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# SOUTH BEND

Written by Martin McCormick  
Directed by Ben Harrison



#SouthBendShow

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# SOUTH BEND



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL



## Thanks

Grid Iron would like to thank everyone at Platform, California Institute of the Arts, Hidden Door, Sophia Kolinas, The Quinns, everyone at our tour venues, the National Theatre of Scotland and Nadine from This Creative Bliss. You'll find her beautiful quilts on Etsy at QuiltedBlissByNadine.

See Scenic America  
THE VACATION WONDERLAND

# Director's Note

Like Martin, like so many of us, I was obsessed with America as a child. When I ran out of episodes of the *A-Team* in around 1983 I fell into a period of mourning. At 14 I had 101 pictures of Madonna on my bedroom wall. I adored and still adore the films of Tarantino, the music of Beirut, the energy of cities like New York and San Francisco.

But, like a page from a glossy fashion magazine left out in the rain, America's promise dissolves. The bright surface masks a terrible insecurity, born of a society bracing itself over the abyss of the death-inducing cost of healthcare. America is in hurry, like an anxious teenager with a fear of missing out. It has one of the highest divorce rates in the world, as people move on looking for their next fix. Like Martin, I have fallen in and out of love with America and have had my biggest highs and biggest lows under its spell. At times working on this brilliant and funny play has been less like directing and more like a period of intense therapy.

There is a long and illustrious history of European satire on America, with in my view Lars von Trier's *Dogville* (2003) being the most profound. But as we approach opening night, I find myself grateful for America, for all its contributions and achievements. It is, in so many ways, awesome.

**Ben Harrison**

## Writer's Note

It's been a pretty strange experience playing *Myself*. Not only does it invoke that wee voice of cynicism (I'm Scottish after all) who constantly reminds me, "Who wants to hear about your life?" or "Couldn't you have got a better, and more attractive, actor to play the part?". It doesnae ever go away. Then I've got my director, Ben Harrison, during rehearsals referring to my part in the play as 'Him'. Hold on a minute, 'Him' is me! This sometimes makes me hesitate whether the content of the play actually was something I experienced or was a work of fiction. Of course it's the former. With the odd wee re-ordering of the actual chronology, all of this did happen.

This will be my third time working with Grid Iron and the first as a playwright. The first was in my first year of graduating from drama school in 2008 (*Yarn* co-produced with Dundee Rep), then *Decky does a Bronco* in 2010 and now *South Bend*. The events in *South Bend* all occurred closer to when I first met Ben and Jude but there's no way I would've have been anywhere near ready to present them then. Grid Iron are a company who push boundaries, take risks and, literally, look the audience in the eye without fear and tell it how it truly is. I'm delighted to be doing that again for them because it's only now, twelve years after it all happened, that I'm ready to relive it.

**Martin McCormick**



*Cast* Jess Chanliau  
Martin McCormick  
David A. Pollock



## *Production Team*

Writer	Martin McCormick
Director	Ben Harrison
Producer	Judith Doherty
Finance & Development Manager	Deborah Crewe
Music & Live Foley	David A. Pollock
Set & Costume Design	Claire Halleran
Lighting Design	Andrew Gannon
Video Design	Lewis den Hertog
Production & Stage Manager	Mickey Graham
Technical Manager	Andrew Gannon
Deputy Stage Manager	Lauren Desjardins
Set Construction	Jamie Baxter
Scenic Artist	Jude Bomphray
Print Design	Emma Quinn
Print Image	The 16K Design Works
PR	The Corner Shop Scotland



# Biographies

## Martin McCormick Writer & Performer

Martin trained as an actor at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland graduating in 2007. His previous acting credits with Grid Iron include *Yarn* and *Decky does a Bronco*. His debut play, *Squash*, won the 2015 Critic's Awards for Theatre in Scotland for Best New Play. Other awards include Best Short Play in 2015 for *Potterrow* (supported by Cumbernauld Theatre). Other work includes *Ma, Pa and the Little Mouths* (Tron/NTS), *The Day the Pope Emptied Croy* (Traverse/Play, Pie and a Pint) and *Flo* (Play, Pie and Pint/ Lemon Tree). Martin also worked as a co-writer on *News Just In* (Random Accomplice). He is also writes and directs the Panto at Howden Park in Livingston and has been on the writing team at BBC Scotland soap *River City*.

