

KRAKEN

Written by Skot Wilson | Directed by Rebecca Hill

3rd - 8th March 2020

V A U L T



PRESS RELEASE: FEBRUARY 2020

VAULT FESTIVAL 2020

Pit - The Vaults, Leake Street

Tues 3rd March - Sun 8th March 2020, 19:30 (+ Sunday matinee 16:30)

☆☆ PRESS ARE WELCOME TO ALL SHOWS ☆☆

UNBOUND PRODUCTIONS presents

KRAKEN

An underwater climate crisis capitalist romance. With a giant squid.

Welcome to an ocean full of plastic, giant squid, and opportunity.

Simon & Trixie work in a submersible mining station at the bottom of the sea. Their relationship is falling to pieces, but they can deal with that later. They just don't want to be left behind in the climate crisis.

Every day, they dig up rare earth minerals which the planet needs for green batteries, electric cars, and new mobile phones. No one said going green would be easy.

It's business as usual until they meet Archie - a giant squid...

Kraken is a classic (and the only) underwater climate crisis capitalist-cephalopod romance. It's a story about monsters, and what (or who) we're prepared to throw away. It's about going green but hurting the world around you. It's about keeping up with catastrophe. It's about wanting to love your planet, but not knowing how.

First and foremost, this is a play about what happens when a giant squid just might be your best friend. Or life partner.



KRAKEN

Kraken is an underwater climate crisis capitalist romance. It's about monsters, relationships on the edge, the impact of climate change, and a giant squid. It uses a controversial issue (deep-sea mining) as a foundation to explore our complex relationships with commodities, the planet, and each other. Deep-sea mining zones are currently being harvested to make mobile phones, electric cars, and national infrastructure. We are so keen to be connected that in many ways we are prepared to devastate everything else.

Simon and Trixie work on a deep-sea mining outpost. Like lighthouse-keeping, these facilities are staffed by one/two people for long periods of time. They are drifting apart (despite their proximity) and Simon worries that he has a stronger relationship with a giant squid who visits him whilst he works inside his mining vessel. The giant squid, 24hour news updates, and the couple's arguments expose the audience to the breadth of monsters that exist beneath the surface of modern living - the everyday things we depend upon but try not to acknowledge. These inconvenient truths can be intimate (co-dependencies in relationships), technological (societal dependencies upon unsustainable resources), or globally expansive (military infrastructure). When we facetime loved ones in 2020 on the latest phone, we will forget (or ignore) that giant machines are churning up the seabed for the manganese required for the circuitry. All because we're hungry for contact, whatever the cost.

UNBOUND PRODUCTIONS

Unbound Productions is an award-winning new writing company Artistically Directed by Rebecca Hill and Bradley Leech. We work closely with writers and devisers to develop serious work that isn't afraid to laugh.

Unbound was founded in 2012, and our work is innovative, thought-provoking and challenging. We aim to make work that speaks to the world today, but sometimes in subversive ways. Collaboration is at the heart of our process, and we have been lucky to work with brilliant artists.

Unbound's first full production played to sell-out audiences at the Edinburgh Festival - receiving awards and acclaim. We have been developing new writing ever since.

Unbound Productions are Associate Artists of the Mercury Theatre in Colchester.

ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

Bradley Leech – Producer / Co-Artistic Director

Bradley is a director, producer, higher education actor-trainer and programme manager. He is experienced in supporting artists at various stages of their career, and specialises in the development of new work with a focus on socio-political engagement. His portfolio includes live events, R&D and creation periods, as well as work in across both theatre and film. For Unbound, he leads on business and executive affairs, and is jointly responsible for the development and delivery of the company's artistic output. He is producing *Kraken*.

Rebecca Hill – Director / Co-Artistic Director

Rebecca is a multiple award-winning theatre director. She was the inaugural Director In Residence at the Almeida Theatre (2014-15), and an Ovalhouse Artist of 2014 as recipient of the Arts Manifesto: A Future for the Arts award. She is a highly experienced Associate/Assistant Director, working on shows ranging from the intimate solo and site-specific, to verbatim, musicals, and productions with large companies. Credits include: *Starry Messenger* (West End); *Glengarry Glen Ross* (UK Tour); *Murder Ballad* (West End musical); *East is East* (UK Tour); *Cymbeline* (Sam Wanamaker Theatre); *Our Town*; *Little Revolution*; and *The Fever* (all Almeida Theatre). Rebecca jointly develops and delivers the company's artistic vision. She leads on the solicitation of projects and development of artistic relationships. For *Kraken*, she heads the script development, and creative delivery.

