

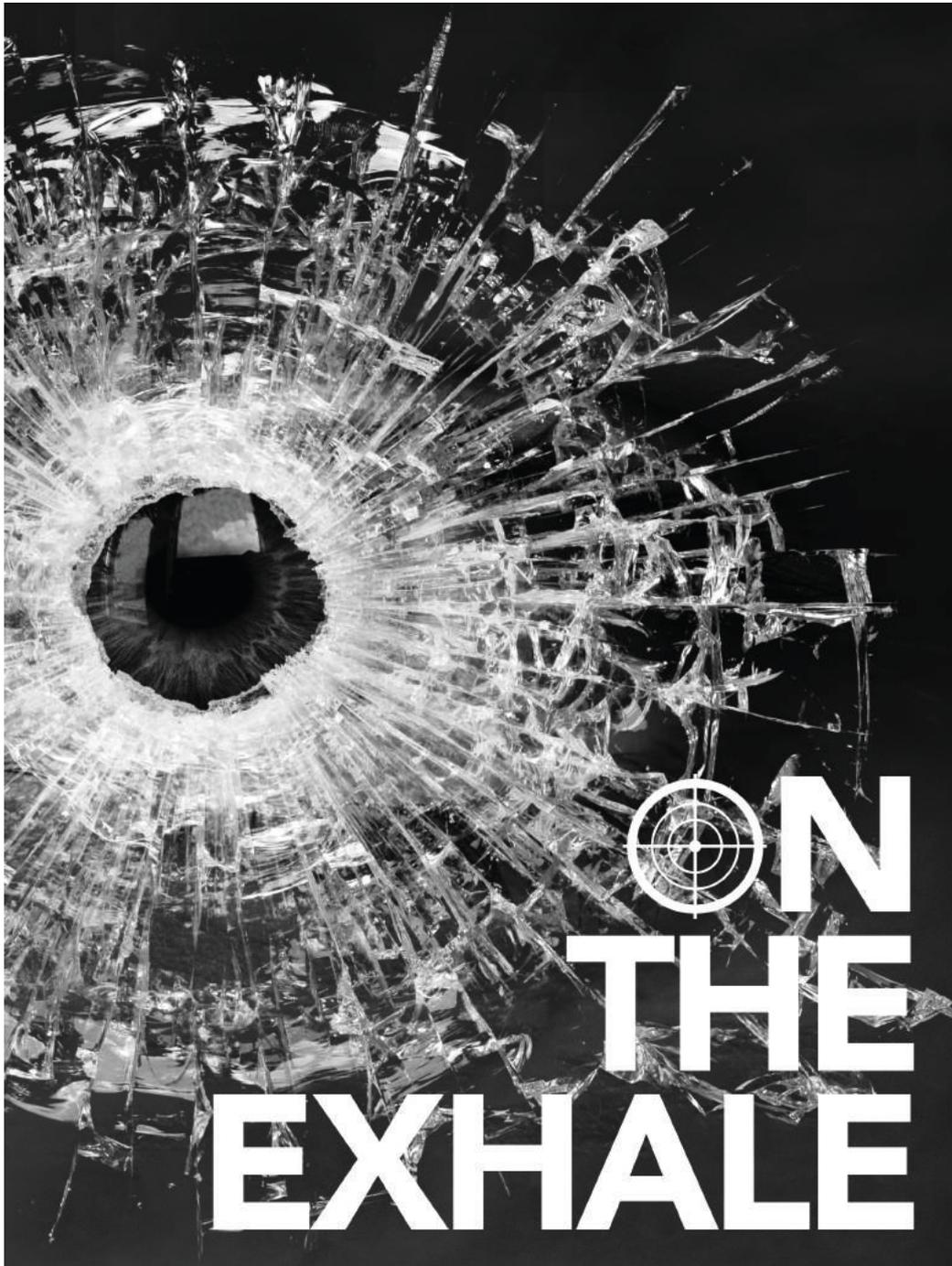
China Plate and Audible Present

**On The Exhale**

by Martin Zimmerman

directed by Christopher Haydon

in association with New Theatre Royal Portsmouth



**FRINGE FIRST WINNER, Edinburgh Fringe 2018**

On The Exhale is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French Ltd.  
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ENGLAND**



