

# **‘Talk’ by Mark Wilson**

## Audio Description introduction for Edinburgh Fringe Festival performances, 2.30pm

## 11-17 August 2019, C-Cubed (venue 50)

The play is set in Bethlem Hospital for the Insane in 1854 and the cast are dressed in authentic Victorian costume – mostly in black, white or dark grey. For more information on costume, please see our character videos.

There is no audio description during this production, but we have worked with the playwright to embed visual detail into the script so that important actions and information are relayed.

The auditorium is a long, narrow room. The rectangular stage is in thrust format, with one row of chairs facing the front of the stage area and 5 rows of chairs on either side of it.

The set is quite bare, with only 6 period-appropriate wooden chairs along the back of the stage in a line. To the right of the chairs hang three white iron frame empty birdcages, which are suspended at various lengths from the ceiling. The cages are lit from the side and shadows fall onto the wall behind them.

Captions are projected onto a black brick wall behind and slightly above the actors’ chairs throughout the performance. The captions relay all of the dialogue but also include animations designed to evoke certain images. For example, when Emily talks about her poetry we see scrolls of writing projected, and when the play starts an animation of a sturdy gate closing is shown to indicate the prison-like atmosphere.

A solo musician plays live music throughout and is situated to the right of the stage in the audience.

As the audience enter, the six actors sit on the chairs in the following order from left to right: Emily, Ward Sister Grey, Doctor Haydon, Doctor Hood, Fowles, Richard Dadd. When they are not in a scene, the actors remain seated and in a neutral emotional state.

Very few lighting cues are used in the play. There is mostly a cold wash across the stage. During a scene where a character recollects a cold room, a blue spotlight is shone on her. Later, when a character is remembering a violent incident, a red spotlight is shone on him and another character. At the end of the play, the lights are brought down to a blackout and are then raised again for the curtain call.

**The character videos on our website include the actors talking about their characters and describing their physique and costume. There is also a play synopsis.**