



The
Initiate
Alexandra Wood

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THE INITIATE



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The Initiate was first performed on 2 August 2014 in the Paines Plough Roundabout at Summerhall, Edinburgh, as part of the 2014 Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

MAN

Andrew French

YOUNGER MAN

Abdul Salis

WOMAN

Siân Reese-Williams

Direction

George Perrin

Design

Lucy Osborne

Lighting Design

Emma Chapman

Sound Design

Tom Gibbons

Movement Director

Kate Sagovsky

Associate Director

Sean Linnen

Associate Sound Design

Dom Kennedy

Assistant Movement Director

Jennifer Jackson

Dialect Coaches

Helen Ashton,

Richard Ryder

Producer

Hanna Streeter

Touring Production Manager

Rachel Shipp

Production Manager

Bernd Fauler

Company Stage Manager

Harriet Stewart

Assistant Producer

Francesca Moody

Thanks

I'd like to thank Sebastian Born, Purni Morell and the rest of the NT Studio team for giving me the time and space to write this play; Jon Pashley, Andrew French, Ashley Zhangazha and Aïcha Kossoko who allowed me to hear it for the first time; George and James at Paines Plough for giving it a home; Lisa, my agent; the Roundabout actors and production team for their enthusiasm and commitment to the piece.

A.W.

For Kat Wilkins

Characters

MAN

YOUNGER MAN

WOMAN

Note on Text

A forward slash in the text (/) indicates a point of interruption.

A lack of a full stop at the end of a line indicates that the speaker cannot or does not want to finish.

This ebook was created before the end of rehearsals and so may differ slightly from the play as performed.

Scene One

YOUNGER MAN. How long have you been doing this?

MAN. Long enough.

YOUNGER MAN. Maybe you've been doing it too long, is that the problem?

MAN. It's the quickest route.

YOUNGER MAN. It just isn't.

MAN. Have you tried it?

YOUNGER MAN. I don't need to.

MAN. Maybe you should try it first. It doesn't take as long as you might think.

YOUNGER MAN. I don't have to debate this with you. Sat nav tells me how long things take, and sat nav tells me you're wrong.

MAN. In terms of distance

YOUNGER MAN. It takes longer, that's the point.

MAN. As the crow flies

YOUNGER MAN. Is the crow carrying the passengers from A to B?

MAN. Crows have the highest IQs of all birds.

YOUNGER MAN. So do you think a crow would take the scenic route?

MAN. He does take the scenic route, he flies above it all.

YOUNGER MAN. But given that we can't fly

MAN. We fly all over the world all the time.