

IF PRISON WALLS COULD SPEAK



HOST INFORMATION PACK

2021/22

**Artless
Theatre Co.**
RELEASE INTERNATIONAL
voice
of Persecuted Christians

We would love to partner with your church to stage a performance of *If Prison Walls Could Speak* as part of our UK tour. Don't worry if you've never hosted a night of Christian theatre before; in this pack we will show that it's easier and cheaper than you might think to host one of our performances.

THE PROJECT

If Prison Walls Could Speak is a brand new piece of live theatre by Artless, developed in partnership with **Release International**. The production began as a reaction to the 2019 Foreign Office Report into Christian Persecution, and the startling statistic that 250,000,000 Christians are currently living under persecution. We wanted to bring the story of the underground church to a modern UK audience who may not be aware of the faithful suffering of persecuted Christians across the world, whilst offering non-believers a challenging true story of a relevant and practical outliving of the Christian faith.

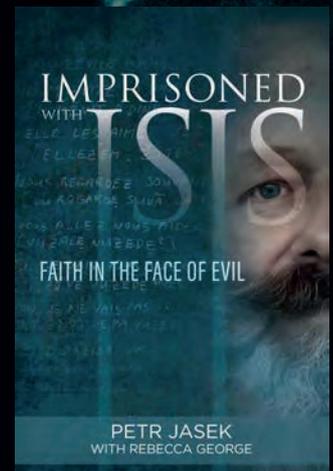
ABOUT THE PLAY

The play is a one-man hybrid multimedia performance featuring immersive video projection and sound.

Based on the book *Imprisoned With Isis: Faith in the Face of Evil*, the play tells the true life story of Petr Jasek, who in 2015, was imprisoned for his work aiding the persecuted church in Sudan. He was charged as a spy and forced into horrifying prison conditions.

If Prison Walls Could Speak is a powerful story of faith under fire. It is a story of corruption and espionage as Petr faces torturers, ISIS fighters and the full weight of a crooked legal system 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.



DURATION

1 hr 40mins (plus interval)

AGE GUIDANCE

11+

BOOKING FEE

£580* + travel

*Exclusive subsidised price for Churches and Christian outreach events. We strongly advise charging a ticket fee to offset the booking cost. Hosts are completely entitled to not charge a ticket fee, however we have found that free events can have an adverse effect on audience attendance.



VENUE REQUIREMENTS

Artless touring productions feature professional stage lighting with PA and staging that is designed to fit most church layouts.

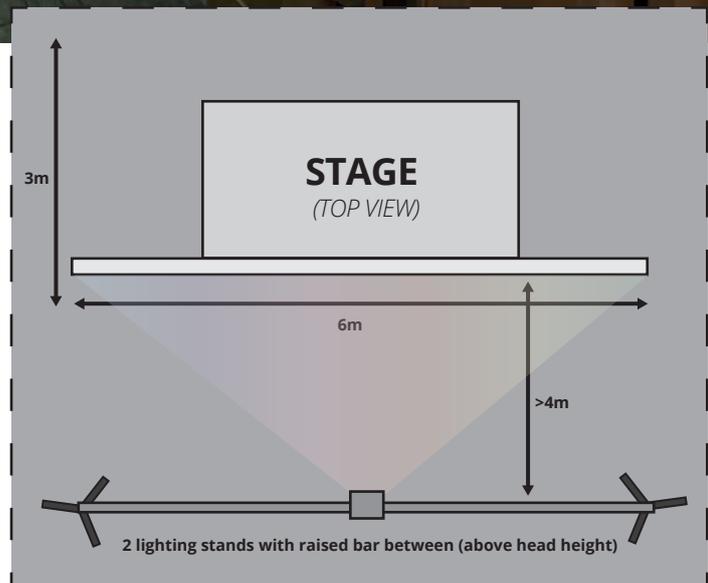


Our team take care of all of the set up, pack-down and technical operation of the performance.

Our main requirement is a clear, relatively flat playing area roughly 3m x 6m for us to set up our raised stage (right) If you already have a stage space we would use that!

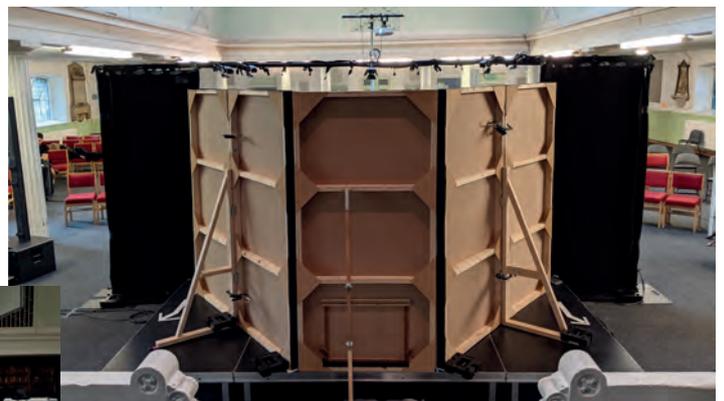
We also require space for our lighting stands around 4m from the stage.

