



Miss Nobodies: Commissioning new stories

Over the decades, Spot On has been lucky enough to commission shows and new writing. We love doing this—creating work for talented artists and bringing new stories to life for tours not only for Lancashire audiences but across the UK.

Miss Nobodies was one of them.

We worked in partnership with Great Harwood library and supported a group of local women in selecting an artist to research and produce a new touring show relevant to library audiences and suitable for even the smallest venues.

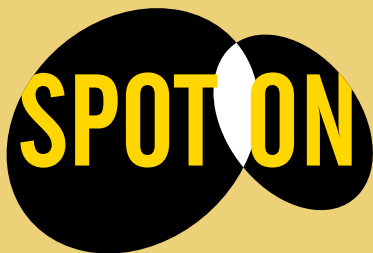
Ruth E. Cockburn won the commission in March 2020 with great plans. Then the pandemic happened. Ruth adapted her plans and produced an extraordinary show, which she toured nationally.

Miss Nobodies was inspired by online and community outreach, alongside research into local history and prominent figures of Lancashire, including Ethel Carnie Holdsworth, a Lancashire writer cited as the first working-class, female novelist in the UK; parts of her poetry were used throughout the play. The show covered social responsibility, civic duty and local pride, whilst touching on female solidarity, life choices and loneliness.

As this show was developed during the national lockdown, Ruth had the chance to create both a live and Zoom version. The Zoom adaptation uses the same story and main body of the script whilst utilising Zoom's unique features, making for a funny, uplifting show, whether on a computer or in the real world.

"Miss Nobodies- ordinary women, living extraordinary lives and superbly told this evening. A privilege to have seen this performance. Thought-provoking and enjoyable. Thank you"

Miss Nobodies went on to tour the UK. Ruth also published an anthology drawing on anecdotes and stories she gathered during her research. Now touring as Black Liver together with Keith Carter, they have proved themselves to be one of the most talented, original and creative theatre teams to come out of Lancashire.



Supported by Arts Council England.

With grateful thanks to Mid Pennine Arts for bringing Ethel Carnie Holdsworth to our attention.

www.blackliver.co.uk