**NEW  
THEATRE  
ROYAL  
PORTSMOUTH**

# CONTENTS

1.	About the show / Martín Zimmerman/ Christopher Haydon .....	3
2.	Brochure copy .....	4
3.	Press .....	5
4.	Features & Articles, Target Audiences.....	6
5.	Cast & creative team .....	7
6.	Technical Info.....	9
7.	Companies.....	10
8.	Example Social Media Posts .....	8
9.	Production images .....	10
10.	Box Office notes.....	14

# CONTACT

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# ABOUT THE SHOW

*On The Exhale* was written in response to the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown, Connecticut. Since then, there have been more than 130 recorded firearm incidents in US schools and campuses, including the Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Florida, which took place in February 2018 – during our preparation for this production. In the aftermath of the shooting, a group of student survivors formed the Never Again MSD, a political action committee for gun control in the US. We have been following their progress closely, and if you would also like to learn more about the #NeverAgain movement, resources can be found via March For Our Lives.

**March For Our Lives** is working to assure that no special interest group or political agenda is more critical than the timely passage of legislation to effectively address the gun violence issues that are rampant in the USA. If you are interested in supporting the March For Our Lives movement, you can visit their website at [www.marchforourlives.com](http://www.marchforourlives.com).

## MARTÍN ZIMMERMAN

Is a prolific, multi-ethnic, bilingual playwright and screenwriter based in Chicago. Plays include: *Seven Spots On The Sun*, *On The Exhale*, *White Tie Ball*, *The Making Of A Modern Folk Hero*, *The Solid Sand Below*, and *Let Me Count The Ways*. He's a recipient of multiple awards and prizes, including the Terrence McNally New Play Award, Steinberg/ATCA New Play Award Citation, Humanitas Prize New Voices Award, Sky Cooper New American Play Prize. For TV: Martín is an Executive Story Editor on Netflix's *Ozark*, was a Staff Writer on Netflix's *Narcos* & has been the Alliance for Latino Theater Artists (ALTA) Artist of the Month. This will be the first time his plays have been performed on UK stages.

## CHRISTOPHER HAYDON

Was artistic director of the Gate Theatre from 2012-2017. Prior to that he was an associate director of the Bush Theatre from 2008-2011. Shows at the Gate included: *The Convert*, *Diary of a Madman* (also Traverse Theatre), *The Christians* (also Traverse Theatre, Winner: Fringe First Award), *Grounded* (also Traverse Theatre, Studio Theatre Washington DC, national and international tour. Winner: Fringe First Award, Off West End Award for Best Production), *Image of An Unknown Young Woman* (Winner: Off West End Award for Best Production). Freelance directing includes: *The Caretaker* (Bristol Old Vic/Royal & Derngate, Northampton), *Twelve Angry Men* (Birmingham Rep/ West End). His first short film *Martha* is currently playing at festivals around the world and won the Best Short Film Award at the Vail Film Festival in Colorado.

# BROCHURE COPY

**China Plate and Audible present**

**On The Exhale**

by Martín Zimmerman

directed by Christopher Haydon

**in association with New Theatre Royal Portsmouth**

**FRINGE FIRST WINNER, Edinburgh Fringe 2018**

*Like a child, a weapon won't be satisfied until it dominates your every thought.*

After a devastating school shooting, a woman develops an obsession that begins to take over every aspect of her existence.

Martín Zimmerman's '*startlingly original*' (New York Times) play is a compulsive and visceral examination of American gun violence, directed by multi award-winner Christopher Haydon (*Grounded, The Christians*).

