



HIV ALOUD: RAISE THE CURTAIN

A partnership project

between Edinburgh Playhouse & Waverley Care

Waverley Care and Edinburgh Playhouse are co-creating a creative writing project to share the stories and experiences of those living with HIV. This is part of Edinburgh Playhouse's Creative Learning programme and is also part of the remit of Waverley Care to raise awareness of the HIV in Scotland, work towards zero new HIV transmissions by 2030 and reduce the stigma surrounding HIV. Waverley Care has had a long partnership with the Playhouse and was part of its selected charities in 2022-23 with many of its members regularly visiting the theatre to see performances.

PROJECT

Raise the Curtain is a 6 month long project beginning in January 2026 will be a series of creative writing sessions with Associate Artist, Drew Taylor Wilson.

Drew (they/them) is a neurodiverse, non-binary award-winning theatre maker, screenwriter and artist development specialist with over 20 years in the performing arts.

They are passionate about telling stories that propel LGBTQ+ narratives, unpick mental health difficulties and advocate for all those that slip through the cracks. Their theatre is bold, poetic, camp - visual arresting, physically athletic and blackly comedic. Frequently working as both writer and director Drew's theatre has been seen at every major programming venue in Scotland, with other prestigious highlights including Barbican and National Theatre London, The Junction Cambridge and New Wolsey Ipswich.

Alongside Drew's work in professional theatre is their work in outreach, education and artist development. A nationally recognised workshop leader – Drew has facilitated projects for many prestigious clients including Royal Lyceum and Traverse Theatres Edinburgh, British Youth Music Theatre, Shakespeare Schools Festival, Apples and Snakes, Scottish Ballet and National Museum of Scotland.

We are looking for around 30 participants to take part in the project open to anyone age 18+ with lived experience of HIV.

Initial taster workshops will be held on Mondays 2pm-4pm on the 12th, 19th and 26th of January at Edinburgh Playhouse, during which, participants can gain a feel for the project, how they will be able to input to the creative process and experience the potential for different performance styles. The project will then run on a weekly basis from February and weekly attendance is compulsory.

Edinburgh Playhouse staff have undertaken HIV awareness training with a short history surrounding HIV in Edinburgh and the significance this has on commissioning a project like this as well as ensuring that all staff have up to date information regarding HIV transmission and living with HIV and the importance of non stigmatising behaviours.

A representative from WC & EP will attend all workshops. The work will all lead up to a showcase. We will document the process which can be shared in the showcase or used as a legacy, in a format or formats agreed by participants.

SHOWCASE

In the summer of 2026 participants will showcase their work on the Playhouse stage with a small invited audience. Participants will not be required to participate in person (unless they would like to

SIGNING UP

If you are interested in participating in this exciting and unique opportunity to create a bespoke piece of theatre which can include your own input and experiences, please contact Iain Johnston at Waverley Care iain.johnston@waverleycare.org