



## **Detailed Synopsis for Swarm**

*Swarm* is an experimental, dark comedy that explores the connection between toxic expressions of white privilege and the behaviour of flies. Using characters, stand-up and spoken word, *Swarm* subverts the language we use to dehumanise migrants to re-tell a far more evocative reality. With its anarchist approach to form, *Swarm* is a fast-paced, sporadic insight into white privilege, told through the parallels between different species of flies, showcasing the overlap in tropes, behaviour and characteristics that is recognisable and accessible to audiences.

This is in contrast to the language David Cameron used in 2015, describing migrants trying to reach Britain as a 'swarm'. This language has continued to perpetuate dehumanising perceptions around migrants and asylum seekers, and *Swarm* subverts this violence of language, claiming that, in fact, white privilege and intolerant behaviour draws more parallels with the grotesque behaviour of flies than those seeking refuge.

The characters in the show perform many different aspects of white privilege from a variety of perspectives and social backgrounds, giving us a wider and more balanced understanding of the different people who benefit from and perpetuate white privilege. These characters differ in class, background and political leaning, but they all benefit from a form of white privilege that denies them human compassion in a moment of modern history when it is needed the most.

Throughout the piece there is casual racist rhetoric used by various characters in the show, some of which includes verbatim sound clips from pro-brexit rallies.

Strong language is use infrequently throughout the piece.

The piece also uses videos of David Cameron, Theresa May and Boris Johnson referring to the migrant crisis.

Loud, distorted noise and flashing lights are used throughout the piece.

There is one use of alcohol with the character of 'Barfly' at the beginning of the piece.

There is one reference to drug use, in particular, cocaine, with the character of 'Blowfly'.

There is a constant use of projection throughout the piece, showing images of the migrant crisis, such as capsized boats, children in refugee camps and the body of Alan Kurdi. In the projection there are also images of celebrities, politicians and flies.

