

Kate Tempest

Kate Tempest is one of the most unique and compelling voices of contemporary music, poetry and performance. Kate was born and grew up in South-East London. She started out as a rapper, toured the spoken word circuit for a number of years and began writing for theatre in 2012. Her work includes *Balance*, an album recorded with her band *Sound of Rum*; *Everything Speaks in its Own Way*, a collection of poems published on her own imprint *Zingaro*; *GlassHouse*, a forum theatre play for Cardboard Citizens; and the plays *Wasted and Hopelessly Devoted for Paines Plough*, both published by Methuen. Her epic narrative poem *Brand New Ancients* won the Ted Hughes Prize and is published by Picador. It completed a sell-out run in the UK and New York and won a Herald Angel at Edinburgh Fringe.

Everybody Down, her debut solo album, came out on Big Dada Records in 2014 to critical acclaim, including a Mercury Award nomination. Her debut novel *The Bricks that Built the Houses* was published by Bloomsbury in 2016. Her second album, *Let Them Eat Chaos*, was a major critical success and shortlisted for the Mercury Prize.



Toby Donnelly, partner at ATC Management, represents Kate and is clear of the impact of Momentum funding;

There was a lot of buzz for Kate's first record and the gigs grew very quickly. We wanted to make some impact in America – which was very difficult. We knew that Rick Rubin had taken an interest in Kate, so we had the opportunity to go to SXSW and do shows in California and New York. We knew we had to maximise this opportunity, which is where Momentum made the difference.

Momentum funding was used to invest in Kate's live show, to play more venues and reach out to new audiences and press.

Momentum was an invaluable lifeline for us. It allowed Kate to build a buzz at a very important time.

Momentum also helped Kate to retain a greater degree of independence.

Kate didn't want to align herself with a brand and she wanted to build her profile and audience so she could self-release. Eventually, after another US tour where the venues have gone up from 400-1000 people to 1500-2000 people, we have done a deal with Rick Rubin and Fiction (Universal) which keeps a really strong brand integrity for Kate.

Kate is a very important British artist who was given the opportunity to further develop her work, audience and identity through modest independent investment via Momentum. Toby Donnelly thinks this model of modest independent investment can play an important role in developing future artists with unique voices.

We would like to see a more coordinated approach where a rosta of managers work with the PRS Foundation and other funders to coordinate investment to reach uniquely talented artists at the time when they are poised to go to the next level but also where they are vulnerable to making the wrong turn.