

ROSE CONDO PRESENTS



# #TheEmpathyExperiment

IS EMPATHY FACING EXTINCTION?

ARE MOBILE PHONES TO BLAME?

ARTWORK BY WWW.CHARLESLEEK.COM



**WINNER BEST SPOKEN WORD SHOW**  
2019 GREATER MANCHESTER FRINGE

**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED SHOW**  
FRINGEREVIEW.CO.UK - EDINBURGH

★★★★★    ★★★★★½    ★★★★★    ★★★★★    ★★★★★  
NORTH WEST END    THE REVIEWS HUB    THREE WEEKS    EVERYTHING THEATRE    THE FEMINIST FRINGE



**THE EMPATHY EXPERIMENT** is an award-winning solo spoken word show by multiple slam-winning Canadian poet Rose Condo.

**ABOUT THE SHOW:** THE EMPATHY EXPERIMENT asks if empathy is in decline ... and whether smartphones are to blame. Embarking on her own Day Of No Mobile Phones, Rose invites the audience to join her in the final hour of her experiment – including handing over their devices! Rose seamlessly weaves poetry into her performance while trying to navigate digital withdrawal and prove her theory that empathy can be saved.

Rose writes an open letter to Facebook about how their relationship has turned sour. She shares a fairy tale featuring a magic mirror that tries to evoke empathy from the current American president. Rose hits a crisis of confidence in realising that mobile technology has become essential for some people (e.g. disability access). She tries to reconcile feelings of guilt with still wanting to address tech addiction.

**ROSE SAID:** 'I saw my own increasing addiction to my smartphone and saw people in all corners of public and private spaces with eyes constantly fixed on screens. I wondered what impact this was having on how we show compassion and empathy. I wanted to explore this through spoken word theatre layered with originally composed music. What began as a naïve hope that a phone-free day might increase empathy on a global scale, became a journey into the complexities of mobile communication and recognising that there are many positive reasons that people have come to rely on this technology.'

With Arts Council England funding, Rose collaborated with several artists to create the show:

- Dominic Berry (Glastonbury Poet In Residence)
- Kirsten Luckins (Apples & Snakes North Producer)
- Eleonora Rosca (classically trained composer)
- Charles Leek (photographer and filmmaker)
- Kate Morton (theatre designer)
- Victoria Firth (project mentor)

Development support was provided by Harrogate Theatre, the Lawrence Batley Theatre, the Brewery Arts Centre and Square Chapel Centre for the Arts.

Rose has had live captioning at selected performances. She was featured in [Limping Chicken](#) (the world's most popular deaf blog) about why she chose to incorporate this.

## TARGET AUDIENCE:

- Drama / performance / creative writing students
- Those interested in cross art form performance
- Those interested in spoken word theatre
- Those interested in work that explores mental health and wellbeing
- Those interested in solo shows and contemporary performance styles

## PRODUCTION INFORMATION:

- Running Time: 60 minutes
- Get In / Get Out Time: 30 minutes
- Space Suitability: Studio Theatre up to 100 seats
- Age suitability: 14+ (mature language)
- Tech set up: general lighting wash; no PA required
- Marketing: print, press + marketing pack and social media support will be provided
- Wrap around activity: post-show discussions; workshop delivery
- Captioning: to be arranged with venue if resources are available
- Fee: to be negotiated with venue (+travel and accommodation where required)
- Availability: from Autumn 2019

## ABOUT ROSE CONDO:

Rose is a prolific Canadian poet, writer and performer based in North West England. She has been performing across the UK and internationally since 2013, including performances for Amnesty International, Apples & Snakes, Hammer & Tongue, and guest spots supporting Hollie McNish and Shane Koyczan. She has featured at festivals in the UK and internationally, including the Edinburgh Fringe, Brighton Fringe, Lingo Spoken Word Festival (Dublin), Winnipeg Fringe (Canada), Ilkley Literature Festival Fringe, and the York International Women's Festival. She has run classes and workshops with the University of Winnipeg, the University of Huddersfield, The Hepworth Wakefield, HOOT Creative Arts and Canada's Youth Peacebuilding Project. She has been commissioned to write for the Huddersfield Literature Festival and Kirklees Council. She has been published by The London Reader, and her essay about audience participation in live spoken is part of a forthcoming anthology edited by Lucy English and Jack McGowan being published by Routledge in 2020. She has written and toured two previous solo spoken word shows – THE GEOGRAPHY OF ME and HOW TO STARVE AN ARTIST (Runner-Up Best Spoken Word Show, 2017 Saboteur Awards).

For more information please visit [www.rosecondo.net](http://www.rosecondo.net).



Praise for THE EMPATHY EXPERIMENT:

WINNER BEST SPOKEN WORD SHOW  
Greater Manchester Fringe Awards

'One of the most interesting,  
informative, amusing and, occasionally,  
poignant pieces of theatre I've seen in a  
long time' FringeReview

'A relevant & enthralling piece of work'  
The Reviews Hub

'The show's a delight' North West End

'A charming, thought-provoking and  
clever production' She-Wolf

'One of the many hidden gems that the  
Fringe is all about' Everything Theatre

'Her poetic storytelling is the highlight  
of the show' The Feminist Fringe

'She models true empathy'  
Three Weeks



For information on booking THE EMPATHY EXPERIMENT please contact:

rosecondo@gmail.com | 07910 315 414 | www.rosecondo.net



@empathyexperim



empathyexperiment



@the\_empathy\_experiment



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



LAWRENCE BATLEY  
**THEATRE**  
HUDDERSFIELD