**chinaplatetheatre.com / @youoldchina / #OnTheExhale**

**Running time:** 70 minutes

**Age guidance:** 14+

**Trailer Link:** <https://vimeo.com/281419442>

# PRESS

*"Zimmerman's -person script never takes you quite where you expect, and the mesmerising performance of Polly Frame... hits home like a bullet."*

**★★★★ The Guardian**

*"In Polly Frame's magnificent performance, directed by Christopher Haydon... her story drives and tightens with riveting intensity towards a final confrontation that has us almost literally holding our breaths, before the final exhale."*

**★★★★ The Scotsman**

*"Christopher Haydon's production takes its grim-faced and terrifyingly pertinent subject matter and invests Zimmerman's script with the twists and turns of a thriller."*

**★★★★ The Herald**

*"Polly Frame gives it both barrels as a woman breaking apart in a taut staging by Christopher Haydon"*

**★★★★ Fest Magazine**

*"...it's unpredictable in all the right ways, and satisfying without feeling easy or glib."*

**★★★★ The Skinny**

*"Polly Frame's performance in this demanding one woman play is searing, relentless, intense, and yet relatable."*

**★★★★ Edinburgh Festivals Magazine**

*"The last thing you notice about Haydon's production is your own breath rattling around in your lungs – fragile and vital in equal measure. You release a huge breath as the lights go down, and realise you've been holding it in for the last hour."*

**Exeunt Magazine**

*"Zimmerman's 70-minute monologue takes us on a suspenseful ride through modern urban paranoias... Haydon's taut, gripping style evident from the very beginning."*

**★★★★ The Reviews Hub**

*"Throughout, the audience were held in silence, it is gripping."*

**★★★★ British Theatre Guide**

*"The production is delicately directed as she picks her way through the sparse fragile set, backed by a pulsating sound design."*

**★★★★ Edinburgh Guide**

*"Polly Frame gives a crisp, clear, sharply etched performance of remarkable restraint in Christopher Haydon's fiercely focused production, surrounded by stuttering neon tubes in Frankie Bradshaw's elegant staging."*

**★★★★★ The Arts Desk**

# FEATURES & ARTICLES

## The Stage

Nicole Serratore: US shows at Edinburgh assess the state of a divided nation (featuring *On The Exhale*)

<https://www.thestage.co.uk/opinion/2018/us-shows-at-edinburgh-assess-the-state-of-a-divided-nation/>

## The Guardian

US gun culture and racial politics come under fire at Edinburgh fringe

<https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2018/aug/03/us-gun-culture-and-racial-politics-come-under-fire-at-edinburgh-fringe>

## The Scotsman

Fringe First awards: Seven winners from week two (includes video)

<https://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/culture/edinburgh-festivals/scotsman-fringe-first-awards-seven-winners-from-week-two-1-4785460>

## Fest Mag – Top Theatre Picks

Lead Critic Matt Trueman gives the gen on the festival's top theatrical events

<https://www.fest-mag.com/edinburgh/theatre/104584-fests-theatre-picks>

# UNIQUE SELLING POINTS

- Play about violence / revenge with **strong female protagonist**
- Protagonists response to tragedy / grief is highly unusual
- Gripping and distinctive writing
- Excellent reputation at the fringe, both Christopher Haydon and China Plate have had award-winning shows at the fringe in recent years
- Topical themes (impact of gun violence / revenge) very current in the media, particularly in relation to mass school shootings in US (e.g. March For Our Lives campaign led by Marjory Stoneham Douglas High School students) and gun/knife crime culture in UK (e.g. Tanesha Melbourne-Blake – teenager shot in April 2018 – 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2 weeks)
- American popular culture has a strong presence in the UK

# TARGET AUDIENCE

- Contemporary theatre audiences & those interested in new writing
- Audiences previously engaged by *Grounded* (14,000+)
- Audiences previously engaged by Christopher Haydon's other work at The Traverse: *Grounded*, *The Christians*, *Diary of a Madman*
- International audiences in Edinburgh in August (International Festival)
- Politics/International Relations & Drama/Literature students
- People interested in world news & politics – particularly those following the March for our Lives campaign and student movement in the US in support of gun control
- People interested in female perspectives

