

PRESS RELEASE



The Twelfth Player by Seven Sisters Group

Susanne Thomas and Sophie Jump, with Richard Hurford (writer), Davy McGuire (film maker) and Craig Vear (sound designer)

Press Preview: 2-6pm, 24 May 2017
Dates: 24 June - 12 July 2017 (closed Mondays)
Location: Sixfields Stadium, Northampton Town Football Club

The Twelfth Player is a new work created by Seven Sisters Group that blends video, live performance and mobile app technology, to take audiences on an immersive tour of Sixfields Stadium, to view the passionate world of football through the eyes of three generations of Northampton Town Football Club fans.

Seven Sisters Group is a collective at the forefront of site-specific performance, and they combine video, installation, live performance and spoken word to explore contemporary issues, through narratives drawn from personal stories and memories.

Last season (2015/16) was the most dramatic in the Cobblers' history (as NTFC is fondly known). In November, the Club was deep in trouble; staff and players were not getting paid and Administration was a very real possibility. But through the dedication of their extraordinary fans – the team's twelfth player – they made an amazing recovery, welcoming a remarkable takeover, bouncing back into League 1 and winning the Club's first League title for 29 years.

During this time, Seven Sisters Group researched the history of the Club and met players and supporters, including Tommy Fowler, whose father was shot in the trenches in the

Second World War before joining the Club and Ashley K, a season ticket holder who became the Club's mascot.

The Twelfth Player uses humour to explore issues such as gender inequality and bullying in the sport. The work moves between a family's domestic dramas and the drama of the game; reflecting the highs and lows experienced by different generations of football supporters; their passion, loyalty and sense of belonging. Audiences will also be led into the magical worlds of fictional characters, as the young supporters entertain themselves during the games, imagining battles between gladiators on the pitch and flying dragons, with characters slipping out of the film and into real life.

EDITOR'S NOTES

For the first time, visitors will be guided around a football stadium via headphones, in small groups of 4, as they watch a 40 minute site-specific performance, simultaneously taking place on an iPod and in the real world. Performances start every 5 minutes.

Performances will run from: 24 June to 12 July inclusive (closed on Mondays), with special Previews on 17, 19, 23 and 24 May. Please see the website for timings: <http://tickets.royalandderngate.co.uk/single/PSDetail.aspx?psn=47496>

The Twelfth Player is presented through a unique collaboration between Fermynwoods Contemporary Art, Royal & Derngate and Northampton Town Football Club and has been funded by Arts Council England.

Susanne Thomas (Artistic Director) founded Seven Sisters Group in 1994, with a team of artists whose disciplines included dance, theatre design, fine art, music and video. Thomas trained at London Contemporary Dance School and Middlesex University and her choreography and artistic collaborations are informed by music, design and visual art.

Sophie Jump is Associate Director and founder member of Seven Sisters Group. Jump is co-editor of the *Society of British Theatre Designers* journal and her work has been selected to represent Britain at every Prague Quadrennial exhibition of world theatre design since 1999. Her designs were part of the *Transformation & Revelation* exhibition at the V&A Museum (2012) and she was the co-editor of the accompanying catalogue.

Thomas and Jump are working with the following group members:

Craig Vear; composer and musician

Richard Hurford; multi-media performance playwright

Davy McGuire; animation and film

Previous commissions include; The Royal Opera House, the National Theatre and English National Ballet (for the Mayors of London's Cultural Olympiad).

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