

GARY CLARKE COMPANY

★★★★
THE TIMES

COAL

★★★★
THE STAGE

PROMOTER PACK



COAL is co-commissioned
by DanceXchange
Cast Doncaster
Yorkshire Dance
The Civic Barnsley
Dance City
The Place
Nottingham Playhouse
with Dance4

Photography Joe Armitage

AVAILABLE FOR TOURING (MID-SCALE) 2017 & 2018 UPON REQUEST

2017 : continue mid-scale touring COAL. Early development sequel to COAL
& investigate re-working COAL for rural touring

2018 : Make preview premiere sequel to COAL. Continue touring COAL
upon request & test rural touring



COAL :: THE SHOW

ON STAGE

7 established contemporary dancers (5 male & 2 female), a locally sourced colliery brass band quintet and 4 women from the local community, recruited through extensive engagement work per venue.

COAL will be told in three acts:

- Above Ground: The Domestic Scene/ Live Brass
- Below Ground: At the Coal face
- Fake interval as part of show
- The Aftermath: Full company inc community Women / Live Brass

SAMPLE BROCHURE COPY

"All of us owe the comparative decency to poor drudges underground, blackened to the eyes with their throats full of coal dust, driving their shovels forward with arms and belly muscles of steel"

George Orwell (1934)

Marking the 30th anniversary of the end of the 1984/5 British miners' strike, award winning choreographer Gary Clarke proudly presents COAL, a riveting dance theatre show which takes an nostalgic look at the hard hitting realities of life at the coal face. Strong, powerful and emotive, COAL explores the darker underbelly of the mining industry unearthing the true nature and body wrecking demands of a working class industry now almost forgotten. Bringing together Clarke's striking physical language performed by a company of 7 high class dancers, a local community cast of women and a live colliery brass band, COAL is an emotional, moving and ever-relevant exploration of community, solidarity and survival.

Age Guidance 12+ (schools)

Duration: 80 minutes, no interval

"COAL is a gritty, gusty, visceral re-enactment of toil that is part of living memory"

Metro

"Fantastic Piece of Theatre"

Theatre audience member, COAL preview, 3 July 2015

"Loved the Live brass Band"

Theatre audience member, COAL preview, 3 July 2015

Other recent work / Gary Clarke

"The choreography has bite and depth and the dancing crackles with class and conviction"

The Herald *****

COAL :: BACKGROUND HISTORY

Gary Clarke grew up during the 1980s in the working-class mining village of Grimethorpe, South Yorkshire, which was home to one of the major national coal mining collieries operating in the UK, as well as the renowned Grimethorpe Colliery Band. Many of Gary's family worked at the coal-face and all were involved in the political fight that would forever shape British history. As a young boy, Gary experienced first-hand the heart wrenching results and the turbulent end of the 1984/5 miners' strike which tore local families apart and shattered his working class community.

Marking the passing of the 30th anniversary of the miner's strike Gary has created an ambitious, accessible and emotive piece of dance theatre to tour on the middle scale.

COAL is a response to my upbringing in the mining village of Grimethorpe and under the iron fist of Thatcher. It's about trying to capture a time in British history that seems to be being forgotten. It's an attempt to keep memories of the mining industry and the miners' strike alive in the public consciousness because I believe that what happened in the 1980's shaped the future of this country not only for the economy but for the fabric of our society and the arts too.

It's not really a political show, nor is it meant to be provocative. It's deeply deeply personal, and I just wanted to share how it felt to live through these times. How it felt then, and how it feels now as the pain, loss and division linger on in our stranded communities.

Those communities are at the heart of this piece, just as they were at the heart of the mining industry. I wanted very much to celebrate them, and to proudly create a piece of contemporary dance that is properly working class. I also wanted to try to capture some of the gritty realities of working down the mines – the confinement, the risks and the pressures, and choreographically I wanted to explore vocabularies of labour and effort. I've attempted to keep one specific objective in mind throughout – very simply to try to help an audience feel how it was to be there.

