



WARWICK ARTS CENTRE & CHINA PLATE PRESENT...
TRYING IT ON

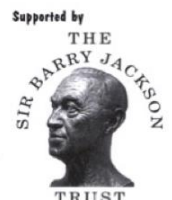
WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY DAVID EDGAR
DIRECTED BY CHRISTOPHER HAYDON



Supported using public funds from The National Lottery through Arts Council England. Supported by the Sir Barry Jackson Trust.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



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BROCHURE COPY

Warwick Arts Centre and China Plate presents

Trying It On

Written and performed by David Edgar

Directed by Christopher Haydon

“Are we the same person? If not, when and why not? If so, can either of us bear it?”

It's 1968. David is 20 and in his second year at University. It is the height of the world-wide student revolt. The Vietnam war rages. Powell delivers his “rivers of blood” speech. Martin Luther King is assassinated. These events will define David's politics and give focus to his writing.

It's 50 years on. The 70-year-old is confronted by the 20-year-old. Do they share the same beliefs? If not, is it the world that's changed, or him? Why did his generation vote Brexit? Has he sold in or sold out?

After 50 years of writing, **Trying It On** marks David Edgar's professional debut as a performer.

Supported using public funds from The National Lottery through Arts Council England.
Supported by the Sir Barry Jackson Trust.

#TryingItOnPlay

Running time: 75 minutes

Age guidance: 12+



ABOUT THE SHOW

David Edgar's *Trying It On* imagines what his 20 year old self might think of his generation's actions over the 50 years since 1968. It explores the left, politics, youth, ageing, revolution and reaction. The text has been developed through interviews conducted by the playwright with activists past and present.

It also uses autobiographical material and is performed by David himself (for the first time in his career).

Having made his name as one of the UK's leading political playwrights, *Trying It On* sees David experiment with a new methodology, performance style, creative team and management structure.

DAVID EDGAR (Writer/Performer)

Playwright and contemporary political commentator David Edgar has been writing critically acclaimed plays since 1971. Currently working with the RSC, David's recent work includes *Playing with Fire* (National Theatre, 2005), *Testing the Echo* (Out of Joint, 2008), and *If Only* (Chichester Festival Theatre, 2013). Plays for the RSC include *Destiny* (1976), an adaptation of Dickens' *Nicholas Nickleby* (1980), *Maydays* (1983), *Pentecost* (1994) and *Written on the Heart* (RSC, 2011). David is the RSC's most premiered playwright and he has just written an adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* for them this season. His play about political defection, *Maydays*, will be revived by the RSC this year. He has won many awards, including the John Whiting award, the Society of West End Theatres best play, the Tony best play and the Evening Standard best play.

He founded Britain's first graduate playwriting course, at the University of Birmingham and his book about playwriting, *How Plays Work*, was published in 2009.

CHRISTOPHER HAYDON (Director)

Christopher Haydon was Artistic Director at the Gate Theatre (2012-2017) and formerly an Associate Director at the Bush Theatre. Credits at the Gate include: *Diary of a Madman* (also Traverse Theatre), *The Iphigenia Quartet*, *The Christians* (also Traverse Theatre, winner: Fringe First), *Grounded* (also Traverse Theatre, Studio Theatre Washington DC, national and international tour; winner: Fringe First, Best Production – Off West End Awards) *Image of an Unknown Young Woman* (winner: Best Production, Off West End Awards). Freelance directing credits include: *The Caretaker* (Bristol Old Vic/Royal and Derngate Northampton); *Twelve Angry Men* (Birmingham Rep/West End).

TARGET AUDIENCES



- Contemporary theatre audiences
- Audiences familiar with David's other plays
- David's contemporaries that are politically engaged both left/right
- Drama and politics students
- A younger theatre audience (in their 20s)
- Public that are politically engaged and interested in anniversaries of political events
- Theatre industry

KEY MESSAGES / BENEFITS

- A show about getting older and looking back on your decisions /achievements
- A play that explores what you'd wish for your older self
- An honest look at the political trajectory of one of the UK's leading political playwright
- Insights into the worlds' recent politics (since 1968) told through the eyes of someone that lived it and his contemporaries
- A play that explores the left, politics, youth, ageing, revolution and reaction
- 50 years since 1968 – questioning the impact of that momentous year
- First performed in the year of David's 70th Birthday – celebrating his achievements with a show written and performed by him

TECHNICAL DETAILS



Running Time

90 minutes

Cast & Crew

2 production crew
2 cast

Configuration

End on. Flat stage with raked seating. Black box preferred

Staging

Minimum stage size - 10m width, 6m depth.
Height minimum 4.5m to grid
Capacity up to 300

Lighting

(See touring LX plan)

We tour x8 angle poise lamps on 15amp plugs. All must be dimmable.

