

**BRITISH  
YOUTH  
MUSIC  
THEATRE**

**NEW MUSIC THEATRE**

# #50DAYS

**A STATE OF THE NATION  
GRIME MUSICAL**

**WRITTEN BY  
THABO STUCK**



IN PARTNERSHIP



BIRMINGHAM  
HIPPODROME

**1 - 3  
SEP**

# WELCOME

---

Welcome to the final show of the BYMT 2023 season! We are so delighted to have opened and closed the season at The Birmingham Hippodrome, a new partner for us, where the wonderful staff share our passion for creating new musicals and engaging young people as collaborators and creative inventors. I first heard about the brilliant idea of *#50Days* in 2019 at a new musical pitching session and then I was part of a panel finding new shows for development with Royal & Derngate Northampton, China Plate, MMD & MTN and Birmingham Hippodrome in 2022. At this point it was clear that a large company of young people could help the piece to move forwards and when BYMT's Young Company Panel met to shape the 2023 season they agreed it should be included; they wanted a range of music styles in the programme, along with stories that empower young people to find their voice and collective identity.

At a time when performing arts are being taken out of regular school activity and access to creative opportunities denied, it is vital for charities such as BYMT to be listening to young people, engaging their creativity and giving them a platform. In our 2023 Young Company, more than quarter of the performers are from backgrounds currently underrepresented in UK society. We hope you hear what our Young Company want to say about the historical 50 days and their relevance to now, as well as enjoying their glorious performances.

**Emily Gray** Creative Director

## A NOTE FROM THABO STUCK

---

### Why Grime?

Grime is the modern soundtrack of this nation. Like Jungle, Ska and Punk, it represents the underdogs and fuses diverse cultures and experiences. Grime emerged from East London, which is the setting for much of the radical thinking that emerged during the mid 17th Century. There are comparisons to be made between the messages in grime and the thoughts of those who felt marginalised across Britain in 1641, which is where our story begins.

### Why the Civil War?

The outcomes are still with us. Many see it as an English fight between King and Parliament, but it goes well beyond that. It's a conflict that spans every echelon of society and corner of Britain. The parallels between the two periods are eerily comparable – In *#50Days*, we find ourselves in the winter of 1641 and Britain is a nation divided along religious, political and class lines. We are considering our relationship with Europe, the future of the monarchy and all of this whilst London, the epicentre of this piece, is being ravaged by a plague.

Having the opportunity to showcase the developments of this piece with a 30+ strong cast of young people feels perfect for *#50Days*. We have an exciting cast from across the UK, as well as international performers. Many of the cast members are new to the genre and learning certain skills for the first time.

The creative team is a combination of people I have worked with before and some who are new to the project. Mostly, we are a collection of eccentrics who have somehow come together, again from various backgrounds and cultures. *#50Days* is not just the voice of one person but a whole catalogue of UK talent.

Taking the show to Birmingham feels appropriate, given the exciting grime scene that has been developing in Birmingham for quite some time. It is such a buzzing city and I want to thank everyone for their warm welcome and hospitality across this period. I also want to thank my son Roman for sharing me with this project and Elaine Nelson... because she made me do it x

## ABOUT BRITISH YOUTH MUSIC THEATRE

British Youth Music Theatre (BYMT) is a national performing arts education charity and the largest commissioner of new musicals in the UK. Every year we engage around 2000 11-21 year olds in our auditions, workshops, Young Company and projects; BYMT helps young people and developing artists to navigate and further their training and careers in the arts. As an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation and National Youth Music Organisation, we ensure that youth voice is at the heart of everything we do. BYMT's mission is to create opportunities for young people and early career creatives from all backgrounds to develop theatre skills and enhance wellbeing, through the collaborative and inclusive process of making original music theatre.

# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

"#50Days was selected for presentation at the BEAM2023 industry showcase, co-produced by Musical Theatre Network and Mercury Musical Development."

## PUBLIC GRANTS

Supported using public funding by



ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND



LOTTERY FUNDED

supported by



## PRINCIPAL SPONSOR

**NASUWT**  
The Teachers' Union

A long-time sponsor of BYMT, the union supports our work to engage young people in schools and give them opportunities beyond the classroom, with both funding and use of their fantastic Hillscourt conference centre in Birmingham. BYMT and NASUWT share a passion for supporting teachers and ensuring creativity in the curriculum.

