



PRESS RELEASE – 8 October 2019

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FIERCE FESTIVAL AND STAN'S CAFE ANNOUNCE NEW SHARED PREMISES



Tania El Khoury's The Search for Power, and Begüm Erciyas' Voicing Pieces

- **FIERCE FESTIVAL AND STAN'S CAFE ARE TO TAKE UP RESIDENCE IN ALBERT HOUSE IN BIRMINGHAM CITY CENTRE**
- **FIERCE FESTIVAL ARE TO HOST THE FINAL PERFORMANCES AT @AE HARRIS, STAN'S CAFE'S FORMER PREMISE, BEFORE ITS CLOSURE**
- **FIERCE FESTIVAL ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP WITH BOURNE & CO. COCKTAILS AS THEIR OFFICIAL FESTIVAL BAR**

Fierce Festival and **Stan's Cafe** are excited to announce new shared city centre premises. Through the support of **East Street Arts**, the two Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisations will move into **Albert House**, on Albert Street in Birmingham City Centre, from their former locations in Digbeth, and the Jewelry Quarter, respectively.

East Street Arts is a Leeds based charity that pairs arts charities with empty buildings, in guardianship type arrangements. The move offers a boost to the local performing arts ecology which has a lack of provision for performing arts rehearsal and office space. Fierce and Stan's Cafe will occupy a floor each of the building, which is located just behind McDonald's on the High Street. A further floor, comprised of smaller offices, has been allocated to independent artists in the region.

Since 2010 East Street Arts have developed a strategic approach to linking temporary or empty spaces to artists and other creative practitioners through their In Situ Programme. East Street Arts has moved in and out of a wide range of spaces across the country including Grade-A offices, night clubs, warehouses, retail units and post-civic spaces.

Fierce's new penthouse space has a separate room which the organisation will offer as a rehearsal space for the local performing arts community. The move for Stan's Cafe is significant as it sees them leave their much-loved Jewelry Quarter offices and theatre space @AE Harris, which they've occupied for 10 years.

To celebrate and mark the end of a decade of performances in the re-purposed factory space @AE Harris will host two performances as part of this year's Fierce Festival, allowing audiences a final chance to experience the venue before the site is redeveloped.

Tania El Khoury's immersive *The Search For Power* will occupy three of the venue's large warehouse spaces, while the theatre space we be home to **Voicing Pieces**, a performance installation by Turkish-Flemish artist **Begüm Erciyas**.

This is the general public's last chance to see these much-loved spaces which have seen many extraordinary performances over the years from Stan's Cafe and many other local companies. The venue was where **BE Festival** was born and grew up. It has also played host to many famous Fierce performances and parties over the years including the likes of **Kira O'Reilly, Preach R Sun, Anne Rochat, Dickie Beau, The Famous Lauren Barri Holstein, SJ Norman** and countless others.

Artistic Director of Fierce Aaron Wright said:

"We're excited to be finally moving in with our friends Stan's Cafe after a very long engagement. Our new premises offers huge potential for the local performing arts ecology, which is lacking in infrastructure in the city. As well as offering meeting, rehearsal and devising space, we also hope to foster a sense of community with hot desks available for local performing arts freelancers as well as quarterly discursive dinners to bring the community together. We can't wait to see what might arise."

Roisin Caffrey, Executive Producer of Stan's Cafe commented:

"Residency on the AE Harris & Co site has benefited Stan's Cafe enormously and we are grateful for their generous support over the past decade. This experience has taught us that fantastic artistic projects develop when artists work alongside each other so we are therefore excited to be moving in with new artists and with Fierce, who have always provoked us to think in new ways. We have big plans for the future and this is the start of an exciting new chapter."

Fierce Festival are also delighted to announce a new partnership with one of their favourite, independent Birmingham bars: **Bourne & Co. Cocktails**. From Wednesday 16th to Friday 18th October inclusive Bourne & Co. Cocktails will be the official Fierce Festival 2019 bar and late-night meeting point. A late-night speakeasy hideout, Bourne & Co. will be serving up cocktails with a special late license until 3am.