At fixed rig venues we request: 4x 2m high booms, 3 with a 1k Fresnel, 1 with a 1k profile

Company will tour a Nomad unless ETC family console is available.

Sound

Front of house PA required, along with one lavalier mic and handheld radio mic.
Other equipment is toured

AV

Projection screen and 3 projectors toured. Projection screen is rigged at rear of auditorium to serve as autocue screen and uses one projector. Two projectors are set onstage and project onto the set.

Get In/ Get Out

14 hours required for get-in (day and half), and 3 hours for the get-out dependent on access.

A full tech spec is available on request. Please contact: ed@chinaplatetheatre.com



PERFORMANCE DATES

Spring 2018

Thu 7 to Sat 9 June 2018, 7.45pm

Warwick Arts Centre

warwickartscentre.co.uk

024 7652 4524

Tue 12 & Wed 13 June 2018, 8pm

Birmingham Repertory Theatre

birmingham-rep.co.uk

0121 236 4455

October 2018

Fri 12 Oct 2018, 7.30pm

Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham

macbirmingham.co.uk

0121 446 3232

Thu 18 & Sat 20 Oct, 3pm

Fri 19 Oct, 7.30pm

The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon

www.rsc.org.uk

01789 403493

Wed 24 to Sat 27 Oct 2018, 7.45pm

Royal Court Theatre, London

royalcourttheatre.com

020 7565 5000

Touring 2019

PRESS

★★★★★

[The Times](#)

“An autobiographical trot through half a century of personal and political change that points to progress as well as disillusionment and disarray”

★★★★★

[The Stage](#)

“David Edgar’s autobiographical analysis of recent social change is energised with humour and humility”

★★★★★

[The Daily Spectacle](#)

“*Trying It On* leaves us with a sense of hope not often found in other works about our own turbulent times.”

★★★★★

[The National Student](#)

“this kind of self-exploratory drama is essential”

★★★★★

[Stage Talk Magazine](#)

“the story of Edgar’s life to date, told earnestly while preserving a cheeky comedic touch”

★★★★★

[A View from Behind the Arras](#)

“although it might be Edgar’s story, somehow, he makes it personal ushering in your own younger self to look questioningly over your own shoulder.”



FEATURES & ARTICLES

Playwright David Edgar to make stage debut in political one-man show. By Dalya Alberge, [The Guardian](#)

<https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2018/feb/25/david-edgar-to-make-stage-debut-in-political-one-man-show>

Playwright David Edgar to make stage debut in new one-man show. By Georgia Snow, [The Stage](#)

<https://www.thestage.co.uk/news/2018/playwright-david-edgar-to-make-stage-debut-in-new-one-man-show/>

David Edgar solo show to be performed at RSC and Royal Court. By Alex Wood, [Whats On Stage](#)

http://www.whatsonstage.com/london-theatre/news/david-edgar-solo-show-rsc-royal-court_45876.html?cid=homepage_news

David Edgar celebrates 70th birthday & announces his stage debut, By Admin, [LondonTheatre1](#)

<https://www.londontheatre1.com/theatre-news/david-edgar-celebrates-70th-birthday-announces-his-stage-debut/>

David Edgar's opinion piece on the legacy of 1968, [The Guardian](#)

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/may/10/radical-legacy-1968-neoliberalism-progressive>

That was the Year that was, Tariq Ali talks to David Edgar, Published Tariq Ali interview in London Review of Books, conducted by David Edgar as research for Trying It On, [London Review of Books](#)

<https://www.lrb.co.uk/v40/n10/tariq-ali/that-was-the-year-that-was>

David Edgar's Desert Island Discs – aired on 4 Aug 2006 (12 years ago)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0093v9l>



EXAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA

Tweets

In his 70th Birthday year, [@DavidBEdgar](#) takes on 'the solo show'. Directed by [@chrishaydon99](#) [#TryingItOnPlay](#) explores the left, politics, youth, ageing and revolution. Touring Autumn 2018 [@TheRSC](#) [@royalcourt](#) [@mac_birmingham](#) Book Now! bit.ly/2CT3WtM

"Are we the same person? If not, why not?" [@DavidBEdgar](#) is confronted by his 20 year old self in [#TryingItOnPlay](#) - a heart-warmingly honest one man show. Coming to [@TheRSC](#), [@royalcourt](#) and [@mac_birmingham](#) this October! [@YourOldChina](#) bit.ly/2CT3WtM

"energised with humour and humility." - [@TheStage](#) [@DavidBEdgar](#) looks back on the last 50 years & questions what happened to the 1968 generation in [#TryingItOnPlay](#). Touring from 12 October [@mac_birmingham](#) [@TheRSC](#) [@royalcourt](#) [@YourOldChina](#) Book Now! bit.ly/2CT3WtM

