

# CONGRESS



**A SERIES OF FIRST SPEECHES FROM  
VOICES OFTEN UNHEARD.  
PERSONAL VISIONS FOR OUR  
COLLECTIVE FUTURE.**

CREATED BY **ALL THE QUEENS MEN** | PRESENTED BY **WILTSHIRE CREATIVE**



**SALISBURY  
INTERNATIONAL  
ARTS FESTIVAL**  
WITH WILTSHIRE CREATIVE

**WILTSHIRE  
CREATIVE**



Australia  
Council  
for the Arts



Congress is supported by the UK/Australia Season Patrons, the British Council, the Australian Government and Creative Partnerships Australia through the Australian Cultural Fund as part of the UK/Australia Season 2021-22. All The Queens Men is supported by the Australia Council for the Arts.

All The Queens Men begin by paying respect to the Lands and the First Peoples from which we come to share with you, the Sovereign Custodians of the Kulin Nations, the Boonwurrung, Wadawurrung and Woiwurrung people. We pay our respect to all First Nations Elders past, present and emerging.

We come from these lands called Australia. Always was, always will be Aboriginal Land.

## ALL THE QUEENS MEN

All The Queens Men collaborate with communities of all shapes, sizes, and identities to produce transformative, creative experiences that champion equality, social health, and human connection. The Company's works have been shared across Australia and globally.

Love + Art + Community.

[allthequeensmen.net](http://allthequeensmen.net)

**Concept and Direction:** Tristan Meecham and Bec Reid

**Composer and Sound Design:** Nick Roux

**Lighting and Set Design:** Ben (Bosco) Shaw

**Creative Producer/Stage Manager:** Anna Pidgeon

## WILTSHIRE CREATIVE

Wiltshire Creative is a multi-arts organisation rooted in, inspired by, the city of Salisbury. The creation of new work is at the heart of its programme, as it builds new relationships with audiences, artists and participants. Community engagement is a priority with a team working with local community and networks to provide inspiring, accessible and inclusive arts experiences for the people of Salisbury and Wiltshire regardless of the individual or social challenges they may face.

[wiltshirecreative.co.uk](http://wiltshirecreative.co.uk)

**Co-Curator and Take Part Director:** Louise Dancy

**Take Part Team:** Gjenya Cambray, Francesca Myles, Georgia Norbury, Clare Threadgold and Elise Williamson

**Production Manager:** Sarah Bath

**Producer:** Fiona Curtis

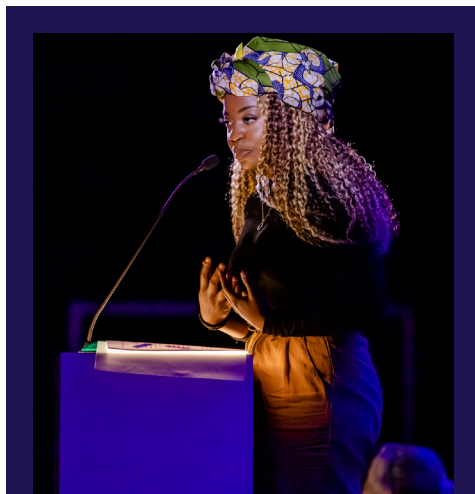
**Marketing:** Lyndsey Harvey at Landon

**Set Construction and Painting:** Tim Reed, Daniel Gent, Rod Holt

**Senior Technician (Sound and Video):** Michael Scott

**Deputy Technical Manager:** Dave Marsh  
Full Wiltshire Creative Staff list on Wiltshire Creative's website.

These teams have collaborated across continents and timezones to bring this special production to Salisbury.



The word Congress comes from the Latin roots 'CON' meaning together and 'GRADI' meaning to walk, which then becomes 'to meet.' A congress is an act of coming together.

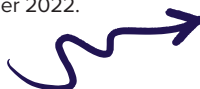
We live in a world of cacophony, the loud, the harsh and the violent dominate our airwaves. They drown out the stories of the people and communities all around us that are profound, tender and courageous.

Congress connects eight local citizens of Salisbury in collaboration with eight professional wordsmiths. Together, these partnerships have created a series of 'first speeches' - generated urgently for our times.

Tonight, just this once, we come together to listen to what they have to say.

The speeches that you hear this evening will be available to read online after the event. They will be available for one week until Friday 4 November 2022. The speech transcripts are correct at time of publication.

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO READ THE SPEECHES**



## WORDSMITH & CITIZEN SPEAKER PARTNERSHIPS

### **DR. OLU TAIWO AND CLARE CHRISTOPHER**

Olu is Associate Professor of Acting and Digital Research at the University of Winchester and has a background in African percussion, martial arts, T'ai Chi Ch'uan and Animal spirit movement. Born in Salisbury, Clare enjoys growing and eating vegetables, laughing with friends over a pint of real cider and beating her husband at cards.

### **SAFIYA KAMARIA KINSHASA AND JOHANNES OGHORO**

Safiya is a writer, poet and performer who uses dance as the basis of her practice. Safiya loves fashion, art galleries and ice-cream. Originally from Nigeria, Johannes enjoys football, going on walks and music. He is excited about public speaking and getting out of his comfort zone.

### **NAZLI TABATABAI-KHATAMBAKSH AND RUSLAN KUVANYSHEV**

Nazli is an artist, writer and researcher who thrives at the intersection of cultural experiences local, international and national. Nazli, imaginatively engages with creating new narratives and reinterpretations of existing classics. Originally from Kazakhstan, Ruslan's passions are supporting Ukrainians and football.

### **VERONICA DEWAN AND MONWARA ALI**

Veronica is an adoptee whose sense of unbelonging as a child led to tracing her Indian and Irish families. She is passionate about theatre, new writing and building compassionate communities. Born in Bangladesh, Mona loves gardening at the allotments and is excited about being part of a project that gives voice to people.

