



## Casting now open for Open Clasp's new play

### Written by Catrina McHugh MBE

Open Clasp Theatre Company present:

# Rupture

Written by **Catrina McHugh MBE**

Directed by **Rachel Glover**

Co-created with the women from **HMP Low Newton**

*I didn't know you could get vultures in this country but here it is, on the roof, just the two of us...*

A code blue presents an opportunity. In a split-second decision, Destiny finds herself on the roof of the prison.

Destiny loves bonfire night. She likes to watch things burn. She remembers the chaos, noise and her cold feet. Up on the prison roof she can see it all, the past, the present and the 'what next'.

She's not sure how much time she has before they find her, so she decides to enjoy the view.

Created with women from HMP Low Newton, and based on true-life experiences, *Rupture* is their story about being mothers in prison.

### Information about *Rupture*

We are looking to cast an actor for our new show *Rupture* written by Catrina McHugh MBE.

*Rupture* was created in collaboration with women from HMP Low Newton. The play is about the experiences of mothers in prison and their parental rights. The play, to be presented both at HMP Low Newton and publicly in Newcastle in June 2023, is approximately 60 minutes in length.

Written by the Artistic Director of Open Clasp Theatre Company Catrina McHugh MBE, and directed by Rachel Glover, *Rupture* is a one-woman show.



**Information about Open Clasp** Changing the world one play at a time, by placing theatre at the heart of transforming the lives of women and girls.

We are a women's theatre company based in the North East of England. We collaborate with women and young women excluded by theatre and society to create bold and urgent theatre for personal, social and political change.

*"Working with Open Clasp has been life changing, empowering and has given me a voice when mine has been taken. I now have hope for the future..."* **Co-creator, Rattle Snake**

*"Open Clasp- a remarkable company working with disempowered women."* **The Guardian**

For more information, please visit: <https://www.openclasp.org.uk/>

## **Casting Brief**

This call out is open to all actors who are women. Actors do not need to be represented by an agent to apply.

Rupture is a one-woman monologue that requires a strong actor to confidently carry the story and its themes. All actors interested in applying for the role should have good comedic presence in addition to being able to tackle the harder themes that the play touches on (domestic violence, sexual abuse) with performative strength.

Open Clasp's work is rooted in the true voices of lived experience. We are looking to work with people who share an investment in seeking an authentic representation of the character's narrative. This will involve a degree of research, but moreover an interest in connecting with the issues underpinning the work in order to inform the performance and connect back with the group of women who co-created the work through the character.

The character breakdown is below, however there is room for interpretation.

**Character: Destiny**  
**She/Her**



**Playing Age: Early to mid-30s**

**Ethnicity: African and/or Caribbean heritage; African and/or Caribbean with White heritage**

Destiny loves bonfire night. She likes to watch things burn. She remembers the chaos, noise and her cold feet. Up on the prison roof she can see it all, the past, the present and the 'what next'. She has been in and out of prison, and now they have moved her as far away from her family and friends as possible. On the wing she makes friends, and then they're released or moved, and she is left again. It's lonely in prison. She writes letters to her kids. She doesn't post them, she keeps them.

### **Key Info & Dates**

All actors applying for the role must be available for **all** dates.

*Rehearsal weeks include Saturdays.*

13 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup> April	R&D dates
w/c 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Week 1 Rehearsals
w/c 29 <sup>th</sup> May	Week 2 Rehearsals
w/c 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Week 3 Rehearsals
w/c 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Tech/Dress/Performances

**Contract type:** ITC/Equity

**Fee:** £550 per week

- Rehearsals and performances will take place in Newcastle upon Tyne, at West End Women and Girls Centre.
- There will be a performance of the play at HMP Low Newton in Durham.
- Accommodation will be paid provided by the company if the actor's base is from outside of the North East.

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## **Audition Information**

Auditions will be through self-tape submission.

24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Submissions for self-tapes open
12 noon 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Submissions for self-tapes close
13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Successful actors invited for an informal chat with Director Rachel Glover (either in person or on zoom depending on location.)
w/c 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Applicants informed of casting decisions*

*\*All actors who submit a self-tape will be informed of the outcome, whether they have been successful or not.*

- We would like actors to begin their self-tape with a brief introduction, telling us a bit about you, and why you would like to work with Open Clasp on *Rupture* before continuing with your monologue.
- Please audition using a monologue from the script, which will be provided to you through email.
- We expect speeches to be a maximum of 1 minute 30 seconds.

Our only aim with the self-tape submissions is to see your audition, so please don't worry about using high tech equipment. Self-tapes filmed on a phone are absolutely fine. If you haven't submitted a self-tape for audition before, some basic but useful tips are:

- Use a blank wall as a background
- Some good/natural lighting if possible
- A quiet space, so nothing distracts us from your audition
- Upload your video to Vimeo/WeTransfer so it's easier to send through in one file
- Send us the link and any passwords we'll need to view it.



## **To Apply**

Please email [casting@openclasp.org.uk](mailto:casting@openclasp.org.uk) with the subject line 'Rupture Casting' and the following information:

- Your Name
- Contact number
- Spotlight Link (If you have one) or a CV of any relevant experience
- Any access requirements you may have, if any.

You will receive a reply to your email with the section of text we would like you to use for your audition. When you are ready to submit your self-tape, you can do so by sending it back to the same email. The deadline for submissions is **12 noon on 7<sup>th</sup> February.**

If you have any questions about applying or if sending a self-tape is not accessible for you, please contact Erin (Producer) by emailing [erin@openclasp.org.uk](mailto:erin@openclasp.org.uk) and we will do our best to meet your needs.

Thank you very much for your interest in working with Open Clasp and good luck with your submission.

The Open Clasp Team