

# BANGERS

## A new play by Danusia Samal

Touring educational settings, community spaces, day centres and prisons  
Monday 23 May to Saturday 11 June 2022  
Produced by Cardboard Citizens and Soho Theatre



Cardboard Citizens production  
"Rising" at Arlington House hostel

Cardboard Citizens would love to bring our new production of **Bangers** by **Danusia Samal** to your space!

Cardboard Citizens is a theatre company, based in Aldgate, East London, with a proud tradition of creating touring theatre for both theatre and community venues for over 30 years. We amplify the voices of those who have lived experience of homelessness, poverty and inequity, empowering individuals to make change in their own lives, and in their communities. You can find out more about us [on our website](#).

### About the Production

Featuring live music inspired by early noughties and present-day R&B and garage, **Bangers** by Danusia Samal follows the highs and lows of friends navigating love, sex, sexual identity, relationship breakdown and housing insecurity against an urban backdrop.

The characters, both young Londoners, narrate their own and each other's stories, sometimes playing other characters in their story, taking on different ages and genders.



Cardboard Citizens production "Rising" at  
Arlington House hostel

**The show will work particularly well with a young audience of 16 – 30 years but will inspire adults of all ages**, with honest, relatable stories told dynamically by a young, exciting cast. *Bangers* marks the first production directed by our new Artistic Director and Joint CEO Chris Sonnex.

The performance will last approximately 80 minutes including an introduction to Cardboard Citizens and our training offer for people affected by homelessness, poverty and inequity – providing skills for careers in theatre, both onstage and backstage.

### Workshops

We're offering accompanying workshops for young people aged 16 – 25 to promote the creative programme we are launching at Cardboard Citizens. For details on these workshops, please email Jessie Wyld at [jessie@cardboardcitizens.org.uk](mailto:jessie@cardboardcitizens.org.uk)

## Content

- The play is suitable for audiences aged 16+.
- The play contains strong language, sex references, and scenes raising issues around sexual consent.
- There are sample scenes included at the end of this document.

## What we need from you

- A room that is large enough for a 3.5m wide x 3.5m deep performance space and to seat an audience (between 25– 40 people)
- Encourage audiences to attend – promote the show to beneficiaries and your wider networks
- Chairs for the audience
- Access to the performance space for 4 hours total (1.5 hours before show to set up and 1 hour after show to pack down)
- Access to a dressing room next to the performance space 1 hour before and after the show
- Access to parking space for the duration of the visit or info to access local parking
- Access to plug sockets and the ability to plug in extension leads if needed
- Ability to stick tape on the floor
- Ability to make the space pitch black/ all the lights switched off



*Cardboard Citizens production "Rising" at The Connection, St Martin in the Field*

In advance we will provide:

- Flyers, posters and marketing materials to help promote the performance
- We can also visit you and your beneficiaries in advance to discuss, explain and promote the performances

We will bring everything else for the show including:

- A portable PA System
- A portable lighting system (with its own stands)

## How to book

Please complete [this form](#) to register interest.

For further information, please contact Jessie Wyld – Engagement Manager for Cardboard Citizens:

[jessie@cardboardcitizens.org.uk](mailto:jessie@cardboardcitizens.org.uk) / 07716 492 190

Please note, if your service does not have the space to host the performance we can invite you and your beneficiaries to see the show in another space, including performances at the Soho Theatre from 13 June to 2 July. Just email the address above.

## Sample Scenes

*[Please note – the script is still in development and may change in production]*

**This first scene introduces the Ministry – the nightclub that is the hub of the play’s action. This scene also illustrates the lyrical style and the importance of music to the characters and the production.**

**DJ** YES PEOPLE! The time is nigh. Coz it’s Scene Five - Friday Night!

*Aria takes the mic.*

**ARIA** Bex arrives in a limo, volume turned high  
City girls already tipsy inside  
Wearing clothes that cost more than Aria makes  
Who takes a deep breath, silently prays

**CLEF** Clef and Tone are taking the bus  
Sharing headphones as they go through their stuff  
Man there’s a thrill in the air tonight  
Like for once everything is gonna go right

**ARIA** Aria’s necking shots till she stops caring  
Till the squeals of the girls become less grating  
Till she blocks out the sound of them comparing rings

