



Photo: The Narnia Experience, 2019



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“Artless’ is somewhat of a misnomer for a theatre company that presents a production **bursting with artistic imagination** on a level I have rarely experienced before.”

Martin Harris, Artistic Director *Unleashed Theatre Co.*


Welcome to Artless's 24/25 Seasonal Programme! We're thrilled to embark on another season of transformative storytelling that resonates with audiences far and wide.

"If you want to really get people's attention, tell them a story."

Gwyneth Hughes, writer of *Mr Bates Vs the Post Office*

The Horizon scandal had certainly been in the news, but ultimately, who really cared? I mean, really cared enough to actually do something? Well, not many. That was until storytelling got involved. Seemingly out of nowhere, the public's indifference was abruptly shattered by the ITV drama "Mr. Bates Vs the Post Office," causing mass outrage at the lack of justice, forcing a CBE to be returned, and even prompting swift government action! The public had the exact same information that they had for years, but what had changed was the method: a captivating narrative that breathed life into it, humanised it. It was the compelling force of good storytelling that reshaped perceptions and turned everything on its head. So, what is it about performance and storytelling that not only deeply resonates with us but also brings about meaningful change?

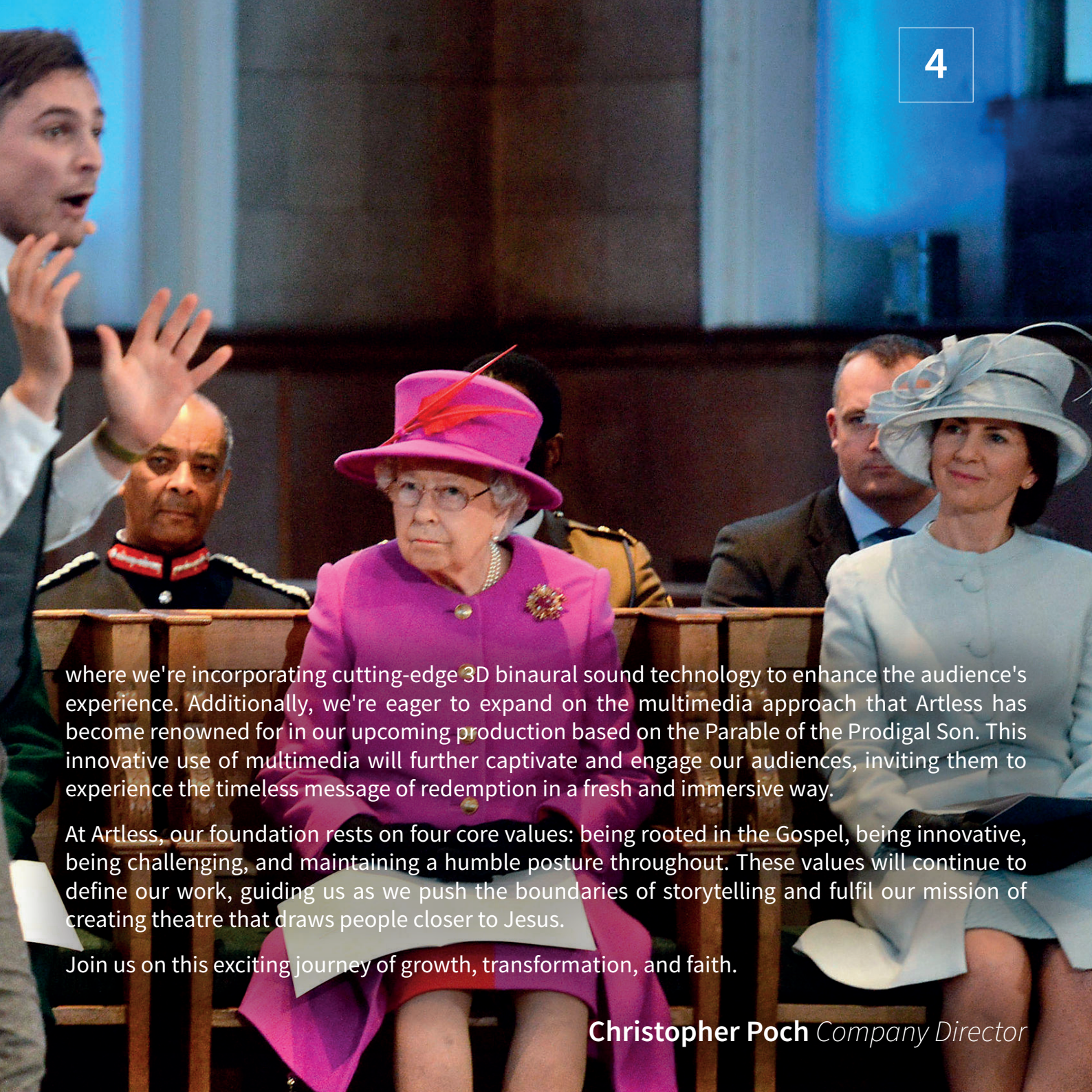
Reflecting on our extensive tour with *If Prison Walls Could Speak*, the true-life story of Petr Jasek and the tribulations faced by the Persecuted Church, I have personally witnessed the remarkable power of storytelling.

