

GARY CLARKE COMPANY announces UK tour for bold new work, *DETENTION*

GARY CLARKE COMPANY is back... with their highly anticipated new dance theatre show, *DETENTION*, to premiere and tour the UK from May 2025.

In 1988, a piece of legislation from Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Government devastated lives... Forcing people from the LGBT+ community into a place of secrecy, fear and shame at a time when the country was in industrial turmoil and the gay community was being ravaged by the onslaught of AIDS.

DETENTION is a bold and moving new work by **GARY CLARKE COMPANY**, following the multi award-winning *COAL* and critically acclaimed *WASTELAND*, exploring **SECTION 28, which 'prohibited the promotion of homosexuality'**.

"What unites these three works is 1980's Britain, and how different marginalised communities fought for their human rights, their livelihoods and their existence.

*Born in 1980 in a working-class pit village, as a young gay man I spent all of my childhood, teenage years and early adult life living under **Section 28**.*

Today I am out and proud, yet I am left picking up the pieces, trying to make sense of what happened and what the lasting impact is on those of us who experienced it.

*Whilst I understand we have made good progress, **DETENTION** is my attempt at honouring the past and acknowledging an important benchmark in LGBT+ history that shaped our resilient and courageous community."* **Gary Clarke**

Gary Clarke's trademark of powerful and personal working-class storytelling draws once again on the public and private stories and testimonies of those communities affected, including for *DETENTION* a rare insight into the LGBT+ Switchboard Logbooks.

On stage *DETENTION* brings together Clarke's vivid and theatrical physical dance language performed by a company of exceptional professional dancers, an evocative narrator /actor and five members of the LGBT+ community, selected locally for every venue aged 40+ and directly affected by Section 28; a total of 45 LGBT+ people cast across the 2025 national tour to nine venues.

*"Like *COAL* and *WASTELAND* communities are at the heart of **DETENTION** and it felt wrong to make a new show about communities without involving them."* **Gary Clarke**

DETENTION also brings together once more the production and creative team that made *COAL* and *WASTELAND* such major hits with both critics and audiences.

Producer and long-time collaborator **Annabel Dunbar**; Dramaturg **Lou Cope**; Set and Costume Designer **Ryan Dawson Laight** and Thatcher voice over artist **Steven Nallon** (*Spitting Image*).

New collaborators include award-winning lighting designer **Joshie Harriette**, sound composer **Torben Sylvest**, film maker **Kamal Macdonald**, script and text deviser **Adam Zmith** and several recorded music tracks by the iconic band Test Dept including **Movement I**, **Jerusalem** and **Myfanway**.

Performing in **DETENTION** are dancers **Gavin Coward** (also Artistic Associate), **Alexandra Bierlaire**, **Alex Gosmore**, **Mayowa Ogunnaiké** and **Imogen Wright** and actor **Lewey Hellewell** (Narrator) with **El Perry** (Thatcher on film) and **Sarah Squires** (Teacher on film).

The 2025 tour visits **Nottingham** Playhouse (8 & 9 May), The Lowry in **Salford** (14 & 15 May) Lawrence Batley Theatre in **Huddersfield** (21 & 22 May), The Place in **London** (3 – 7 June), Northern Stage in **Newcastle** (16 & 17 Sep), **Oxford** Playhouse (26 & 27 Sep), Cast in **Doncaster** (30 Sep & 1 Oct), The Grand in **Blackpool** (8 & 9 Oct), and Corn Exchange in **Brighton** (14 & 15 Oct).

Press performances:

- **Thursday 8 May Nottingham Playhouse at 8.00 pm**
- **Wednesday 4 June The Place, London at 7.30 pm**

For more information, please contact Caroline Ansdell on caroline@capr.co.uk or 07748 603841

ENDS

Notes to Editors

www.detentiontour.co.uk

Running time | Approx. 85 minutes with no interval

Age suitability | 14+ (Schools Guidance)

Gary Clarke Company are proud to partner with Switchboard for the DETENTION Tour |

SWITCHBOARD | LGBTQIA+ Support Line 0800 0119 100.

