



Presents ....

**Whose Life Is It Anyway?**

By Brian Clark

Tuesday 21 – Saturday 25 June 2016  
The Bridewell Theatre

**Production team**

Director	Nick Mouton
Producer	Ben Hussey
Stage Manager	Anna Diamond
Nursing Consultant	Lisa Stewart
Spinal Injury Liaison	Lady-Marie Dawson-Malcolm
Committee Liaison	Stephen Beeny

**Synopsis**

Ken Harrison is a talented sculptor and teacher whose career is unfortunately cut short in a horrific car accident. Due to the severity of his injuries Ken becomes tetraplegic, so he's now bed-ridden, not able to move, dependant on others and unable to do what he loves to do, which is sculpt. The doctors and nurses in the hospital now run his life, but he wants to fight for the right to rule his own destiny and the right to decide whether he should live or die.

This is a story about an individual's fight for his right to be ruled by his own conscience. All of the people around him believe that they're acting in his interest - the Chief Resident Doctor thinks that the hospital should continue to care for Ken; the Resident Doctor is torn between two worlds, whether to stand by the Hippocratic Oath that she swore to uphold or support her patient's wishes to be left alone to die.

If Ken gets permission to decide how he's cared for, will he kill himself or is he just hoping to prove to others that even though his body may be paralysed, his strength of mind is still strong?

**Style**

Originally written in the 1970s, this version will be set in the 1990s. To bring it up to date some of the sexes of the characters will be changed. The play will be performed across two levels – the ground level where Ken's room is based and an upper level for the Head Nurse and Chief Resident Doctor's offices. The staging will be very simplistic as not to distract the audience from the story.

**What are we looking for**

We are looking for an even split of 5 female and 5 male actors. There are 13 characters in total and there will be some doubling-up so that the cast get some quality time on stage.

This is a play so that will get the actors thinking. It will be an especially strong challenge for whomever plays Ken as he'll have to stay still, in bed, for the duration of the play.

One of the key points that will be discussed throughout the rehearsal period is the state of mind of all of the characters, from Ken to his solicitor, from the Chief Resident Doctor to the hospital porter. How do they feel about Ken's request to want to be left alone to die, morally and professionally? There are some lovely character status traits and relationship builds throughout the play that will be explored, bringing the play to life, despite the fact that its main protagonist is based in bed throughout.

To help the cast deal with the moral aspects of the play, and understand more how people live with spinal injuries, we will have medical experts attend rehearsals to talk and work with the cast. We will also have someone on hand to help show the cast how to wash and care for a patient. This will not only add some realism to their acting but also help with characterisation.

### **Female characters**

*Sister Anderson* - Age 35+. She's in charge of the ward and is used to all sorts of happenings, so is level-headed and reliable when the pressure's on.

*Kay Sadler* - Age 20-27. Junior nurse, not yet qualified.

*Dr Scott* - Age 30+. Resident Doctor who has a soft spot for Ken.

*Ms Hill* - Age 27+. Ken's solicitor. Supportive of Ken, but understands the hospital's point of view.

*Mrs Boyle* - Age 35+. Hospital psychologist. Tries to instill some optimism into Ken's situation and bring his spirit up.

*Judge Millhouse* - Age 40+. The judge who resides over Ken's case.

### **Male Characters**

*Ken Harrison* – Age 27+. Head strong but vulnerable, emotionally and physically.

*John* - Age 25+. Hospital orderly. A real live-spark. The comic foil of the play and only "realistic" person in Ken's opinion as he says how it is. Either of Caribbean or African origin.

*Dr Emerson* - Age 40+. Chief Resident Doctor. Believes that Ken shouldn't be given the right to decide his own fate.

*Dr Paul Travers* - Age 30+. Hospital psychologist. Supports Dr Emerson's opinion.

*Peter Kershaw* - Age 35+. Ken's barrister.

*Dr Barr* - Age 25+. The Consultant psychologist and will be played by the same actor that plays 'John'.

*Andrew Eden* - Age 35+. The hospital's barrister. Will be played by the same actor who plays 'Dr Paul Travers'.

### **Key Dates**

Workshop – Thursday 31 March 2016

Auditions – Monday 11, Tuesday 12 & Wednesday 13 April 2016

Recall – Saturday 16 April 2014

First read-through (depending on cast availability) – Sunday 24 April 2015

First rehearsals (depending on cast availability) – Monday 25 April 2016

Rehearsals will be on Mondays & Wednesday nights and Sunday afternoons

Dress rehearsal – Monday 20 June 2016

Performance dates at the Bridewell Theatre – Tuesday 21 – Saturday 25 June 2016 (inc matinee)

### **Workshop**

**Thursday 31 March 2016 - 1 Brewers Hall Gardens, Moorgate, EC2V 5BX**

**6.30pm for 7pm start. Finish 8.30pm / 9pm**

The workshop will include:

- Introduction to the team & the play
- Group activities
- A look at some scenes
- Please signup at <http://sedos.co.uk/signup.php> (you can still attend if you don't signup but it gives us an idea of numbers)

### **Auditions**

**Monday 11, Tuesday 12 & Wednesday 13 April - 1 Brewers Hall Gardens, Moorgate, EC2V 5BX**

- Each night will be divided into two one-hour sessions - 7pm & 8.15pm
- You only need to attend one of the sessions
- There is no need to pre-prep before the auditions.
- You will be given group scenes to prepare with fellow actors

### **Recall – invitation only**

**Saturday 16 April - 1 Brewers Hall Gardens, Moorgate, EC2V 5BX**

- 10am – 2pm. Times may vary
- Currently no need to pre-prep before the recall. This may change depending on the number of auditionees.
- You will be given group scenes to prepare with fellow actors

I will want to use this time to see the chemistry between actors so some people may be asked to stay longer than others

### **Booking An Audition**

To book an audition, visit <http://sedos.co.uk/signup.php>

There will be a cap of 16 people per slot.

Things to note:

- Please cancel your slot or email us at [whoselife@sedos.co.uk](mailto:whoselife@sedos.co.uk) if you have to cancel
- You will be notified about any changes in venue or times
- You will not have to prepare anything for the auditions

### **Fees**

Established in 1905, Sedos is the City of London's premier amateur theatre company.

Auditions are free for Sedos members and £5 for non-members (this is non-refundable even if you are cast in a show). If cast you will be required to become a Sedos member (currently £30 per year if you pay by direct debit or £35 in cash) and pay a participation fee of £30.

**Backstage**

Sedos is always looking for volunteers to help with set building, sewing costumes, working Front of House or backstage. If you are interested in getting involved in any capacity please contact the team at [whoselife@sedos.co.uk](mailto:whoselife@sedos.co.uk).

**Rehearsals**

Rehearsals will be held at 1 Brewers Hall Garden, EC2V 5BX on Mondays & Wednesdays from 7pm – 9:30pm and on Sundays from 12pm – 5pm.

We will try to schedule rehearsals based around cast availability as much as possible, but please indicate on your audition form any dates you are unavailable. Please be honest - this will not necessarily stop you from being cast.

See you at the workshop & auditions!