## TRUST & FOUNDATIONS

BackstageTrust

T H E  
MACKINTOSH  
FOUNDATION



NOËL COWARD  
FOUNDATION

St. James' Trust

Jane Goodman Charitable Trust

Coral Samuel Charitable Trust

## ADVISORS TO THE TRUSTEES

Bridget Kalloushi (Finance)

Rachel Victor-Sampson (Inclusivity)

## FRIENDS

Fern Stoner

Linda Nightingale

Sarah Double

Emma Shaw

Kate Suh

Jayne Griffiths

Tim Sawers

Helen Dayananda

Francesca Stuckey-Howard

Barry Anns

Simon Milson

Alastair Roberts

## BOARD

Jimmy Jewell

Alastair Roberts

Aniela Shuckburgh

Lucy Stocks

Phillip Siddle

Francesca Unsworth

Roger Jones

Simon Millson (Chair)

## We would like to thank the following for their contribution to our work:

Birmingham Hippodrome

Flavia Fraser-Cannon PR

ArtTouchesArt

Artwork by Rhiannon Dunn

Photographer Simon Hadley

Our Creative Work Placements: Eve

Wengel, Lorelei Cairns

Douglas Swann and Ocean Outdoor for putting us up in lights

Elizabeth Sturt, for her ongoing support.

## ENJOYED THE SHOW? BECOME A FRIEND OF BYMT

For just £25 per month, your contribution will help support enthusiastic and underrepresented young performers and musicians through our bursary scheme, the commissioning of new music theatre and the training of emerging theatre artists. Plus, all our FRIENDS receive free admission\* to one of our shows every year! To sign up please scan the QR code provided on the right or visit our website for more information: [britishyouthmusictheatre.org/support-us](https://britishyouthmusictheatre.org/support-us)

\*free admission for up to 4 people



# CREATIVES

---

## **THABO STUCK - WRITER**

*#50DAYS* is the debut show from writer Thabo Stuck. Born in South London to parents of South African and German descent, Thabo has spent ten years working in education, most of which as a history teacher in London. For seven of those years Thabo worked at the BRIT School for Performing Arts. Thabo now steps into the creative industry himself, with a show that combines two of his most prominent passions – history and music. *50Days* first featured at MT Fest in 2021 to much excitement, where it was described as “A hurtling exploration of politics and revolution. Shrewdly spiked with references to privilege, Brexit and Fake News”. (Sam Marlowe, inews). In 2022 Thabo was awarded a place on the MT Darkroom writing residency at the Royal Derngate in Northampton, supported by China Plate. Earlier this year, Thabo pitched *#50Days* at BEAM at the Oxford playhouse, to much positive response and excitement.

## **NYASHA GUDO - DIRECTOR**

Nyasha has directed on a range of projects at various subsidised and west end theatres across the country from the Chichester Festival Theatre, National Theatre, Birmingham Repertory Theatre and The RSC. Most recently Nyasha has directed a co production between Headlong Theatre and Belgrade Theatre of *A Play for the Living in a Time of Extinction* and was associate director on *Spitting Image Live* at the Birmingham Repertory.

## **NADINE ROSE JOHNSON - MUSICAL DIRECTOR**

Nadine Rose Johnson, is a professional Performance Artist, Writer, Vocal Composer and Facilitator from South London. Recognised for her critically acclaimed gig theatre show “*Frankenstein: How To*

*Make A Monster*” which she co-wrote, co-composed and starred in, Nadine Rose is an international multi-award winning performer (Total Theatre Award, OFFIES, Adelaide Fringe First), has raised thousands of pounds for local charities, and co-ordinates arts programs for children and young people. Nadine Rose also directs vocal projects at top UK drama schools. Credits include *Unexpected Twist* (Royal & Derngate), *Frankenstein: How To Make a Monster* (Battersea Arts Centre, BBC), *Arrival* (Impossible Producing), *The Last Man* (Battersea Arts Centre), *KFC x D Double E* (Unilad).

## **OTHRWLD - MUSICAL DIRECTOR**

Othrwld is a producer, composer and multi-instrumentalist. He has a band that plays his compositions for live shows. As well as contributing music to the *#50Days* musical he is also one of the musical directors.

