

## PRESS RELEASE

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Coney presents:

# REMOTE

**In a parable about pervasive systems, Coney looks at the capacity and cost of human choice in an Uberised world**

**Devised by the company | Directed by Tassos Stevens**

**Camden People's Theatre 19<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> April**

**PRESS NIGHT: Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 7pm\***

**“If you want to see the future of British theatre now, then Coney is one of the companies to watch” Lyn Gardner**

Following Coney's acclaimed *Adventure 1* and *Early Days (of a better nation)*, placing the audience as co-creators in a freewheeling discussion on unlimited choice and open-ended options, Coney turn their focus to the future of human agency when choice comes via your smartphone. The audience is cast as a collective protagonist (a woman who represents people like you), in this instance within West Euston where REMOTE has arrived to create a better town. Voiced by two operators and powered by algorithms working at a huge networked scale, REMOTE offers you choice - raise your card for option one, or do nothing for option two. As REMOTE steers and shapes West Euston's future, Coney asks what we perceive as choice, and the limits of meaningful agency within algorithm driven systems.

*REMOTE* is a playful parable about freedom of choice and the future, and the human impact of the pervasive systems governing our lives. It's interactive theatre for a (mostly) sit-down audience, interrogating the politics of choice, the Uberisation of everything, and living in an immaterial world. The show has been devised by the company and the performers: shunt regulars Gemma Brockis and Tom Lyall, and Chris Goode and Company regular Angela Clerkin.

**Tassos Stevens said**, “*REMOTE* is concerned with choice, a buzzword in contemporary politics, understood as shorthand for freedom. But systems offering choice - from the NHS to direct democracy - can limit our meaningful agency, as we don't necessarily get to pick the options or the agenda behind our choice. In the digital world, companies like Uber and Amazon offer us choice and champion a do-it-yourself attitude, but the gigantic scale at which they operate hollows out the world in ways we can't predict. Meanwhile, the algorithms of Google and Facebook are busy learning everything about us through the choices we make, and AlphaGo, an artificial intelligence learning from *itself*, is beating human champions of Go, the hardest game we ever made.”

**Coney** are interactive theatre makers – creating games, adventures and play where people can choose to take a meaningful part. Their work takes place anywhere that people gather; in theatres, schools, museums, on the streets and online and always follows the principles of adventure, curiosity, and loveliness. Led director Tassos Stevens, and Producer Becki Haines - Coney HQ powers projects made by bespoke teams of makers assembled from a wider network. HQ is supported by a band of 12 associates who are leaders in their field, and feed the overall company manifesto.

**Coney's current work includes *What's She Like*, an accompaniment smartphone game to Duncan Macmillan's *People, Places and Things* that's been made with Headlong and was released March 2016. Previous work by the company includes *NTT* (National Theatre, 2006), *The Gold-Bug* (BAC, 2008), *A Small Town Anywhere* (BAC, 2009), *House of Cards* (State Apartments at Kensington Palace, 2012) and *Early Days***

2nd Floor 020 3195 6269  
34-35 Great Sutton Street info@mobiusindustries.com  
Clerkenwell www.mobiusindustries.com  
London  
EC1V 0DX

*(of a better nation)* (BAC and on tour 2015). Coney HQ is Natalie Adams, Jyothi Giles, Becki Haines, Tassos Stevens, and is a National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England.

[@agencyofconey](#) | [www.coneyhq.org](http://www.coneyhq.org) | [www.facebook.com/coneyHQ](http://www.facebook.com/coneyHQ)

**Running Time:** 75-90 mins | **Suitable for ages** 14+

\**REMOTE* can be seen on press night as a double bill with *Beta Public Presents*, a crossover experiment in theatre and videogames from Thomas Martin and Pat Ashe

### Company Information

**Concept by** Coney

**Script, interaction design and director** Tassos Stevens

**Sound design and operation** Kieran Lucas

**Visual design** Barney George

**Consultant dramaturg** James Bridle

**Producer** Becki Haines

### Cast

19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> Angela Clerkin and Tom Lyall

26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> Gemma Brockis and Tom Lyall

### Listings information

**Camden People's Theatre, 58-60 Hampstead Road, London NW1 2PY**

19 – 30 April, Tues – Sat 7pm

£12 (£10 concs, £8 preview) | [www.cpthaetre.co.uk](http://www.cpthaetre.co.uk) | 020 7419 4841

*REMOTE* has been commissioned by Theatre in the Mill, supported by Camden People's Theatre, and developed through scratch and residency at CPT, BAC, MAKE Ireland, and Theatre in the Mill.