# CAST & CREATIVE TEAM

Cast | Polly Frame

Writer | Martín Zimmerman

Director | Christopher Haydon

Designer | Frankie Bradshaw

Lighting Designer | Colin Grenfell

Sound Designer | Donato Wharton

Assistant Director | Monique Touko

## **POLLY FRAME | PERFORMER**

trained at Bristol University. Theatre credits includes: *Jekyll & Hyde* (English Touring Consortium), *A Short History Of Tractors In Ukrainian* (Hull Truck), *Frankenstein & Hedda Gabler* (Northern Stage), *Henry V* (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre), *The Odyssey* (English Touring Theatre), *Mermaid* (Shared Experience), *Arcadia* (Tobacco Factory), *Twelfth Night* (Filter Theatre), *Pastoral* (Soho Theatre), *After Miss Julie* (Young Vic), *The Crossing 66 Books* (Bush Theatre), *The Comedy Of Errors* (Stafford Shakespeare Festival), *Earthquakes in London* (RNT), *The Count of Monte Cristo* (West Yorkshire Playhouse), *Macbeth* (Chichester, West End & Broadway), *Home-Work* (Bodies in Flight for Singapore Esplanade), *A Response to Twelfth Night* (Filter), *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie & Poor Mrs Pepys* (New Vic), *ACDC* (Royal Court), *Cleansed* (Arcola). Television credits include: *Doctors*, *Casualty*, *Man Down*, *The Tunnel*, *Coronation Street*, *Holby City*, *The Curse of the Hope Diamond*, *Silent Witness*, *EastEnders*, *Bunnytown*, *Sea of Souls*, *Accused*, *Life Begins*, *New Tricks*, *Meet the Magoons*, *The Giblets*, *Servants*. Film credits include: *Macbeth*, *Half Light*, *Duplicity*.

## **FRANKIE BRADSHAW | DESIGNER**

is a set and costume designer for theatre and performance. She was a Jerwood Young Designer in 2017, she won the Off West-End Best Set Design award in 2016 for *Adding Machine* (Finborough Theatre) and was a Linbury prize finalist in 2015. Frankie's designs for theatre include: *Cookies* (Haymarket Theatre, London), *Jerusalem* and *Nesting* (Watermill Theatre), *Hansel* (Salisbury Playhouse), *This Is* (Arts Educational Schools), *Easter* (RADA), *Oxy and the Morons* (New Wolsey Theatre), *Private Lives* (London Classic Theatre UK Tour), *Di and Viv and Rose* (Stephen Joseph Theatre), *Assata Taught Me* (Gate Theatre), *Moth* (Hope Mill Theatre, Manchester), *Trestle and Orca* (Southwark Playhouse), *La Ronde* (Bunker Theatre), *Clickbait* and *A First World Problem* (Theatre503), *Barbarians* (Young Vic – JMK Award 2015, Olivier Award Nominated) *Grav* (Torch Theatre, Wales), *Stories from the Sea* (Unity Theatre, Liverpool) *Punk Rock* (Actor's Studio, Liverpool) and *A Picture of Dorian Gray* and *The Comedy of Errors* (LIPA, Liverpool).

### **COLIN GRENFELL | LIGHTING DESIGNER**

is a lighting designer. His credits include: *Pandas*, *Spoiling*, *The Devil Masters* (Traverse Theatre), *The Cherry Orchard* (Bristol Old Vic & Manchester Royal Exchange), *The Mentor* (Theatre Royal Bath & Vaudeville Theatre West End), *Theatre of Blood*, *Lost Without Words*, *Lifegame* (Improbable/Royal National Theatre) *Black Watch*, *365*, *Men Should Weep*, *The Bacchae* (National Theatre of Scotland), *Beauty and the Beast* (MCA, Chicago, Abrons New York, Adelaide Festival), *The Caretaker* (Liverpool Everyman, Trafalgar Studios West end), *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Half Life*, *The Mother*, *Forever Yours*, *Marie-Lou* (Theatre Royal Bath), *The Mother* (Tricycle Theatre), *Peter Pan*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Christmas Carol*, *The Nutcracker*, *Snow Queen* (BBC - CBeebies), *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (Theatr Clwyd, Best Lighting Award at the 2017 Wales Theatre Awards); *The Elephant Man* (Best Design CATS award).

### **DONATO WHARTON | SOUND DESIGNER**

lives and works in Reading, UK, as a musician and sound designer. Recent theatre sound design includes *La Maladie de la Mort* (The Malady of Death) (Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord, Paris and European tour), *De Meiden* (The Maids) (Toneelgroep Amsterdam), *Schlafende Männer* (Men Asleep), *4.48 Psychose* (4.48 Psychosis), *Glückliche Tage* (Happy Days) (Deutsches Schauspielhaus Hamburg, Germany), all dir: Katie Mitchell, and *Playing Cards 2: Hearts* (Robert Lepage/Ex machina – Co-design with JS Côté). He has toured extensively as the Sound Manager for Robert Lepage/Ex machina's shows *The Blue Dragon*, and *Playing Cards 2: Hearts*. Donato's music has been published on the Manchester/Berlin-based City Centre Of Offices label and on the Cardiff-based Serein label, and has been used in radio features, television programs, and theatre productions internationally.