## **MELODY SINCLAIR - CHOREOGRAPHER**

Melody Sinclair studied Urban Dance Practice at the University of East London (UEL). Alongside her studies, she became a member of ZooNation Dance Company and trained with Boy Blue Entertainment. Current work: Associate Choreographer on *SIX the Musical* (London, UK & International Tour, Norwegian Cruise Lines and Chicago Shakespeare Theatre). Melody's choreographer credits include: Choreographer of *Unfortunate: The Untold Story of the Sea Witch* (UK Tour), Choreographer of *Treasure Island* (Hall for Cornwall), Associate Choreographer on *To The Streets* (Birmingham Hippodrome/ China Plate Productions) and Co-Founder of Marshon Dance Company (Birmingham). Melody's performer credits include: ‘*Messy Love*’ NAO, *London Fashion Week London*, *Ellesse*

---

AW19 Partner Conference, ZooNation: *Unplugged* (Sadler's Wells Theatre), *The International Olympic Committee Head of State Performance* (Royal Opera House), *Breakin' Convention* (Sadler's Wells Theatre), *ZooNation: Groove on Down the Road* (Royal Festival Hall), *BBC Dance Proms* (Royal Albert Hall), *Pioneer DJ: International Music Summit*.

### **ALEXANDRA KAY - DESIGNER**

Alexandra Kay is a Costume, Set and Puppetry Designer currently based in South Wales. Excited by collaborative storytelling and arts engagement, building a practice focusing on curiosity, play, exploration and sustainability. Alexandra has recently graduated with BA in Design for Performance from The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, with a strong assisting portfolio, and design work including Costume designer on *'Oppenheimer'* (Bute Theatre), and Puppetry Designer on *'The Book of Dust, La Belle Sauvage'* (Bute Theatre). She has also worked previously with British Youth Music Theatre in their 2022 Season as a Creative Trainee, Associate Designing their Production of *'A Midsummer Night's Dream'* at the Holroyd Community Theatre. Her work can be found at [alexkaydesign.com/@alexgracekay](http://alexkaydesign.com/@alexgracekay).

### **JACK HATHAWAY - LIGHTING DESIGN**

Jack is a lighting designer and maker working across a wide spectrum of theatre and live events. He uses his electrics and engineering background in much of his making work, which also informs his lighting design. Jack is particularly interested in developing sustainable practices within theatre lighting; how lighting can be used in terms of physicality, form and texture to explore the human condition and tell a narrative of the subconscious. Jack designed and built

the first light generating dance floor to be used in a theatre production called *Hot in Here*, which was recently on at the Gate Theatre. Lighting Design Credits include: *Hot in Here* (Camden People's Theatre/UK Tour) *Pigfoot Theatre*. *The Freshwater Five* (UK Tour) *Deadman*. *Treasure Island*, GSA. *The Wizard of Oz*, *Starcatcher Productions* (Cockpit Theatre). *3 Sisters*, *Rose Bruford* (Brixton House.) *Educating Yorkshire*, BYMT (Square Chapel Theatre). As Associate: *Aurora*, *Invisible Flock/FACT*, (Toxteth Reservoir.) *The Magic Flute*, *Isango Ensemble* (Boston Cutler Majestic Theatre). Upcoming projects include: *SOMETIMES* (Sadlers Wells) *Beast and Beauties* (GSA) *SOMETIMES* (Dance City) *ADA* (NYT).

### **A&M PRODUCTIONS - SOUND DESIGN**

A&M are an independent equipment rental and production company based in Northamptonshire. Although we offer a wide range in services such as Audio, Lighting, Sales, Installation & Power our speciality is with live theatre audio. A&M prides itself in providing industry standard - latest equipment prepared to the highest level, so that our customers and clients have nothing to worry about when hiring from us. Along side our equipment hire we are able to supply design and staffing for theatrical productions utilising staff and freelancers that work on many west end and regional touring professional productions, giving your performance that west end quality feel. A&M are thrilled to be partnering with British Youth Musical Theatre for their 2023 summer season of fantastic performances. Credit to our design & production team for 2023: Aidan Jones (Account Handler) - Joe Green (*Harry & Greta / #50Days*), Sam Levy (*Angry Salmon / Romeo & Juliet*), Robert Brennan (*The Naughty Carriage on the Orphan Train*).

## SONG CREDITS

---

### 1) We The People –

Lyrics by Thabo Stuck  
Music composition by Nadine-Rose Johnson

### 2) LONDON TOWN

Lyrics by Thabo Stuck  
Music composition by DARKSTAR

### 3) CAGE OF GOLD

Lyrics by Thabo Stuck  
Music composition by DARKSTAR

### 4) THE GRAND REMONSTRANCE (22nd November)

Lyrics by Thabo Stuck  
Music composition by Duramane Kamara

### 5) LOSE YOUR HAND

Lyrics by Thabo Stuck  
Music composition by Othrwld

### 6) LONDON TOWN II

Lyrics By Thabo Stuck  
Music composition by Duramane Kamara

### 7) VETO (December)

Lyrics by Thabo Stuck  
Music composition by Amiiir Saleem aka RQT

### 8) BREATHE

Lyrics by Thabo Stuck  
Music composition by DARKSTAR

### 9) SOUTH OF THE RIVER

Lyrics by Thabo Stuck  
Music composition by Amiiir Saleem aka RQT

### 10) THE GLOVES ARE OFF

Lyrics by Thabo Stuck  
Music composition by DARKSTAR

### 11) FAKE NEWS

Lyrics by Thabo Stuck  
Assistant Writer – Chris Sonnex  
Music composition by Duramane Kamara

