**Play highlighting the appalling scale of modern day slavery in the UK to raise awareness at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe**

Rah Rah Community Theatre Company presents

**My Mind is Free**

**By Sam Hall**

*‘You may choose to look the other way, but you can never say again you did not know!’*

*William Wilberforce*

Rah Rah Community Theatre Company has teamed up with The Salvation Army and anti-trafficking charity, Hope For Justice, to bring its production of MY MIND IS FREE by Sam Hall to this year’s Edinburgh Festival Fringe between the 7th-18th of August to highlight the scale of the human trafficking problem in the UK today.

Human trafficking is the world’s fastest growing global crime. The 2015 Global Slavery Index estimates that there are 35.8 million people enslaved in the world. There are 1.1 million new, trafficked victims a year, 3,000 new victims a day, or a shocking 125 people per hour forced into slavery. The Metropolitan Police estimate that in the UK alone over 20,000 people are trafficked every year.

MY MIND IS FREE is a powerful interpretation of the degradations of human trafficking. It tells the interlinked stories of four people trafficked to and within the UK and their horrifying tales of abuse, exploitation and enslavement. The production uses a mixture of physical theatre and multi–role playing to portray the epic journey and terrible risks that desperate people will go to in the pursuit of what they believe to be a better life, only to find that they are then exploited, ending up in a far worse position than when they started.

The company first toured the production in 2015, receiving 4 and 5 star reviews. It was nominated for “Best stage play” in the Human Trafficking Foundation’s Anti-Slavery Media awards 2016 which was hosted by the Home Secretary at the House of Commons.

We are excited to be working with our charity partners to bring the play to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, alongside a series of workshops and talks which will inform audiences on how we, as a community, can make a change to fight this horrific crime and spot the signs of trafficking.

We will also be engaging with front-line workers on a training programme, in association with William Guild (the retired superintendent for Edinburgh Police) of Hope For Justice, who will be key to highlighting trafficking taking place in Edinburgh.

We are very grateful to Awards for All Scotland for funding us and enabling us to visit the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2017 at the start of our UK tour.

**Reviews of the play**

*“The performance of the actors was incredible..... Long live this theatre production”* ***Anti-Slavery International***

*“Overall, no matter what your existing awareness of human trafficking is, My Mind is Free is definitely an important show to see.”***\*\*\*\* FemaleArts**

 *“I defy anyone not to be moved.”* **Wow Kent**

**Show dates and times**

**(Preview) 27th July 2017**

7.30pm (65 mins) Waterloo East Theatre, Brad Street, SE1 8TN

**7 - 18 August 2017**

Aug 7-8, 14-15 at 19:30 (65 mins)

Aug 9-10, 16-17 at 13:30 (65 mins)

Aug 11-12, 18 at 17:00 (65 mins)

**Venue 405,** 1 East Adam St, EH8 9TF (Opposite The Pleasance Courtyard)

**Media contact, images and show reel**

Media Contact - Jude Spooner 07944868358 rahrahtheatre@hotmail.com

For high res images please go to the following link – TBC

Show Reel - <https://www.mymindisfree.com/>

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/RahRahTheatreCo>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/RahRahTheatreCompany>

**Notes to Editors**

Rah Rah Community Theatre Company: for more information go to [www.mymindisfree.com](http://www.mymindisfree.com)

The Salvation Army is committed to supporting victims of modern slavery, and runs the UK government’s contract to manage support services for victims of modern slavery. <https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/human-trafficking>

Hope for Justice exists to bring an end to modern slavery by rescuing victims, restoring lives, and reforming society. <http://hopeforjustice.org/>