

Chris Thorpe

Writer



Film, TV & Theatre

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Biography

Chris Thorpe is a writer and performer from Manchester – formerly Associate Artist at the Royal Exchange – work for them includes *There Has Possibly Been An Incident* and *The Mysteries*. Other theatre work includes *Victory Condition* and *The Milk of Human Kindness* for the Royal Court, *Chorus* for the Gate Theatre and *Hannah, Beowulf* and one of *Aesop's Fables* for the Unicorn. He also has ongoing collaborations with Rachel Chavkin produced by China Plate (*Confirmation/Status*), Lucy Ellinson (*TORYCORE*), Portugal's mala voadora (*Overdrama/House-Garden/Dead End/Your Best Guess*) and Hannah Jane Walker (*The Oh Fuck Moment/I Wish I Was Lonely*) Chris was a founder member of Unlimited Theatre, is an Associate of Live Art/Theatre company Third Angel and has worked frequently with Forest Fringe. Chris has also recently collaborated with Rachel Bagshaw, writing the award-winning *The Shape of the Pain*. He has also worked as a translator, most frequently with Serbian playwright Ugljesa Sajtinac and Belarus Free Theatre. His short film for the Royal Court and the Financial Times about the climate crisis, *What Do You Want Me To Say?* Was released in September 2019.

Chris' performance work tours internationally, and is also regularly produced for stage and radio throughout Europe and in the US, including the recent premiere of *Victory Condition* at Residenztheater Munich, and the Italian productions of *There Has Possibly Been an Incident* and *Confirmation*, which won the Premio Franco Enriequez 2018. Other awards include Fringe Firsts for *Static* and *Neutrino* (both with Unlimited *Confirmation, Status, The Oh Fuck Moment*, and *The Shape of the Pain*, as well as for Javaad Alipoor's *the Believers Are But Brothers* and *Rich Kids: A History of Shopping Malls In Tehran*, on which he worked as dramaturg, selection for Berlin Theatertreffen's Stuckemarkt for *There Has Possibly Been an Incident*, and the Arches Brick Award for *TORYCORE*. His work is published by Oberon Books/Bloomsbury/Nick Hern Books.

Chris was the Arvon Foundation mentor for playwrighting, 2016/17 and tutors courses regularly for them, he also works with the National Student Drama Festival. He has written radio and film, and is currently working on new projects for NT Connections, mala voadora, China Plate/Rachel Chavkin, FUEL and Staatstheater Mainz.

Chris has an ongoing co-writing and making collaboration with Javaad Alipoor, including *Things Hidden Since The Foundation of the World*, currently preparing for its US tour after shows at Sydney Opera House and successful runs in Manchester and London, and a new piece, *Cinema Tehran*, opens at Aviva Studios/Factory International in Manchester in Autumn 2027.

Upcoming work also includes *Always Maybe The Last Time*, opening Spring 2027, directed by Vicky Featherstone and produced by FUEL and opening at Brighton Festival before touring the UK and beyond, and *I Think You Should Sit Down* for Staatstheater Mainz, directed by Sam Pritchard, opening in January 2027.

Chris' new pieces, *A Family Business* and the solo piece *Talking About The Fire*, based on several years researching and working in nuclear disarmament spaces and treaty negotiation developed with China Plate and directed by Claire O'Reilly, are currently touring internationally.

Credits

In Development

Production	Company	Notes
CINEMA TEHRAN	Factory/Aviva Studios Manchester	Co-written with Javaad Alipoor
ALWAYS MAYBE THE LAST TIME	FUEL/Oxford University/Brighton Festival	In development with Vicky Featherstone
I THINK YOU SHOULD SIT DOWN	Staatstheater Mainz	Directed by Sam Pritchard

Theatre

Production	Company	Notes
A FAMILY BUSINESS 2024	China Plate Theatre	Written and Performed by Chris Thorpe. Directed by Claire O'Reilly. Touring Internationally. ★★★★★ "Utopian, activist piece of theatre" - The Stage
THE SOPRANO ALWAYS DIES 2024	mala voadora and Portuguese National Opera	Writer
THINGS HIDDEN SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD 2023	HOME Manchester and Sydney International Festival	Dramaturg and Co-writer. International touring into 2025. ★★★★★ "the theatrical version of a wild Wikipedia dive" TimeOut. ★★★★★ "a dazzling argument for complexity" The Guardian
TALKING ABOUT THE FIRE 2023	China Plate / Royal Court	Directed by Claire O'Reilly. Touring Internationally. "Masterfully put together" ★★★★★ Time Out
TRUEMAN AND THE ARSONISTS 2023	Roundhouse Theatre	Written by Max Frisch, Dir. Abigail Graham, with songs by Chris Thorpe
MAID OF MANNHEIM 2021	Nationaltheater Mannheim/Theaterhaus G7	Co-written with Javaad Alipoor. "Potent and thought-provoking" ★★★★★ The Stage
TELL ME 2020	HOME Manchester	Co-written with Yusra Warsama.
WE ARE THE KING OF VENTILATORS 2020	Onassis Foundation, NYC	Text for performance and Short Film for Tim Etchells/Vlatka Horvat.
RICH KIDS, A HISTORY OF SHOPPING MALLS IN TEHRAN 2019	Javaad Alipoor Company	Dramaturg. Fringe First Award and International Touring.
OFF 2019	mala voadora/ National Theatre Lisbon	Writer.