*7 Professional Performers:

Performer/Miner **James Finnemore**

Performer/Miner **Alistair Goldsmith**

Performer/Miner **Nicolas Vendange**

Performer/Miner **Joss Carter**

Performer/Miner **PJ Hurst**

Performer/Thatcher **Eleanor Perry**

Performer/Miner's Wife **TC Howard**

COAL :: AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT & ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

On Tour Gary Clarke Company will recruit to perform in COAL

1. Local Brass Bands (ideally Colliery)
2. Local community women 30+ to play Pit Women

The recruitment of local brass bands (tenor horn, 2 cornets, euphonium and trombone) and 4 local women to tell their stories and perform will begin COAL's promotional coverage and extend the reach into local communities to nurture audiences when COAL tours.

For local performers recruited (Brass and Pit Women) it is anticipated there will be opportunities for press calls as well as integrated offers for friends and families to see COAL – both of which will be built into marketing/press campaigns with each venue.

1. LOCAL RECRUITMENT & REHEARSALS – BRASS MUSICIANS & 4 MINER'S WIVES

- Brass – Steven Roberts (Musical Director) will work with Gary's team and each venue to advise and support the national call out to recruit local Brass musicians ideally from local Colliery bands.

Steven with Gary (and venues) will aim to choose each band in time to be used on promotion print/brochures. Once chosen, Steven will send a recording of the 6 brass pieces recorded by Carlton Main Frickley Colliery Band to begin rehearsals. He will also visit and liaise with each band and their musical director throughout rehearsals, run-throughs and attend the opening of each show on tour.

- Community Women to play Pit Women – TC Howard (COAL Associate Artist)
Gary and TC will work with each venue/region to cast, via a call out taster, 4 local community women performers 30+ to play Pit Women (volunteers) at each venue. TC and Gary will then lead a weekend intensive with each set of 4 women, which will also include one of the days with the professional male dancers (ideally the weekend before the show, in your venue) before re-rehearsing, dress run and performances.

TC as a COAL professional performer will also be a Pit Woman to enable the community women to feel more confident in each live show.

2. EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS & SHOW PACKAGES

- Workshops on Tour

Members of the Gary Clarke Company will devise with Gary and deliver a range of 3 hour workshops (broken down into 8 sections for groups of a max of 30) for a fee of £250 per workshop. Plus a special ticket deal for each participant and teachers set up with each venue.

The company engagement representative will work closely with each venue to secure up to 3 workshops prior to the shows including an integrated ticket deal that each group buys into as part of the package to see COAL.

Workshops will be tailored to fit groups from schools 12+ with little or no dance experience as well as more experienced dance, theatre and performing arts groups from Colleges and Universities.

3. ROAD SHOWS

Gary working with the NUM (UK wide) and each venue will offer up to 3 visits to ex-mining or associated groups to talk about COAL. Each road-show will aim to give a greater understanding of how the subject matter will translate into dance and get to know Gary, whilst encouraging attendance through travel/ticket incentives in partnership with each venue.

4. BITE SIZE EVENTS

The company can offer bite size sections from COAL to be performed in shopping centres or local WMC or equivalent prior to touring into each venue. This is intended to offer further exposure of the work/venue with opportunities to flyer / set up pop up box offices/ generate additional press coverage across the tour.

5. POST SHOW TALKS

Gary with members of the cast can lead a post show discussion at each venue.

"I feel immensely proud to represent my parents and grandparents and portray their experience to the general public. To anybody with the opportunity of taking part: I would say go for it!"

Community woman performer, COAL preview, 3 July 2015

"Anyone lucky enough to have a chance to take part in this should grab this opportunity with both hands. This is a once in a lifetime project, fuelled with so much emotion."

Band member, Carlton Main Frickley Colliery Band

COAL :: AUDIENCE QUOTES FROM PREVIEW 03 JULY 2015

"One of the most exhilarating and moving experiences I have had for some time... The sheer ambition, the integrity and heart with which Gary has developed the material and the palpable resonance it had with the audience were incredible... This is a great piece for people who have never been to see dance before, or the been to the theatre before – particularly in areas like ours that have strong bonds to working class effort, industrial communities and the brass band tradition."

Victoria Firth, Director, Lawrence Batley Theatre

"COAL was stunning, it was a privilege to be in the audience and hear and see the effect the piece had on a "real" audience. The response throughout the piece from the ex-miners in the audience was exceptional. It was fantastic to hear them talk and discuss the work both throughout and after the show."

