

Red Ladder continues to support new northern talent at the Emerge Festival, Leeds



Red Ladder's Actor Training Company, Red Grit will open this year's Emerge Festival, Leeds with an insightful and entertaining new production **'Bittersweet Sunshine'** written by Ben Tagoe.

The play follows the story of 'Ex pat' Terry, living his dream, twenty years after escaping from grey England, he's now the proud licensee of a beach bar on the Costa Brava. But Terry's Utopian England in the sun now has a cloud floating above it – namely the arrival of his niece Hayley, who reopens his oldest wounds and forces him to confront a dark past. Terry's been running all his life and now he's on the verge of running again.

Solomon is a beachhawker from Sierra Leone who earns a few extra Euros helping Terry to sweep his terrace every day. Like Terry, Solomon is also running from some demons. Will either of them be brave enough to go home and face up to their past?

" I'm really excited about working with Red Ladder and, in particular, writing for the Emerge festival. I think it's fantastic that Red Ladder is developing actors with schemes like Red Grit and it's also a great opportunity for me as a writer." Ben Tagoe

This global story has connections that span Yorkshire, Europe & Africa and continues Red Ladder's ambition to make provocative theatre that speaks to today's audiences.

Directed by [Duncan Marwick](#), this year's production swells with dynamic and exuberant local talent.

" The chance to work with Red Ladder is brilliant as an emerging director and performer, it also allows me to work on some of my ideas with a excited cast who are as keen to explore things as I am. " Duncan Marwick

Performances of Bittersweet Sunshine can be seen at the Carriageworks Theatre, Millennium Square, Leeds, 21 & 22 June @ 7.30pm

For further press information, images and press tickets contact Stef Gascoigne on 0113 245 5311 or stef@redladder.co.uk

Editors notes

- Ben Tago is originally from Perth, Scotland and moved to Yorkshire in 2002 to take his place on the BA (Hons) Creative Writing degree programme at Bretton Hall (University of Leeds). During his first year at Bretton, Ben received a BBC Alfred Bradley award for his radio script 'Keeping it up with the Joneses'.
- Duncan Marwick started his training with the Scottish Youth Theatre and continued at The Welsh College of Music and Drama amongst other things he is a Drama Teacher and is studying towards an M.A. in 'Performance, Culture and Context' at Leeds University. To find out more about Duncan visit www.myspace.com or www.spotlight.com
- Red Ladder is a Regularly Funded Organisation of the Arts Council of England and Leeds City Council, tours nationally and is based in Leeds.