Production	Company	Notes
THE MYSTERIES 2018	Royal Exchange Theatre	Cycle of six plays. Co-written with Sam Pritchard. "Unnerving and yet uplifting" The Guardian.
STATUS 2018	China Plate Theatre	Summerhall, Edinburgh Festival – Fringe First Winner. Dir. Rachel Chavkin
THE SHAPE OF THE PAIN 2017	China Plate	Directed by Rachel Bagshaw. Fringe First Award, UK and International touring. ★★★★★ "a kaleidoscopic exercise in empathy" The Guardian.
YOUR BEST GUESS 2017	mala voadora	Writer and Performer. Two-hander with Jorge Andrade, touring internationally.
THE BELIEVERS ARE BUT BROTHERS 2017	Javaad Alipoor Company	Dramaturg. Fringe First Award. International Tour.
VICTORY CONDITION 2017	The Royal Court	
THE MILK OF HUMAN KINDNESS 2016	The Royal Court / LIFT	Durational piece on reporting around nationalism/immigration.
BEOWULF 2016	Unicorn Theatre	As writer: heavy metal one-woman adaptation of the epic poem.
THE IPHEGENIA QUARTET 2016	The Gate Theatre	Writer of CHORUS
CONFIRMATION 2014	Warwick Arts Centre	Dir. Rachel Chavkin
HANNAH 2014	Unicorn Theatre	Dir. Simon Evans
DARK WOODS, DEEP SNOW. A GRIMM TALE. 2013	Northern Stage	
THE NOISE 2013	Unlimited Theatre	
THERE HAS POSSIBLY BEEN AN INCIDENT 2013	Manchester Royal Exchange/Latitude/Edinburgh	Dir. Sam Pritchard
WHAT I HEARD ABOUT THE WORLD 2013	British Council Showcase	
I WISH I WAS LONELY 2013	Edinburgh Fringe	Written and performed with Hannah Jane Walker
DEAD END 2012	mala voadora	Written for European Capital Of Culture, Guimaraes
HOUSE/GARDEN 2012	mala voadora	Centro Cultural do Belem, Lisbon
OVERDRAMA 2011	mala voadora	Cultergest, Lisbon
MISSION TO MARS 2011	Unlimited Theatre/Polka Theatre	Polka Theatre and Tour
MOMENTS DESIGNED FOR A CITY 2011	WYP	City-wide piece
OH F**K MOMENT 2011	Edinburgh Fringe/UK Tour/International Tour	Co-written with Hannah Jane Walker. FringeFirst Award 2011.
MINSK 2011 2011	Belarus Free Theatre	English version. FringeFirst Award 2011.
ROBIN HOOD 2011	NSDF	

Production	Company	Notes
COME TO WHERE I'M FROM 2010	Paines Plough	
WHAT I HEARD ABOUT THE WORLD 2010	Third Angel/Sheffield Theatres/mala voadora	Writer/performer. Co-production with Third Angel, Sheffield Theatres and mala voadora (Portugal). Opened at Sheffield Crucible October 2010, in Lisbon in November 2010 and toured Spring 2011.
HIGH SPEED IMPACT. TEST NUMBER ONE 2010	Contact Theatre, Manchester	Writer/performer. Commisioned by Queer Up North. Originally performed at Contact Theatre and subsequently at various venues.
HERE I AM 2010	West Yorkshire Playhouse	Translation of a new script by Belarus Free Theatre.
OLDENBURG FUR AUSSERIRDISCHE 2010	Pazz Festival, Germany	Writer/performer.
STATIC 2010	Theaterhaus TiG7	New version in collaboration with Theaterhaus TiG7, Mannheim, Germany
DOWN THE WIRES 2009	Lowry Theatre, Salford	Writer/performer.
INVENTORY 2009	Forest Fringe, Edinburgh	Writer/performer. Also performed at Shunt and the Soho Theatre.
BEYOND THE FRONT LINE 2009	Slung Low	Contributing writer and performer. The Lowry, Salford.
ANIMALS 2009		Translation of a new play by Ugljesa Sajtinac.
TOUCHED 2009	North Wall/Latitude Festival	Commissioned by NSDF for the ensemble.
BORDERLAND 2008		Translation of a new play by Ugljesa Sajtinac.
PARTS FOR MACHINES THAT DO THINGS 2008	Sheffield Theatres	Third Angel
A LIST OF THINGS THAT FELL 2008	Forest Fringe, Edinburgh	Writer/performer.
PRESUMPTION 2007	Third Angel - UK/European Tour	
THE MOON THE MOON 2007	Northern Stage - National/World Tour	
THE ETHICS OF PROGRESS 2007	National/World Tour	Co-production with West Yorkshire and Oxford Playhouse
TANGLE 2007	National/World Tour	Co-production with Newbury Corn Exchange and Sheffield Crucible
SAFETY 2006	Urban Stages, New York	
A CLOCKWORK ORANGE 2006	National Theatre	Collaboration with Benji Reid
HUDDERSFIELD 2004	West Yorkshire Playhouse	English version of a play by Ugljesa Sajtinac. Directed by Alex Chisholm.
SAFETY 2002	Unlimited Theatre at the Traverse Theatre	
NEUTRINO 2001	Unlimited Theatre	Co-written with Chris Gooded. Winner of a Fringe First Award.

Production	Company	Notes
STATIC 2000	Unlimited Theatre	Winner of a Fringe First Award
DEAD IN THE WATER 1999	Unlimited Theatre	

Radio

Production	Company	Notes
RIO STORY 2012	Goldhawk Productions	BBC Radio 4 Friday night play. Broadcast spring 2012.
OK COMPUTER 2007	BBC Radio 4	
REUNION 2006	BBC Radio 4	
STATIC 2001	BBC Radio 4	Radio adaptation of an original play

Other

Production	Company	Notes
CLIMATE CHANGE: WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY? 2019	Financial Times / Royal Court	Directed by Juliet Riddell
THE BOMB ON MUTANNABBI STREET IS STILL EXPLODING 2012	Soup Collective/Imperial War Museum North	Permanent installation in the main exhibition space at Imperial War Museum North