EXTRACT

trafficked

a text for performance

by

Alex Broun

Based on the life, words and writings of Sophie Hayes,
a courageous survivor of human trafficking who dedicates her life to stop trafficking and helping others survive

For more information on the life and work of Sophie Hayes go to
http://www.sophiehayesfoundation.org/

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info@alexbroun.online

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Cast

SOPHIE 1

SOPHIE 2

KAS

(PLEASE NOTE: The role of Kas can be played by a single male actor, a single female actor or multiple actors/chorus. Whatever the director feels is most powerful. The / in Kas' dialogue suggests possible distribution of the words if the role is played by multiple actors/chorus. Directors are also welcome to re-assign other lines as they feel necessary.)

Trafficked

(WRITER'S NOTE: Text marked as PROJECTION can be projected on to a screen at the back of the performance space. Alternatively the words can be spoken by the performers – if projection is not available.)

In dim light the actors chant the following words – randomly, in sequence, separately, together.

Groomed.
Deceived.
Frozen.
Fear.
Pain.
Nightmare.
Reality.
My life.

It builds to a crescendo then SOPHIE 1 steps forward:

SOPHIE 1: One day everything changed.

LIGHTS CHANGE.

PROJECTION: I fell in love the instant I saw you.

SOPHIE 2: I had known Kas for many years

SOPHIE 1: We met at a club and texted

SOPHIE 2: every day

SOPHIE 1: until I came to trust him

SOPHIE 2: completely.

SOPHIE 1: He was my best friend.

SOPHIE 2: So when he asked me

SOPHIE 1: to visit him in Italy,

SOPHIE 2: I believed it was just a holiday.

PROJECTION: You were the girl everyone wanted to talk to.

SOPHIE 1: The reality was for the last five years

SOPHIE 2: I had been

ALL: Groomed

SOPHIE 1: When I arrived

SOPHIE 2: He sat me down and told me

KAS: ‘When you love someone/ you have to make sacrifices’

SOPHIE 1: I was that sacrifice.

PROJECTION: But no one dared approach.

SOPHIE 2: Kas told me

SOPHIE 1: that I would have work on the streets for him

SOPHIE 2: I was going to become

SOPHIE 1: a prostitute

SOPHIE 2: I didn’t believe anything he was saying

SOPHIE 1: I thought I could talk my way out of this.

SOPHIE 2: Reason with him.

SOPHIE 1: Tell him I didn’t want to.

SOPHIE 2: It wasn’t me!

SOPHIE 1: But Kas was a trafficker

SOPHIE 2: of all kinds:

SOPHIE 1: guns,

SOPHIE 2: drugs,

KAS: and girls.

SOPHIE 1: Later, I would learn that this is not unusual.

SOPHIE 2: In the majority of cases,

SOPHIE 1: women know their traffickers.

PROJECTION: I couldn’t get you out of my head.

SOPHIE 2: He told me that his word was

ALL: law.

SOPHIE 1: If I tried to escape from him,

SOPHIE 2: if did anything wrong,

SOPHIE 1: he'd have my younger brothers

SOPHIE 2: taken away.

PROJECTION: I remember everything about that first time

SOPHIE 1: And my younger brothers were everything to me

SOPHIE 2: he knew how close I was to them

SOPHIE 1: The twins were only thirteen.

SOPHIE 2: They were babies

SOPHIE 1: And my other brother

SOPHIE 2: Jason.

SOPHIE 1: it would be them that he'd take.

SOPHIE 2: I knew his threats were not empty.

SOPHIE 1: He had held me at gunpoint many times.

SOPHIE 2: I begged him to stop but he wouldn't.

SOPHIE 1: And I knew there was no escape.

SOPHIE 2: He told me that he knew people in the police.

KAS: "Trust / No-one."

SOPHIE 1: He had friends everywhere

SOPHIE 2: He would send people to test me.

SOPHIE 1: That if I tried to go to any airport.

SOPHIE 2: To the train station.

SOPHIE 1: He'd have me followed.

SOPHIE 2: One night he pinned me up against the wall,

SOPHIE 1: almost strangled me.

KAS: “All I want / is to make you / happy.”

SOPHIE 2: It just got worse and worse from then on.

SOPHIE 1: He had a debt to pay.

PROJECTION: The song that was playing.

SOPHIE 2: I was the way to pay that debt.

SOPHIE 1: I had to earn at least a hundred thousand euros

SOPHIE 2: for a drug deal that had gone wrong.

SOPHIE 1: I had to work every night.

SOPHIE 2: Twenty to thirty different men.

ALL: Every night.

SOPHIE 1: I had targets I had to make

SOPHIE 2: And I had to give him every penny.

SOPHIE 1: When he told me what I was expected to do, I –

SOPHIE 2: froze. The reality of what was happening seemed so

SOPHIE 1: so surreal

SOPHIE 2: My mind was totally paralyzed.

