

WHY NOT THEATRE COMPANY

presents the world premiere of

ENTER COPY
By Tanja Mastilo



Foto: Aleksandar S. Mastilo

Dear teacher

We hope you will find this teaching material helpful - both for preparing your students before coming to see our production of ENTER COPY, and also as a basis for post-show analysis and discussion.

Extracts from the manuscript are included in this material but should you wish to receive the full text, please drop us a line at: info@whynottheatre.dk.

Similarly we would be more than happy to conduct Artist Talks after selected performances, so please let us know if you would like us to organise one of these sessions for your group. Our experience shows that it can be hugely beneficial for students to have the opportunity to ask questions after seeing the show and to chat informally with the actors, Director and writer.

We look forward to welcoming you to the theatre and hope you will have an enjoyable evening in our company.

With best wishes

Sue Hansen-Styles
Artistic Leader of Why Not Theatre Company

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1. Practical details

VENUE:

Bådteatret
Nyhavn 16
1051 Copenhagen K
Tel.: 33 13 21 51

<https://baadteatret.dk>

DATES:

28 November – 18 December 2024
Mon – Fri 8pm, Sat 5 pm
Extra shows: Wednesday 4th and Wednesday 11th December at 3pm

TICKET BOOKING

Tel: 33 31 06 06, Mon – Fri 12 – 4pm
Young people under 25: 90 kr
Groups (min. 6) young people under 25: 40 kr

www.teaterbilletter.dk

WHY NOT THEATRE COMPANY

www.whynottheatre.dk

2. The team behind ENTER COPY

Writer: Tanja Mastilo

Director: Jacob Stage

Set and lighting design consultant: Jonathan Hjort

Cast:

ALICE: Sue Hansen Styles

KENDALL: Bennet Thorpe

SIMON: Daniel Neil Ash

DOCTOR: Nathan Meister

For biographies, see: [Enter Copy \(whynottheatre.dk\)](http://whynottheatre.dk)

3. The Characters in ENTER COPY

Alice is a retired architect, who tragically lost her husband and teenage son in an accident three years ago. She is grieving the loss of her family.

Kendall is a 'city boy' - which is a term coined for a specific group of young men who work in the financial district known as The City of London, often in banking, finance and investment. He is going through a particularly humiliating and unpleasant divorce from his wife.

Simon is a young ex-soldier, who was severely injured on a mission and got discharged and retired from the military. He has unresolved feelings for his ex-lieutenant, whom he was very close with during his time in the army.

Doctor is an AI host, in charge of running the military facility where the experiments are conducted.

4. The background to ENTER COPY

ENTER COPY is a futuristic drama about mental health, in a world where technology has developed enough to be used in treatment of trauma, loss and grief. The play takes place in a military lab in London, 2029, where tests are being conducted on a groundbreaking technology designed to deal with human trauma.

We live in interesting times, where artificial intelligence (AI) is in its early stages. Already today we can see its immense potential, and it is difficult to imagine how far it will go.

AI has evolved rapidly over the past few decades, starting from basic rule-based systems to today's more advanced machine learning models. Today, AI can perform tasks such as language understanding, image recognition and even creative problem-solving, with applications spanning industries such as healthcare, finance and entertainment. As AI continues to improve, it could lead to more autonomous systems, enhanced human-computer interactions, and potentially superintelligent AI, which in return could raise questions about ethics, regulation and societal impact.

- AI and mental health

AI has the potential to both contribute to and harm mental health, depending on how it is used. On the positive side AI can provide tools for mental health support through applications like chatbots, virtual therapists and mental health monitoring apps. These tools can help people access mental health care more easily, track their well-being and even predict potential issues through early detection. However, AI could also harm mental health if misused. For example, relying too much on AI driven support might reduce human empathy in care, and the use of AI in social media algorithms could increase feelings of isolation or inadequacy by promoting harmful content. As AI becomes more integrated into mental health care, ethical considerations and a balance between technology and human connection are crucial.