Support Credits |

DETENTION is produced by: GARY CLARKE COMPANY LTD

Co-commissioned by: Nottingham Playhouse, Grand Theatre Blackpool, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Cast, The Place. **Midlands co-presenter: FABRIC**

GARY CLARKE COMPANY is supported using public funding through Arts Council England and core funding from John Ellerman Foundation.

GARY CLARKE COMPANY - Co-founded and led by Artistic Director, Gary Clarke and

Executive Producer, Annabel Dunbar, is a pioneering, award-winning dance theatre company based in South Yorkshire. Renowned for high impact, high quality and high legacy work, the company tours extensively on the mid-scale across the UK and continues to nurture new partners and touring networks at home and abroad.

Between 2016 and 2023 GARY CLARKE COMPANY co-created and toured extensively two full length theatre shows: COAL (Winner of a UK Theatre Award and a Critics Circle National Dance Award) and WASTELAND, presenting 100 shows (54 x COAL and 46 x WASTELAND) across 51 venues, primarily on the mid-scale in England, as well as touring into Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and Germany attracting over 30,000 show audiences and engaging over 17,000 participants.

GARY CLARKE - is an acclaimed British Choreographer, Performer and Movement Director. His theatrical dance works have toured extensively both nationally and internationally to critical and audience acclaim.

Gary's work has received a number of awards including for Gary Clarke Company (COAL) a UK Theatre Award for Achievement in Dance and Critics Circle National Dance Award. For Akademi, a Herald Angel Award (The Troth), and The Summerhall Lustrum Award (The Troth). He has also created stage and site-specific work for a number of companies and organisations including The National Theatre, Opera North, Sky Arts, Hull City of Culture and The 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Gary has worked as a movement specialist on a number of large-scale feature films including World War Z and The Mummy.

His past performance credits include work with some of the UK's leading dance companies including Matthew Bourne's New Adventures, Lloyd Newson's DV8 Physical Theatre, balletLORENT, Lea Anderson's The Cholmondeleys & The Featherstonehaughs, Sadler's Wells Productions, Phoenix Dance Theatre and Candoco Dance Company / Jerome Bel.

In 2017, Gary was appointed as an Honorary Fellow at The Northern School of Contemporary Dance.

DETENTION 2025 TOUR DATES:

NOTTINGHAM* | Playhouse PREMIERE

Thurs 8 & Fri 9 May, 8pm

For Tickets nottinghamplayhouse.co.uk or 0115 941 9419

SALFORD | The Lowry

Wed 14 & Thurs 15 May, 8pm

For Tickets thelowry.com or 0161 876 2000

HUDDERSFIELD* | Lawrence Batley Theatre

Wed 21 & Thurs 22 May 2025, 7.30pm

For Tickets thelbt.org or 01484 430 528

LONDON* | The Place

Tues 3, Wed 4, Thurs 5, Fri 6 & Sat 7 June 2025, 7.30pm

For Tickets theplace.org.uk or 020 7121 1100

NEWCASTLE | Northern Stage |

Tue 16 & Wed 17 Sep 2025, 7.30pm

For Tickets northernstage.co.uk or 0191 230 5151

OXFORD | Playhouse|

Fri 26 & Sat 27 Sep 2025, 7.30pm

For Tickets oxfordplayhouse.com or 01865 305 305

DONCASTER* | Cast |

Tue 30 Sep & Wed 1 Oct 2025, 7.30pm

For Tickets castindoncaster.com or 01302 303 959

BLACKPOOL* | The Grand |

Wed 8 & Thur 9 Oct 2025, 7.30pm

For Tickets blackpoolgrand.co.uk or 01253 290 190

BRIGHTON | Corn Exchange | ON SALE tbc

Tue 14 & Weds 15 Oct 2025, time tbc

For Tickets brightondome.org or 01273 709709

* = Co-commissioner