### **MONIQUE TOUKO | ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

is a London-based multidisciplinary artist working in both theatre and film. She is an emerging theatre director. Her directing credits include *A Number* by Caryl Churchill at Manchester Student Union, *Animal Farm* at Ziferblat Cafe Manchester, *Gourds* by Chino Odimba at Royal Exchange Manchester, *The Sting* by Suzette Coon at Arcola Theatre, *See you at the End* by Alexis Boddy at Theatre 503, *Green Matter* by Serafina Cusack at UCL, *Soon in the 4ciable Future* by Elizabeth Kwenortey at Canal Cafe Theatre, *Whole Foods* by Charles Leipart at Old Red Lion Theatre and *A Legacy* by Benedict Lombe at Katzpace. Monique's most recent piece was a reading of *And I dreamt I was drowning* by Amanda Wilkin with Talawa Theatre Company at Rich Mix. Her assisting credits include *Wishlist* at Royal Exchange and Royal Court, HighTide production of *Kanye the First*, *Yellowman* at Young Vic.

# TECHNICAL INFO

**Running time** 70 minutes with no interval

**Company** One performer and one technician on the road

**Language** The show is performed in English and involves a lot of text. We are happy to explore translation options with the programmer.

**Technical support** Our touring technician will operate the show but will require venue assistance in programming the board. The sound/lighting desks need to be situated within operating distance of each other.

**Space set up** The show is designed to be performed 'in a square' with audiences sat on four sides with a central playing space (with the action taking place within the square).

**Capacity** The show is suitable for audiences of up to 150, depending on space.

**Freight** For international touring the venue are encouraged to source two wooden chairs for the set. The rest of the set can be transported in 1 additional bag that travels on the plane with the production manager and performer.

## Lighting

Lighting states:

General wash – cold

General wash – warm

One fixed spotlight (we would need to focus this prior to performance) A full lx plan and lighting plot will be available on request.

## Sound

Simple SFX requirements comprising of one mic / mic stand (either radio mic or wired mic with 3 metre length) – general venue PA required.

## Dressing Rooms

One dressing room required.

For a more detailed technical spec, please contact [paul@chinaplatetheatre.com](mailto:paul@chinaplatetheatre.com)

**\* The venue/Festival to cover all travel (including transfers), freight / excess luggage charges, accommodation and PDs unless otherwise agreed. Print and delivery costs to be negotiated.**

# COMPANIES

Christopher Haydon approached China Plate with *On The Exhale* as it felt like a perfect fit with a sensibility he developed during his five years at The Gate – presenting viscerally engaging, contemporary political stories with brilliant and complex female protagonists.

[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. Launched by Ed Collier and Paul Warwick in 2006, the company is currently collaborating with Caroline Horton (*Mess, You're Not Like The Other Girls Chrissy*), Chris Thorpe / Rachel Chavkin (*Status, Confirmation*), Contender Charlie, Dan Jones, Sarah Punshon, Rachel Bagshaw (*The Shape of the Pain*), Urielle Klein-Mekongo, Inspector Sands, Joan Clevillé, David Edgar and Ben Wright. China Plate are Associate Producers at Warwick Arts Centre where they develop and commission new work, Artistic Associates at the New Wolsey Theatre where they are Directors of PULSE Festival, Programmers of New Directions (the NRTF showcase) and were Programme Consultants for Hull City of Culture 2017 (Back to Ours Festival).