5. Exercises (pre- and post show)

a) General discussion

- **Imagine a time where therapists and psychologists are not real people but instead driven by artificial intelligence. What would be the advantages of that? What would be the dangers?**
- **Do you know if AI is currently being used to support mental health services and can you give some examples?**
- **Can AI-based tools help improve accessibility to mental health care for the weaker groups of people?**
- **What are the ethical implications of using AI to analyse sensitive mental health data?**
- **Is there a danger of AI making biased and harmful decisions in mental health care? What could be an example of that?**
- **How could interaction with AI in mental health care affect the therapeutic relationship between a patient and a clinician?**

- How do you think patients in general might respond to AI-powered mental health tools like chatbots or virtual assistants?
- Would you be comfortable discussing some of your own thoughts or feelings with an AI therapist in the future?

b) Consider the 4 characters in ENTER COPY (see outlines above).

- How do the three main protagonists hope that the new technology can help them deal with their mental health issues?
- What do they hope for? Discuss each character separately and their mental health.
- They all react differently to the AI therapist they meet - discuss how.
- How did you react to the AI therapist?
- What is the relationship between the three characters at the beginning of the play?
- How does their relationship change/develop throughout the play - discuss why

c) Read the following excerpt from ENTER COPY:

ALICE: *I know we're not supposed to talk about personal stuff and why we're here. But you've been here for a while? You've tried it now, several times, right? Does it... Does it work?*

SIMON: *It works. I don't understand it completely, but I've given up on trying to. All I know is that once they activate that chip in my head, all my pain is gone and... And all I've ever wanted is there.*

ALICE: *Really?*

SIMON: *Really. And it feels so real. It feels like a dream, but longer, more stable, more... palpable, somehow.*

ALICE: *That doctor is a bit strange, isn't he?*

SIMON: *What do you mean?*

ALICE: *Well he's not a real person for one thing. Somehow I still can't wrap my head around that. And also, we've all paid good money to be here, they should at least have courtesy to treat us like human beings and not like test subjects.*

SIMON: *Right... Guess we're both though, aren't we?*

ALICE: *Oh, I don't know, the way he speaks to me...*

SIMON: *They do know what they're doing. And this technology is groundbreaking. If for anything then for pain management. Ever since I got hurt, nothing, no painkiller or sedative could help manage my pain properly - and they hook me up on a chip here and it's all gone. Like magic. No trace of any injury, I'm walking, moving, going on a hike.*

ALICE: *Makes you wonder, doesn't it?*

SIMON: *What?*

ALICE: *Well, if they can make everything so much better over there, why would we ever want to come back? Here.*

SIMON: *I think we have to, the chip deactivates after two hours, otherwise they say you might get brain damage.*

ALICE: *No, I know all that, but I meant... Perhaps one day it will be possible. And then, well, I guess, the entire planet will just be hooked on one giant chip and go to sleep and live in their dream reality.*

KENDALL: *What makes you think we're not dreaming already?*

Kendall enters the room.

ALICE: *It's rude to eavesdrop on other people's conversations.*

KENDALL: *I wasn't eavesdropping, I just walked in my room. How unfortunate that I interrupted your highly unoriginal philosophical take on life.*

ALICE: *Let's hear it then.*

KENDALL: *Let's hear what?*

ALICE: *Let's hear your highly intellectual and original take then, Mr... What is your name again?*

KENDALL: *Oh, she wants to know my name now, how touching.*

ALICE: *Fine, never mind.*

KENDALL: *No, it's fine, I think it's cute.*

Alice turns away and walks away from him.

KENDALL: *I don't have an existential crisis over this. It's a gadget. It does stuff. You use it for a while, and it's nice or whatever and then you leave it. Like any other video game, or a movie, or a good hit, or however you kill your time normally. It's not brain science. Or hang on, this one IS actually brain science - but my point still stands.*

- **What is happening in this scene?**
- **What is Alice's concern with the new technology?**
- **If we could enter a virtual world where everything is exactly how we designed it, what would you change in that world?**
- **What is the ethical and moral danger of technology like that?**
- **What is Kendall's approach to the new technology? Is that healthy?**

d) Here is another excerpt from the play:

Alice is in the lab with the doctor.