Ian Morely, Civic Theatre Barnsley

"More than any other preview we managed to encourage vast numbers into our venue from all walks: dancers, artists, miners, currently engaged theatre audiences and people new to our venue, and in some cases new to theatre/dance. There was a real appetite to see this work, which we could surely capitalise on as we move forward. After the production, when talking to a cross-section of our audiences a common thread emerged, *When will this return? I need to help you spread the word and bring more people to see this work*".

Graham Whithead, Cast Doncaster

"Absolutely loved it. I think the work is gripping and emotional."

Secondary School Student

"One of the most powerful, moving pieces of theatre I've ever seen on the miners strike."

Ex-miner

"Enthralling – should be seen in all British Towns."

Local Historian And Writer

"Fabulous, politically spot on."

Local Current Affairs Journalist

"Excellent, for someone not from a mining community it taught me a lot."

Local Doncaster Councillor

COAL :: THE TEAM

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR / CHOREOGRAPHER – GARY CLARKE

Gary Clarke is an award-winning dancer and choreographer with a national reputation for creating compelling dance theatre that resonates with both audiences and critics.

“The full-on energy is crowd-pleasing, but the choreography has bite and depth and the dancing crackles with class and conviction”

The Herald *****

By far one of Yorkshire’s most exciting contemporary dance artists, Gary’s breadth of knowledge, experience and dynamism result in him being regularly invited to make new work on various scales and perform with leading companies and choreographers. Over the last decade he has worked on a variety of projects with Lea Anderson’s The Cholmondeleys & The Featherstonehaughs, Matthew Bourne’s Adventures in Motion Pictures (AMP), Lloyd Newson’s DV8 Physical Theatre, Liv Lorent’s ballet LORENT, Candoco Dance Company & Jerome Bel, Retina Dance Company, Nigel Charnock + Company, Bock & Vincenzi, Phoenix Dance Theatre, Sadler’s Wells Productions, Maresa Von Stockert & Tilted Productions, New Art Club, Javier De Frutos, Wendy Houston, TC Howard, Frauke Redquart Company, Opera North and Compagnie Felix Ruckert. During 2011 and 2012, he worked as a movement artist alongside Brad Pitt on the Hollywood blockbuster film ‘World War Z’.

Gary has been making his own work for the past 10 years, which has toured both nationally and internationally receiving critical and audience acclaim. His work to date has been featured in The British Dance Edition, The Edinburgh Festival, Spring Loaded, Birmingham International Dance Festival, The Cultural Olympiad and Exposure Dance at The Royal Opera House. He has also created work for The Scottish School of Contemporary Dance, MAP Dance and Ludus Dance Company. He is the winner of the 1998 Brian Glover Memorial Award and the Danceworks UK Artist Development Award. Gary is currently an Associate Artist at Yorkshire Dance and is closely affiliated to Dance4 and Merseyside Dance Initiative (MDI).

DRAMATURG – LOU COPE

Lou is a UK based internationally recognised Dramaturg, her credits include Les ballets c de la b and Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui.

Lou has worked with Gary to ensure COAL’s themes are successfully applied within the context of contemporary dance – challenging form, themes, movement language, media use and relationship with character/narrative.

MUSICAL DIRECTOR – STEVEN ROBERTS

Steven Roberts is a Conductor, Musical Director, Vocal Coach and Adjudicator. His passion for music and performance is reflected in his varied profile. He has conducted at some of the countries most prestigious concerts halls and continues to inspire and motivate singers to perform at the highest level, but most importantly that they have fun and enjoy themselves in performance.

Steven has arranged the music to be played by the 5-piece brass band. He will also visit/contact the venue ahead of the live performance to work with local Musical Director and musicians from recruited brass band to prepare for the performance of the live score.

SOUNDSCAPE DESIGN – DANIEL THOMAS

Daniel Thomas is an experimental noise artist based in Leeds. Daniel is part of the musical collective Sheepsca Light Industrial making music, promoting and hosting music events and he has also worked as a DJ in Japan and Hong Kong. His work with Gary Clarke includes the original soundscape for COAL, Club 23 for York St John School of Art and the Leeds Olympic Torch project.

Daniel Thomas has once again joined Gary to provide a new soundscape to accompany and contrast with the brass band.