After 50 years of writing, [#TryingItOnPlay](#) is [@DavidBEdgar](#) professional debut as a performer. Using autobiographical content, it delves into the last 50 years & what happened to the '68 generation. Opens for its Autumn Tour at [@mac_birmingham](#) on 12 October. Book your tickets! [@YourOldChina](#) <http://bit.ly/2CT3WtM>

Have you ever wondered what your younger self would think of you now? [@DavidBEdgar](#) does this very thing in his autobiographical, one man show [#TryingItOnPlay](#). Touring in the 70th year of his life, this October. [@YourOldChina](#) <http://bit.ly/2CT3WtM>

Who do you think you will be in 50 years time? [#TryingItOnPlay](#) brings 70 year old [@DavidBEdgar](#) face to face with his 20 year old self. Is his younger self happy with what he's become? Do they still share the same beliefs? Book to find out. From 12 October <http://bit.ly/2CT3WtM>

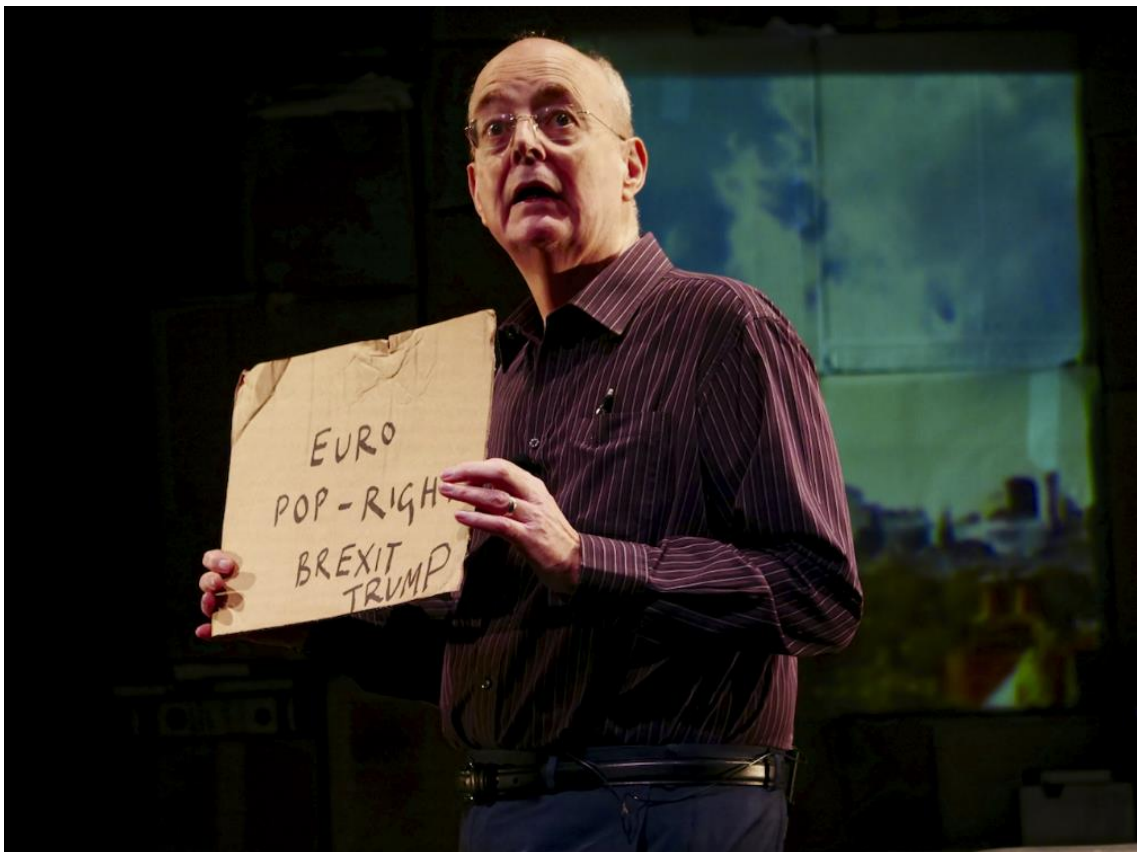
Sample Facebook posts (feel free to adapt)

"Are we the same person? If not, why not?"

Confronted by his 20 year old self, David Edgar reflects on the politics of the last 50 years and whether he shares the same beliefs of his younger self in Trying It On. A new play directed by Christopher Haydon and performed by David Edgar. Touring in October. <http://bit.ly/2CT3WtM>

Trying It On is a new play by David Edgar exploring the left, politics, youth, ageing, revolution and reaction. Have you ever wondered what your younger self might think of you now? David explores this very thought in his professional debut as a performer after 50 years of writing. Directed by Christopher Haydon, Trying It On will tour from 12 October at MAC Birmingham, RSC's The Other Place and Royal Court. <http://bit.ly/2CT3WtM>

PRODUCTION IMAGES







CREATIVE TEAM

DANIELLE PHILLIPS (Performer)

Danielle Phillips trained at LAMDA. She is a member of Flock Theatre Ensemble, a movement that develops and supports female artists. Theatre includes: Reared (Theatre 503), E15, The 56 (Lung Theatre & Battersea Arts Centre), The Flood (National Youth Theatre). Film includes: Ready Player One.