### 12) CHRISTMAS

Lyrics by Thabo Stuck  
Music composition by Othrwld

### 13) CHRISTMAS II

Lyrics by Thabo Stuck  
Music composition by Othrwld

### 14) THE BILL PASSES

Lyrics by Thabo Stuck  
Music composition by Nadine-Rose Johnson

### 15) STORM THE TOWER

Lyrics by Thabo Stuck  
Music composition by Othrwld

### 16) PARLEY

Lyrics by Thabo Stuck  
Music composition by DARKSTAR

### 17) I DON'T KNOW

Lyrics by Thabo Stuck  
Music composition by DARKSTAR

### 18) THE BIRDS HAVE FLOWN

Lyrics by Thabo Stuck  
Music composition by DARKSTAR

### 19) NOW I KNOW

Lyrics by Thabo Stuck  
Music composition by Nadine-Rose Johnson

### 20) KING OR FOR PARLIAMENT

Lyrics by Thabo Stuck  
Music composition by Nadine-Rose Johnson

## CAST

---

**Kerstin Burns**

**Olivia Busslinger**

**Susie Catterall**

**Alice Clarke**

**Sam Cooper**

**Dáthig Finnerty**

**Jasmine Fung**

**Isabella George-Hall**

**Patrick Gill**

**Kathryn Harris**

**Callum Henry**

**Alicia Herrenschmidt-Moller**

**Ewan Hipperson**

**Freya Hoy**

**Tiana Irani-Kermani**

**Katie Jones**

**Loulou Karpusheff**

**Annabel Kearsey**

**Joseph Lasrado**

**Evie Lucas**

**Eloise Luke**

**Flo MacLachlan**

**Georgie Madeley**

**Natalya Naryshkine**

**Seren Schartz**

**Xavier Strydom**

**Sofia-Elena Tait**

**Emma Thornton**

**Lucy Webb**

**Eleanor Weldon**

**Bella Wright**

## CREATIVE TEAM

---

Writer..... **Thabo Stuck**

Director..... **Nyasha Gudo**

Musical Director..... **Nadine-Rose Johnson**

Musical Director..... **Othrwld**

Choreographer..... **Melody Sinclair**

Designer..... **Alexandra Kay**

..... **Darkstar, Duramanev**

..... **Kamara, Amiir Rqitek,**

..... **Nadine-Rose Johnson,**

..... **Othrwld**

Video Designer..... **Nick Laws**

Production Manager..... **Ewen Roberts**

Stage Manager..... **Brent Tan**

Deputy Stage

Manager..... **Bethany Barrington-Davis**

Sound Designer..... **Joe Green**

Lighting Designer..... **Jack Hathaway**

Assistant Designer..... **Lorelei Cairns**

Assistant Stage

Manager..... **Eve Wengel**

## PASTORAL TEAM

---

Pastoral Lead..... **Rachael Ryan**

Pastoral Member..... **Malinda Smith**

Pastoral Member..... **Emmeline Taylor**

Pastoral Member..... **David Leo Steward**

## OFFICE STAFF

---

Chief Executive & Creative Director..... **Emily Gray**

Development Director..... **Alex Mastihi**

Producer..... **Milly Summer**

Finance Director..... **Clare Russell**

..... **Clare Russell**

..... **Cerys Jones**

..... **Rosa Higgs**

..... **Linda Okachi**

..... **Rhiannon Dunn**

..... **Heather Macinnes**

..... **Savannah-Rae Gordon**

..... **Jamie Todd**

## PATRONS

---

**James Bourne, Jean Diamond, Peter Duncan,  
Ed Sheeran MBE, Zoë Wanamaker CBE**



PLEASE TAKE THE TIME AND COMPLETE OUR AUDIENCE SURVEY

THANK YOU!



**BRITISH  
YOUTH  
MUSIC  
THEATRE**

**AUDITIONS  
FOR 2024!**

**ONLINE AUDITIONS  
ON SALE NOW!**

[BRITISHYOUTHMUSICTHEATRE.ORG](http://BRITISHYOUTHMUSICTHEATRE.ORG)