## Jess Chanliau Performer

Jess Chanliau is so excited to be working with Grid Iron again! A local of the US and France, Jess studied at Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts in California and continued their training at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and Conservatoire National Supérieur d'Art Dramatique in Paris. Jess is looking forward to getting back to their theatrical roots after playing the lead in their first feature film, *Patients of Saint* (October 2019). [www.jesschanliau.com](http://www.jesschanliau.com)

## David A. Pollock Music & Live Foley

David Pollock is a musician, composer and sound designer with a strong connection to nature and organic audio. This evidently infiltrates, influences and inspires his soundscapes and musical works. Recently he helped create *Bird* with Sita Pieraccini and his sound element stood out to many of the critics at the Edinburgh Fringe. As well as composing for theatre and moving image David continues to write and perform with melodious post-rock band, Skies Fell. Examples of his work are available to listen to at [www.davidapollock.com](http://www.davidapollock.com)

## Ben Harrison Director

Ben has been Co-Artistic Director of Grid Iron since 1996. *South Bend* is his 27th production for the company. Highlights include *The Bloody Chamber*, *Gargantua*, *Decky Does A Bronco*, *Fermentation*, *Those Eyes*, *That Mouth*, *The Devil's Larder*, *Roam*, *Once Upon A Dragon*, *Yarn*, *Barflies*, *Huxley's Lab*, *Spring Awakening*, *Crude* and *Jury Play*. He was Associate Director of the Almeida Theatre London 2000 – 2002, Director of the Dutch company Muztheater 2004 – 2008 and a Fellow of NESTA from 2001–2004. In Scotland he has directed for the NTS, EIF, Traverse, Tron, Oran Mor, Arches, Citizens, Dogstar, Tromolo Productions and Paper Doll Militia. His show *Peter Pan* for 360 Entertainment, (UK and US tour 2009 – 2015) was seen by more than a million people. He has two other shows on this Fringe, *Let's Inherit The Earth* for Dogstar/Profilteatern at the Pleasance, and *Egg* by Paper Doll Militia at Summerhall.  
[www.benharrison.info](http://www.benharrison.info).

## Judith Doherty Producer

Judith is the Producer, Chief Executive and Co-Artistic Director of Grid Iron. She founded the company in 1995. Since 2000 she has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and she has also sat on the boards of the Independent Theatre Council and NVA. She is a member of the Scottish Drama Training Network management team. Freelance work has included Edinburgh International Book Festival, Edinburgh Fringe Society, Edinburgh International Festival, Unique Events, Universal Arts and BBC Scotland. In 2003 Judith received the Jack Tinker Spirit of the Fringe Award for her services to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.



# Biographies

## Deborah Crewe Finance & Development Manager

Deborah has worked part and full time with Grid Iron since 2003 although she has been closely involved with the company, as a member of the Board of Directors, since it began in 1995.

## Claire Halleran Set & Costume Designer

Claire is a graduate of Glasgow School of Art and Master of Fine Art, Queen Margaret University and is an associate lecturer with the University of West of Scotland. Her more recent design credits are *Ecoville* (Edinburgh International Science Festival), *The Polar Bears Go Up!* (Fish & Game), *Eric The Elf's Chaotic Christmas* (Macrobert Arts Centre), *Joan Eardley: A Private View* (Heroica Theatre Company), *The Man Who Followed his Legs* (Wee Stories), *The View From Castle Rock* (Stellar Quines/Edinburgh International Book Festival), *The Devil's Larder* (Grid Iron), *Whisky Galore* (National Theatre of Scotland). She has also designed for many other companies including Borderline/Hirtle, Ros Sydney, A Moment's Peace, Grinagog, Cultured Mongrel Dance Theatre, Visible Fictions, Active Inquiry, Strange Town, Smallpetitklein, Eco Drama, Magnetic North and Birds of Paradise. Claire has also designed several film festivals for Tilda Swinton and Mark Cousins and has developed and created many interactive events and workshops for the Edinburgh International Science Festival. She is co-founder of The Envelope Room, the network created in 2013 to support, promote and engage stage designers in Scotland. For other information and images of her designs, please go to [www.clairehalleran.weebly.com](http://www.clairehalleran.weebly.com)

## Andrew Gannon Lighting Designer & Technical Manager

Andrew is a freelance Theatre Technician and Lighting Designer. He started working in the industry at the Traverse Theatre in 2008. Since leaving the Traverse, Andrew has worked and toured with many companies including Vanishing Point (*Interiors, Tomorrow, Tabula Rasa*), Tortoise In a Nutshell (*Fisk, Feral*) and the National Theatre of Scotland (*Eve*). His most recent design for Lung Ha Theatre Company, *Three Sisters*, premiered in Edinburgh earlier this year, and he will be joining Tortoise in a Nutshell this Christmas to design for *Flutter*.



