



**Playthrough**  
Sharings of work-in-progress  
Performed at Summerhall  
Red Lecture Theatre  
Friday 20 October

**With thanks to:** Creative Scotland for their support, Summerhall, Ayr Gaiety Partnership, Tron Theatre, Mihaela Bodlovic and everyone who has attended these sharings today.

**Note from the writer //** Thank you so much for coming to our command centre! I'm absolutely delighted that we're all here for this development sharing that has been years in the making. *Playthrough* is a story about video games, both our love for them and the more sinister side of gaming addiction. It's a story that will appeal to gamers... and the worried parents of young gamers who don't quite trust those sinisterly slick consoles that eat up so much of their children's time. It's also a collection of good old fashioned ghost stories for the digital age. I'm so delighted that Creative Scotland is supporting us to take the first steps towards telling this tale. Secretly I hope that when you get home, in some small way, you'll be a little afraid to turn off the lights. You've met with a terrible fate, haven't you? **Kenny**

**Note from the director //** *Playthrough* is a very relevant piece examining the addiction and darkness of obsessive game playing, but presented in an accessible and light-hearted way. I admire its meta-theatricality and deceptive simplicity. The subject matter is removed from my own experience, although close to my son's as a borderline 15 year old addicted gamer. The play will interest anyone who is a gamer, anyone whose family includes a gamer, those nostalgic for the eighties and the dawn of video gaming, and indeed anyone who likes a strong story well told. **Ben**

#### **BORDERLINE THEATRE COMPANY**

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Borderline is a multi-award-winning Scottish touring theatre company founded in 1974. As Scotland's longest-running professional touring theatre company, we have a track record of 43 years for presenting memorable theatre experiences and delivering our distinctive brand of "entertainment with substance". We're proud to tour theatre across all areas of Scotland and beyond; celebrating innovative new writing (such as *Playthrough*) and reimagined revivals of plays that wider-Scotland hasn't seen. Recent work includes *Uncanny Valley*, *The Straw Chair* and *A Slow Air*.

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**BORDERLINE**  
THEATRE



**KENNY BOYLE // Writer and Performer** Kenny is a level 110 night elf marks hunter. He has 527 Korok seeds. His preferred route to Venom is through Sector Y to Zoness, then down to Macbeth before going up to Area 6... because Sector Z sucks, right? Kenny also has a few achievements in the so called "real world". He's a graduate of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and has appeared in or written a heap of plays. For a cheerful person, Kenny seems to have a strange fixation on ghosts, hauntings and murders and almost every show he does has something to do with one or all of them. He works on the one man show "The Ghost Bus Tour" in Edinburgh and has been faithfully trying to get tourists eaten by ghosts for years. If you really want to know about Kenny's CV, you can find it all on [www.kennyboyle.co.uk](http://www.kennyboyle.co.uk) **His favourite game is Breath of the Wild, Doom or X-Com 2 at the moment.**

**KAREN BARTKE // Performer** Karen's acting credits can be found at [www.karenbartke.com](http://www.karenbartke.com) She'd prefer to tell you more about her gaming biography. Karen's gaming originated with Atari and ZX Spectrum games, particularly Daley Thomson's Decathlon. Graduating to the Sega MegaDrive, Karen held her own in Sonic the Hedgehog, Aladdin and Mortal Kombat before progressing to PC games. Favourites included Command & Conquer: Red Alert, Sam & Max Hit the Road, Grim Fandango, Theme Hospital, Sim City and The Sims, where she spent far more time than is appropriate picking out sconces for her Sims homes. **In recent years,**

she has found gaming time limited and mostly relies on Hidden Object Games and Time Management games from Big Fish and Gameshouse. Ironically, if her real time management was better she'd have more time to play really good games.

**TYLER COLLINS // Performer** Tyler is an award-winning American actor, musician and composer working in the UK. He is a massive Alaskan, the lanky yankee, better known as The Two Meter Man. Recent theatre credits include *The Broons* (Sell a Door), *Little Red and the Wolf* (Dundee Rep/Noisemaker) and *Last Dream (On Earth)* (Kai Fisher/NTS). **Ask him for his favourite video game.**

**BEN HARRISON // Director** Ben has been Co-Artistic Director of Grid Iron since 1996. Highlights include *The Bloody Chamber*, *Gargantua*, *Decky Does A Bronco*, *Fermentation*, *Those Eyes*, *That Mouth*, *The Devil's Larder*, *Roam*, *Once Upon A Dragon*, *Yarn*, *Barflies*, *Huxley's Lab*, *Spring Awakening*, *Crude* and *Jury Play*. He was Associate Director of the Almeida Theatre London 2000-2002, Director of the Dutch company Muztheater 2004-2008 and a Fellow of NESTA from 2001-2004. In Scotland he has directed for the NTS, EIF, Traverse, Tron, Oran Mor, Arches, Citizens, Dogstar, Tromolo Productions and Paper Doll Militia. His show Peter Pan for 360 Entertainment, (UK and US tour 2009-2015) was seen by more than a million people. More information at [www.benharrison.info](http://www.benharrison.info) **His favourite video game is definitely Frogger. We thank Ben's son who kindly (okay, involuntarily) provided the gaming chair.**