**DJ** ... So she’s surprised when the car pulls in  
By a long queue outside a familiar building:

*Aria and Clef look up with awe.*

**CLEF/ARIA** (together) The Ministry...

**CLEF** Outside’s bare rough - don’t look up to much  
But there’s a crowd and a stage and that’s more than enough  
Clef gets that cross of excitement and dread  
Music in his body, overruling his head

**ARIA** ... It’s mad  
In a world where so much has changed  
The vibe here is still the same  
The gold plated sign - fading and peeling  
The mandem in hoodies, girls dressed all revealing  
And bass that makes your blood... fizz

**CLEF** But has a mystical way of healing.

**These two scenes illustrate the open and frank nature of the production. This first scene is early in the production and establishes the relationship between Aria and her boyfriend Leo – here played by the actor playing Clef:**

**ARIA** STOP!

*The music cuts out abruptly. Clef plays Leo, Aria's boyfriend.*

**LEO** What's wrong? Don't you like it?

**ARIA** ... Of course I do.

*He looks at her, not buying it.*

**LEO** I just wanted to get through to you.

**ARIA** What do you mean?

**LEO** I mean when we fuck. You go somewhere else, this wall comes up.

**ARIA** I'm right here.

**LEO** You're not. *(softer)* You know you're safe with me, to talk.

**ARIA** About what?

**LEO** Well, if anything happened to / you-

**LEO** I'd happily help you through it.

*Again, Aria ignores this. Just faces Clef/Leo, shrugs.*

**ARIA** It didn't...

**LEO** *(snapping)* Then why are you miles away?! It's like fucking a stranger, not in a hot way. This... *(he gestures between them)* Is not intimate. Not connection. You go through the motions, stay out of reach. Won't talk about anything real with me. What's wrong?

*A pause while he looks at her. A moment of choice.*

**ARIA** There is a truth, behind her lips

Could spit it out or bury it...

**LEO** Aria, just...

**ARIA** Nothing. Nothing is wrong.

**This second scene, again from early in the play, introduces Clef and his girlfriend Nat – played by Aria. The DJ comments on the action:**

**CLEF** Nat, Clef's girl of 10 months and a bit

Not just a side piece, she's wifey legit

**DJ** As if Clef had the game for a side piece!

*Clef's offended, about to retort, but Aria ploughs on:*

**ARIA** They're at that awkward bit  
Where kissing is getting to fumbling  
Clef's five buttons in  
On her shirt, but not tackled the bra  
Nearly did once before, but-

**CLEF** *(defensive)* Your Dad dying can be a mood killer?

**ARIA** *(gentle)* Of course. No-one's implying anything  
We all gotta take the time we need.

*Clef feels a bit embarrassed at losing his temper.*

**CLEF** Nat's done more things than him  
Which should make it easier  
But instead he just feels terror  
Of never living up  
Nat is kind and proper buff  
But she knocks him off his centre  
Filling his heard and head  
And says how rare he is

**NAT** Caring about me, not just 'tween my legs

*Aria/Nat beams at Clef. He gives her a watery smile.*

**NAT** First day and last! How's it feel?

**CLEF** Like I'm on show. No-one's being real. Acting like I'm fragile, acting like I'm weak-

**NAT** You know I don't think that, you can talk to me.

*There's a slightly awkward pause between them.*

**NAT** Y'know when it gets... a lot... and you need a break. *(a beat as she finds the right words)* Which is why I actually wanted to say - I got free house tonight. And I know I said about taking our time, but maybe now's right to... Y'know... If you wanted to.

*An awkward pause.*

**CLEF** Oh.

**NAT** Do you understand what I'm saying Clef?

**CLEF** Yeah.

**NAT** I thought it's what boys - what you wanted?

**CLEF** Yeah, course I do, just... *(scrambling)* Just we're doing a set tonight.

**NAT** What, you and Tone? Live?

**CLEF** Yeah.

**NAT** Ah wow, can I com-

**DJ** But before Nat can finish those words  
In steps the man of the hour  
The life and soul of the party  
Exuding his teenage power

**CLEF** *(with great admiration)* ...Tone!

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