

## Mouth Pieces at Highbury Theatre Centre on Friday 27 July 2018

### Sutton Arts Forum

Entry will be £5 on the door.

A percentage of proceeds from all Mouth Pieces event will go towards supporting local food banks in Sutton Coldfield.

To celebrate our 5th Mouth Pieces event (We never thought we would get that far) We are bringing you a Mouth Piece Special!. We are teaming up with the Black Country banter of Willis The Poet's Comedy Extravaganza to bring you an evening of funny poetry and giggly verse at the brilliant Highbury Theatre in Sutton Coldfield.

Who is going to be running their mouth?

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#### VAFA MOTAMEDI

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Vafa Motamedi is an Anglo-Iranian man who lives in Birmingham. He usually pre-occupies himself with filmmaking but when he has a free moment, he occasionally reads poetry aloud to an audience. This is one of those occasions. He was first exposed to the Birmingham spoken word scene while studying at university, and due to intense peer pressure and a burgeoning sense of egomania, he decided to give it a go. He has performed at Level UP!, Grizzly Pear, and Harbour Mix. People have described his poetry as 'wonderfully deadpan,' 'heartfelt' and 'generally audible.'

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#### WILLIS THE POET

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Rick Sanders, aka Willis the Poet, is an established comedy stand-up poet based in the mighty West Midlands. He is a regular headliner and featured poet on the Birmingham circuit and is also active in the flourishing spoken word scene in the rest of the region, his sticky sausage-fingers in as many pies as he can.

On the national stage, Willis won the 1st round of the InkBomb slam competition in Bristol and was runner up in the Wolverhampton Literary Festival Slam in 2017. He has performed in Manchester at the Evidently World War Four slam competition, the Hammer & Tongue Slam in Bristol and also at the Stafford Gatehouse on the open mic at the Bang Said The Gun tour. He has appeared with Angie Belcher at the Cheltenham Poetry Festival, in the poetry tent Lakefest, and as the emerging talent at Apples & Snake's Bright Smoke event with the RSC in Stratford, wowing the organisers with his comic verse.

Willis has set up a monthly poetry slam event in Dudley to bring more spoken word to the Black Country and hosts a series of Comedy Poetry Nights in the Midlands and beyond. He is also co-host of Waterstones on the Mic in Birmingham and presents Brum Radio Poets, both on the monthly radio show and at the quarterly live showcase event in Waterstones.

"Willis the Poet is without a doubt one of the funniest poets it has been my pleasure to hear perform. His easy yet intensely witty interaction with his audience makes every performance a time of laughter, hilarity and sheer out and out fun!"

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#### EMMA PURSHOUSE

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Emma Purshouse is a performance poet from the Black Country. She performs her work the length and breadth of the country, and is a poetry slam champion. She writes for children and adults. In 2016 her children's poetry collection won the Rubery Book Award for poetry. In 2017 she won the

'Making Waves' international spoken word poetry competition judged by Luke Wright.

"A whirlwind of wit and humour" - Write Out Loud Review

"Tremendous performance" - Alison Brackenbury

"Emma Purshouse provides a brain-stimulating and spine-tingling performance" Isis Sky for Arts Award Voice Magazine.

"Bubbling with wisdom and silliness" AF Harrold

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#### HOCKIN & SULLIVAN

Ted Hockin found Jobe Baker-Sullivan by turning up at an open mic Jobe used to run, offending everybody in there, then leaving or being forced off the premises. This was the start of a wonderful relationship in music and words. Since meeting some 2 years ago, Hockin & Sullivan have performed short pieces of material, and had their first ever 2-man "revues" at this very theatre: "The Jeremy Corbyn Victory Parade" and "Festive Therapy" think Flanders and Swann, but, not always so wholesome.

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#### ALISON ABSOLUTE

Alison Absolute, writer and performer of comic verse and occasional prose. In 2016, Alison was Cheltenham Festival Slam Champion, PRG Slam Champion and a Hammer and Tongue National Finalist.

A copywriter by trade (with a Russian IT company), and started writing verse in 2014, when she accidentally entered herself into a poetry slam. Did dreadfully first time round, but second time Alison surprised everyone by winning the Worcester Poetry Festival Slam. Alison has studied stand-up and improv as well as comedy writing, writing gags for a well known Radio 4 comedian, and guested at poetry meets all over the West Midlands.

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PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO OPEN MIC SLOTS AT THIS EVENT.

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Sutton Arts Forum & MouthPieces

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