  
 There's a hole in our heart  
 Drive away and go to the water  
 Bring your car really fast  
 Drive away, Drive away now  
 Drive your car really fast  
 Drive away, Drive Away

Drive away, Drive Away, Drive Away,

Hmmm

So tend to it fast and stop it from bleeding  
 A hole in your heart but we can't even feel it  
 But it hurts, it hurts  
 Backwards, Forwards, Greenwards  
 Backwards, Forwards, Greenwards

Bring a towel, bring a towel to the water  
 Bring a towel and keep it dry  
 Bring a towel, bring a towel to the water  
 Bring a towel and keep it dry

Holding back the years  
 Thinking of the fear I've had so long  
 When somebody hears  
 Listen to the fear that's gone  
 Strangled by the wishes of pater  
 Hoping for the arms of mater  
 Get to me the sooner or later, oh

Holding back the years  
 Chance for me to escape from all I know  
 Holding back the tears  
 'Cause nothing here has grown  
 I've wasted all my tears  
 Wasted all those years  
 Nothing had the chance to be good  
 Nothing ever could, yeah, oh

I'll keep holding on  
 I'll keep holding on  
 I'll keep holding on  
 I'll keep holding on, so tight

Alright, oh now

Well, I've wasted all my tears  
 Wasted all of those years  
 And nothing had the chance to be good  
 'Cause nothing ever could, oh yeah  
 Oh

I'll keep holding on  
 I'll keep holding on  
 I'll keep holding on  
 I'll keep holding on



Hate is burning.  
Hate is on fire.  
Hate is like demons burning in the mere when you feel it.

Deep inside, you become overcome by the demons,  
Overcome by the fate,  
Overcome by the firing  
Overcome by the hate.

Love is curing.  
Love is in flight.  
Love is like angels facing into sight.  
When you feel it in your heart,  
You become overcome by the angels,

Overcome by the dove,  
Overcome by the light flight,  
And overcome by the love.

Fear is in terror.  
Fear is in fright.  
Fear is like shadows bumping in the night.

When you feel it in your nerves,  
You become overcome by the shadows

Rodeo music in heaven is that  
You can't go away if you never look back  
Cuz rodeo music in heaven is that  
You can't go away if you never look back

Take me off that fucking group chat  
Upload it and never look back  
Need it to rain like it'll never rain again  
Prepare it for those TV men

Do you even know where we even come from?  
And why somethings just take so long  
Cuz if a pause is a pause then shave my sides  
Chuck my phone at a pacific low tide

Hmm Hmm  
Hmm Hmm

Rinse it on my face and I'll press download  
Engrave it on a whip at the rodeo  
Fought on the streets just to harness joy  
Taken to the judge like a rag bone toy

Cracked screen on the gasoline explodes  
Told all the secrets of a ca\$h run hoax  
Smell of rain on the summer tarmac  
It's the only way I know you'll coming back

Are you coming back baby?  
Are you coming back?

Cuz I'll bring my hat  
Full brimmed and badged  
As I ride out on the waves upon the rodeo

Salvation knows  
No times that goes  
If the heat upon the sand runs dry out there in Idaho

Please call me back  
You stay like that  
I know that nothing grows until the rain can fall

Rodeo music in heaven is that  
It knows when your going to come right back  
You had to go away so I could have you back  
Rodeo music in heaven says that  
It say's that, it say's that oh



If there was a beach there  
Reveal the solace from a clue  
To wish there was reef there  
To catch beyond the grief of what we loose

Hmm, hmm

So put my favourite beat there  
Touch me with a beat of that song  
To finally feel free there  
Somewhere where these feelings can be long

So tell me  
What feels wrong  
Don't tell me to be strong  
A vision that goes long

So come on over reach there  
Come on over reach there  
Are we gonna reach there?  
Are we gonna reach there?

I wanna reach there  
I wanna reef there  
How we gonna reach there?  
What we gonna leave there?

So come on over reach there  
Come on over reach there  
Are we gonna reach there?  
Or are we gonna reef there?