-ENDS-

**For further information please contact The Corner Shop PR on 020 7831 7657
kateh@thecornershoppr.com**

LISTINGS

Tania El Khoury - Lebanon

In Search of Power

Wednesday 16 October – 8.30pm

Thursday 17 October – 8.30pm

Friday 18 October – 8.30pm

Saturday 18 October – 8.30pm

@AE Harris

On a night with a sudden electricity outage in Beirut, the artist and her historian husband promised each other to research the history of power outages in Lebanon. *The Search for Power* is a lecture and installation performance inviting audience to look into archival documents, inaccessible knowledge, and a personal quest for revenge

Begüm Erciyas - Belgium

Voicing Pieces

Friday 18 October – 12noon-7pm

Saturday 19 October – 12noon-7pm

Sunday 20 October – 12noon-7pm

@AE Harris

In *Voicing Pieces*, one's own voice is staged to become the protagonist. In the intimacy of an isolated sound booth, guided by a simple score, the audience becomes spectator of their own voice. Isn't one's own voice always inauthentic and uncanny? Who is speaking, when one's own voice speaks? Rather than recognizing oneself in the stranger, *Voicing Pieces* is an invitation to recognize the stranger in oneself.

Bourne & Co. Cocktails

Official Fierce Festival Bar 2019

5pm – 3am

7-8 Suffolk St,
Queensway,
Birmingham,
B1 1LT

Notes to Editors

Fierce Festival is one of the UK's most respected festivals of Live Art & the leading organisation for Live Art in the West Midlands. It has an international reputation for agenda setting curation & intelligent commissioning that has seen Fierce commissions tour worldwide. The festival embraces theatre, dance, music, installations, activism, digital practices and parties. Fierce fills the city with performances in theatres, galleries and other out-of-the-ordinary spaces and has a long history of presenting the UK debuts or UK premieres of important international artists and shows.

Fierce believes that live art is the 'engine room' of our culture. It is a space where new performative ideas find a form for their expression and create surprising, provocative and inspiring collective moments for audiences in the West Midlands and beyond.

Fierce is committed to supporting emerging, overlooked, unusual & difficult live art practices from around the world, and invites visionary artists interested in 'liveness', from a range of artistic disciplines to work in Birmingham. Beyond the festival frame, Fierce plays a pivotal role in the local arts ecology, developing the cultural offer of the city & supporting local artist communities with its Fierce FWD artist development programme & year-round initiatives including its popular Club Fierce late-night events series.

Fierce's work is informed by an intersectional queer politic that seeks to challenge established understandings of art & give a platform to marginalized artists who have no choice but to embody their politics. These voices, stories & ideals, we believe, need to be told in order to reflect the ever changing, diversifying society in which we live.

Fierce Festival is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation with regular funding confirmed until 2022.

“With its interest in marginalised communities, subversive counter-culture and identity politics, Fierce has one of the most diverse and representative programmes in the UK.” The Stage on Fierce Festival 2017.

www.wearefierce.org

Bourne & Co. Cocktails

Bourne & Co. is a late-night, NYC Prohibition style, intimate cocktail hideaway located just a stone's throw away from the New Alexandra theatre and the Raddison Blu hotel. Dark and sexy cove, with the best vintage cocktail menu in the city, delicious food and a laid-back vibe.

Through the prism of a cocktail glass, Bourne & Co are here to create a vibe, mixing remnants of the past with a more convivial era. We are here to bring back the craftsmanship of bartending that we lost somewhere along the way. We aim to focus on the detail when it comes to vintage and classical cocktail preparation, paying tribute to the history behind them. We also aim to understand the different styles of classic drinks, allowing us to feature rhythmus select beverages, whether they be modern creations or twisted classics.