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 through the process if you have not done that before.



Other requirements

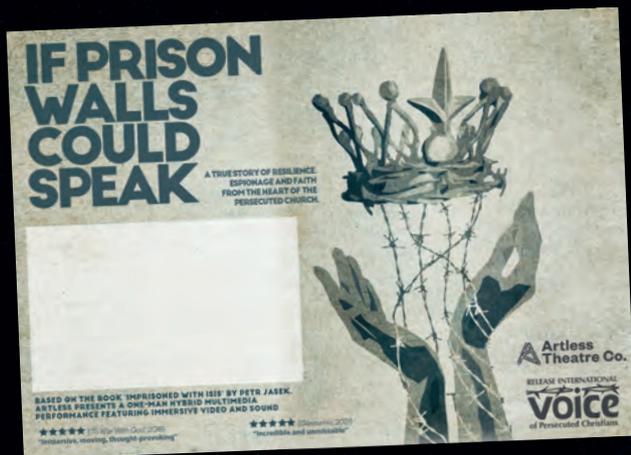
- ▶ Access to at least 4 mains power sockets
- ▶ Access and parking for our van (long wheelbase)
- ▶ Ability to fully darken the room (we have solutions if current curtains/blinds are ineffective)



MARKETING THE SHOW

Each performance is a co-venture between Artless and our host churches, and we have seen many churches use a night of theatre to further their links with the local community. Getting people to come to a show does take work, however it is so rewarding seeing an evangelistic church event full of non-members. We want to make the process as simple as possible.

Upon booking we will supply marketing materials in the form of physical A3 posters in 2 styles and a customised poster/flyer to be distributed digitally/printed on your end.



We have also put together a handy checklist that covers some of the marketing strategies we have seen to be successful - we can also supply press releases and promotional photographs if you wish to advertise through your local media.

Once booked in your date will be featured on both Artless and Release International websites and social media



COSTS

Due to the generosity of our regular donors we can offer a heavily subsidised rate of **£580** to churches.

Our booking fee covers the cost of the performance featuring temporary staging and set as well as our technical team, actors fees, van hire, professional PA and lighting adapted to your building, leaflet and poster design and an £80 donation to Release.

To help churches offset the cost of a performance we don't ask for a cut of any ticket sales.

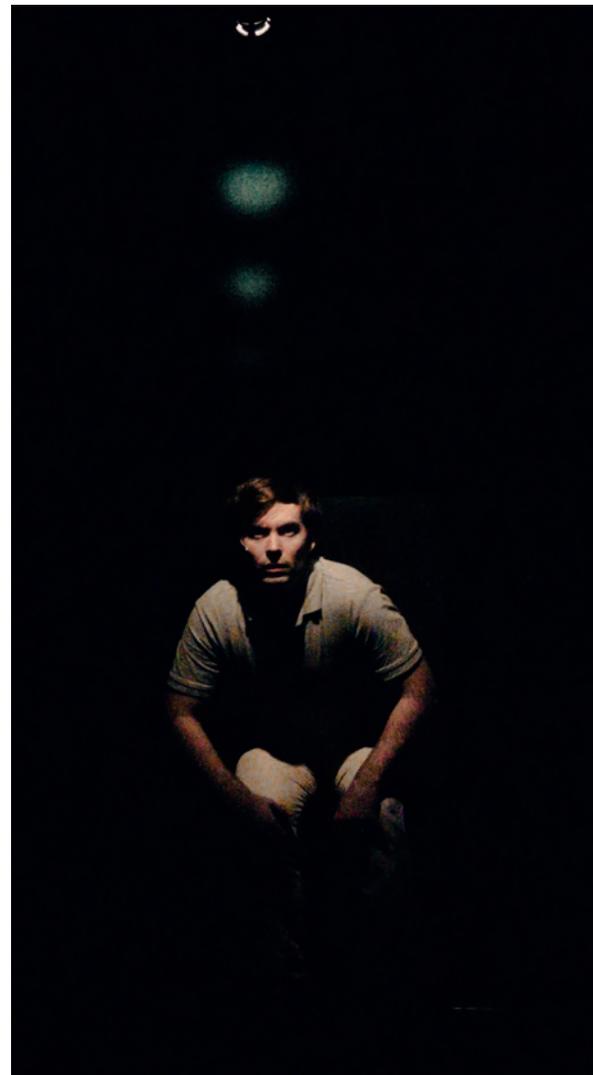
Churches are welcome to stage the performance as a free event, however as mentioned previously, we have found that this can have an adverse effect on audience attendance.

WHAT NEXT?

