



***Tether* by Isley Lynn**

Underbelly Cowgate (Big Belly), 56 Cowgate, Edinburgh, EH1 1EG

Thursday 6th – Sunday 30th August 2015 (not 17th), 2pm

When Mark doesn't qualify for the London 2012 Olympic Games, he becomes a guide for blind marathon runner Becky. But it's not easy being someone else's eyes, or giving up your dreams for theirs.

Tether is a powerful story of ambition, trust, friendship and the fight to the finish line from Royal Court Young Writers' Programme graduate Isley Lynn. This striking new play asks challenging questions: What do you do when your dreams don't come true? How long should you hold out hope? Can you truly be happy helping others to succeed? And what if giving in doesn't mean giving up?

Bringing to life a world and a relationship that few know, *Tether* follows months of research with athletes including eight-time British Paralympic gold medallist Robert Matthews, five-time British Paralympic gold medallist Noel Thatcher and Australian Paralympian Nick Gleeson, as well as British Blind Sport. It is a play with something to say and with Rio 2016 just around the corner, the 2015 Edinburgh Fringe is its ideal showcase.

Lee Drage (*Chariots of Fire* (Hampstead Theatre/Gielgud Theatre, West End); *The Water Engine* (Old Vic Tunnels); *Oh! What a Lovely War!* (UK tour)) and visually impaired actress Maisie Greenwood (*Macbeth* (Tigz Theatre); *Women of Troy* (Mountview); *Sleepless* (Analogue Theatre)) star in *Tether*.

Isley Lynn commented, *When I decided to write a play about blind running, I couldn't have been further out of my depth - I'm fully sighted and not sporty at all, but I was absolutely compelled to tell a story about this fascinating world. It's an important play about a visually impaired*

character played by a visually impaired actor but the story itself is so much more than that. It's also about friendship and ambition, sacrifice and glory and whether we're all really selfish at heart.

Bethany Pitts returns to the Edinburgh Fringe after directing *Spine* (2014) and acting as assistant director on *Dark Vanilla Jungle* (2013). She said, *When I read Tether it summed up for me why I want to make theatre - to entertain audiences by taking them to places they haven't been before. It's an ambitious and bold new play that tells a story I haven't seen on stage. I hope that it will open up a new world for its audience.*

Notes to Editors

Title	<i>Tether</i> by Isley Lynn
Performance Dates	Thursday 6 th – Sunday 30 th August (not 17 th), 2pm
Running time	1 hour
Location	Underbelly Cowgate (Big Belly), 56 Cowgate, Edinburgh, EH1 1EG
Box Office	Tickets are available from www.underbellyedinburgh.co.uk Previews (6 th , 7 th Aug): £6 Weekdays: £9 (£8) Weekend: £10 (£9)
Twitter	@lostsockcompany, @FollowTheCow, #TETHERplay
Writer	Isley Lynn
Director	Bethany Pitts
Producer	Victoria Russell
Set/Costume Designer	Holly Pigott
Lighting Designer	Elliot Griggs
Sound/Music	Jon McLeod
Stage Manager	David Putman
Performers	Lee Drage Maisie Greenwood

Isley Lynn

Isley is an American-born, London-based playwright and poet. Her play *Bright Nights* is the 2014 Script6 winner at The Space. Her short play *Sleight of Hand* for BAREtruth Theatre's Little Stitches was performed at Theatre503, Arcola theatre and Gate theatre in 2014.

Isley is a graduate of the Royal Court Young Writers' Programme (2012) and Royal Court Invitation Studio Group (2013) and was a Creative Associate of the Soho Theatre Young Company from 2011-2012. Her work has been supported by writing programmes at the National Theatre Studio and Cottesloe Theatre, Lyric Hammersmith, the Tricycle, Theatre Royal Stratford East, Ovalhouse and the Orange Tree Theatre.

Most recently, Isley's monologue *What's So Special* was performed as part of The Get Out at The Royal Court Jerwood Theatre Upstairs. Isley received Special Commendation from the 2012 Soho Young Writers Award and won first place for two Editor's Briefs (IdeasTap) with the poems *Sweetbread* and *The Body But Hides The Heart*. Her critically acclaimed debut play *Lean* enjoyed an extended run at the Tristan Bates Theatre (2013) and her play *Skin A Cat* was showcased as part of the IdeasTap Takeover: Love at Rich Mix. She was twice named Champion of Literary Death Match.

Bethany Pitts

Bethany Pitts is a director specialising in new work, both scripted and devised. She has recently directed *Spine* by Clara Brennan (Underbelly, Edinburgh / Soho Theatre London – Fringe First & Herald Angel award 2014) and *Free Fall* by Vinay Patel (Pleasance Theatre, 2014 – Nominated for 3 Off West End awards, including Best Director). In addition, she co-runs the Molino Group, a theatre and performance collective, who are also at the Edinburgh Fringe this year with *Much Further Out Than You Thought* (one of the IdeasTap / Underbelly Award Winners 2015 www.themolinogroup.com). She was the Assistant Director at Theatre Royal Plymouth from 2012 – 2013 and, prior to that, Resident Assistant Director at Theatre503. Other previous assisting credits include *Dark Vanilla Jungle* by Philip Ridley (Pleasance Edinburgh / Soho London – Fringe First award 2013) and *Theatre Uncut* (Young Vic, 2013). She has directed on a freelance basis for venues including The Arcola, New Diorama, Ovalhouse and Live Theatre, Newcastle.

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