COAL ASSOCIATE ARTIST AND PERFORMER – TC HOWARD

TC Howard has performed with Ludus, David Glass, V-Tol, Vincent Dance Theatre, Wendy Houston and Gary Clarke and choreographed for companies including David Glass, Frantic Assembly, Ludus and Tutti Frutti. TC is also a teacher, mentor and facilitator, working with professional and non-professional groups and individuals that include mixed ability, special needs and cross generation.

TC and Gary have worked regularly together and TC understands the drive and aesthetic behind Gary’s work. As Artistic Advisor for COAL, TC has supported the development of the piece from research, auditioning and in the studio as well as using her specialist skills working in a community context to rehearse the 4 female community performers engaged for each venue, into their role as Pit Women in COAL where she will also perform as a Miner’s Wife herself as a member of the professional cast.

Continues...

COAL :: THE TEAM (continued)

SET & COSTUME DESIGNER – RYAN DAWSON LAIGHT

Ryan is an established designer for performance. His credits include set and costume design for: 'HMS Pinafore' at the Union Theatre, 'IN DRAG' at the Purcell Rooms and Southbank Centre, 'Good Morning Midnight' at the Jermyn Street Theatre, 'Le Gateau Chocolat Show' at the Menier Chocolate Factory, 'Alive' at the Liberty Festival for Mark Smith and Deaf Men Dancing, 'The Cube of Curiosity' with Rachel Gadsden and Marc Brew, Drew Mconie's 'Drunk' at the Bridewell Theatre and 'New Ways of Living' with Gary Clarke and Pink Fringe.

He has just completed a re-design of HMS Pinafore for the Union Theatre's national tour and 'BLACK' for Le Gateau Chocolat at The Soho Theatre in London. Ryan has recently designed 'Hear! Hear!' for Deaf Men Dancing at Sadler's Wells Theatre and in 2012 was Artistic Director for 'Starting Line', a large scale performance piece that celebrated the arrival of the torch as part of the Paralympic Games with Rachel Gadsden and Candoco Dance Company.

LIGHTING DESIGNER – CHARLES WEBBER

Charles Webber is an electronic artist who has worked in experimental performance for the past 25 years, working across the disciplines of electro-acoustic music, moving image and lighting design.

He has designed and worked extensively both nationally and internationally alongside artists such as Faulty Optic, Fevered Sleep, Pacitti Company, Wendy Houston and Lone Twin. His own eclectic back catalogue includes works such as the video work Sunayani (Sonic Arts Network), the live tape work Concrète Jungle (Henry Moore Institute), Four White Walls (Opera North) a chamber opera for 5 voices and The Glass Hotel (BAC) for multiple voices, electronics and refracted light.

Recently he has specialised in creating works incorporating electronic music, moving image and voice including Parkour with mezzo-soprano Loré Lixenberg. Charles is currently collaborating with vocalist/librettist Eve Libertine (Crass) on several projects including Listen, Little Man! for live electronics, voice and video which premiered at Wiels Centre d'Art Contemporain, Brussels and most recently the opera Room of Worlds for electronics, video and voices which premiered at The Horse Hospital, London in 2014.

PRODUCER GARY CLARKE COMPANY/ TOUR MANAGER COAL – ANNABEL DUNBAR

Annabel has over 20 years experience as a senior UK arts professional, having worked for touring companies and artists, major producing and receiving theatres prior to co-founding and running Danceworks UK – a unique organisation with a national and international reputation in developing dance audiences and innovative high quality programming. Annabel also co-founded and was an active member of the Dance Touring Partnership and Dance Consortium in partnership with Sheffield Theatres. Since leaving Danceworks she has worked as an Independent Producer and Promoter with Gary Clarke, Rodrigo Pardo, Wendy Houston, Charles Linehan as well as Dance Touring Partnership and Dance4 around mid-scale touring and audience development.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE MANAGER – JANE WHITEHEAD

Jane has 20 years experience working in arts administration, including work in venues and for high profile dance companies/artists, most notably as General Manager for Vincent Dance Theatre (VDT) from 2004-2010. Since leaving VDT she has worked on a freelance basis including for Balbir Dance Company, Dep Arts, Gary Clarke and Wendy Houston.

