

BRITISH
YOUTH
MUSIC
THEATRE

NEW MUSIC THEATRE

TEAM HARRY

PLANET
GRETA

TEAM HARRY

SAVE OUR PLANET
STAND WITH GRETA

TEAM

HARRY & GRETA

NW
NEW
WOLSEY
THEATRE

4 - 5
AUG

WELCOME

Welcome to BYMT's Summer Season. We are delighted to be returning to the New Wolsey with another winner of the **New Music Theatre Award**, following the shows *Babies* in 2021 and *The Dickens Girls* in 2019. **Harry & Greta** was chosen out of 26 suggestions for new musicals from composers and writers under the age of 30. BYMT has a Young Company Panel who helped to shape the 2023 season and two of their members were on the NMTA pitching panel; they were clear that this show would absolutely fit their season theme of young people finding their voices and striving to make a difference to the adult world around them. **Lewis Cornay**, who was in a BYMT production as a young person, understands the collaborative process and has created an inspirational new musical, with space for our young company to bring their ideas and interpretations to the show. 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 people have to say, as well as enjoying their glorious performances.

Emily Gray Creative Director

A NOTE FROM LEWIS CORNAY & FRANNY RAFFERTY

When tasked with writing a piece for the next generation of musical theatre I knew I wanted to talk about climate change. It's an ever-present issue facing young people, yet can often be a bit lofty and confusing. So, I wanted to take it back to basics and in doing so did some research into Grimm Tales. I was shocked to find that the story of 'Hansel & Gretel' was said to be inspired by The Great Famine of 1315-1317. Awful weather conditions led to crop and agricultural failures so significant that families would literally sacrifice their children in an effort to survive. Today, I feel like we live in a world where the older generation equally use the younger generation as a scapegoat, just more insidiously. So I asked myself- what would happen if we set *Hansel & Gretel* in the future and instead focused on what happened after they escaped from the Witch? A story has been created that gives agency back to the younger generation and celebrates the power of community and imagination. It's been an absolute joy to work with this cohort of theatre-makers in making the show. I've been blessed with a brilliantly collaborative creative team who've empowered the young people to celebrate their individuality whilst pushing them out of their comfort zones. It's inspired us to connect with our inner-children and we hope you might leave feeling like you've contacted with yours.

Lewis Cornay Writer

I first met Lewis when he was performing as a part of a large ensemble musical. I was fresh out of college and working for the first time as a professional Associate Director. Lewis' instincts and sense of play were a joy to work with. So, when Lewis asked if I would be up for directing his award winning new musical I jumped at the chance. Lewis writes with the same care he applies to his career as a successful performer. He writes to share a story and give a voice to people who might not normally feel like they have a voice. The next generation of artists are also our next generation of activists. They are no longer simply the future, they are the ones who will ensure there is a future if we listen long and hard enough to what their brilliant beautiful voices are telling us.

Thank you to the BYMT team for championing new musical theatre, and bringing this incredible cohort of young theatre-makers together.

Franny Rafferty Director

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.

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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.

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BOARD

Jimmy Jewell
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Aniela Shuckburgh
Lucy Stocks
Phillip Siddle
Francesca Unsworth
Roger Jones
Simon Millson (Chair)

ADVISORS TO THE TRUSTEES

Bridget Kalloushi (Finance)
Rachel Victor-Sampson (Inclusivity)

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

The Staff at New Wolsey Theatre
Flavia Fraser-Cannon PR
Jess Jenkins
ArtTouchesArt
Photographer Leanne Dixon
Joe Baldwin, Zoey Shan & Ruth Main

ENJOYED THE SHOW? BECOME A FRIEND OF BYMT

For just £25 per month, your contribution will help support say 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



