

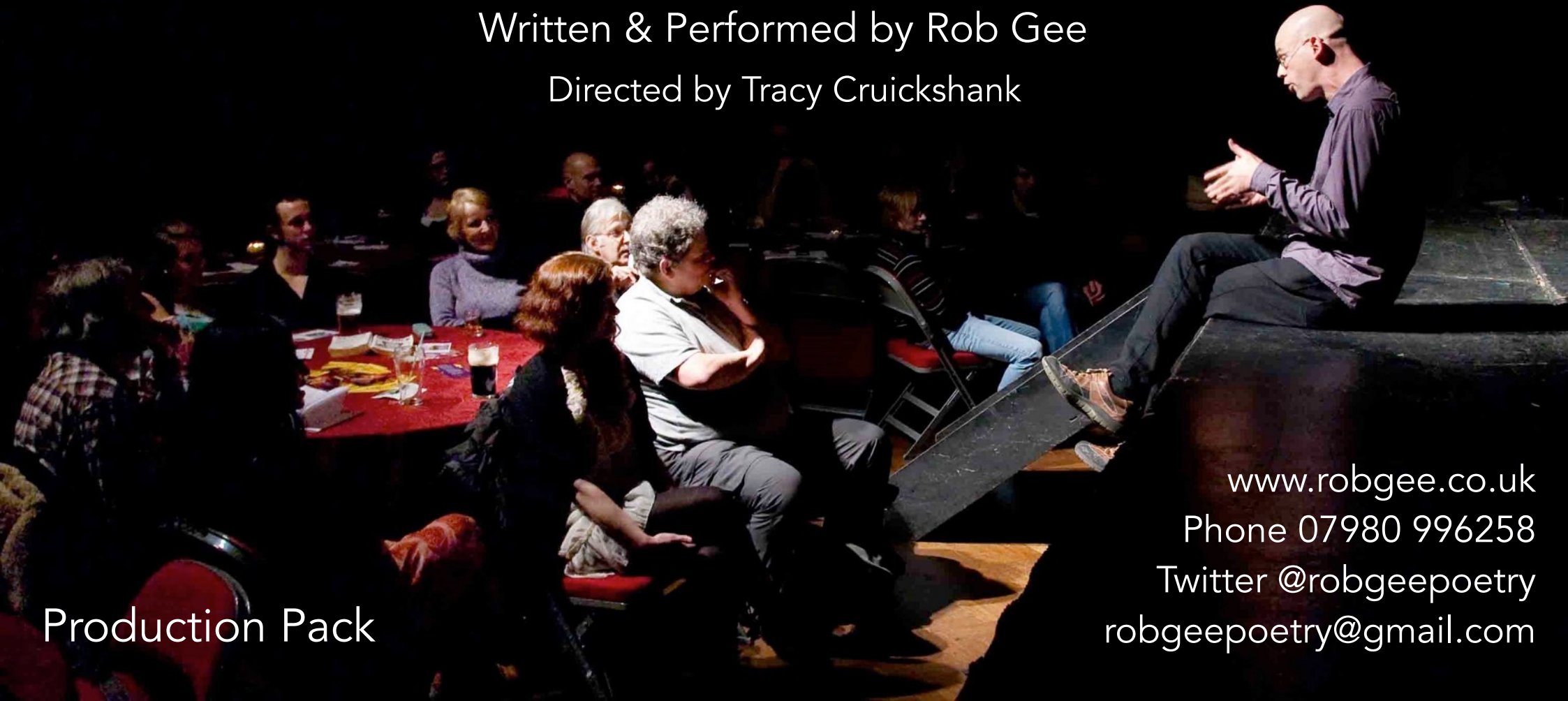


FRUITCAKE

TEN COMMANDMENTS FROM THE PSYCH WARD

Written & Performed by Rob Gee

Directed by Tracy Cruickshank



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Production Pack

A user-friendly guide to losing the plot.