## Lewis den Hertog Video Designer

Lewis den Hertog is an artist based in Glasgow. He has recently provided video design for *Showtime From The Front Line* (Mark Thomas, Lakin McCarthy), *The Steadfast Tin Soldier* (Birds Of Paradise), *Jury Play* (Grid Iron) and *Velvet Evening Seance* (Aberdeen Performing Arts). Other recent productions include *The Divine Chaos Of Starry Things* (Watch Your Head), *Crude* (Grid Iron), *The Cheviot, The Stag, And The Black, Black Oil* (Dundee Rep), and *Escape Speed* (Aberdeen Performing Arts). Lewis is also the technical coordinator for the Glasgow Short Film Festival and Document Human Rights Film Festival.

## Mickey Graham Production & Stage Manager

Mickey has worked on many Grid Iron productions since 2003 including *Bingo, Roam, Barlies, Tryst, Leaving Planet Earth* and *Crude*. He has worked with many Scottish based companies including: Birds of Paradise, Tortoise in a Nutshell, Lung Ha, Utter, Hearts & Minds, National Theatre of Scotland, Janis Claxton Dance, Kai Fischer Productions, Firebrand, Vanishing Point, macrobert, The Tron, Magnetic North, NVA, Vox Motus, Dundee Rep, Mull Theatre, Catherine Wheels, Traverse, and Edinburgh International Festival.

## Lauren Desjardins Deputy Stage Manager

Lauren graduated from Edinburgh Stage Management School in 2016 after a year course in stage management and production. Since graduating, Lauren has worked as a stage manager with Catherine Wheels (*Pondlife, Lost at Sea*), National Theatre of Scotland (*We're Here Because We're Here*), Grid Iron (*Jury Play*), Starcatchers (*MamaBabaMe*) and Curious Seed (*Teenage Trilogy, Chalk About*). Lauren also enjoys working at different festivals, including Classical Weekend in Sheffield, Bradford Literature Festival, Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival, Abu Dhabi Science Festival and the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. This is her second production with Grid Iron.



# “Grid Iron, one of Scotland’s boldest and most influential groups of the last two decades” The Telegraph

**Grid Iron** is an Edinburgh based new writing theatre company which specialises in creating site-specific and location theatre although we also produce work for the stage. In our 22 years, we have received 30 awards and a further 26 nominations covering all aspects of our work from acting, writing and use of music to stage management, design and technical expertise.

Our adventures have taken us to extraordinary places; from the slopes of Edinburgh Zoo to a massive oil-rig manufacturing shed in Dundee, a boat-builders island in a Norwegian fjord, to the former General Security building in Beirut, a working cancer hospital in Jordan, the old City Morgue in Cork, the largest climbing arena in Europe and parks, housing estates, playing fields and bars (for performances as well as recreation!) around Scotland and Britain.

We have made co-productions with many partners including the National Theatre of Scotland, the Traverse Theatre, Dundee Rep Theatre, The Almeida Theatre, London, Stellar Quines and Lung Ha Theatre Company and we have delivered two European Capital of Culture Commissions (Cork 2005 and Stavanger 2008). We have performed thirteen times at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and twice at both Edinburgh International Festival Edinburgh and International Science Festival. We’ve also been part of Edinburgh International Children’s Festival. In 2014, we were delighted to become the first theatre company to work in co-production with Edinburgh International Book Festival on *Letters Home*, which was supported by the Scottish Government’s Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund and was also part of Culture 2014, Glasgow’s cultural celebration of the Commonwealth Games.

[gridiron.org.uk](http://gridiron.org.uk)





## WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP US EXPAND THE GRID?

In addition to our planned programme of work we have three goals we aim to achieve over the next three years:

- Extend the professional learning opportunities we provide for students and emerging theatre practitioners in Scotland
- Reach new audiences through greater use of new digital technologies within our shows and through our online presence.
- Increase our provision of British Sign Language interpreted and other access enabled performances.

**To achieve these goals we need additional financial support.**

For more information and to talk to us about how you can help Grid Iron, please contact [jude@gridiron.org.uk](mailto:jude@gridiron.org.uk) or see [www.gridiron.org.uk/support-us/](http://www.gridiron.org.uk/support-us/)

 [@gridirontheatre](https://twitter.com/gridirontheatre)  [gridirontheatre](https://www.facebook.com/gridirontheatre)

Or contact us at

**Grid Iron, Suite 4/1, 2 Commercial Street, Edinburgh EH6 6JA**

**T: 0131 555 5455 E: [admin@gridiron.org.uk](mailto:admin@gridiron.org.uk)**

Board of Directors:

**Rob Conner, Deborah Crewe, Graeme Davies, Judith Doherty, Ben Harrison, Chris Hunn, Neil Weir (Chair).**

Patrons: **Owen Dudley Edwards, Jim Haynes, Emma Quinn**

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