

**IF PRISON WALLS
COULD SPEAK**



INFORMATION PACK

 **Artless
Theatre Co.**

RELEASE INTERNATIONAL

**voice**
of Persecuted Christians

Artless have been touring theatrical productions to venues across the UK since 2015, providing events for churches that are springboard for evangelism and outreach. We have been honoured to perform for HM Queen Elizabeth II and have been featured on BBC ONE and Premier Christian Radio. We are a National Mission Partner of Scripture Union England & Wales and a registered charity (no. 1172501).

Our mission is to provide an opportunity for Christians and particularly non-Christians to encounter the gospel through high quality theatre & performance.

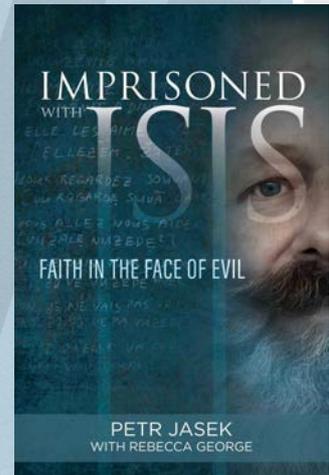


THE PRODUCTION

If Prison Walls Could Speak is a brand-new theatrical presentation written and produced by Artless Theatre Company in partnership with **Release International**. Our most ambitious and compelling production to date, *Prison Walls* contains a message that is both inspiring and challenging for both Christian and non-Christian audiences alike. If you're looking for a powerful and thought-provoking outreach opportunity, this may be it.

This one-man play is a hybrid multimedia performance featuring immersive video and sound. Based on the book *Imprisoned With Isis*, the play tells the true life story of Petr Jasek, who in 2015, was imprisoned for his work aiding the persecuted church in Sudan. Charged as a spy and forced into horrifying prison conditions, *If Prison Walls Could Speak* is a powerful story of faith amid corruption and espionage, as Petr faces torturers, ISIS fighters and corrupt judges on his path to freedom. Drawing from the great cloud of witnesses and testimonies from persecuted Christians around the world this production sheds light on the wider struggles of the underground church and serves as a rallying cry for prayer and intercession.

If Prison Walls Could Speak is a dramatic and compelling testimony of God's faithfulness and the unstoppable nature of His Kingdom.



Examples of previous Artless productions:
'To War With God (2018)' (above) and 'Centurion (2019)' (right).

We would love to partner with your church to stage a performance of *If Prison Walls Could Speak* as part of our national tour. Don't worry if you've never hosted a night of Christian Theatre before!

In this pack we will hopefully show that it's **easier and cheaper than you might think** to host a performance.



DURATION	1 hr 40mins (inc. interval)
AGE GUIDANCE	11+
BOOKING FEE	£580* + travel

*Exclusive subsidised price for churches & Christian outreach events. We strongly advise churches to ticket their event to offset this cost. We have found that performances that are ticketed at a minimum of £5 tend to attract a larger and more invested audience.

Artless touring productions feature professional stage lighting, PA and raised staging that are flexible to fit most church layouts

IS OUR CHURCH BUILDING SUITABLE?

Our team take care of all of the set up, pack-down and technical operation of the performance.

Our main requirement is a clear, relatively flat playing area roughly 4m x 8m for us to set up our raised stage (right) If you already have a stage space we would use that!

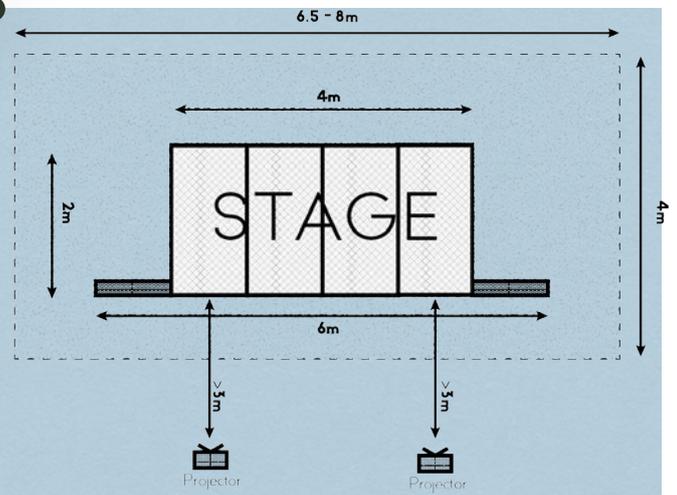
We also require space for our projectors (around 3m from stage).

If your regular church meeting space does not have enough room, there is always the option of hiring a local school/village hall, we can guide you if you have not done that before.

Other requirements

- ▶ Access to at least 4 mains power sockets
- ▶ Access and parking for our van (long wheelbase)
- ▶ Ability to fully darken the room (we have solutions if current curtains/blinds are ineffective)

(right) A performance of *To War With God*.
Our productions are designed to fit into a wide range of church spaces



WILL WE BE ABLE TO FILL SEATS?

Each tour date is a co-venture between us and your church - Artless and Release will advertise tour dates on our social media and through our mailing lists but we also require host churches to take ownership of their own event. We can give handy tips to help promotion of the event and we will also provide marketing materials to aid you in this.

When you secure a date for your performance, we will provide the following:

- A3 sized show posters
- Event specific digital copies of the artwork if you wish to print leaflets/posters
- Bespoke artwork for newspaper/ magazine adverts

We suggest nominating someone from your church to spearhead the promotion of the event and we can liaise with them directly. Most of our performances attract an average of 80 audience members.



