CURIOUS
BEST BEFORE END

PHOTO CREDIT: HUGO GLENDINNING

Written and performed by Helen Paris
Directed by Leslie Hill
Music by Graeme Miller

Produced by Artsadmin

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ARTS ADMIN.

PHOTO CREDIT: RICHARD DAVENPORT

CAN YOU EVER SAY ALL THE THINGS THAT NEED TO BE SAID BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE?

This is what happens
when you fall down slowly.
As you must.
This falling will feel a mix of fast and slow.
In the end it will be just a quick quick slow.

Contemplating the ultimate and inevitable frailty of the human condition, Curious present a show of sell-by dates and quiet surprises. Objects transform as the performance evolves, with Helen Paris navigating a minefield of the unspoken with only some cryptic crossword clues, the hokey-cokey and BBC football scores to guide her.

As with all Curious shows, *Best Before End* starts with a question: "Can you ever say *all the things that need to be said* before it's too late?" *Best Before End* is about failing and falling with a touch of fermenting. It's about finding the right words when the words are hard to find.

The show was originally commissioned by Colchester Arts Centre and Escalator Live Art with support from Norwich Arts Centre and Chelsea Theatre. Supported using public funding from the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

FURTHER INFORMATION

QUOTES

"Paris is a gifted and intelligent physical performer… In Best Before End *she is at the height of her powers, using her body to weave complex images that are sculptural, sinuous, playful and painfully contorted."* Drama Queen Review

"*the entire piece is elegantly carved…* Best Before End *is a touching rendition of what it means to grow older."* Aesthetica Magazine

"*Curious are that rare and beautiful thing in the performance world. They make rich and textured work, full of depth and discovery, but with a simple beauty that makes their work a joy for everyone."* Anthony Roberts, Colchester Arts Centre

DOCUMENTATION

Click here to view footage of *Best Before End* at Colchester Arts Centre, May 2013
Please note: this footage is from a preview and has since been developed.

PREVIOUS TOUR DATES

Live Collision, Dublin	April 2015
The Performance Centre, Falmouth	April 2015
Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry	July 2014
Chelsea Theatre, London	March 2014
Norwich Arts Centre, Norwich	May 2013
Colchester Arts Centre, Colchester	May 2013

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CURIOUS

Curious was formed in 1996 by Leslie Hill and Helen Paris. Since then, the company has developed a reputation for its edgy, humorous interrogations of contemporary culture and politics, work that has been called '*as smart as it is seductive*'. Curious have produced over 40 projects in a range of media including live performance, installation, publication and film. Hill and Paris are currently Associate Professors of Performance Making at Stanford University, California and have recently published *Performing Proximity,* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014).

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Get-in requirement	1 day with pre-rig
Get-out	3 hours max
Running Time	1 hour
Travelling Company	2-3 on the road (Curious + 1 technician)
Venue Crew Required	1 sound operator

STAGING AND PLAYING SPACE

The set is fully provided by Curious, with one red armchair placed centre stage and the specially designed Falling Down Slowly Machine concealed behind. There is no projection or screen required. Black walls or black background/masking is required as the stage is to be as black and stark as possible.

A detailed lighting plan is available upon request.