- 1) If you wish to move forward and book a date, contact Jon or Chris at office@artless.org.uk and we will secure a date that works.
- 2) We will then send a booking form for you to fill out.
- 3) You will then receive various A3 posters to promote the event along with a personalised flyer design. Your performance will also be featured on our online tour schedule and Release International's website.
- 4) We will happily take part in any local radio features to promote the show and will send you a press release to be used in newspapers.
- 5) Release International will send promotional materials to you
- 6) On the day of the show we will arrive to set up around 1pm (for an evening performance)
- 7) 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.
- 8) After the performance we will invoice for £580 + travel

Artless booking fee	£580
Church led leaflet printing (optional)	£25
Artless travel costs (average)	£15
Total costs incurred (average)	£645
80 tickets sold at £5 (average)	£400
Overall/ final cost to Church	£220

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



For more information or to book a performance email [**office@artless.org.uk**](mailto:office@artless.org.uk)

- 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**



We plan to tour this production to 100 churches in 2022/23 across the United Kingdom.

If you make an enquiry, please let us know which regional tour you would fit into.

Our headquarters are in Essex so we will be concentrating on the southeast (A/D/B/J/N) in early 2022.

CORONAVIRUS CONTINGENCY

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.

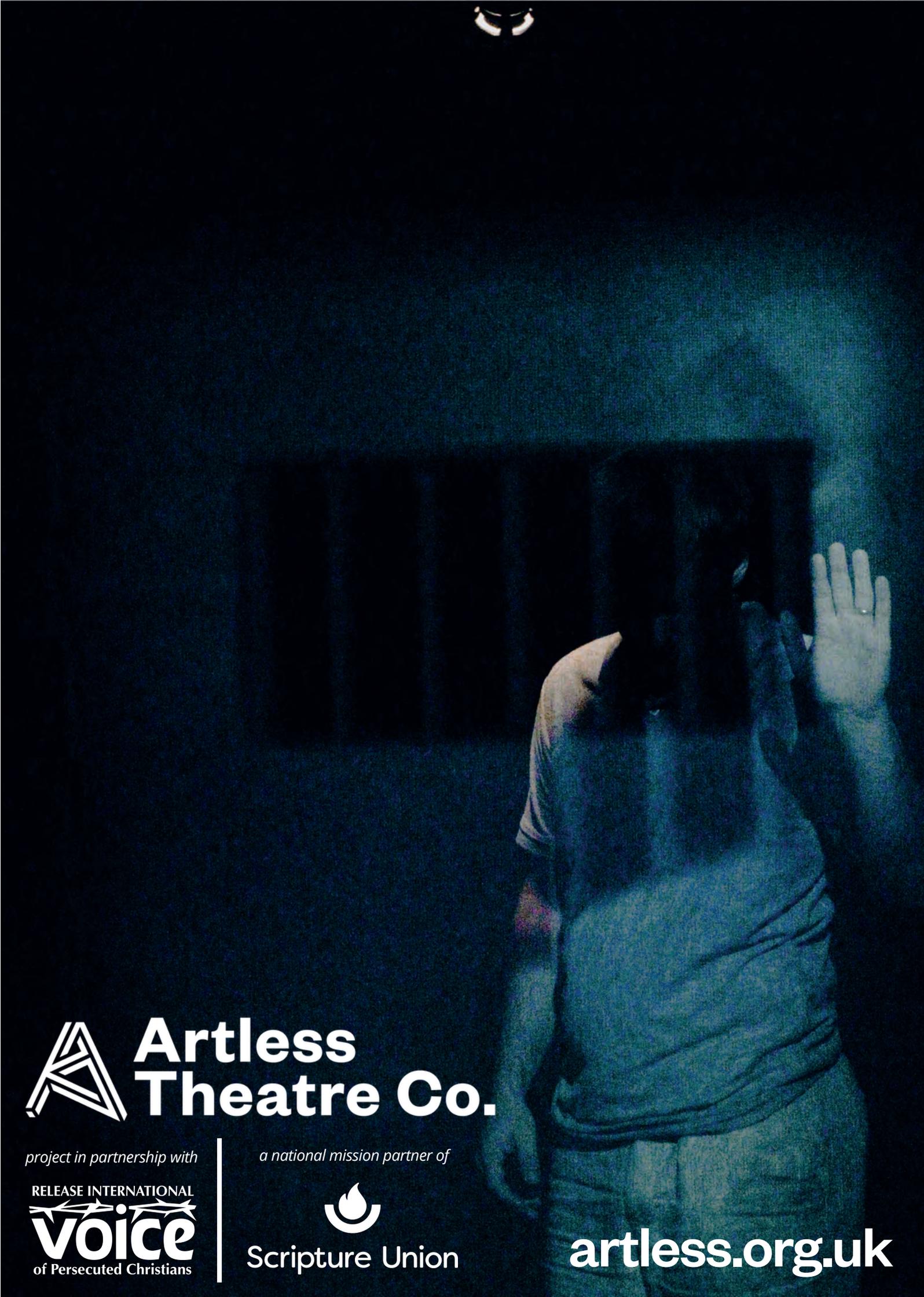
In the event of the UK being placed into another lockdown (or local lockdown in your locality) we will honour your booking with an exclusive live online performance of *If Prison Walls Could Speak* (at a slightly reduced rate due to lower staging costs).

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



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.



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project in partnership with

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Scripture Union

artless.org.uk