CORONAVIRUS CONTINGENCY

We are excited to get back on the road and tour *If Prison Walls Could Speak*, and we believe that God will move powerfully through this live project after a year of drama ministry taking place solely online.

At the time of writing, the UK government roadmap charts the return of touring theatrical productions from 17 May 2021 and our tour dates have been arranged to allow time for churches to get back into the swing of in-person events. While touring, we will be following the compulsory COVID-19 working guidelines and we will work with you to help make your event both safe and covid-compliant.

In the event of the UK being placed into another lockdown (or local lockdown in your locality) we will honour your booking with an exclusive live online performance of *If Prison Walls Could Speak* (at a slightly reduced rate due to lower staging costs).

Our policy is: if we are legally allowed to tour, the event will go ahead.

COSTS

We aim to make our productions as affordable and accessible as possible for churches. Our booking fee for *If Prison Walls Could Speak* is subsidised by faithful givers and targeted fundraising by Artless. We have also committed to give £80 to Release International from every booking fee.

As mentioned previously, we strongly advise churches to set a ticket price for the production, not only to help offset the cost of hosting, but also imbibe a sense of value and exclusiveness to the occasion.

You are absolutely welcome to not set a ticket price, however we have found that events that are advertised as free often fail to attract a crowd as they do not capture the imagination of potential audiences. Even a nominal ticket fee sets the expectation for an evening of professional and high-quality theatre.

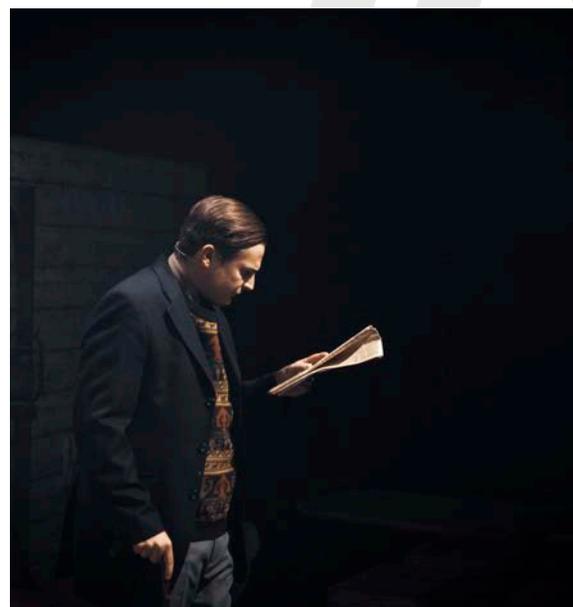
We do not, however, wish a performance to be a 'money-making' venture for churches. This is primarily a vehicle for the gospel to be shared.

Artless booking fee	£580
Church led leaflet printing (optional)	£25
Artless travel costs (average)	£40
Total costs incurred (average)	£645
80 tickets sold at £5 (average)	£400
Overall/ final cost to Church	£245

An example budget for a typical performance, where £25 has been spent printing leaflets and 80 tickets have been sold at £5 each.

WHAT NEXT?

- ▶ If you wish to pursue hosting a performance of *If Prison Walls Could Speak*, get in touch and we will send a booking form for you to complete.
- ▶ We will then secure a date that suits you within our tour schedule.
- ▶ Once booked you will receive personalised A3 posters & the digital leaflet template if you wish to print yourself/ advertise online
- ▶ We will promote your event via our social media/website and any subsequent national advertising will point people towards their local event.
- ▶ On the day of performance we will need access to the space 4+ hours before start time and a space to park our van (LWB).
- ▶ We can design the event around your needs which could include a short presentation from a Release International representative.
- ▶ After the performance we will invoice £580 + travel.
- ▶ Depending on our touring schedule we may require overnight hosting for our team members (max 4), there are a couple options for this which we can discuss further.
(To keep our fee low we also do not factor in accommodation into our touring costs. As a result we rely on the hospitality of our host churches for accommodation. This is arranged on a venue-by-venue basis and would require a conversation between our team and your church. We do however tour with sleeping bags and camp beds and are more than happy to 'rough it' even in the church premises).



For more information or to book email office@artless.org.uk or call Chris: 07837791128

- A LONDON**
- B KENT**
- C EAST ANGLIA**
- D ESSEX/HERTS**
- E N. IRELAND**
- F W. MIDLANDS**
- G NORTH EAST**
- H SOUTH WEST**
- I WALES**
- J SOUTH**
- K E. MIDLANDS**
- L SCOTLAND**
- M NORTH WEST**
- N OX & BUCKS**



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IF PRISON WALLS COULD SPEAK

UK TOUR DATES

2021

LONDON
(WITHIN M25)

SEPT. 23-30

KENT

OCT. 11-17

EAST ANGLIA
(NORFOLK, SUFFOLK, CAMBS)

OCT. 25-31

ESSEX/HERTS

NOV. 8-13

2022

N. IRELAND

JAN. 24-30

W. MIDLANDS

FEB. 7-20

NORTH EAST

MAR. 7-13

SOUTH WEST

MAY. 9-22

WALES

JUN. 6-12

SOUTH
(SUSSEX, HAMPSHIRE, SURREY)

JUN. 20-26

E. MIDLANDS

JUL. 11-17

SCOTLAND

AUG. 1-11

NORTH WEST

SEP. 12-25

LONDON
(WITHIN M25)

OCT. 17-23

OX & BUCKS

OCT. 31-NOV. 6

FOR EXACT GEOGRAPHIC BOUNDARIES PLEASE SEE DIAGRAM 1
DATES AND LOCATIONS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT ARTLESS.ORG.UK

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