

# Silent Generation



StrikeUp Theatre

Company Debut: April 25, 2019

South Street Arts Centre



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



StrikeUp Theatre

At StrikeUp, we aspire to make theatre that you can't stop talking about. We're passionate about theatre as a platform for all people and over the years we hope to seek out and give voice to stories from all over the world. So far, we've been privileged and inspired to hear from Reading's Elder community, interviewed extensively over the past 10 months, for our debut Arts Council funded show:

**SILENT GENERATION**

Alongside Silent Generation and our future theatre projects, StrikeUp are launching a podcast series, 'StrikeUp a Conversation', inviting listeners to engage in the debates that help shape our work. Follow us on twitter and keep an eye out for the first podcast, coming soon:

**@StrikeUpTheatre**

StrikeUp also run Acting Classes for adults in Reading, formerly the 'Adult Acting Studio' ([adultactingstudio.co.uk](http://adultactingstudio.co.uk)), this summer will see the first season launch of 'StrikeUp Education.' For course details & enquiries about upcoming opportunities, please contact:

**[rachel@strikeuptheatre.co.uk](mailto:rachel@strikeuptheatre.co.uk)**

# Silent Generation



Silent Generation emerges from interviews with Reading residents born 1925–45, an era when children should be seen-and-not-heard and when it often felt dangerous to speak out politically. Now in their 70s–90s, are the Silent Generation heard today?

The play was born out of research into Britain's older generation following a split between the oldest and youngest voters in the 2016 EU Referendum. Alarmed by inflammatory headlines advising that 'older people shouldn't be allowed to vote' and had seemed to have 'stolen our futures', StrikeUp sought to create a project to challenge perceptions and inspire some cross-generational debate.

This debut performance is the first phase from which we hope to develop Silent Generation beyond Reading, to incorporate stories from Elders across the country.

In honour of our participants, and to preserve this living history for the town, StrikeUp are collaborating with Reading Museum to donate recordings to the Oral History Archive.

# Company

Artistic Director  
Rachel Mary



Rachel is an emerging Theatre Maker with a background in Physical Theatre and Clowning. She studied Drama at the University of Essex before training at Fourth Monkey Theatre Company and the Commedia School in Northern Italy. Since then Rachel has worked as an Actor & Director in London and the South East, developing her professional practise working alongside established theatre makers and companies.

Rachel grew up in Reading and is passionate about creating theatre that engages and involves local people. In the last 18 months she has directed 3 community shows here and set up her own acting classes designed to draw more local adults into theatre. StrikeUp is her realisation for a theatre company that works to actively engage the audience at every level of the theatre making process.

For Silent Generation, this has spanned from all of our wonderful interview participants, to the Chimney Court Residents who sat for our poster photo shoot, the youth groups we've invited for post-show workshops, and the special guests we'll be talking to in our first podcast. Rachel is proud to present this first sharing to you all, we couldn't have done it without you.

## Associate Playwright

### Joe Marsh



Joe Marsh is Playwright on Attachment at the Finborough Theatre, where his second play "We Struggle" was staged last year as part of Vibrant 2017. His first play, "Black July", was workshopped at Theatre 503, and his latest play, "The Glass Will Shatter" was recently longlisted for the Papatango prize. Short plays include "Safe Space" and "National Mourning", produced for Theatre 503's Rapid Write Response nights; "Mogg's War" for Interscratch at the Old Red Lion Theatre; and "It Arrives As Your Friend" for Reading Between the Lines Theatre Company. He is a member of the Finborough Writers Group and is a regular attendee of In Good Company's workshops at Derby Theatre. Joe is a trained actor and graduate of Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. Joe is also a qualified teacher and is First Story Writer in Residence at Landau Forte College Derby.

