



Coram's Voices Through Time: The Story of Care Programme

Coram is the UK's first and longest continuing children's charity, established in 1739 by Thomas Coram as the Foundling Hospital. Today, Coram continues to champion the rights and welfare of children through adoption and fostering, advocacy and legal support, education and skills, ensuring that children's experiences and voices are heard in decisions that matter, now and forever.

The Voices Through Time: The Story of Care programme (2019-2024) digitised thousands of records from Coram's Foundling Hospital Archive, a rich historical resource. The archive gives detailed insights into the mothers' circumstances, the Foundlings' lives at the Hospital and their subsequent apprenticeships. In October 2024, Coram will make the new Digital Archive (1741-1895) freely available online so that a wide audience can learn about the history of children in care.

Alongside a transcription project with volunteers, Coram has run a series of creative projects that have enabled care-experienced young people to explore and be inspired by our heritage records. Through these projects, the young people use, illuminate and reclaim the story of care. Tonight's play and film are the culminations of two of these creative projects.

Find out more about the history of the Foundling Hospital and the Voices Through Time programme at [CoramStory.org.uk](https://www.coramstory.org.uk)

- [coram.org.uk](https://www.coram.org.uk)
- [@Coram](https://twitter.com/Coram)
- [Coramsince1739](https://www.facebook.com/Coramsince1739)
- [coram.uk](https://www.instagram.com/coram.uk)
- [Coramsince1739](https://www.youtube.com/Coramsince1739)
- [Coram](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Coram)

Hoxton Stories in Coram's Foundling Hospital Archive

To learn about Hoxton Stories in Coram's Foundling Hospital Archive, scan the QR code:



Registered Charity no: 312278

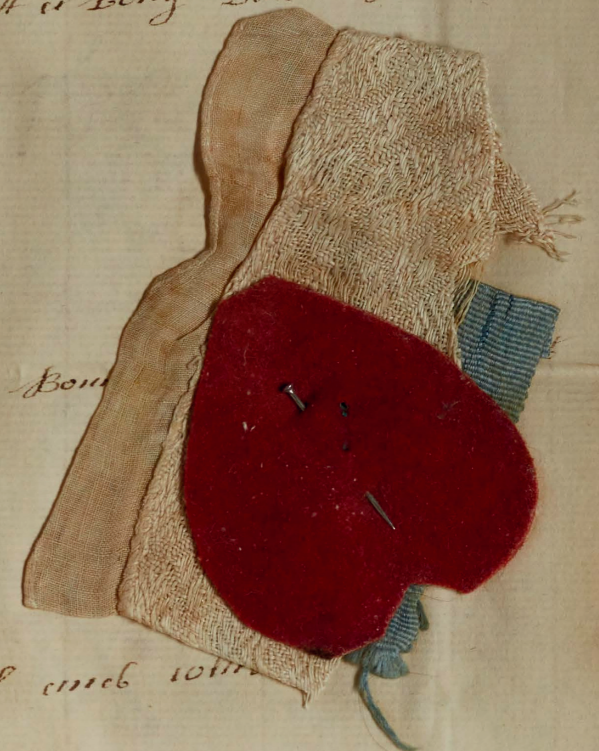
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Echoes Through Time: The Story of Care

A play by Brian Mullin
Directed by Vicky Moran

and the documentary film

No Place Like Home: The Story of the Foundling Hospital

Thursday 4 April 2024, 7pm
Hoxton Hall, London

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is 100s given to the Childs Gap
enclosed*

Coram commissioned the play and the documentary film as part of the Voices Through Time: The Story of Care programme (2019-2024), which was made possible by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The Heritage Fund has also supported tonight's performance and drinks reception.

Tonight's Programme

19:00 – Theatre performance

19:45 – Congratulations to young people by Carol Homden, Coram CEO

19:50 – Celebratory drinks and nibbles

20:40 – Film screening

21:20 – Drinks and nibbles

22:00 – End

Echoes Through Time: The Story of Care

Performers

Ben Treloar, Darius Kangudi, Fran Agyeman, Imran Bellioum, Jamie Dale, Janna Dibaga Sylla, Kavyan Yahyapour, Keziah-Kae Mensah, Maryam Mahmood, Teo Dumont, Tiana Valman Nyari

Production Credits

Writer – Brian Mullin

Director – Vicky Moran

Set and costume design – Kat Heath

Sound design – Josh Grigg

Assistant directors – Kian Kingsley and Aaliyah Larose

Assistant designer – Angie

Creative delivery coordinator – Mikey Lynam

Producer – Coram

Script Devising Group

Lead facilitators: Brian Mullin, Vicky Moran

Assistant facilitator: Billy Wagon-Horrix

Aaliyah Larose, Billy Wagon-Horrix, Fran Agyeman, Kian Kingsley, Khadar, Lucelle, Reece, Rose

**THIS COULD BE A FRESH START,
A NEW CHANCE,
ARE YOU READY TO TAKE IT?**



A group of care-experienced young people are suspended in time – half in the modern world, half in the world of the Foundling Hospital, Britain's first children's charity, which continues today as Coram. As they grapple with the challenges of today's care system, they explore the stories and experiences of the Foundlings, the very first children in care, unearthing common threads of experience across the centuries.

The script of Echoes Through Time: The Story of Care was created in collaboration with a group of care-experienced young people in a three-month development period in 2023, as part of Coram's Voices Through Time programme. This evening is a showcase of the piece they created, performed by care-experienced actors. Some of the actors were part of the script-devising group, others are entirely new to the project. This evening is a celebration of all of their work.

This play is a piece of historically informed emotional imagining. The devising group drew on stories of children raised at the Foundling Hospital in the 18th and 19th centuries. Although this was a different experience from care today, the young people shared with the Foundlings a core experience of separation from their birth families – for a variety of reasons – and of the many emotions that can accompany this. They were encouraged to explore the Foundlings' lives by stepping inside their historical experiences and asking what they may have felt as they journeyed from living with their wet nurse's family, to education at the Foundling Hospital, and on to an apprenticeship outside the Hospital. All of the Foundlings mentioned in the play were real people.

As the legacy of this project, Coram will be publishing the play script online, along with a digital resource pack, for the free use of schools, colleges, youth groups and others.

Content warning

The performance will feature moments of inclusive, voluntary participation from the audience; you can join if you wish, or choose not to. The play explores emotional themes related to experiences in the care system, both present and historical, including abandonment, grief, economic hardship and separation from family.

No Place Like Home: The Story of the Foundling Hospital

This documentary film reveals fascinating details of the lives of some of the 27,000 children who grew up at the Foundling Hospital between 1741 and 1954. Through interviews, contemporary images and archival records, the film explores the circumstances that led to the Foundlings' admission, their early form of foster care, their education and apprenticeships, and their lives beyond the Hospital. The documentary was created by film director Michelle Tofi and production company Northern Town (executive producer, Edward Morgan).