Skot Wilson – Writer

Skot is a writer attached to Bristol Old Vic. Shortlisted for the 2018 Nick Darke Award (script in top 8 out of 1,160). Accepted to the London Theatre Consortium's 2019/2020 Climate Lab (nominated by Bush Theatre). Shortlisted HighTide 2019 Disruption season, Theatre503 Five & Longlisted for Theatre503 International Playwriting Award. Key focus area: environment, anthropocene, & climate change. Works at Natural History Museum. Skot is the writer of *Kraken*.

James Donnelly – Designer

James is a set and costume designer for theatre, based in London. A beneficiary of the Royal Shakespeare Company's Trainee Designer Scheme 2015/16, he studied MA Theatre Design at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and has a BA in English Literature from the University of Sheffield. Past design projects include: *Henry V* (Shanghai Dramatic Arts Centre); *Pomona* (New Diorama Theatre); *Conditionally* (Soho Theatre Upstairs); *Chilcot* (Battersea Arts Centre); *The Odyssey* (Nuffield Theatre); and *Girls Like That* (Nuffield Studio Theatre)..

Emily Crouch – Movement Director

Emily trained at London Contemporary Dance School and established a dance career that included Paris Opera, National Dance Company of Wales and Danish Dance Theatre, she currently manages and is Rehearsal Director for Hip-Hop theatre company Just Us Dance Theatre.

Tingying Dong – Sound Designer

Ting is from Beijing and based in London. She graduated from LAMDA in 2019. She has recently received an Offie nomination for Best Sound Design. Her sound design credits include: *Blood Orange* (Old Red Lion Theatre); *Jerker* (King's Head Theatre); *Hamlet, Julius Caesar* (LAMDA); *Do Not Alight Here* (The Actors Centre); *Open Wound* (International Youth Arts Festival); *It Rains Diamonds on Jupiter* (Drayton Arms Theatre); *Safety Net* (Etcetera Theatre); *Otis and Eunice* (Britten Theatre, Virtual Conservatoire). As associate: *Sparks* (HighTide Festival). Having a passion in devised theatre, she is also working on some devised projects.

Anna Reddyhoff – Lighting Designer

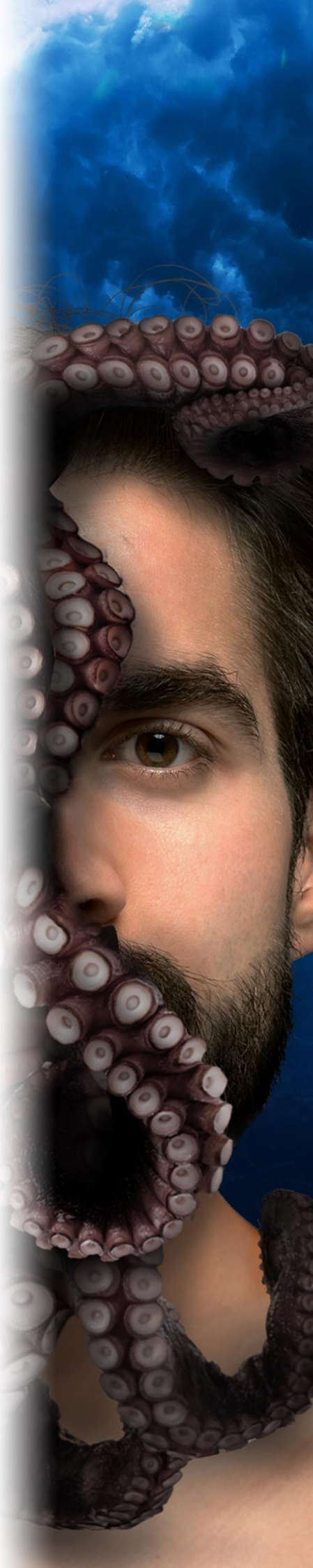
Current projects include: *The Strange Case of Jekyll & Hyde* (UK Tour); *A Strange Bit of History* (UK Tour); *Giving Up Marty*; *Fanny A New Musichall*; *The Life & Death of a Journalist* (Vaults). Previous Lighting Design credits include: *Snow White* (Leicester Square Theatre); *Snow White & The Seven Dwarfs* (Bradford Alhambra: Associate LD to Matt Clutterham); *Albion in Flames* (Union Theatre); *Space Age Love Songs* (Hen & Chickens); *The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe* (Garrick); *The Re-Birth of Meadow Rain, Pops* (Edinburgh 2019).