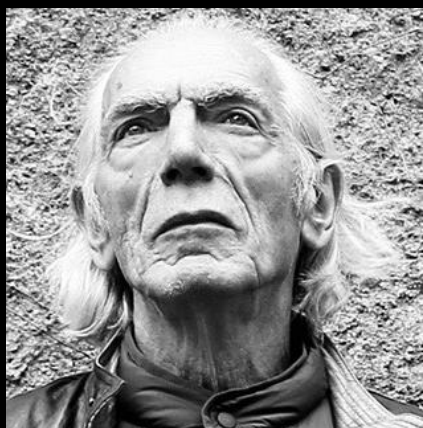
## Associate Composer

### Benjamin Hudson

[hudsonsound.uk](http://hudsonsound.uk)

Benjamin Hudson is a composer working predominantly in film, TV and games. He recently worked on short films 'The Sermon' (Palms Springs Film Festival) and 'Satan's Bite' (Cannes Film Festival) and is currently working on theatre productions with RBL (Genomes) and In Bed with My Brother (Tricky Second Album). He was nominated for a Music and Sound Award for his work on a projection mapping on Battersea Power Station, and has scored commercial films for Lexus, MTV, Nokia and Unicef among others. As a music producer and DJ (Brain Rays) he has performed all over the world including two live sessions at Radio 1's legendary Maida Vale Studios.

# Cast



Peter Marinker  
as  
Kenneth

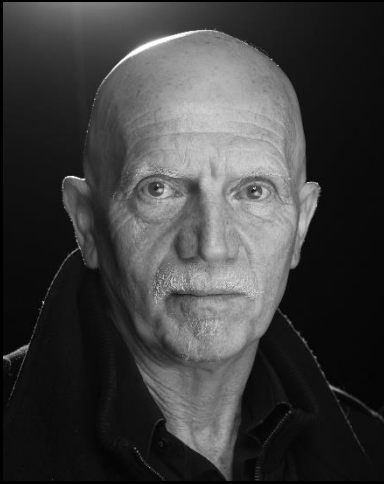
Peter Marinker was performing Beckett's poetry in the west of Ireland for publisher, John Calder in 2002 when they decided to form The Godot Company. He directed and played Vladimir in his production of *Waiting for Godot at the Cockpit Theatre, London* Mr. Rooney in *All That Fall* at BAC, *A Piece of Monologue* at the Traverse, Edinburgh. Other theatre credits: Hickey in O'Neil's *The Iceman Cometh*, The Man in Edward Bond's *Have I None* and Ragman in Howard Barker's *Seduction of Almighty God*. Recently, Augustus John in *Portraits* by William Douglas Hume. Film work: *Flight 93*, *Love Actually*, *Event Horizon*, *Judge Dredd*, and *The Emerald Forest*. On radio apart from many plays his poetry readings have been heard on Poetry Please, Night Waves, Words and Music and With Great Pleasure. Peter grew up in Canada where he first heard Kenneth Patchen and Lawrence Ferlinghetti reading their work in a jazz setting. He and bassist, Peter Ind first met at the 606 and FURTHER SONGS OF EXPERIENCE is the result of their experiments with poetry and jazz.

Stella trained at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School when in her 50's after running her own business and bringing up a family. Stella has also worked for many years as a voice artist for numerous companies including Vtech Games, HMRC and RAC Traffic and Travel. Theatre Credits include, 'dinnerladies' UK Tour, 'Ma Kelly's Game', (Attic Theatre), 'Memory Exchange', (Oxford Concert Party), Off the Block #6 (RBL). TV credits include, 'Love with Barbara' Channel 4, 'Grange Hill' and 'The Galactic Garden', BBC.

Stella is an active member of 'Friends of Dementia' in Pangbourne, so is particularly interested and delighted to be part of, 'Silent Generation'.



Stella Ross  
as  
Hazel



Michael E Curran  
as  
Stephen

Michael, originally from Belfast, made his professional debut in Ireland at The Lyric Theatre in 1971. He pursued a career away from acting for some years, working in HR, spending two years working in West Africa and a year in Italy. He returned to his acting career in 2000 with a cameo role in ITV's 'Midsomer Murders' and has pursued his career mainly in theatre. A love of Shakespeare has seen him appear in outdoor productions in Oxford and Cambridge as well as performing at Shakespeare's Globe in 2009-2010 in productions of 'Anne Boleyn' and 'Henry VIII'.

In recent years Michael has been hitting the screens and has numerous TV, feature, short films and commercial credits. His most recent work is playing Mike alongside Sue Johnston in Moving On (BBC) and Professor Raymond Parker in 'Swallows; by Bob Whorton at The Old Fire Station in Oxford.