Come to a beach  
Beach there  
Are we gonna beach there?  
Come to the beach of this  
How we gonna reach that beach?  
Beach there  
Come on beach there with me  
Beach there

Its gonna be real  
It's gonna feel real, real, real  
When you reach there, its gonna be real  
Feel real  
One day I am gonna reach there  
Feel real  
So real  
Surreal  
Unreal

Are we gonna beach there baby?  
Are you gonna work less maybe?  
Are we gonna beach there baby?  
Please don't leave early

XIV *My Mate Eddie is an Artist*

My mate Eddie is truly and uniquely talented  
He creates art that would grace any gallery  
But my mate Eddie would never tell you that  
Because my mate Eddie is a very modest man

And so I guess it's up to me

My mate Eddie is very self-deprecating  
We sometimes talk about why that may be  
I always enjoy talking to my mate Eddie  
We chat about life and how we're led to see

We talk about class and privilege  
We talk about opportunity and local pride  
We don't have answers or lead a revolution  
Rather we just try to laugh and enjoy the ride

To talk about my mate Eddie is an honour  
And I was going to explain all that his work means to me  
But then I realised all art is for individual interpretation  
And in any case, the beauty's here for you all to see

So I'll try and keep this brief  
(though I could talk for hours)  
Eddie's work inspires that  
And tonight his art is ours

My mate Eddie is a details man  
He likes order and the focus that provides  
Recognising the interconnectivity in nature  
And the need for patience and balance within ourselves

I look here and I see a sphere that's floating  
Confident in its place  
Perfectly calm  
At peace

And I like that  
I see a message in that  
I see aspiration and hope  
And I know who to thank for that







The ever-changing sky.  
Always moving, never the same.  
Trapped in a moment only by a photograph.  
A lonely tree, stuck in time, gazing out at the sky.  
Wanting to change, but stuck.

Walked by, without a glance,  
as passersby look at the sky.

A lonely man finds the tree,  
paints it, looks at it,

and lets it know that,  
even though it is stuck in time,  
it is still a beautiful sight to see,  
my stuck-in-time tree.



And if bring me your flowers  
 I'll keep them safe for you  
 So just bring me your flowers  
 I'll keep them safe like you  
 Safe like you  
 Safe like you

It's the way things pass out in the darkness for you  
 It's the way things pass out in the darkness for you  
 Until there's 10,000 flowers  
 There are 10,000 flowers growing for you, yeh

So just bring me your flowers  
 I'll keep them safe for you  
 So just bring me your flowers, yeh  
 I'll keep them safe like you  
 I'll keep them safe like you  
 To grow for you

These hard felt forces  
 These heart felt forces  
 Just brings me resources  
 And I don't outsource this anymore

To comb the darkest time to lie the lines behind emotion  
 For when the tide subsides to lore and know the laws behind an ocean  
 With everything I have I can say that I'm over, over loading, loading, loading

And with those blossoms  
 And those roses  
 And all those promises  
 Even if it's 10,000 flowers  
 There are 10,000 flowers for you  
 Grown  
 Grown for you

Some days  
 you just  
 have to  
 create  
 your own  
 sunshine

What does  
growth  
and  
rebirth  
mean to  
you?

My vision board is a reminder that I can get to the place where I can rescue myself. I know that certain things are beyond our control, but we do have choices and we can create. We can create our own narratives and our own stories and map out our own futures.

If you were to create your own vision board, what would it look like? What images would you pick to tell a story of how you view your life so far and where you see it going?

And if you say what you are that you are that you are  
I will break into the pieces of two moons

And if you say what you'll bring there  
Of what you are that you are  
If two worlds can collide  
Bring forth what you can bring  
Cuz in the fast lane  
It's swinging  
In the fast lane of it  
It swings

Running in these fast lanes I can't sleep  
So watch me as I dream  
Running in these fast lanes what will keep  
And what will be?

And if two worlds can collide  
Bring forth what you can bring  
With the uniqueness of duality  
From the forces  
That breaches  
These fast lanes  
That swing

Running in these lanes I can't sleep  
So watch me as I dream  
Running in these fast lanes what will keep?  
And what will be?

And if your looking for a way to do this  
Back and forth to tilt this service  
With prowess and lucky shoes  
That takes you to this magnitude  
Prevent this harm and structural wound  
Carve out the time, and count to 2  
It's gonna come in one big boom

Running in these lanes I can't sleep  
So watch me as I dream  
Running in these fast lanes what will keep?  
And what will be?