A young man with dark hair, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and a black vest, is seated at a piano. He is looking down at the keys, with his right hand resting on the piano's top surface. The background shows a church interior with wooden paneling and a window. Another person in a white shirt and black vest is partially visible on the right side of the frame.

By enveloping audiences within the heart of the narrative's unfolding drama, whether consciously or not, each individual is stirred to grapple with their own preconceptions and beliefs, igniting a profound reaction to the unfiltered human experience unveiled before them.

In some respects, the church has sidelined storytelling and creative arts, viewing them as secondary or even as a luxury. However, Jesus didn't perceive them as such; rather, he deemed them necessary. He understood the power of storytelling in conveying profound truths and sharing the Gospel. Through parables he captivated audiences, prompting them to delve into deeper meanings and insights into the nature of God's kingdom. In a similar vein, Artless employs contemporary performances to harness the transformative potential of a story. We aim to empower and equip the church to rekindle its connection with storytelling.

Looking at the next two years, I am filled with excitement for the projects we feel God has placed on our hearts. We're particularly thrilled about the revamping of our Easter show, *Centurion*



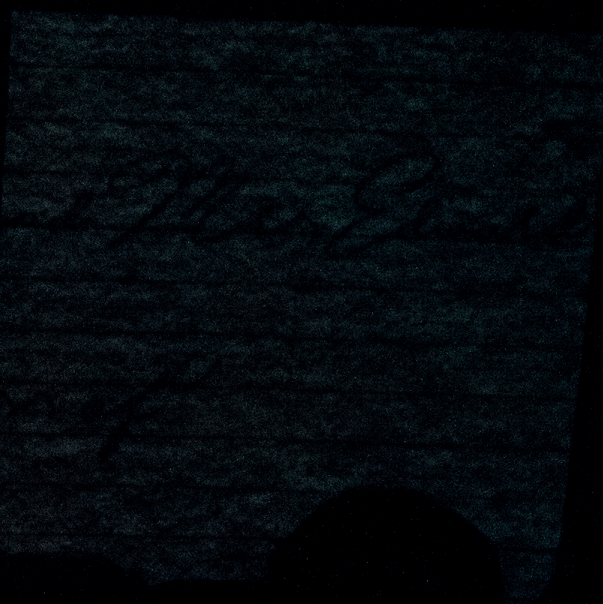
where we're incorporating cutting-edge 3D binaural sound technology to enhance the audience's experience. Additionally, we're eager to expand on the multimedia approach that Artless has become renowned for in our upcoming production based on the Parable of the Prodigal Son. This innovative use of multimedia will further captivate and engage our audiences, inviting them to experience the timeless message of redemption in a fresh and immersive way.

At Artless, our foundation rests on four core values: being rooted in the Gospel, being innovative, being challenging, and maintaining a humble posture throughout. These values will continue to define our work, guiding us as we push the boundaries of storytelling and fulfil our mission of creating theatre that draws people closer to Jesus.

Join us on this exciting journey of growth, transformation, and faith.

Christopher Poch *Company Director*





“ Immersive, moving, and thought provoking - video and music were used to great effect and I absolutely loved it ” **To War With God, 2018**

Premier
CHRISTIANITY
The UK's leading Christian magazine

“Never have I seen a one-man show that is so **inspiring, challenging** and technically difficult for an actor to navigate.” ★★★★★



IF PRISON WALLS COULD SPEAK

in partnership with

RELEASE INTERNATIONAL
voice
 of Persecuted Christians

If Prison Walls Could Speak is a performance designed for churches that tells the true story of Petr Jasek, a Czech national and Christian aid worker who, in 2015, was imprisoned in Sudan for his work aiding and assisting the persecuted church.

The play tours in partnership with **Release International** and tells Petr's story through innovative holographic *live cinema*. We have taken this production to over 60 churches and festivals across the UK since launching the production in September 2021.

