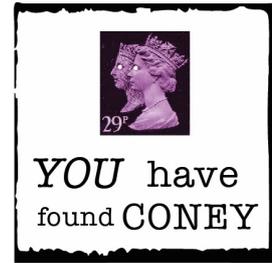




“Free  
Word”



News Release

## FREE WORD, CPT & CONEY JOIN FORCES FOR NEW COMMISSION EXPLORING THE SNOOPER'S CHARTER

Three of London's leading arts companies have joined forces for a major new commission exploring the implications of The Investigatory Powers Act, more commonly known as The Snooper's Charter. The Bill, which passed into law in November 2016, allows UK intelligence agencies to carry out targeted interception of communications, bulk collection of communications data, and bulk interception of communications.

*YOUR CONNECTION IS NOT PRIVATE* (working title) explores how it feels to have your privacy invaded. Set in London 2018, as a revised bill on state surveillance powers is about to be voted on, secret activists attempt to protect the public from the actions of state agents but risk being outed. Following the passing of the Snooper's Charter, this immersive performance invites audiences to play a game of surveillance, in an attempt to expose how governments and corporations are accessing our private data and what we can do to protect ourselves.

The show is being developed in conversation with leading free expression organisations including Open Rights Group, Big Brother Watch, Liberty and ARTICLE 19, as well as with a group of teenagers who offer the team perspectives and guidance on their own experiences of interacting with social and digital media, and what they think about potentially being surveyed online. Audiences will leave with a set of online tools and tactics against encroaching surveillance by both corporations and state.

The new work was commissioned by Free Word, an international centre for literature, literacy and free expression, as part of a new strand of the organisation's activity exploring how theatre can bring a fresh take on issues of free speech, and how the organisation's iconic Farringdon home can be used in inventive new ways. The organisation partners with Camden People's Theatre as co-producers, drawing on the theatre's expertise in developing inventive new theatre addressing the issues that matter to people right now.

The commission was secured by interactive theatre makers Coney following a competitive pitch process. It will be presented to an invited audience at the Free Word Centre on 9 March, with plans for the work to be further developed for a wider audience later in 2017.

*“We are really excited to be making theatre about such an important free expression issue with CPT and Coney: Art can bring the personal impact of contemporary policies like the Snooper's Charter to life in quite new ways.*

*We expect the effect to be unsettling. Policies can often seem very abstract but they directly affect all our lives in ways that we are too often unaware of.”* **Roma Backhouse, Director, Free Word**

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## **Notes to Editors**

### **About CPT**

Camden People’s Theatre is a central London space dedicated year-round to supporting early-career artists – particularly those making work about issues that matter to people right now. Its mission is to refresh and strengthen the performance sector with a new generation of artists who bring a fresh perspective to contemporary concerns, and create new artistic forms with which to address them; and to present their work to a new generation of audiences.

[www.cpttheatre.co.uk](http://www.cpttheatre.co.uk) | [@camdenpt](https://twitter.com/camdenpt)

### **About Free Word**

Free Word is Europe’s only centre for literature, literacy and freedom of expression. We believe that words change lives.

We are home to a vibrant community of Resident and Associate organisations whose work spans campaigning and creative writing, including Apples & Snakes, ARTICLE 19, Arvon, English PEN, The Literary Consultancy and The Reading Agency.

We nurture writers, offer a space for collaboration for pioneering organisations, and produce a public programme exploring literature, politics and contemporary culture.

Free Word is a charity; our core funders are Fritt Ord, a free expression foundation in Norway, and Arts Council England.

[www.freewordcentre.com](http://www.freewordcentre.com) | [@freewordcentre](https://twitter.com/freewordcentre)

### **About Coney**

Coney are interactive and tech-clever theatre makers – creating games, adventures and play where people can choose to take a meaningful part. Our work takes place anywhere people gather: in theatres, schools, museums, on the streets and online. Coney assembles teams of artists and makers from a wider network and are supported by a band of 15 Associates who are leaders in their field, and feed the overall company manifesto.

Coney are one of Arts Council England’s National Portfolio Organisations, and are a registered charity.

[www.coneyhq.org](http://www.coneyhq.org) | [@agencyofconey](https://twitter.com/agencyofconey)

### **Company Information**

**Concept by** Coney

**Direction** Michelle McMahon and Tassos Stevens

**Design** William Drew and Tassos Stevens

**Writing** William Drew and Tassos Stevens

**Sound Design** Kieran Lucas

**Research** William Drew

**Devised by** The Company representing Coney