SOPHIE 1: The man that had been so caring

SOPHIE 2: had turned into a

SOPHIE 1: monster. The

SOPHIE 2: violence

SOPHIE 1: and rage

SOPHIE 2: were like nothing I had ever experienced before,

SOPHIE 1: Over a period of time his outbursts became

SOPHIE 2: daily life.

PROJECTION: The clothes you wore.

SOPHIE 1: If he thought I'd taken any money or

SOPHIE 2: lied to him

SOPHIE 1: he took me to a river where he told me ….

SOPHIE 2: He told me …

SOPHIE 1: that was where I would go

SOPHIE 2: if I made any mistakes.

SOPHIE 1: If I did anything wrong

SOPHIE 2: If I told anybody.

SOPHIE 1: I couldn't believe it.

SOPHIE 2: It just wasn't happening.

SOPHIE 1: The whole thing was a nightmare.

SOPHIE 2: It just wasn't …

ALL: real.

SOPHIE 1: I just felt trapped.

SOPHIE 2: He'd taken my passport.

SOPHIE 1: So I couldn't –

SOPHIE 2: Escape.

PROJECTION: The way you smiled.

SOPHIE 1: I had no idea where I was.

SOPHIE 2: I couldn't speak the language.

SOPHIE 1: I was in a house.

SOPHIE 2: In a strange country

SOPHIE 1: with a man who would stop at nothing

SOPHIE 2: to get what he wanted.

SOPHIE 1: Trafficking victims are often portrayed in movies with

SOPHIE 2: chains or

SOPHIE 1: locked away,

SOPHIE 2: but the truth is many girls are left on the streets

SOPHIE 1: for long stretches of time

ALL: Alone.

SOPHIE 2: People often ask why girls don't run.

SOPHIE 1: Ask for help.

SOPHIE 2: But how do I run?

SOPHIE 1: Where do I go?

SOPHIE 2: Who's going to listen to me?

SOPHIE 1: Even when I went to work

SOPHIE 2: I still couldn't get away from him.

SOPHIE 1: I was so frightened of him

SOPHIE 2: what he could do to me.

SOPHIE 1: I knew

SOPHIE 2: he could killed me.

PROJECTION: You have no idea the courage I needed to step forward and speak to you.

SOPHIE 1: Clients,

SOPHIE 2: how can I ask them for help?

SOPHIE 1: Some of the men who came were

SOPHIE 2: judges,

SOPHIE 1: police,

SOPHIE 2: and the *Carabinieri*.

SOPHIE 1: No one –

SOPHIE 2: tried to help.

SOPHIE 1: You don't know who you can trust.

SOPHIE 2: They were all involved

SOPHIE 1: there was nowhere to go.

SOPHIE 2: I was free physically,

SOPHIE 1: But my mental freedom

SOPHIE 2: was gone.

PROJECTION: All I wanted to do was make you happy.

SOPHIE 1: To the outside world

SOPHIE 2: this is a difficult concept to understand,

SOPHIE 1: But the only thing that kept me there was fear.

SOPHIE 1: Fear of the mind is the hardest thing to rationalize.

SOPHIE 2: Extreme fear causes complete debilitation.

SOPHIE 1: With daily beatings,

SOPHIE 2: your mind becomes completely controlled,

SOPHIE 1: conditioned to respond in a certain way.

SOPHIE 2: Everything that he did to me.

SOPHIE 1: Every

SOPHIE 2: thing.

SOPHIE 1: Every

SOPHIE 1: Single day

PROJECTION: Share the world with you.

SOPHIE 2: He would do something different to me.

SOPHIE 1: If I didn't cook properly.

SOPHIE 2: Clean properly.

SOPHIE 1: Looked at him the wrong way.

SOPHIE 2: Everything I did had a consequence.

SOPHIE 1: And the more times he hit me

SOPHIE 2: The more times I thought:

SOPHIE 1: “It doesn’t matter anymore

SOPHIE 2: What else can he do?

SOPHIE 1: If he kills me I’ll be dead anyway.

SOPHIE 2: At least if I’m dead it’s -

ALL: over.”

PROJECTION: Show you my life.

SOPHIE 1: He took everything.

SOPHIE 2: He took over my whole head.

SOPHIE 1: I couldn’t think anymore.

SOPHIE 2: I couldn’t do anything.

SOPHIE 1: He controlled everything

SOPHIE 2: What I wore

SOPHIE 1: What I ate

SOPHIE 2: How I spoke

SOPHIE 1: I had to respond within three seconds of him speaking to me.

SOPHIE 2: Just to look at him

SOPHIE 1: Frightened me enough.

PROJECTION: I have a question for you.

SOPHIE 2: After awhile I became ill