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## PRESS RELEASE

### UNSCENE SUFFOLK COLLABORATES WITH RATIONALE METHOD FOR DYNAMIC NEW ACCESSIBLE THEATRE PROJECT

Unscene Suffolk, Ipswich's resident theatre company of visually impaired people, is delighted to be collaborating with Rationale Method to create a brand new devised ensemble show incorporating beatbox enhanced audio description.

Nathan Geering of Rationale Method has formulated a dynamic approach to audio description which uses vocal sound effects to heighten the experience for both blind and sighted audiences, and is working with Unscene Suffolk to integrate his approach as part of the creative process.

Ipswich-born, Nathan was Artistic Director of the Special Olympics Opening Ceremony 2017 and recently received an Artists' International Development Fund award to share his practice in South Africa. He has previously worked with visually impaired dancers at the Royal Opera House and is currently in discussions with a TV company to explore how his approach could be used to describe boxing. The Rationale Method's revolutionary approach to accessibility and partnership with neuroscientists at the University of Sheffield aims to inform and enhance accessibility in both dance and physical theatre.

Nathan is delighted to be returning to his hometown of Ipswich for this project and to be pioneering his approach to audio description as a creative tool:

*He said: "I'm excited to be working with Unscene Suffolk on their upcoming production. We're able to work right from the project's conception and it's a real collaborative process, not only with myself and the artistic director, Jenni, but also with the visually impaired participants. What's great is we can actually get creative with the audio description, and how the means of accessibility can be used as a valuable tool within the creative process. It goes beyond being something that's just accessible to something that everyone can enjoy on every single level. This is going to be amazing in terms of how you invent access from a production's inception, and I'm really excited about that."*

This collaborative project between Unscene Suffolk and Rationale Method is being funded by Arts Council England and the Foyle Foundation and is called *The Tree of Dreams*.

The show is inspired by dreams and the natural world and has been developed by the company through their weekly workshops. It will be performed at the New Wolsey Studio on 6 July 2019 before going on tour into the local community. The project is supported by the New Wolsey Theatre and Sensing Change.

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JENNI ELBOURNE, NATHAN GEERING and members of Unscene Suffolk are available for interview.

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