## The Unspoken

A play that tackles classism in a unique and unforgettable way

Book & Play by Jody Medland Press Release by Pen Works Media

**The Unspoken** is a play that explores the knock-on effects of classism in Britain through the eyes of Jimmy, an aging coal miner in Northern England. It's 1972 when the pending miners' strike threatens a state of emergency, and we learn that Jimmy has spun countless lies over the years, fooling his blind daughter into thinking they live a life of luxury.

At a glance, Jimmy appears to be a monster who's keeping his unwitting daughter captive in their run-down home. Yet as the layers are peeled away, we're forced to ask a number of uncomfortable questions, such as: what other choices does someone in his position have? And what kind of future lies in store for his daughter once he's gone?

The play started as an experimental piece back in 2003, but was never finished until *Actor Awareness* – a London-based group who are dedicated to ensuring equality and diversity in the world of casting – set the theme of "class" in a writing contest, which prompted Jody to revisit the script.

"When I first started *The Unspoken*," said Jody, "I didn't completely understand the point I was trying to make. But when the theme of 'class' came up, I understood that it should tackle the imbalances that exist in our society, and how this can sometimes lead people to do unspeakable things, even to those they love."

The play was shortlisted by *Actor Awareness*, and later chosen to be part of their summer festival at Barons Court Theatre. It was first performed on 24<sup>th</sup> July and had such an impact that venue manager Christian Deal immediately offered Jody a two-week.

"I've been in theatre a very long time," said Christian. "But something about this play was so deeply original that I just fell in love with it. It's based on horrendous truths, and it holds the power to make people laugh and cry. The audience reaction alone was enough to justify an extended run."

*The Unspoken* will now play from **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**, with all performances starting at 7:45pm.

There will be no show on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>, but **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> will have matinee performances at midday**, in addition to the evening shows.

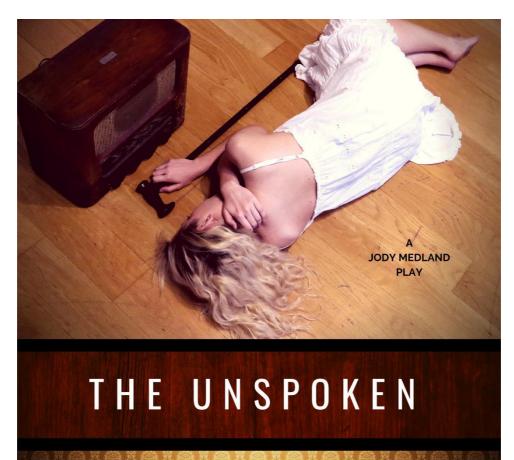
Tickets are £12 (£10 concessions) and are available to purchase on Eventbrite at:

www.penworksmedia.eventbrite.com

Tickets are also available at the door, but are subject to availability. Therefore, it's recommended to call the venue on **020 8932 4747** or e-mail <u>londontheatre@gmail.com</u> to reserve your seat.

The play is also being published by Pen Works Media, and will be released on the day of its first performance – **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018**. Books can be bought and pre-ordered from the Pen Works Media website, or from any good bookstore.

## **PROJECT OVERVIEW**



## THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS AS THEY SEEM



BARONS COURT THEATRE 28a Comeragh Road London, W14 9HR Mon 10th - Sat 22nd Sept, 7:45pm Midday Matinee's on 15th & 22nd £12 tickets / £10 concessions



Title Author Publisher UK Release date Genre Format RRP The Unspoken Jody Medland Pen Works Media 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018 Dark Comedy / Drama Paperback £4.99

Industry comps are available upon request. Just e-mail jody@penworksmedia.co.uk with your full name and the date you wish to attend.

## **About the Author**



JODY IS AN AWARD-WINNING WRITER, author and playwright whose work is renowned for its strong characters and original concepts.

In 2013, Jody wrote his debut feature film *The Adored*, which went on to enjoy worldwide distribution, winning Best Film at the Durban Film Festival in South Africa as well as earning three official selections in Poland, Germany and the USA.

In 2015, he released his debut paperback novel *The Moors*, which was the first print book launched by his own publishing company, Pen Works Media.

Jody's interactive novel *The Somerton Man* is due for release in 2019, and he was recently commissioned to write a TV Pilot for an original political drama / thriller, titled *Shadow Empire*. He was recently hired to write a British/Indian crossover film by Universal Entertainment, too.

2018 will also see the release of a hat-trick of original plays, titled *The Unspoken, The Architect* and *The Banker's Daughter*, set to establish him as an exciting new playwright in the mould of Arthur Miller, Martin McDonagh and Harold Pinter.

When not juggling on his numerous projects, Jody can be found spending time with his daughter in Devon or people-watching in Crouch End, North London, whilst sipping on his Waitrose latte.

For more information about the author or his book, or to request an interview, please contact him directly on:

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