Patricia is a striking and powerful actress, raised in London and Yorkshire. A midwife, a concert standard pianist, it is safe to say that Patricia's life experiences are vast and varied. Her TV credits include The Bill, Rogue Traders, Crimewatch and numerous commercials, whilst theatre credits include Endgame, Woman's Talk and Four Portraits of Mother at the Bristol Old Vic, and the part of Cornelia Scott in Something Unspoken at the Cockpit Theatre. Patricia also has some incredible film credits on her portfolio, featuring in both the award winning Quartet and Byzantium. Always keen to take on new and challenging roles and with a lifelong passion for Opera, Patricia was thrilled to take on the role of Semele for the Garsington Opera. Most recently Patricia has played main roles in various short films.



Patricia Loveland  
as  
Julia



# Silent Generation & Age UK

Much of the research which inspired Silent Generation was sourced from Age UK. Statistics published in the 2015 Age UK Evidence Review demonstrated that 'over 49% of over-75s in the UK live alone; 1 million older people in the UK often or always feel lonely; 49% of over-65s say television or pets are their main form of company and 12% feel cut-off from society.'

StrikeUp Theatre have worked closely in collaboration with the local independent branch of the charity, Age UK Berkshire, throughout this project. Their fantastic team have provided continuous support, from connecting us with interview participants, to advising on safeguarding vulnerable adults. Age UK Berkshire perform some invaluable work across the county, they are the leading organisation providing health & wellbeing services for older people and always in need of public support.

**One of the ways you can get involved is by signing up to the Age UK Berkshire Befriending service:**

Age UK Berkshire offers a befriending service to people aged 50+ who are resident in the Reading Borough or West Berkshire geographical areas. The aim of the service is to enhance the quality of life of older people who live alone and have limited or no social contact, by offering companionship and support, either through home visits or regular phone calls.

**Apply to volunteer:**

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/berkshire/get-involved/volunteer>

**For more information, contact:**

0118 959 4242 or email [info@ageukberkshire.org.uk](mailto:info@ageukberkshire.org.uk)



StrikeUp Theatre are thrilled to be presenting this very special show to you, it has been an odyssey, but we got by with a little help from our friends...

THANK YOU:

John Luther & the whole team at South Street – For all your support & giving us this gig

Robin Colyer & Anna Glynn – For your precious hours & Arts Council advice

Dani & Toby Davies – For all your support & a certain playwright recommendation

Fiona Price & Clare Fletcher – For your invaluable time and excellent humour

Jack Edward – For excellent writing, patient listening & impeccable taste in font

Brendan Carr – For all your time and energy collaborating at Reading Museum

Genine Sumner – For ACE advice & a galvanising phonecall

Mary Waite – For sponsoring our rehearsal space

Watermill Theatre Actor's Forum – For your enthusiasm trialling this at scratch night

Diane, Lynne, Liz, Hannah & Alison – For your early work in recorded delivery

Paul Brampton – For your sponsorship our outreach work

Kayleigh Hodges – For your Reading population demographics & support with my app

Shashi Mawkin – For making all the enquiries at RHT

Constance Gooding – For your perseverance and support

Stuart Mclean – For sponsoring our outreach work

Danyl Johnson – For giving us such BBC airtime

Sam Chapman – For saintly editing patience

Progress Youth Theatre Poetry of War Cast – For notebooks to see me through

Chimney court – For your fantastic photographs

Sammy Fonfe & Phil Buck – For sponsoring our tech equipment

Jude Haigh – For Occupational Therapy wisdom

Rhys Thomas – For sponsoring our web design

Luciano Paredes Tassistro – For this extraordinary LOGO

Marjorie, Sally, Angela, Rita, Carole, Sue, Liz, Colin, Tom, Trevor, Narendra, Nina – For Everything

**Support StrikeUp**

StrikeUp relied heavily on Arts Council Funding and support-in-kind to get Silent Generation off the ground. We are currently seeking local sponsorship of one-off donations and long-term partnerships to develop the project.

If you are able to help us, please get in touch:

[rachel@strikeuptheatre.co.uk](mailto:rachel@strikeuptheatre.co.uk)



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