So run to the fields and grow  
And if it's trippin' explode  
Run to the fields reload  
And if it's loud  
If it's loud in the hills let's go  
Keep tripping

Come to me  
Turn to it, now  
Come through this  
Come by, come back our love  
Come through this  
How?  
Come through this  
Now!



To everything there is a season,  
and a time to every purpose under heaven.

A time to plant, and a time to pluck,  
pluck up what is planted.

A time to weep and a time to laugh.

A time to mourn and a time to dance.

A time to scatter stones  
and a time to gather stones together.

A time to embrace  
and a time to refrain from embracing.

A time to rend and a time to sew.

A time to keep silence,  
and a time to speak.

But in everything that we do...

..we must make beauty for our time.



*In moments of change and transition, what supports us and keeps us afloat?*

A raft is the simplest and most fragile vehicle of survival on open water. As ancient as human language, rafts are still needed during urgent crossings. From the Abrahamic story of Noah's Arc to the idea of Earth as a lonely life raft floating in space, the symbol of a raft has often represented the ultimate preserver of life.

*RAFTS: Live* is a concert that interweaves stories, poetry and reflections around a seven-song oratorio. The performance makes connections between work, mental health, home, recovery, and our environment.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, artist and composer Rory Pilgrim developed *RAFTS* as the second chapter in a body of performance, film and sonic work exploring how the climate crisis relates to support structures in our everyday lives. The commission is narrated by the voices of eight residents of Barking and Dagenham from Green Shoes Arts: Hugh Prior, Carina Murray, Liam O'Connell, Emily Butterfly Khoury, Catherina Rowland, Dee Pessoa, Mark Jones, and Eddie Paggett, who each in their own way reflect on what the symbol of a raft means to them.

Additional voices and people from near and far join the concert, including members of Barking and Dagenham Youth Dance, members of Project Well Being – a group for those experiencing homelessness in Idaho, USA – and solo singers Declan Rowe John (Boise, Idaho), Robyn Haddon (Sheffield, UK) and Kayden Fearon (Barking and Dagenham, UK).

*RAFTS*, the film, was originally commissioned for the Serpentine and Barking Town Hall exhibition *Radio Ballads*. *Radio Ballads* takes its name from a revolutionary series of radio programmes, broadcast on the BBC from 1957-64: a time of rapid change across the UK. Created by Ewan MacColl, Peggy Seeger, and Charles Parker, these 8 programmes combined song, music and sound effects with the stories of communities. Each original Ballad focussed on the lived experiences and resistance of workers and groups whose voices were rarely or never heard in the media.

Inspired by these original *Radio Ballads* as vessels of time, the *RAFTS: Live* concert explores how we mark time and act to enable support and prevent harm in both the short- and long-term. Using tools of prophecy, reflection and creativity, the concert takes us on a journey that contemplates which 'rafts' could be needed to navigate the future in times of change and uncertainty.

Project Partners  
& Collaborators

*RAFTS* was commissioned by Serpentine Civic for *Radio Ballads*, in partnership with New Town Culture, a Cultural Impact Award-winning project, part of London Borough of Culture, a Mayor of London initiative.

*RAFTS: Live* brings together over forty collaborators from Pilgrim's *Radio Ballads*' commission.

Barking Dagenham Youth Dance (BDYD) is one of London's leading providers of youth dance workshops, community arts events and career pathway activities, offering weekly dance and fitness sessions for hundreds of children and young people. BDYD also runs Bar-Ham Leaders, a youth action programme, that encourages teenagers to learn the skills to communicate their views and suggestions, with the aim to influence policy and government.

Green Shoes Arts exists to inspire local people to make positive changes through the arts. We are a passionate team of arts facilitators who work with people of all age groups from all communities living in Barking and Dagenham. Green Shoes Arts seeks to make arts accessible to all and promotes the many benefits that being involved in the arts can bring.

Interfaith Sanctuary Shelter serves people of all genders, races, religions, and sexual orientation, as well as families with children, by providing safe overnight emergency shelter and practical services to transition out of homelessness. Project Well Being offers us a safe place for acceptance, stability, and growth. Connection, support, and well being are our foundation.