Shazia Nicholls – Actor (Trixie)

Theatre includes: *Aesop's Fables* (Unicorn Theatre); *MANCOIN* (Vault Festival); *Antony and Cleopatra* (National Theatre); *The Winter's Tale and Macbeth* (National Theatre Learning and Tour); *The Scar Test* (Untold Arts/UK Tour/Soho Theatre). Television includes: *Doctor Foster* (BBC). Film includes: *The Overcoat*; *School Gates*; *The Big Day*, *Looking Back*. Web Series: *Stalling* (YouTube)

Jack Parry-Jones – Actor (Simon)

Jack Parry-Jones is a Welsh actor known for *The Crown* (2019); *Moon Dogs* (2016); *Bang* (2020); and *Our Girl* (2020). In 2017, Jack won multiple awards for his leading role in the independent film and festival favourite, *Moon Dogs*. This included winning a **BAFTA Cymru Best Actor Award** and a Jury Award for Best Actor at Newport Beach Film Festival California.



Past Productions, Awards and Reviews

Travesti – Edinburgh **Pleasance Dome**, 2014

Written & Directed by Rebecca Hill. Produced by Bradley Leech

What happens when you put women's voices in the mouths of men? There is an argument that sexist behaviour can be overlooked because society has become used to women being used to it. *Travesti* is a verbatim play that takes real women's stories about body hair, being groped on public transport and experiences of sexual violence and puts them in the mouths of male actors. Would we respond differently if a man tells these stories rather than a woman?



Awards for *Travesti*

Fringe First Award Winner (*The Scotsman*)

Editor's Choice Award Winner (*ThreeWeeks*)

Laurels for a sell-out run.

Reviews for *Travesti*

"Compelling" - *The Independent*

★★★★★ "Unbound Productions have created a masterpiece of modern theatre" - *The Skinny*

★★★★★ "Flawless...You know you've touched your audience when there are audible murmurs of agreement throughout." - *ThreeWeeks*

★★★★★ "This is the most affecting piece of theatre I have ever watched...the most important show of my generation." - *Gee be Free*

★★★★★ "Full of spontaneity and life...touching" - *PostScript Journal*

★★★★★ "Slick...polished performances" - *The Scotsman*

★★★★★ "Brave and intelligent...word of mouth has already spread" - *The Quotidian Times*

★★★★★ "Truly brilliant and original" - *Scotsgay*

Notes to the Editors

Title:	Kraken
Performance Dates:	Wednesday 3rd March – Sunday 8th March 2020 (Wed – Sun 19:30, + Sun matinee 16:30)
Running Time:	60 minutes
Location:	VAULT Festival, Pit, The Vaults, Leake Street, London, SE1 7NN (How to get there?)
Box Office:	Tickets from £12, available through the Vault Festival website (vaultfestival.com/whats-on/kraken/)
Producer:	Bradley Leech (for Unbound Productions)
Director:	Rebecca Hill
Writer:	Skot Wilson
Designer:	James Donnelly
Movement Director:	Emily Crouch
Sound Designer:	Tingying Dong
Lighting Designer:	Anna Reddyhoff
Cast:	Shazia Nicholls (<i>Trixie</i>); Jack Parry-Jones (<i>Simon</i>)
Notes:	15+, Sexual References
Images:	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1fq6udi_eLN5TE2U6Z-7LrJIMz1U5BC1q?usp=sharing
Festival:	VAULT Festival is London's biggest, boldest and wildest arts and entertainment festival, hosting hundreds of events each year; reaching across theatre, comedy, cabaret, immersive experiences, late night parties, pop-up venues, and more. Now in its eighth year, VAULT Festival returns in 2020 from 28th January to 22nd March with a broad and diverse programme of more than 400 shows in venues throughout Waterloo. VAULT Festival is committed to being one of the fairest platforms in London for presenting innovative and daring work. Supporting artists, audiences and our staff equally is at the core of all we do. Join us underground for eight weeks of creativity, innovation, adventure and fun. www.vaultfestival.com

All enquiries/information

Bradley Leech (Producer)

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