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THE LOST PLAYS

Lung Water
Jacob Hodgkinson

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Author's Note

Back in early 2020, before the pandemic swept across the UK, I was gearing myself up for *Lung Water* to breathe itself into life for the first time. I had completed the very first draft of the play in March 2019 and spent a rigorous week of R&D at the Wales Millennium Centre following that (really kicking it around and exploring its ideas), eventually arriving at the text you now find yourself with. With the script in a strong place, I was absolutely itching to get to the rehearsal period and see where the final changes ought to be made to my little scream of a play. Sadly, that is when the air was let out of the balloon and we were all left in a state of lockdown-limbo, none of us certain of where our futures would lie.

Although things had to be put on hold, I have been incredibly fortunate that this play has still had some existence during such a turbulent time. As well as an excerpt being read on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme, *Lung Water* also enjoyed a two-week digital run thanks to the Network Play Reading series, which was produced by National Theatre Wales and Sherman Theatre in partnership with BBC Cymru Wales and BBC Arts, and presented by Chippy Lane Productions Ltd.

The hope remains, of course, that the lungs that make up this play will breathe in the buzz of a packed auditorium at a happier time. But, until then, this is the text captured in suspense – as desperate as we are for our theatres to re-open.

I would like to thank the following people for their help and guidance with the play:

Rebecca Jade Hammond for originally commissioning me to write *Lung Water* and for being there through each step of its journey so far. Hannah Noone for making the play better at every turn and pulling me back from the brink whenever I felt overawed. Ri Richards for getting me to really dig deep during that week in Cardiff. Dom O'Hanlon at Methuen Drama for his passion to publish this play. Nick Quinn for being my confidante and first port of call throughout. Philip

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Lung Water

For Mum