With thanks to  
all project collaborators

Eddie Paggett, Hugh Prior, Dee Pessoa, Carina Murray, Liam O Connell, Mark Jones, Emily Butterfly Khoury, Catherina Rowland, Vicki Busfield, Sam Miller, Nikki Watson, Kevin Walton, Melissa Bell, Marcos Ramos, Geoffrey McCauley, Janet Kauffman, Nicki Vogel, Jeffrey Doroto, Jacob Heiter, Tina Logsdon, Tina Cartwright, Scott Cramer, Sarah Kemper Cook, Georgina Alexiou, Red Fox, Anabel Berko, Breanna Amoako, Calum Johnstone, Chisom Nzekwe, Eugenia Rapt, Heavenly-Joy Obeng, Kiera Dymond, Lara Pinto Wlodarczyk, Marly Fadiga, Rome Martin-Whilby, Ruby Harris, Sasha Dilevska, Kayden Fearon, Robyn Haddon, Declan Rowe John, Rob Ames, Saloni Thakkar, Amy Hinds, Jack Sheen, Marged Sion, Paul Perry, Donna Cain, Lorraine Fox, Salom Ranger, LBBB Temporary Housing and Accommodation, Ronald Long, Natasha Humphries, Freya Hicks, Rebecca Burden, Clare Bennett, Alastair Penman, Anna Drysdale, Todd Harris, Rick Leigh, David Jarzen, Dan Lewis, Letty Pilgrim, Kate Marlais, Katie Dove Dixon, Seraphina Simone D'Arby, Sophie Galpin, ASAI, Jonathon Graham, Olga Micińska and Mathild Clerc-Verhoeven, Cody G, Lila Rae, Charlie Gregory, Dave and The White House.

*RAFTS: Live* at Cadogan Hall

is a project by Rory Pilgrim, created in partnership with Green Shoes Arts, Barking and Dagenham Youth Dance, Project Well Being (Interfaith Sanctuary, Boise, Idaho) and the London Contemporary Orchestra.

Serpentine Civic Curators  
Executive Producer  
Production Manager

Amal Khalaf, Elizabeth Graham and Layla Gatens  
Holly Shuttleworth  
Andy Downie

Narrators

Eddie Paggett, Hugh Prior, Dee Pessoa, Carina Murray,  
Liam O'Connell, Mark Jones, Emily Butterfly Khoury,  
Catherina Rowland, Jacob Heiter

Soloists  
Dancers

Declan Rowe John, Kayden Fearon, Robyn Haddon  
Lara Pinto Wlodarczyk, Ruby Harris, Rome Martin-Whilby

Choir

Marged Siôn, Ben Francis, Rick Leigh, Todd Harris,  
Dan Lewis, Karoline Gable, Kate Marlais, Levi, Heaton,  
Sophie Galpin, Seraphina D'Arby

Conductor  
Harp & Piano  
Flute  
Clarinet  
Horn  
Violin 1  
Violin 2  
Viola  
Cello  
Drums & percussion

Jack Sheen  
Rory Pilgrim  
Clare Bennett  
Alastair Penman  
Anna Drysdale  
Sophie Mather  
Blaize Henry  
Freya Hicks  
Sergio Serra  
Kai Akinde-Hummel

Production Coordinator  
AV & Programme design  
Sound Projection  
Lighting Operation  
Stage Manager  
Production Crew  
Production Assistants  
Curatorial Assistant

Bea Redweik  
Matthew Appleton  
Simon Hendry  
Phil Jackson  
Cam Mitchell  
Imogen Adshead  
Manuela Cochat, Gisou Golshani  
Caterina Avataneo

Green Shoes Arts  
Barking Dagenham Youth Dance  
Choir Facilitator  
London Contemporary Orchestra  
Animation storyboard & concept  
Animation  
Photography  
Videography

Sam Miller  
Georgina Alexiou, Sharleen Red Fox Ferrol-Fulgence, Ashanti Fearon-Kerr  
Marged Siôn  
Saloni Thakkar (Producer), Amy Hinds (Orchestra Manager)  
Catherina Rowland  
Yasmine Djedje-Fisher-Azoume  
Matthew Ritson, Holly Smith  
Cody G, Lila Rae