Fruitcake charts a night shift on an acute psychiatric ward, seen through the eyes of a jaded nurse who hears the voice of God – a kindly Jamaican woman – who gives him ten benevolent commandments to help him through the shift; and life.

Fruitcake recently toured North America, selling out shows in Orlando, Toronto, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Calgary, Edmonton and Victoria. New to the UK, it recently performed The Cheltenham Literature Festival, where it sold out its 180 seat venue.

"A one-man thespian army. This play has everything."

CBC, Canada ★★★★★

"His genuine genuine empathy for the patients lifts this show into the ranks of superior entertainment... a tour de force." **Victoria Times Colonist ★★★★★**

"Smart, funny and frequently very moving... a first rate show." **Calgary Herald ★★★★★**

"Hilarious... poignant... life affirming... joyful!" **Uptown Magazine, Canada ★★★★★**

"Hilarious, often touching...will probably leave you with tears in your eyes." **The Panic Manual, Toronto ★★★★★**

"Should be required viewing" **Edmonton Journal ★★★★★**

"I didn't want to miss a second!" **Winnipeg Free Press ★★★★★**

"Really gets into your head!" **Monday Magazine, Victoria ★★★★★**



"An unforeseen highlight, a convulsively funny and surprisingly moving tribute to humanity's collective psychosis."

Minnesota Examiner

"Terrifically well written... hilarious and oddly touching... the kind of performer you pray you'll discover." **Orlando Sentinel**

"Gee has pitched it perfectly... this hour showcases his strong talents as a witty, skilful storyteller." **Chortle, UK**

"Do whatever it takes to see Fruitcake... funny, touching, witty, painful, a joy... I loved it!" **Mooney on Theatre, Toronto**

"Intelligent and endearing... a quality show... SEE IT" **Applause-Meter, Calgary**

"The wonderful part about all this is the feeling that Gee cares about people... in situations where he could have easily gone for the crazy person joke, he spun the humour on its ear... and he is hilarious."

Edmonton Sun

Audience Profile

Suitable for both first time and general audience.

People with an interest in mental health, psychology, performance poetry, comedy, storytelling and creative writing.

Nursing, medical and social work students.

Strong language. Recommended age 16+

Rob Gee worked for twelve years as a registered nurse in acute psychiatry before becoming a writer and performer. He's worked with Harold Pinter, Sue Townsend, Jo Brand, Sarah Millican and John Cooper Clarke, and clocked up over 3000 shows around the world. Poetry slam victories include The Edinburgh Slam, The Arts Council's Lit Up Slam, BBC2's Why Poetry Matters Slam and the Orlando Poetry Smackdown. He regularly leads comedy, poetry and improvisation workshops in mental health settings, as well as with artists interested in mental health.

Voice of God - Jean 'Binta' Breeze

Internationally renowned dub poet, described by the British Council as "one of the most important, influential performance poets of recent years." She also has a diagnosis of schizophrenia.

Music by Skatz

Singer/songwriter, music producer, actor and writer, currently based in County Kerry.

Director - Tracy Cruickshank

Lecturer and subject leader in Drama Studies at De Montfort University. Tracy has written and directed numerous acclaimed theatre shows. She is also a recovering slam poet.



Technical information

Running Time: One hour

Minimum Stage Size: 4M wide x 2M deep

Dressing Room: Space for one person

Lighting and Sound: 2 washes, 1 lighting special, one centre spot. 11 pre-faded sound cues provided on MP3 and/or CD.

Microphone required for ending

Tech rehearsal: 2 hours maximum

Other requirements: One chair for stage

Get in: 30 min max. **Get out:** 15 min max

Associated Workshops

Performance Poetry

2-6 hour workshop with appropriate breaks.

Creative Writing

2-3 hour workshop with short break.

Writing Comedy

2-3 hour workshop with short break.

Comedy/Improvisation

2 hour workshop with optional break.

Mental Health for Artists

2-6 hour workshop with breaks.

Costs: half-day: £150, full day: £250.

Post-Show Discussion

Informal Q & A about the show, its preparation and background. **FREE**