**TIM REID // Video Designer** Tim designs video projections for Theatre, Opera and Dance. His work includes: *1984* (Broadway, West End, Headlong and Almeida) for which he was nominated for a "Knights of Illumination" Award, *The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin* (Theatre Royal Stratford East), *Mary Stuart* (Almeida), *The Red Barn* (National Theatre), *Fracked!* (Chichester Festival Theatre and tour), *Meeting Bea* and *Where Is Peter Rabbit* (Bowness Theatre Festival), *Show Boat* (Crucible, Sheffield/West End), *Oresteia* (Almeida/West End), *If You Kiss Me, Kiss Me* and *La Musica* (Young Vic), *Blood Wedding* (Graeae, Dundee Rep, Derby Theatre), *Cosmonaut* (Edinburgh Science Festival), *You Are Here* (Glasgow Life) which was projected onto the Glasgow City Chambers for St Andrew's Day 2014, *Stemmer* (Bergen National Opera), *Scale* (Scottish Dance Theatre), *Can We Talk About This?* (DV8 Physical Theatre), *As One* (The Royal Ballet) as Video Co-designer, *Wild Swans* (Young Vic / American Repertory Theatre) as Projection Designer, *The Tailor of Inverness*, *Factor 9* and *The Sky Is Safe* (Dogstar Theatre), *Letters Home: England In A Pink Blouse* (Grid Iron), *The History Boys*, *Love Your Soldiers* and *The Effect* (Crucible Theatre), *A Christmas Carol* (Edinburgh Royal Lyceum), *Quiz Show* and *Tree of Knowledge* (Traverse Theatre), *Educating Ronnie* (MacRobert,

Utter), *How to Steal A Diamond*, *Bright Black* and *The Not-so-Fatal Death of Grandpa Fredo* (Vox Motus), *One Giant Leap*, *Arthur* and *Treasure Island* (Wee Stories). Tim has worked as head of video for the National Theatre of Scotland and toured internationally. More information and images of his work can be found at [www.timreidvideodesign.com](http://www.timreidvideodesign.com) **His favourite video game is probably Portal. Because of the cake.**

**EMILY JAMES // Designer** Emily trained at Edinburgh College of Art and Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. A finalist for the 1997 Linbury Prize for Stage Design, she was also awarded a one-year Design Bursary at the Royal Exchange Theatre. She has worked across the UK as a set and costume designer. **Her favourite video game is not one that her children are playing.**

**JONNY REED // Technical Stage Manager** Jonny has toured extensively as a Technical Stage Manager in the open worlds of Scotland and the UK including international work in the expansions of Japan, China and Europe. He recently spent two years as Deputy Chief LX at Dundee Rep Theatre and is delighted to be freelance and questing again. **His favourite video game is Metal Gear Solid.**

**DAVID WOOD // Assistant Director (Graduate Placement)** David recently maxed out his level at The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland's MA Classical and Contemporary Text course and looted the Dewar Arts Award. Director credits: *A Beginner's Guide to Populism* (Voila! Europe) *Happier or Better?*, *Speaking*, *Out* (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland); *Real:Live!* (On The Verge Festival/RCS); *4.48 Psychosis* (West College Scotland) and *Heroes* (Platform). Assistant Director credits: *Jason and the Argonauts* (Visible Fictions/Theatre in Schools Scotland) *The Taming of the Shrew?* (Bard in the Botanic); *Channeling Jabez* (Oran Mor/Traverse Theatre) and *Henry IV* (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland). **When he isn't directing, he can be found farming cranberries in Stardew Valley or making terrible relationship choices in Dragon Age: Inquisition.**

**RISHAAD AIT EL MOUDDEN // Producer** Rishaad is a Trustee and Producer for Borderline. He is also the Trust Fundraising Manager for Scottish Opera. Before levelling up, he was Assistant Producer for Borderline on *The Straw Chair* (2015 tour) and the CATS award-winning *Uncanny Valley* at the 2016 and 2017 Edinburgh International Science Festival. He trained as an actor, but mighty morphed into a new career. **He spent much of his childhood playing the N64, especially WCW/nWo Revenge and The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time. His favourite video game is Diddy Kong Racing, which he loaned to a girl named Anna in primary school and tragically never received back. He was a n00b at dating.**