

About Chickenshed

Chickenshed is the largest inclusive theatre company in the UK. It has a passion to open up theatre, performance and all the related benefits creative communication can bring to everyone. The company seeks to model the power of its unique approach to theatre in communities across the country and internationally. Through performance, training, education workshops and courses, we target individuals and groups who are often excluded from mainstream society alongside those included by communities. Our work provides a voice which says that we as a society cannot select and reject or separate and segregate in the way we often do.

'All I've Known now proudly joins Chickenshed's catalogue of small scale works which are easily tourable and can have significant impact in the community. And all of them share the integrity of productions born out of genuine experience'

One Stop Arts ****

'The production was sold out for many of the performances and there is now talk of a UK tour; let's hope that this comes to fruition and that many more people are able to see this honest exploration of what it means to care for some of our society's most vulnerable children'

National Fostering Agency



'...sensitively and compassionately telling the story from each person's point of view in an emotionally thought provoking way, making you laugh and cry in equal measure'

Barnardo's

'The play showed us it is never too late to reach out to others...everyone involved in fostering and adoption should see this'

Louise Casey, Director General - Troubled Families

'Deeply moving performances by all the cast'

Everything Theatre. Editor's Choice ****

'A beautifully acted, intimate play...wonderful authenticity'

Enfield Gazette

'It pulled on so many heartstrings and was so representative of what our young people experience and feel in care...I definitely think it will be wonderful for recruitment and awareness of foster care and to encourage more people to foster'

Fostering Development Team Tower Hamlets

'It was truly brilliant, we felt it was a very true and honest portrayal'

Family Futures

'...a production that flows effortlessly...haunting original atmospheric soundscape...achingly moving scenes...staged with startling originality'

One Stop Arts ****

CHICKENSHED

THEATRE CHANGING LIVES

ALL I'VE KNOWN

Mum... Sorry, is it ok if I call you that?

What else would you call me? That's who I am.

'A powerful experience that drew you in...a must for every fostering household and anyone involved in supporting looked after children!'

Barnardo's

Registered charity no:1012369

What is All I've Known?

Inspired by her own childhood growing up in a family that fostered children over many years, writer and director Rachel Yates has interviewed people with their own stories to share. The result is an original play that weaves together excerpts from these interviews to create a backdrop for the story of a now grown-up son, with children of his own, who is ready to reconnect with the family that loved him deeply.

'It's an extraordinarily complicated tapestry of emotions and attitudes, but one which generosity and love can prevail. And the play represents that complexity. Rachel Yates has researched, written, directed and designed with passion and skill'

One Stop Arts ****

'It was apparent that the production was a labour of love, painstakingly developed by the writer and director over the period of two years and based on her own experience of her foster brother returning to her family. The inclusion of sound extracts from interviews from those who have fostered, or have been fostered, provided a wonderful insight into people's experiences with the care system'

National Fostering Association

Why this show?

All I've Known represents an important development in Chickenshed's vision to advance our understanding of the issues and reality of life for individuals and families who come into contact with the care system. It is a vital part of the vision to represent the voices of individuals who have something to say about their experiences within the care system, negative or positive. It empowers individuals by harnessing their voices in ways that will help their communities and society to listen. **All I've Known** marks and celebrates the continuation of this vision - to further inform and inspire our work at all levels.

Paul Morrall, Director of Education and Outreach

What our audiences say

'A profoundly moving experience. **All I've Known** is a courageous production of honesty, sensitivity and importance'

'The play portrayed the difficulties and heartbreak yet sent us away feeling even more strongly that adoption and fostering was something we wanted to do! We've got lots of family that will be queuing for tickets if you go on tour'

'It felt like such a complete piece of theatre, a perfect marriage of text, choreography, space, design and performance'

How can you experience All I've Known?

Following fantastic feedback from those with direct experience of fostering and adoption and from those working on the front line of social care, Chickenshed is now taking this production on tour. The performance can be booked by your group, theatre, organisation or school. There are several options available including workshops which explore the opportunities and challenges facing young people and families and/or a Q&A with the director and cast.

To discuss the options or for a tailor made package contact Linda Foley on 020 8216 2707 | lindaf@chickenshed.org.uk

Visit [YouTube /Chickenshed](https://www.youtube.com/Chickenshed) to watch excerpts, audience responses and reviews from the play.

Visit www.chickenshed.org.uk/alliveknown for more information.