SPECIALIST FREELANCERS

Managed by Annabel Dunbar
Marketing Manager – Tiffany Evans
Press Agent – John Highfield
Engagement Manager – Laura Barber
Production Manager – Nia Wood
Production Technician – Elb Hall
Admin Assistant – Gina Walters
Digital Consultant – Hans De Kretser Associates
Production Photography – Joe Armitage
Design – Up For Grabs

Archive Film Maker – Siobhan Mckeown

Thatcher's Voice – Steve Nallon
Miner's Voice – Bruce Wilson

COAL :: BASIC PROMOTERS BOOKING INFORMATION

OUTLINE TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Full Tech rider and Lighting/Sound plans
Please contact COAL Production Manager:
Nia Wood on niawood@yahoo.co.uk/07970 199758

ON THE ROAD 12

16 performers on stage (7 professional dancers on the road plus local performers 4 Community Pit Women & 5 Brass). Also on the road – Gary Clarke, Musical Director, Production Manager/Lights, Deputy Tech/Sound & Company Manager

RUNNING TIME

80 mins, no interval

STAGE

- Ideal 10m x 10m plus wingspace (minimum 8m x 8m plus wingspace)
- Black dance floor provided by the company
- Back wall (ideally uncovered black back wall) to play film in Act 3
- Full black out required (Exit signs too if possible)
- Projector required film
- 2 x hazers
- Female cast come out into audience end of Act 2 access needed stage to stalls.

STUDIO TIME (In Kind)

To rehearse Community performers (Pit Women) at each venue for an intensive weekend, as well as rehearsals during show week. Studio may also be needed for spill out for brass warm up.

GET IN (Ideal)

- Day 1 – ON STAGE – get in 9am to 10pm
– STUDIO – 12 noon to 6pm rehearsals professional cast
- Day 2 – ON STAGE – tech am/pm with evening dress run 9am to 10pm
- Day 3 – Show 1 (pm) and Show 2 (evening) or Show 1 (evening)
- Day 4 – Show 2 or Show 3

GET OUT

Minimum Call: Two hours / Crew Required 2

VENUE TECHNICAL TEAM

Crew calls listed in Tech Rider downloadable at:
coaltour.co.uk or via Production Manager Nia Wood

TOURING DATES & FEES

Please contact COAL Producer Annabel Dunbar to discuss fees/dates further on annabeldw@yahoo.com or 07802 624949

COAL AVAILABILITY

From February 2017 throughout and 2018 upon request

UK FEES (subsidised touring)

2 shows = £6,000

1 show = £4,000

INTERNATIONAL (non-subsidised touring)

Weekly Touring Fees = £12,000

(Weekly Touring Fees above PLUS travel/transfers, accommodation, per diems and freight)
Brass and Woman to either be recruited locally or we can tour with award-winning Carlton Main Frickley Colliery Band (for additional fee and on costs) and recruit women volunteers locally.

VENUE TECHNICAL & MARKETING SUPPORT (UK/SUBSIDISED)

COAL will negotiate with each venue additional support required towards technical costs and additional marketing & audience development costs in areas of low engagement or for new attendees/cross over theatre to dance up to a value of £400 each (up to a total £800 including VAT)

PERFORMANCES

Gary would like to encourage a minimum of 2 shows due to the extensive community activity and opportunities to extend audiences, however one show is possible.

COAL :: CREDITS

COAL is co-commissioned by DanceXchange; Cast Doncaster; The Place; Dance City; Dance4 with Nottingham Playhouse; The Civic Barnsley; Yorkshire Dance, with additional funds from, The National Lottery through Arts Council England, Individual Giving through kick-starter with support from The Northern School of Contemporary Dance and The NUM.

Photography by Joe Armitage



Northern School of Contemporary Dance



COAL :: CONTACT DETAILS

PRODUCER / PROMOTER – ANNABEL DUNBAR

Email: annabeldw@yahoo.com

Phone: 07802 624 949

PRODUCTION MANAGER – NIA WOOD

Email: niawood@yahoo.co.uk

Phone: 07970 199 758

WWW.COALTOUR.CO.UK

“Unmissable”

Dancing Times

“An absorbing, immediate slice of history rendered with the kind of emotional truth that deepens its impact as popular entertainment.”

★★★★ The Times

Nomination – Knight of Illumination Award 2016

COAL Lighting Designer, Charles Webber