Touring Autumn 2024 (& select dates in 2025)

Previously featured:

Keswick '22 (Mainstage)

New Wine United 23

Bangor Worldwide Missionary Convention '23

The FEW conference '24

Runtime: 1 hr 40 (excluding interval)


Age Guidance: 11+

Underwriting cost: £680 + travel

Suggested ticket price: £10+ *



*We encourage our hosts to charge a ticket fee, not only as a means to offset the underwriting cost but to also instill a sense of value in attendance



1 IN 7 CHRISTIANS (360 MILLION)
LIVE UNDER PERSECUTION FOR THEIR FAITH

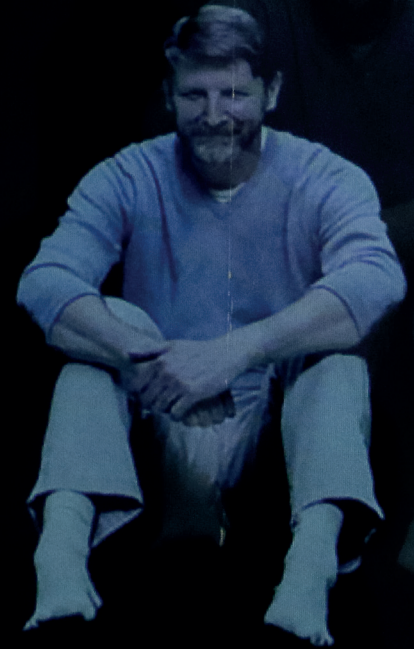
When we first read *‘Imprisoned With Isis’* Chris and I had a profound understanding that God chose us to take Petr’s story and **bring it to life**. There are millions of untold stories of resilience and faith from within the Global Persecuted Church, yet we felt that Petr’s had, and has, a particular relevance for the UK church. Petr is a mild-mannered modern European Christian whose God-given compassion for his persecuted brothers and sisters led him, by faith, into dangerous waters. *This could be your story.*

Petr’s story also highlights the power of images - he was imprisoned for, among other things, documenting the abuses of the Sudanese authorities through photography and video. It therefore made sense to us that images, both still and moving, would be central to our storytelling.

“Cutting-edge use of audio and visual techniques transport the audience to the very heart of the difficult story they tell”

Presented by
CHRISTIANITY
The UK's leading Christian magazine

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If Prison Walls Could Speak is a form of ‘live-cinema’, a hybrid of theatre and film. As Chris performs live, he interacts with video and images which are projected as holograms onto a semi-transparent surface that sits between him and the audience. Pictured above is the moment Petr relives a conversation with his deceased father, a memory brought to life. In other scenes he speaks with his wife, interrogators and fellow inmates, both friendly and unfriendly.

Through live-cinema we’re able to **bring to life** Petr’s experiences; from the brutal to the bittersweet and deeply emotional. We hope that this play inspires hope, faith but above all, compassion.

Jonathan Maltz *Artistic Director*



“ A **captivating** production from start to finish! The array of **dazzling effects** and magnificent costumes, props and set work seamlessly together. This wonderfully draws each person to encounter the **JOY** of Christmas! ”



Amos & the Grumpy Owl is a full scale theatrical feast featuring dazzling lighting effects, video projection, stop-motion animation, puppetry, charming musical backing and so much more!

Featuring characters from our illustrated children's book *The Grumpy Owl and the Joy of Christmas*, this heart-warming and captivating original stage production tells the story of an unlikely friendship formed in the middle of a snowstorm.

This awe-inspiring tale explores the importance of joy, friendship and the true meaning of the nativity.

Touring Christmas 2024 & 2025

Additional Resources:

The Grumpy Owl & the Joy of Christmas books available direct from Scripture Union or from Eden.co.uk

Runtime: 60 minutes

Age Guidance: 5+

Underwriting cost: £650 + travel

Suggested ticket price: £5*



*We encourage our hosts to charge a ticket fee, not only as a means to offset the underwriting cost but to also instill a sense of value in attendance



“Artless were amazing, they came and performed to over 900 people in one day at our Christmas events. The children and schools that attended loved it. We would definitely have them again. Their love for performing and sharing the gospel was so evident in their production. Such talented guys would recommend every church to have them and take the opportunity to invite the community.” ★★★★★



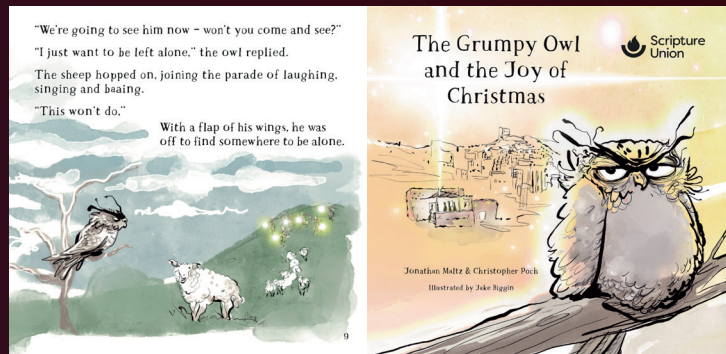


★★★★★
 “The surprise was how engaging it was for the adults as well as the children - both captivated!”