CREATIVES

LEWIS CORNAY -

WRITER & COMPOSER

After graduating with a first class honours degree from The Guildford School of Acting in 2017, Lewis has worked continuously as both an actor and writer. His debut play *'Daddy Issues'* received its debut last year at Seven Dials Playhouse to critical acclaim. Before this his one-man show *'The Curious Case of Lewis Cornay'* was premiered at The Other Palace. His musical, *'Snowflake'*, was workshopped at the Lowry Theatre as part of the ReWrites Festival. It was nominated for an Offie Award for Innovation and a song from the show was selected as a finalist for the Stiles and Drewe Best Song New Prize. Lewis is also alumni of the prestigious Soho Writers Lab and has hosted various concerts of his own work at venues such as The Union Theatre and Crazy Coqs. Last year Lewis was awarded the New Musical Theatre Award, giving him a commission to write this brand new musical for British Youth Music Theatre. As a proud queer writer, his key aim is to dissect the truth and unravel the stories we tell ourselves, with a smattering of dark comedy.

FRANNY RAFFERTY - DIRECTOR

Current project/s: director *Harry and Greta* (BYMT at the New Wolsley); project lead *Twelfth Night* (ICTheatre, Brighton); director attached to Barlow & Smith's new musical *Vanya's*; and writing-developing *Wreckclamation*. Previous credits as

Director: *Michael Friedman and Alex Timbers' Love's Labour's Lost* (LSMT at the Union Theatre); *Bare: A Pop Opera* (Chichester Conservatoire at The Alexandra, Bognor Regis); *Legally Blonde* (Mountview, London); *Lysistrata Jones* (ArtsEd, London); UK Premiere *The Little Prince* by James D. Reid & Nicholas Lloyd Webber (ICTheatre, Brighton); *More Light* by Bryony Lavery (Online rehearsed reading, Drink The Ink & Magnetic Studios); *Saving Rachel* (Fertility Fest 2019, Olympia); *Vanya's* by Barlow & Smith (MMD workshop); *The Field* by Lydia Thomson for Rapid Write Response (Theatre 503); *A West End Christmas* (Cadogen Hall).

TIM JASPER - MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Tim Jasper is a musical director, arranger, composer and performer. He recently completed his Masters with distinction in Musical Direction at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts. Tim is now represented by BBA Management. Tim also ran a successful theatre company, the *'North East Stephen Sondheim Theatre'* which he founded in 2018. The music and lyrics of Sondheim are what drives Tim's passion for musical theatre. He was the pianist in the recent Bath Theatre Royal revival of *'Into The Woods'* which was directed by Leah Hausman and Terry Gilliam. He recently was MD for the London production of *'But I'm A Cheerleader - The Musical'*. Live, engaging music and theatre are

what drives Tim, creating compelling drama and music which blossoms into existence from the score.

CHRISTOPHER TENDAI - CHOREOGRAPHER

Christopher Tendai is an up and coming Theatre Choreographer, breathing a fresh new life into the imagery of how we see Theatre and Dance productions. Some of his credits include: *Wonderland In Alice* (5*****), *Offies Nominated for Best Choreography*, *Wuthering Heights A New Musical Workshop* (4****), *Children of Eden* (5*****), *Scroogelicious* (5*****), *The Wonderful* (4****) winning an Offies Award (2021), and *The Guap Gala* at the Natural History Museum. Christopher is also the Artistic Director for the Award-Winning Dance Company: *CTC Dance Company*. The company are known for their thought provoking works such as *IDENTITY* (4****), and *'Ink'd'* (5*****). Their ethos is 'Sparking Important Conversations Through Narrative Movement.' Performance Credits Include: *Cabaret at the Kit Kat Club* (Playhouse Theatre), *Carousel* (Regents Open Air Theatre), *Dick Whittington* (National Theatre), *Matilda* (Cambridge Theatre), *In The Willows* (UK Tour), *West Side Story* (Royal Exchange Theatre), *Original Cast of Hamilton* (Victoria Palace Theatre), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Regents Open Air Theatre), *In The Heights* (Kings Cross Theatre),