### **JAYNE WOODHOUSE AND JACK CUNNINGHAM**

Jayne is an author of children's novels, non-fiction books, short stories and, more recently, plays for the theatre. She teaches creative writing in Salisbury, where she lives, and is particularly interested in how the arts can support and enhance well-being. Jack is 19 years old and a student at Bath Spa University. Jack enjoys walking his dog, voice acting and memorising all the flags of the world.

### **HANNAH TREADAWAY AND JESS MOORE**

Hannah is a Writer, Director, Coach and Access Consultant who loves exploring new perspectives and new ways of telling stories. Hannah is fascinated by outer space and is a big fan of Sci-fi, songwriting, silly jokes and a

sunny breezy day. Jess would like to be the Mayor of Salisbury, loves pumpkins and prefers Instagram to Tik Tok.

### **JEREMY DAVIES AND PATIENCE AND NEAL DREYER**

Jeremy is an Anglican Priest and was Canon Precentor at Salisbury Cathedral. He is in demand as a Preacher and Liturgist in the UK and America and is a keen squash and rugby fan. Neal is a local health professional, serves on St Michael's Bemerton Parish Council, an LGBTQ+ ally and a member of the Salisbury Christian LGBTQ+ Fellowship group. Patience is a Staff Nurse in Palliative Care, a pianist and Grandmima to two adorable grandbabies.

### **RUSS TUNNEY AND ANDREW POWLESLAND**

Russ is a Playwright and Director who lives in Salisbury and spends most of his time making big things happen in unusual places. He is fuelled mainly by gin, ghosts he doesn't believe in and the music of Kate Bush. Andrew is a retired RN, nurse, teacher, active parent, granddad, gardener and local volunteer. He also loves classic cars, real ale, travel and the outdoors.

## MOVERS

**Panthera Dance Company** is an inclusive, fun and affordable company providing instruction in multiple dance, yoga and fitness genres for people of all ages and abilities. Based in Salisbury, Panthera has two state-of-the-art studios and works with over 15 schools based in the county. Panthera is an award-winning, family business, keen to provide artistic opportunities to the community of Salisbury. [pantheradancecompany.co.uk](http://pantheradancecompany.co.uk)

**DANCE SIX-0** enables people aged 60+ to create and perform contemporary dance works that engage, entertain and inspire. We aim to challenge expectations about ageing. [Dancesix0.com](http://Dancesix0.com)

**Kateryna Barvitska-Kuvanysheva** is from Ukraine and has a degree in Tourism. She met her husband Ruslan in Spain and is now building her new life here in the United Kingdom.

**Mrs Joshna Prasanth and Mrs Linnny Nino** bring South Indian classic dance to Salisbury. Both are nurses and members of Salisbury Malayalee Association. [salisburymalayaleeassociation.org](http://salisburymalayaleeassociation.org)

**Stage 65 Youth Theatre** celebrates young people coming together through performance to recognise who they are, and what they can do to show there is no limit to the arts.



Take a breath, gently exhale. In writing the following words to be read by you, where you are now, I hope to have embroidered into them something of a trace of autumn 2022. Be it the protests across the UK drawing attention to the soaring cost of living and impacts of the climate crisis. Or the words of daring protesters in Iran sweeping internationally with the call to action 'women, life, freedom'. Perhaps the continued coverage of the Russia-Ukraine war?

Your engagement with Congress in Salisbury on the 29th October will be unique to you, it will become a memory. It will be formed in part by words and phrases trigger your lived experience and perhaps you will infuse with them new thoughts and feelings.

How do you shape your ideas about the world? Late last night I was awake with half-formed thoughts about freedom, confinement and living between languages. As a salve to these I began to sense out my feelings about the future. In that moment the unexpected happened, I felt, and what I felt in my heart was joy. I live in a time and place where I am writing to you from that I can share these words without censoring myself. For that I am grateful. The sunlight is streaming through my window and the warmth of it reminds me that when I need to take life minute to minute it is to nourish the distances I must travel.

Each of us today and in the days to come in the context of our own lives will need to make decisions that impact the everyday and some will continue to resonate through to generations to come. I have been feeling and thinking a lot about how to have conversations that go beyond agreeing to disagree. To engage with making progress be it incremental or a great leap. I am reminded of the words of the poet Jalāl al-Dīn Muhammad Rūmī *"Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing there is a field. I'll meet you there."*

If you could have the full attention of one person, your local community, the world what of your thoughts and feelings would you want to be heard and understood? I hope to in my lifetime to learn what that might be, and in the meantime, I will be keeping you in mind, dear reader of these words.

**By Nazli Tabatabai-Khatambakhsh**

## THANK YOU

Sally Cowling, Roger Monk, Ash Mills, Rob Douglas, Jo Pike, Jane Morgan, Trianna (BSL), Sonia Carr, Rebecca Harwood Lincoln, Paul Stevens, Kristina Stephenson, Veronica Dewan, Nick Papadopoulos, Paula B Stanic, Andrew Thackery, Alex Rothery, Ineta Zeile, Sam Bird, Georgie Batchelor, Jenny Cooper, Tom Sherman, Jim Pelham, Hatti Dawson, Rosalind Conlon, Joshna Prasanth, Charlene Moore, Sharon Read, Emma Golby-Kirk, Karen Langley, Steven Donohue, Lillian Hughes, Beth O'Connor and all of our wonderful Volunteers.

If you enjoyed Congress, please continue to support Wiltshire Creative and All The Queens Men by joining our mailing lists: [wiltshirecreative.co.uk](http://wiltshirecreative.co.uk) / [allthequeensmen.net](http://allthequeensmen.net)