



# THE END OF THE ROAD SHOW

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**Death is a big subject** and one that touches us all, not only on account of the inevitability of our own mortality but also that of the people we care about. Stories run through every aspect of our lives and echo far beyond our time here so a show about death (which is really a show about life) had to have stories at the very heart of it.

In the early autumn of 2021 I put out a call for volunteers to join me in a conversation about funerals and the end of life and was overwhelmed by the response. It seemed this was something that people really wanted to talk about! On paper these conversations were research but in reality they were extraordinary moments of human connection. Across the miles over Zoom and in person over cups of tea I met with fifty people, some that I have known for many years (my next door neighbour since they were a baby) and some that I had never met before (on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean). I owe the largest debt of gratitude to every one of them for sharing their stories with such generosity.

Each and every one of these conversations could be a show in its right so the challenge lay in creating something that would reflect the essence of this shared experience and explore some of the common themes that arose.

So...yes, it's a show about death but it's also a show about life, love and the amazing things that can happen when we bust the taboo, sit down over a brew and have a good old natter!

**Su Squire, Off The Twig**



[offthetwig.co.uk](http://offthetwig.co.uk)

**Heartfelt thanks** to all who contributed to these conversations:  
Andrea Osbourne, Bean Sawyer, Belona Greenwood, Beverley Bishop, Catherine McVicker, Charlie Marwick, David Thompson, Debbie Sands, Deborah K, Debra Sequoia, Eamonn Keenan, Emma O'Brien, Geoff Dixon, Gerry Donlon, Glenys Newton, Janina Vigurs, Jet Black, Joe Scott-Ison, Jules Bostock, Julie Kidd, Kay Daze, Kayla Bainger, Kevin Howells, Lydia Moore-Hall, Madeline Lees, Maria Credali, Mark Markham, Mark Scott-Ison, Michelle Scott-James, Miles Row, Molly Potter, Neil Sallows, Paul Lawrence, Pernille Thomsen, Phil Berry, Rachel Graveling, Rachelle Wolfe, Red Imlah, Sarah Durrant, Steve Gladwin, Steve Stickley, Sue Garratt, Veronica Chambers and everyone who preferred to remain anonymous.

Written and performed by Su Squire

Direction and dramaturgy by Charlotte Arculus

Research conversations instigated and edited by Su Squire

Music by Mary Lovett

Additional sound by Charlotte Arculus

Funereal wailing by Charlotte Arculus and Amrita Illingworth

Lighting design by Richard Ducker and Charlotte Arculus

Tree painting/decorating and pebble gathering by Althea Broughton-Squire

End of life workshop facilitation and booklet by Beverley Bulmer from Leaving Gracefully

Project management and promotion by Caz Slota & Milly Kirby from Spark AM&PM

Mentoring by Sophy Banks

Film and photography by Dave Guttridge

Shadow theatre film production (online show) by Zannie Fraser

Post show discussion support - Beverley Bulmer, Guy Peryer, Kevin Vaughan, Lucy Coote and Rachelle Wolfe

Time awaits the loving embrace  
of fate's inevitable delivery.  
Her sharpened silver scissors snip  
the thread,  
while your final word lingers – like a kiss on your lips.  
Your swollen, plump life,  
is woven,  
immortal in a tapestry.

**'The Song of Sylvia'** taken from **The Lost Song** by Bean Sawyer  
[www.beansawyer.co.uk](http://www.beansawyer.co.uk)



**With thanks to** Arts Council England and Norfolk County Council for funding this work and to Norwich Theatre for supporting it through funding in kind (extra thanks to Sam Patel and Jez Pike from Norwich Theatre for your help and support)

Thanks to the following people for supporting The End of the Road Show through our crowd-funding campaign: Amy Woods, Beverley Bishop, Debra Sequoia, Elaine di Campo, Gary Christopher, Kathy Rogers, Kayla Bainger, Madeline Lines, Mark Markham, Michelle Scott-James, Rachelle Wolfe, Sian Croose, Sophie Fox and Tim Rich.