## **Boilerplates for co-producing and commissioning partners:**

[Audible, Inc.](#), an Amazon.com, Inc. subsidiary (NASDAQ:AMZN), is the leading provider of premium digital spoken audio content, offering customers a new way to enhance and enrich their lives every day. Audible is unleashing the artistic creativity of playwrights around the globe to deliver performative audio for the digital era through language-driven storytelling and captivating performances on stage and in audio. In addition to Audible's inaugural theater productions – Harry Clarke at the Minetta Lane Theatre, and the Broadway run of John Leguizamo's *Latin History for Morons* – Audible has launched a \$5M Emerging Playwrights Fund that identifies, nurtures, and invests in emerging playwrights, making their works available to millions of listeners around the world. This fund supports the creation of one- and two-person plays driven by language and voice, in keeping with Audible's core commitment to provide a creative home for artists and ideas. Audible content includes more than 425,000 audio programs from leading audiobook publishers, broadcasters, entertainers, magazine and newspaper publishers, and business information providers.

[New Theatre Royal Portsmouth](#) is a creative centre and cultural champion based in the heart of Portsmouth, fostering creativity, connectivity, and the articulation of ideas, to stimulate healthier, happier and more inclusive communities. They pride themselves on a generosity of spirit, based on empathy, equality and encouragement. New Theatre Royal foster and celebrate creativity and curiosity in our communities, and hold true to the strength of theatre to transform and enrich peoples' lives.

# EXAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA

Sample posts (feel free to adapt)

Handles: #OnTheExhale @youoldchina @chrishaydon99

## Twitter:

"like a child a weapon won't be satisfied until it dominates your every thought" A woman develops an obsession that begins to take over every aspect of her existence. Martín Zimmerman's #OnTheExhale opens at (venue) on (date) Book here: (booking link)

Zimmerman's #OnTheExhale, directed by @chrishaydon99 "hits home like a bullet" and was one of the Best Shows to see at #EdFringe18 says @guardian. Book now to see this extraordinary one woman show following it's #FringeFirst winning run at this year's #EdFringe It's a must see.

After a devastating school shooting, a woman develops an obsession that begins to take over every aspect of her existence. ★★★★★ #FringeFirst winning #OnTheExhale, directed by @chrishaydon99 opens at (venue) on the (date) Tickets on sale now!

★★★★★ The Guardian, ★★★★★The Scotsman, ★★★★★Fest Mag, ★★★★★The Skinny, ★★★★★Edinburgh Festival Magazine, ★★★★★British Theatre Guide, ★★★★★The Edinburgh Reporter, #FringeFirst Winner. Don't miss your chance to see Zimmerman's #OnTheExhale at (venue) on (date). Book now to avoid disappointment!

## Facebook:

After a devastating school shooting, a woman develops an obsession that begins to take over every aspect of her existence. Zimmerman's On The Exhale, directed by Chris Haydon is a compulsive and visceral examination of American Gun Violence. On The Exhale is opening at (venue) after it's ★★★★★ rated, Fringe First winning run at Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Book your tickets now! (booking link)

"like a child a weapon won't be satisfied until it dominates your every thought." Zimmerman's extraordinary one woman play, On The Exhale is a monologue that makes you hold your breath... until the final exhale. Following a blinding Fringe First Winning run at this year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival, On The Exhale will open at (venue) on the (date) Tickets available here! (Booking link)

# PRODUCTION IMAGES





Photo credit: Iona Firouzabadi

# BOX OFFICE NOTES

## Dates and Times

[Your Dates and Times]

## Company

China Plate and Audible  
in association with New Theatre Royal Portsmouth

## Production

On The Exhale

## Ticket Prices

[Your Ticket Prices]

## Show Information

FRINGE FIRST WINNER, Edinburgh Fringe 2018

*Like a child, a weapon won't be satisfied until it dominates your every thought.*

After a devastating school shooting, a woman develops an obsession that begins to take over every aspect of her existence.

Martín Zimmerman's '*startlingly original*' (New York Times) play is a compulsive and visceral examination of American gun violence, directed by multi award-winner Christopher Haydon (*Grounded, The Christians*).

## Tags

New writing, political

## Images

High res images are available on request.

## Capacity

120-300

## Age Guide

14+

## Running Time

70 minutes

## Warnings:

- Some strong language (one use of the word "fuck")
- Strobe lighting
- Strictly no latecomers

A freesheet will be available – distributed by FoH at the beginning/end of the show

Playtext available to purchase

## Twitter Hash tag

#OnTheExhale  
@youoldchina