

NEW DAWN FADES

A PLAY ABOUT JOY DIVISION AND MANCHESTER

VETERAN

**SHORTHAND
NOTEBOOK**

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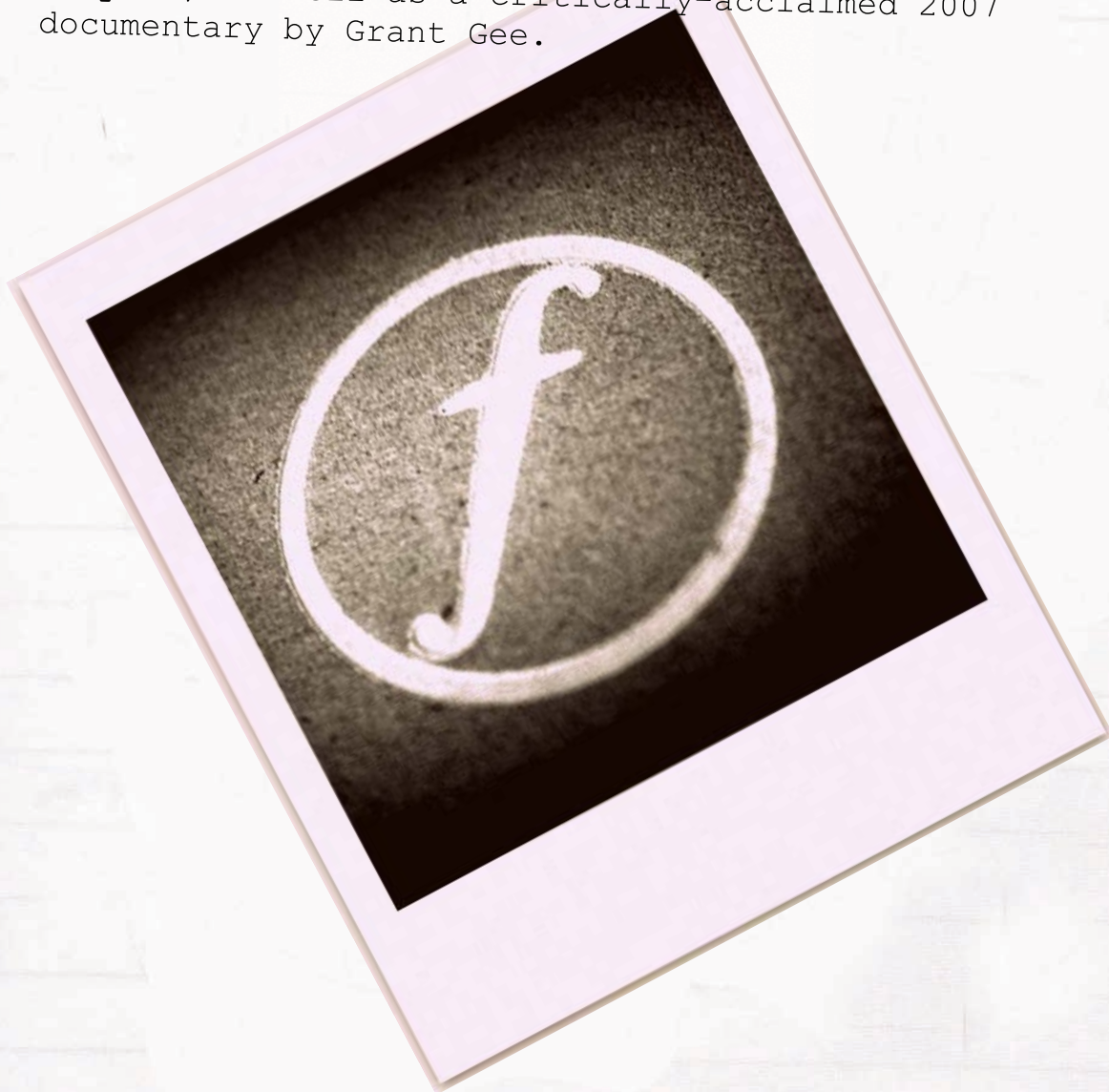
**NEW DIRECTOR ANNOUNCED FOR
HIGHLY-ACCLAIMED PLAY ABOUT
MANCHESTER BAND JOY DIVISION**

SARAH VAN PARYS has been announced as the new director for the highly-acclaimed stage production '**New Dawn Fades: A Play About Joy Division & Manchester**'. Work begins this month on a proposed Spring 2015 tour, as well as a series of performances scheduled for later this year.

Sarah is a Liverpool based Theatre Director who is currently on the Young Everyman & Playhouse Director's 2 year course, with her full length play, *Forever and Anon* having recently been performed at the Everyman Studio Theatre. Sarah is particularly interested in directing new writing, having directed for Theatre in the Rough, and The Annexe Writers (Trolley Shaped Bruise & The Morning After). Her short play *Pipedreams* was performed at the Luxembourg 10 Minute Theatre Festival in 2012. Sarah also runs her own theatre company called Falling Doors, with *Pipedreams* recently being performed at the Lantern Theatre in Liverpool. She also directed an extract of a piece of new writing, *Inference*, at the Everyman Playhouse, and The King's Arms Theatre in Salford.

Her most recent credit was as director of *The Road to Skibbereen* with Bee Loud Theatre and Straylight Australia at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, gaining 4 and 5 star reviews and recommendations from BBC Radio 2.

