

Gary Clarke's Wasteland...the thrilling sequel to COAL

As industrial Britain fell, a new subculture emerged...

They fought for their families, their livelihoods, their communities, their futures and for an industry...but what happened to the families who survived the epic year-long battle of the Miners' Strike of 1984/85?

Created to mark the 25th anniversary of the demolition of Grimethorpe Colliery in South Yorkshire and 30 years since the rise of UK rave culture, acclaimed choreographer **Gary Clarke** proudly presents **Wasteland**, a thrilling yet deeply touching dance theatre production and the eagerly-awaited sequel to Clarke's multi-award winning hit **COAL**.

In 1994, **Gary Clarke** joined family, friends and neighbours to witness the downfall of Grimethorpe Colliery, an act of ruination that not only marked another nail in the coffin of Britain's mining industry but also added to the destruction of the working class community that surrounded it.

Wasteland looks at how two different generations coped in this turbulent era of radical upheaval as industrial Britain fell and a new subculture emerged.

As one generation grinds exhaustedly to a halt, the next generation heads into the illegal rave scene of 1990s Britain, where derelict warehouses and abandoned work spaces become home for a new community of music and dance.

"For our generation, the future was very bleak with very little prospect. The rave culture gave many of us the opportunity to escape these grim and grey realities and into a new world of music and dance where we could express our inner feelings, desires and frustrations. My passion for dance grew from this discovery" **Gary Clarke**

Wasteland is based on Gary's own experience of reaching maturity at the height of the rave movement and also on many hours of interviews with former miners and with people who, like him, found escape through rave's music and alternative sub culture.

It brings together Clarke's blistering physical dance language performed by a company of exceptional dancers - headed by **COAL**'s lead dancer **Alistair**

Goldsmith - and a community cast of four male singers, a total of 76 men throughout the tour of 18 venues nationally in 2019/20.

Also on stage will be two brass musicians, specially selected for every venue from the 14 championship brass bands who made such a vital and important contribution to the success of **COAL**.

*"Like **COAL** communities are at the heart of **Wasteland** and it felt wrong to make a new show about communities without involving them."* **Gary Clarke**

Rare archive film footage brings the era to life - capturing both the tragedy of mining's last days and the exhilaration of rave's roots - along with a powerful rave sound score by **Charles Webber** and unique art work by **Jimmy Cauty**, co-founder of The KLF.

Jimmy Cauty's appropriated police riot shields were first created for the Occupy St Pauls eviction in 2012.

Later the Smiley Riot Shields art work was seen to enormous acclaim in fellow artist **Banksy's Dismaland** and **Wasteland** will be another opportunity to see these iconic pieces in action.

"It's not an offence to own a Jimmy Cauty Smiley Riot Shield but it may be an offence to use the artwork in a riot." **Jimmy Cauty**

Bringing all this together into one unforgettable and compelling night of dance theatre, **Wasteland** dives head first into a hedonistic story of loss, hope, escapism and survival.

"To get anything that you need and anything that you believe in, it's got to be worth fighting for - if it isn't worth fighting for it isn't worth doing." **A former coal miner**

Wasteland brings together once more the production and creative team that made **COAL** such a major hit with both critics and audiences.

The producer of **Wasteland** is **Gary Clarke's** long time mentor and collaborator **Annabel Dunbar**.

The Lighting Designer is **Charles Webber**, who has also created an original rave sound score and video for the show.

Dramaturgy is by **Lou Cope**, with costumes and set by designer **Ryan Dawson Laight** and other sound design by **Daniel Thomas**.

Musical Direction is once again by **Steven Roberts**, bringing outstanding community singers and brass musicians to the stage at each venue.

Gary Clarke Company dancers are: **Alistair Goldsmith, Tom Davis Dunn, Robert Anderson, Emily Thompson Smith, Elena Thomas Voilquin and Jake Evans**.

Ends

Notes to Editors

Wasteland is co-commissioned by Nottingham Playhouse, Tramway, Cast, Dance4, The Place, DanceXchange, Gulbenkian/ART 31, Contact Theatre, Grand Theatre Blackpool, Civic Barnsley, Yorkshire Dance, with additional support from Lawrence Batley Theatre, Northern Ballet, Leeds Dance Partnership, Stirling Pit Women and public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England

About Gary Clarke

Gary Clarke is regarded as one of the UK's leading independent dance artists.

Gary has established himself as a respected choreographer whose work has toured both nationally and internationally to critical and audience acclaim.

Gary's own company work work has received many awards and accolades including a UK Theatre Award and a Critics Circle National Dance Award (for COAL).

For other companies he has created large-scale work for Opera North, Sky Arts, The Cultural Olympiad and Hull City of Culture as well as touring work for Ludas Dance , StopGAP Dance Company, Anjali Dance and Akademi which also won The Herald Angel Award and the Summerhall Lustrum Award.

Gary has worked prolifically with companies and choreographers of international standing including Lea Anderson's The Cholmondeleys & The Featherstonehaughs, Matthew Bourne's New Adventures, 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, New Art Club, Javier De Frutos and Wendy Houston.

He has also worked on a number of Blockbuster feature films such as World War Z featuring Brad Pitt and The Mummy featuring Tom Cruise.

In 2018, Gary Clarke received an Honorary Fellowship from The Northern School of Contemporary Dance and became the Honorary Vice President of Carlton Main Frickley Colliery Band, alongside his COAL collaborator Steven Roberts.

What the critics said about COAL:

"An absorbing, immediate slice of history...robust, urgent and heroic..." **The Times**

"Both humane and powerfully dramatic." **The Guardian**

"Powerful and moving...a thrilling piece." **The Sheffield Star**

"A profound and highly relevant contribution to remembering this painful, life changing period in our history." **The Big Issue**

"Absorbingly powerful and affecting...." **The Herald (Glasgow)**

"There is an authenticity to COAL few could match..." **The Scotsman**

Wasteland Spring 2019 Tour Dates

Cast, Doncaster - 7.30pm, World Premiere May 15 and 16. For tickets: 01302 303 959 or www.castindoncaster.com

Barnsley Civic - 7.30pm, June 6, 7 and 8. For tickets: 01226 327000 or www.barnsleycivic.co.uk

Glasgow Tramway, 7.30pm, June 14 and 15. For tickets call 0845 330 3501 or visit www.tramway.org

Coming this autumn - performances in Newcastle, London, Canterbury, Nottingham, Blackpool and Huddersfield. Dates and booking information coming soon

Recommended age - 14 and upwards

Visit: Wastelandtour.co.uk

Photography By Joe Armitage

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