

EDGEWAYS

TOUR PACK

fell

BY **CHRIS SALT**

**TOURING
SUMMER
2025**



Supported by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

fell: THE PLAY

One day Lyle walks out of his life and up into the high fells. On the edge of a deep tarn he meets Jake who has a gun, a dog and a life as far removed from Lyle's as possible.

Over the course of 24 hours, at the mercy of the elements, the lads chip away at each other's certainties until they are no longer sure of who they really are or what the future holds for them. Except that, for now, all they have is each other.

In the slip of fragile time between being a child and an adult, Lyle and Jake make a plan.

fell is a play about friendship and childhood; about two boys at either end of teenagehood, and the gulf between them in those few years.





fell: BACKGROUND

fell was runner-up to both the Octagon Theatre National Prize and the Papatango Prize, competitions which attract thousands of entries.

With funding from Arts Council England the script was developed with two talented actors, Tarek Slater and Daniel Paul and young adults from the Cumbria Youth Alliance.

R & D Film

<https://www.edgewaysproductions.co.uk/fell>

Award-winning writer Chris Salt worked in partnership with Cumbria Youth Alliance and young people from Workington and Whitehaven to create a powerful authentic new drama that resonates with rural or isolated communities and anyone who has ever been a teenager.

fell toured in the north-west and Cumbria in February 2020 to sell-out audiences, including Theatre by the Lake, Bury Met, Kirkgate Arts and community venues.

WRITER, CHRIS SALT:

“What began as an interest in the war zone between childhood and adulthood (where young people are assaulted on all sides by hormones and expectation) became a passionate desire to tell the stories of young, funny, sensitive lads trapped by the poverty of hope and horizons in rural communities.

Adolescence for many is a time that demands the co-existence of individuality and conformity in a world where everyone seems to belong, but you. This turbulent rite of passage from innocent to care-worn is often seen through the prism of emerging sexuality, which is increasingly amplified in the echo chamber of social media. I wanted to strip back all the background noise and look at how two young boys experience this leap into the unknown, alone and exposed.

When writing the play, I remembered my own adolescence and holidays spent fell-walking and camping with mates in the Lake District. The wild landscape, harsh and romantic at the same time felt like a good starting point. And this period in young men's lives is particularly important in west Cumbria, where the future can be devoid of hope and ambition with often devastating consequences. In Allerdale, youth unemployment is five times the national average and local agencies have identified that work with young people around masculinity, ambition and opportunity is critical. I have invented Jake and Lyle to tell their urgent story; their voices need to be heard.”



fell: AUDIENCES

- Young people aged 14 - 25
- Agencies working with young people
- Inter-generational audience including regular theatre-goers
- Theatre-goers who enjoy new writing
- Drama and performing arts students
- First time theatregoers (50% of audiences in 2020 were first time theatre attendees)

PRE-SHOW TALKS

Members of the cast are able to visit community groups and school groups to talk about *fell* with the aim of promoting a greater understanding of the themes and the narrative of the play and developing new audiences for live theatre.

"I loved the pace and the plot, and was in awe of the actors sustaining energy throughout. Very touching. I felt I was in the Fells!"

"A great play, well-acted, with humour descending into something much darker and ending in a tragedy – excellent."

"A powerful portrayal of young men dealing with reaching adulthood."



fell: 2023 TOUR REVIEWS

“a gripping, compassionate reflection of the injustices that break the human soul... one of the most thought-provoking plays fringe theatre has to offer during the season so far”

★★★★★ **First Night Magazine**

“above all is the commanding and confident script of Chris Salt, sure-footed and purposeful. With rough-hewn humour, shocking incident and quiet potency, he charts a towering journey.”

★★★★★ **Lost in Theatreland**

“The story of Lyle and Jake was beautifully brought to life in a performance I will not forget for a long time.”

★★★★★ **Theatre and Tonic**

“the play was faultless. Salt delivers.”

★★★★★ **London Theatre Fringe Reviews**

“The vulnerability, isolation and self-resourcefulness of the younger generation in rural society is captured in this bold and no-holds-barred production.”

★★★★★ **London Theatre 1**

“a well-written, well-performed, impactful, original piece of work.”

★★★★★ **Reviews Hub**

Link to fell Trailer:

www.edgewaysproductions.co.uk/fell

fell: CREATIVE TEAM

WRITER: CHRIS SALT

Chris Salt is a playwright, applied film and creative writing practitioner and community artist. Until 2014 he balanced an award-winning television career with a wealth of non-broadcast work, but since then has been prioritising his writing. In 2017 he was selected as a founder member of the Royal Court (Northern) Writers' Group. He is also an Associate Lecturer in Media, Performance and Documentary at the University of Salford. As co-founder and director of Edgeways Productions he continues to work with diverse communities producing new work through arts engagement projects.

www.edgewaysproductions.co.uk

PRODUCER: DEBORAH DICKINSON

Deborah is a creative producer currently working at Pitlochry Festival Theatre. She has over 30 years' experience of working in theatre and television, producing national tours and large-scale, critically acclaimed, site-specific theatre productions including *The Mill - City of Dreams* and *Home Sweet Home* for Freedom Studios, where she was CEO and Creative Producer from 2011 to 2015. National touring production credits include *A Little Space*, a collaboration between Gecko and Mind the Gap, and *From Shore to Shore* by Mary Cooper. Deborah has worked for a number of theatre companies - Octagon Theatre, Bolton, Mind the Gap, Unlimited Theatre and Imagine If.

Deborah is passionate about artist development and new writing and won a Writers' Guild Olwen Wymark Theatre Encouragement of New Writing Award in 2016.

AUDIENCE QUOTES

“Fabulous - imaginative - moving - insightful - brilliant acting - great writing.”

“So many important issues about contemporary society were raised but were personal, individual, real, moving.”

“Compelling performances, well written, well produced and directed.”

“Overall a brilliant play - humour, tragedy delivered in a believable and compelling performance.”



fell: BASIC PROMOTERS BOOKING INFORMATION

The play incorporates the real-time preparation and consumption of hot food and hot tea by the characters in the story, alongside a vivid audio-scape of contemporary music mixed with the sound of various sorts of Lake District weather offering an exciting sensory experience to our audiences.

TECHNICAL

Sound: Recorded music, sound FX

Lighting: Flexible and simple lighting plan
Full Tech Rider and Lighting/Sound plans will be available.

VENUE MARKETING SUPPORT

Brochure copy, images, digital press pack, social media activity and web-site promotion will be provided.

Post-show Q & A with cast/creatives is available.

RUNNING TIME

1 hour, 15 minutes with no interval, **OR** the play can have an interval if that works better for the venue.

ON THE ROAD

Two performers and a Stage Manager.

STAGING

Traverse 5m x 5m but can be adapted to different theatre spaces.

Get In: Four hours

Get Out: Two hours

AGE GUIDANCE

14 +

fell

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fell: CREDITS

fell R & D and UK tour in 2022 was funded by Arts Council England with additional funds from Cumbria Youth Alliance and support from Kirkgate Arts.

Production Photography: Chris Lewis

Front Cover: Dave Massey

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