DOCTOR: *Are you feeling nervous, Mrs Trace?*

ALICE: *No, not really.*

DOCTOR: *That's good. Most people are quite nervous before their first session, but I assure you there's nothing to worry about. The first session is really*

just a conversation. I want to get to know you, understand your brain a bit better.

ALICE: *Good luck with that.*

DOCTOR: *Would you mind me asking you some questions then?*

ALICE: *I thought I've already answered all the questions one could answer. Your screening procedure was quite extensive.*

DOCTOR: *I have all those files, and they were of immense help. I just need to connect some dots. Understand situations that make you anxious and situations that soothe you. Then together we'll start working on a suitable scenario.*

ALICE: *Connect away.*

DOCTOR: *I gathered that you are very fond of your work, Mrs Trace - would that be an accurate statement?*

ALICE: *Was. I'm retired now.*

DOCTOR: *What did work mean to you?*

ALICE: *Mean? I don't know. It was important, I guess.*

DOCTOR: *Architecture?*

ALICE: *Landscape architecture.*

DOCTOR: : *What does that include?*

ALICE: *Planning outdoor spaces.*

DOCTOR: *Roads?*

ALICE: *More like parks, gardens, recreational areas...*

DOCTOR: *I see. And what is it that you love so much about it? Designing a park, walk me through it.*

ALICE: *As I said, I'm retired, any kind of enthusiasm I had for my work is long gone.*

DOCTOR: *Is that what happens when one retires?*

ALICE: *It is what happened to me.*

DOCTOR: *Something you loved just vanished. Like it was never there.*

Alice is quiet and just stares at the doctor. It takes the doctor a minute to understand.

I apologise. It was inconsiderate of me to say that.

ALICE: *Let's move on, shall we?*

DOCTOR: *We shall. However what I said upset you.*

ALICE: *I didn't say anything. Let's just move on.*

DOCTOR: *Do you mind talking about your husband, Mrs Trace?*

ALICE: *What about him?*

DOCTOR: *How would you describe him, and your marriage?*

ALICE: *Is this really relevant?*

DOCTOR: *Highly. As I told you, I need to understand your thoughts and feelings in order to make sure that together we can create a reality where you'll thrive.*

ALICE: *I don't know. He was just always there. Like a part of me. Important part.*

DOCTOR: *And what about your son, Daniel?*

ALICE: *I'm not sure I ever knew him.*

DOCTOR: *Why?*

ALICE: *Work, mainly. I was away a lot. And when I wasn't away, I wasn't there for him anyway.*

DOCTOR: *This is all very good, Mrs Trace. Very important.*

ALICE: *It was mainly the two of them. They were a team. And it never bothered me. Perhaps because it got me off the hook.*

DOCTOR: *Off the hook...?*

ALICE: *Responsibility for raising our son. He did it. So I didn't have to.*

DOCTOR: *When you think about your son, Mrs Trace, how old is he... In that scenario?*

ALICE: *16.*

DOCTOR: *I see. Would that be the age we should focus on?*

ALICE: *Yes.*

DOCTOR: *And your husband?*

ALICE: *Let's just focus on me and my son.*

DOCTOR: *Of course. I can see that you've passed your health check, so we could start with some light simulations already next week - see how you experience it, and how you react and what parts we need to adjust. Then we can gradually increase it.*

- **Describe the nature of the conversation between the doctor and Alice - do you think a 'real' therapist would handle the conversation differently? How so?**
- **Do you think Alice would have reacted differently had this been a 'real' therapist?**

6. Analysis exercises (post show)

- **Write a summary of the play in your own words**
- **Discuss the ending of the play. Did the characters' mental health improve by the end of the play?**
- **Imagine there is one more Act. Where do you see the three characters?**