'New Dawn Fades: A Play About Joy Division & Manchester' is written by **BRIAN GORMAN**; premiered at The Greater Manchester Fringe Festival in July 2013, and was originally directed by actor **NEIL BELL** (a familiar face in tv's Peaky Blinders, Downton Abbey and Coronation Street, plus the cult movie Dead Man's Shoes). The classic story of 4 ordinary lads from Manchester, Salford, and Macclesfield who, inspired by the punk revolution of the 1970s, came together to form one of the most influential bands of all time, **JOY DIVISION**. Lead singer **Ian Curtis**' suicide in 1980, and the band's transformation into the hugely successful **New Order**, has been chronicled in two recent movies, '**Control**' and '**Twenty Four Hour Party People**', as well as a critically-acclaimed 2007 documentary by Grant Gee.



This stage production combines the band's history with the city of Manchester (and Salford), taking inspiration from Curtis' enigmatic lyrics, and involving many real-life characters such as Roman **General Julius Agricola** (who built the military encampment in the 5th century AD that would one day become the city of Manchester), **Dr John Dee** (Elizabeth the First's notorious adviser/astronomer), **Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, William Burroughs, The Sex Pistols,** and **The Buzzcocks**. The legendary **Tony Wilson** guides the audience through 1500 years of history in his inimitable way. There are tears, there are laughs, and there are memories of how things were, how things are, and how things might be again. Acclaimed as the smash hit of The Greater Manchester Fringe Festival in July 2013, the production was subsequently invited to the Macclesfield WinterFest in **Ian Curtis'** home town, and played to capacity audiences and standing ovations. A recent one-off performance in March at Manchester's Dancehouse Theatre was another big seller, and achieved another standing ovation.



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"New Dawn Fades is a spellbinding and brilliant play about one of the greatest bands of all time. I totally urge anyone left out there who believes in music to be so much more to go and see it"

(John Robb www.louderthanwar.com)

"I was crying. It was very emotional at the end. It captured everything perfectly. I loved it; it had everything - the music and the emotion... there was such a buzz in the building."

(Rowetta, Happy Mondays)

"Exciting, absorbing, tightly-structured, biographical drama."

5 Stars (www.remotegoat.com)

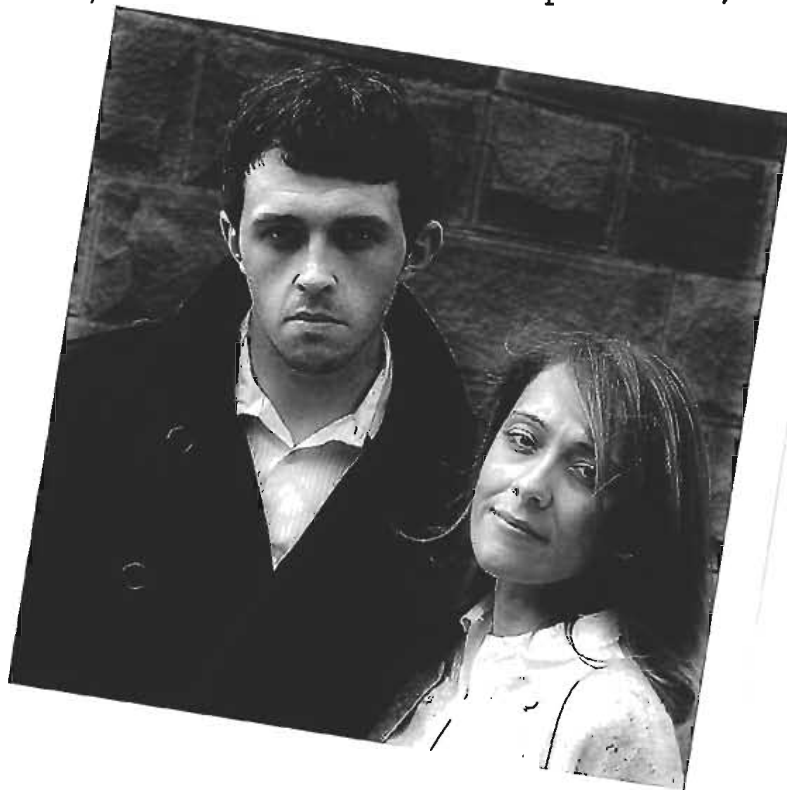
"As the action got going I was totally captivated. The play as a whole deserves a longer run, in a bigger venue."

(Graham Williamson, Salford Star)



"New Dawn Fades is a powerful and irresistible glimpse of an exciting time for the development of Manchester, Salford and alternative pop culture. There is something captivating about the union between the characters, the music and the time, New Dawn Fades delivers on all of these to provide a lively insight into the Manchester of the late 1970's."

(Matt Charlton, thefictionstroker.wordpress.com)



"This play ~~dances~~ skilfully with the notion of time, its passing, it's pausing, ~~it's swirling and repeating,~~ but it's as much about time as place. My hope is (the production) will move on to a longer residency at perhaps a slightly bigger venue when this sold out run of three nights concludes. Let's just say, this is an experience you won't easily forget."

(Mary O'Meara, Mudkiss Magazine)

"New Dawn Fades is more than a play about Joy Division; it's about Manchester, friendship, love and heartbreak. As soon as the mostly young cast swagger onto the stage, it's clear this is a piece full of energy."

(Tracey Lowe, The Good Review)

"It's all very entertaining and works unexpectedly well, especially at capturing the spirit of the times... I'd be very surprised if the play doesn't have a life beyond this incarnation."

(Kevin Bourke, Manchester Evening News)

"This is a very ambitious play and (director) Neil Bell works wonders to achieve many complex scenes with style. ...and there is a stunning live performance of Shadowplay."

(Dave Cunningham, The Public Reviews)





For more details, production photographs, and interviews please contact BRIAN GORMAN at brianinchester@yahoo.co.uk 07510 591444.

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<http://newdawnfadesplay.wordpress.com/about/>