FRANKIE BRADSHAW (Designer)

Frankie Bradshaw was a Jerwood Young Designer in 2017, the winner of the Off West-End Best Set Design award in 2016, and was a Linbury prize finalist in 2015. She has designed across the UK in venues including Theatre Royal Haymarket, The Young Vic, The Royal Exchange, The Watermill Theatre, Salisbury Playhouse and the Gate Theatre.

WILLIAM REYNOLDS (Video & Lighting Designer)

William Reynolds is Artistic Director of Metta Theatre www.mettatheatre.co.uk and an Artist in Residence at the V&A Museum. Recent set and lighting design credits include: Sonnet Walks (Globe Theatre), Little Mermaid Theatre by the Lake & UK Tour) and Radiant Vermin (Soho Theatre & Brits Off Broadway). Upcoming designs include Weimar Cabaret (Barbican Theatre), In the Willows (Exeter Northcott & UK Tour).

ELLA WAHLSTRÖM (Sound Designer)

Ella Wahlström is a London-based Sound Designer. She studied violin in Finland and trained as a Theatre Sound Designer at Rose Bruford College, London. Credits include: Original Sound Operator of Complicite's The Encounter, Sound Designer for Esa-Pekka Salonen's cello concerto, Mischief's Peter Pan Goes Wrong and Robert Wilson and Mikhail Baryshnikov's Letter to a Man.

ANNA POOLE (Assistant Director)

Anna Poole was recently the Jerwood Assistant Director on Wings (Young Vic Theatre); other Assistant Directing credits include, Bordergame (National Theatre Wales), Gary's Mobile Disco (Waking Exploits, Chapter Arts Centre) & Last Christmas (Dirty Protest, Edinburgh Fringe Festival). Her directing credits include Opera Scenes (RWCMD), Signs/Wonders by Katherine Soper (Five Plays, Young Vic).

KADY HOWEY NUNN (Production Manager)

Kady Howey Nunn is a production manager who has most recently worked with China Plate, Opera Up Close, Philpott Design and the National Theatre. Production management credits include: Yvette (international tour), La Voix Humaine (Kings Place), The Lounge (Soho Theatre) and So It Goes (Shanghai Arts Fest).



WARWICK ARTS CENTRE

Situated on the campus of the University of Warwick, is one of the largest multi-artform venues in the UK. Since it opened in 1974, the Arts Centre has been a distinctive special place, integral to University life, an important resource for the arts and for audiences in the region and a significant force in national and international arts networks.

CHINA PLATE

China Plate is an independent theatre studio that works with artists, venues, festivals and funders to challenge the way performance is made, who it's made by and who gets to experience it. They are Associate Producers at Warwick Arts Centre. China Plate are Ed Collier, Paul Warwick, Tamara Moore, Rosie Kelly, Andrea Pierides and Sarah-Jane Watkinson.



BOX OFFICE NOTES

Dates and Times

[Your Dates and Times]

Company

Warwick Arts Centre & China Plate

Production

TRYING IT ON

Ticket Prices

[Your Ticket Prices]

Show Information

Trying It On is a new play written and performed by David Edgar in his 70th Birthday year. It is an autobiographical one man show where David is confronted by his 20 year old self and asks whether he shares the same beliefs as he did then. It is about the left, politics, youth, ageing, revolution and reaction.

After 50 years of writing, it is David Edgar's professional debut as a performer.

Tags

New writing, political

Images

High res images are available on request. Please contact Andrea Pierides – andrea@chinaplatetheatre.com

Capacity

300

Age Guide

12+

Running Time

75 minutes

Twitter Hash tag

#TryingItOnPlay

@youoldchina

@DavidBEdgar



FRONT OF HOUSE NOTES

Content

Trying It On is staged to give the impression that it features only one performer. However, there is a dramatic reveal at the end when a second performer appears in the performance. The second actor is credited on the free sheet and so it is important that the Free Sheet is not distributed to the audience until the play is finished.

FILM LINK

<https://vimeo.com/275842469/d9f792b156>

CONTACTS



CHINA PLATE

Andrea Pierides – Producer

andrea@chinaplatetheatre.com

078 2526 5650

Ed Collier – Executive Producer

ed@chinaplatetheatre.com

079 5763 6034

www.chinaplatetheatre.com



@youoldchina / @DavidBEdgar