Oakhall
 CHURCH

The play centres around Amos, a grumpy and lonely old man who learns the true joy of Christmas through a Nativity story-book called *The Grumpy Owl & the Joy of Christmas*.

Children can pick up their own copy of the book, which we which is available to buy after the performance (or given away as a gift).





A live reimagination of the 2021
Good Friday Drama featured on

Premier.
ChristianRadio

CENTURION

THE PASSION THROUGH THE EYES OF THE ROMANS
AN IMMERSIVE RETELLING OF THE EASTER STORY

Centurion tells the story of Jesus's last week in Jerusalem, through the eyes and ears of the Roman soldier who famously declared

"Surely this man was the Son of God!"

This reimagination of a well-loved Artless original production utilises immersive 3D audio, with our audience members experiencing a blend of live and virtual audio scenes through wireless (silent disco) headphones accompanying the live action which takes place 'in-the-round'.

This new staging design and immersive audio places each audience member in the centre of The story, experiencing scenes such as The Last Supper, The Arrest and the Crucifixion first hand.

We're utilising an exciting technology and attempting something that's not been done in the history of Christian theatre, and we can't wait to bring this powerful play to UK Churches!

Touring Easter 2025

Previous versions of *Centurion*:

Premier Christian Radio, Good Friday (2021)

All Souls Langham Place (2022)

Runtime: 1 hr 30 (excluding interval)

Age Guidance: 11+

Underwriting cost: £750

Suggested ticket price: £10+



“We’re attempting something that’s not been done in the history of Christian Theatre.”



3D binaural sound is an incredibly effective way of creating an immersive audio experience. Unlike traditional stereo sound, which is limited to two channels, binaural sound uses two microphones placed inside a mannequin's ears to capture sound as the human ear hears it. This creates a 3D audio experience that accurately represents the location and movement of sounds in the real world.

When used in a theatrical production like *Centurion*, 3D binaural sound can be incredibly effective in creating a fully immersive experience for the audience. By using headphones to deliver the sound directly to the ears of the audience members, the sound design is tailored to their specific location in the church, creating the sensation that sounds are coming from all around them.



This can make the audience feel as if they are truly part of the scene, creating a visceral and emotional connection to the story of the Passion.

In *Centurion*, the use of 3D binaural sound is particularly effective because it enables the audience to feel as if they are in the world of ancient Jerusalem, surrounded by the sounds of the city and the characters in the play. The immersive sound design can help to bring the story to life in a way that traditional theatrical techniques simply cannot, creating a more engaging and meaningful experience for the audience as they experience Jesus's life, death and resurrection.

prodigal

The parable of the prodigal son stands as one of the most renowned stories ever told, encapsulating the essence of the gospel within its short narrative. It's permeated secular culture, resonating deeply with individuals seeking answers to life's profound questions. The story compels individuals to ponder their own paths and the possibility of grace.

We're thrilled to embark on a new adaptation of this iconic parable, infusing it with fresh perspectives and immersive storytelling techniques. This production is our biggest and most ambitious yet, showcasing our innovative use of multimedia to create an unforgettable theatrical experience.

The play explores the search for meaning, the longing for reconciliation, and the hope for forgiveness, challenging the audience to reflect on their own journeys and beliefs.

In a world filled with uncertainty and doubt, the prodigal son's journey offers a glimmer of hope and redemption that is found in the Good news of Jesus Christ. Our mission is to reach not only the lost outside the church but also the lost within, using the same radical and transformative narrative that Jesus employed over two millennia ago.

Get ready to be transported into the heart of the prodigal son's story like never before, as we delve into the depths of the prodigal son's story, inviting audiences to rediscover the timeless truths it holds and to embrace the transformative power of forgiveness and grace.

Launching Autumn 2025

Churches, Universities & Theatres
Scan to express your interest



prodigal

AN ARTLESS PRODUCTION
WRITTEN BY
CHRISTOPHER POCH
& JONATHAN MALTZ

TOURING UNIVERSITIES, CHURCHES
AND SELECT THEATRES IN 2025



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