Hairspray (UK & Ireland Tour). As former BYMT Alumni, Christopher is very excited to be back choreographing for Harry and Greta. www.christophertendai.com

VERITY JOHNSON - DESIGNER

Theatre credits include: *Educating Yorkshire T'Musical* (BYMT), *Rapture* (Pleasence Theatre), *Andromeda* (Camden People's Theatre), *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (Chiswick Playhouse), *Easy* (Blue Elephant Theatre), *Fledglings* (Nuffield Theatre), *1984* (Nuffield Theatre), *Maggie May* (Finborough Theatre - Offie Nominated for set design), *Vespertilio* (Vault Festival), *How to Disappear Completely and Never Be Found* (Nuffield Theatre), *The Queen's Nose* (LSMT), *Bury The Dead* (Finborough Theatre), *Unexpected Joy* (Southwark Playhouse), *Half Me Half You* (Wild Project, NYC), *Mermaids* (King's Head Theatre), *Nine Foot Nine* (Bunker Theatre), *Hilda and Virginia* (Jermyn Street Theatre), *Testament* (Vault Festival), *The House of Usher* (The Hope Theatre), *The Dumb Waiter* (Maltings Arts Theatre). As an assistant: *Hamlet & As You Like It* (Shakespeare's Globe), *The Audience* (Nuffield Theatre), *Rotterdam* (The Arts Theatre), *German Skerries* (Orange Tree Theatre), *Microcosm* (Soho Theatre). As studio assistant to: Tim Hatley, Nicky Shaw, Netia Jones, Sara Perks, and Rosie Elnile.



CAST

Daisy Ali
Elodie Anns
Kaiya Ashitey
Blossom Beard
Eva Beveridge
Liam Brophy
Alex Brown
Ella Burke
Kate Burr
Kate Butler
Nyrobe Buturo-Deadman
Clara Campbell Douge
Flora Charnock
Summer Currie
Lillie Every
Imogen Fenton
Natalie Fooks
Oliver Forde
Luke Groarke
Holly Harmon
Seth Hodges
Robyn Howard
Hannah Kagimoto
Dexter Kirwan
Maya Locke
Dearbhla McNally
Nora-Kate Mercier
Arthur Owen
Romilly Page-Turner
Bethany Parsons
Ayva Pottinger
Francesca Ratcliffe
Georgie Rose
Una Roulston
Ellis Williams

INSTRUMENTALISTS

James Gould SAXOPHONE
Dominic Grey GUITAR
Beth Harby TRUMPET
William Laborde GUITAR
Xen Medland DRUMS

CREATIVE TEAM

Writer & Composer Lewis Cornay
Director Franny Rafferty
Musical Director Tim Jasper
Choreographer Christopher Tendai
Musical Arrangements Benjamin McQuigg
Orchestrations Matt Herbert
Designer Verity Johnson
Lighting Designer Catherine Webb
Sound Designer A & M Productions
Production Manager Rose Oldershaw
Stage Manager Robyn-Amber Manners
Deputy Stage Manager Isobel Hobby Norris
Assistant Musical Director Joe Baldwin
Assistant Designer Ruth Main
Assistant Stage Manager Zoey Shan
Professional Bassist Will Sharland

PASTORAL TEAM

Pastoral Lead Max Harris
Pastoral Member Becky Maddocks
Pastoral Member David Leo Stewart
Pastoral Member Grace Key

OFFICE STAFF

Chief Executive & Creative Director Emily Gray
Development Director Alex Mastihi
Producer Milly Summer
Finance Director Clare Russell
Casting & Young Company Manager Cerys Jones
Schools & Pastoral Manager Rosa Higgs
Digital Marketing Manager Linda Okachi
Marketing Assistant Rhiannon Dunn
Production Assistant Heather Macinnes
Office Assistant Savannah-Rae Gordon
Music Coordinator Jamie Todd

PATRONS

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



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THANK YOU!



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