

**BRITISH
YOUTH
MUSIC
THEATRE**

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME**

NEW MUSIC THEATRE

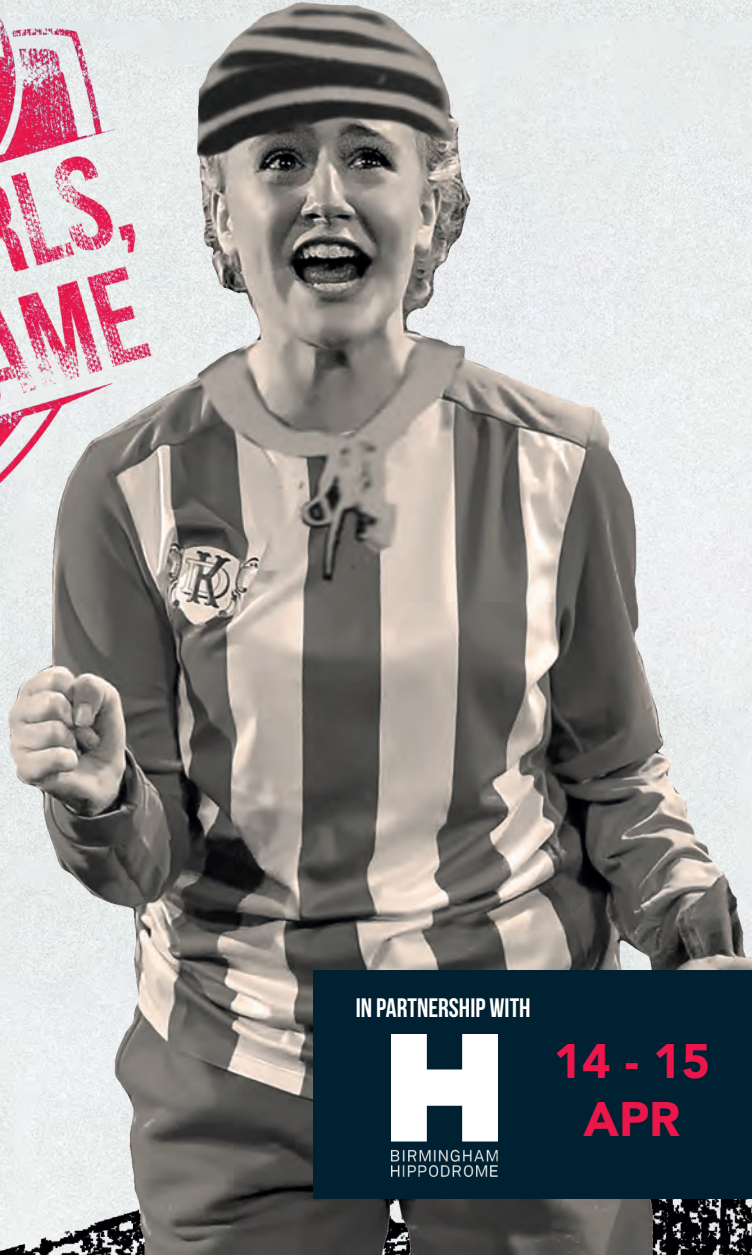


**BOOKWRITER
VICTORIA SAXTON**

**MUSIC & LYRICS /
MUSIC SUPERVISOR
VIKKI STONE**

**DIRECTOR
CHARLOTTE WESTENRA**

**CHOREOGRAPHER
JANE MCMURTRIE**



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**BIRMINGHAM
HIPPODROME**

**14 - 15
APR**

WELCOME

Welcome to the first show of the **BYMT 2023 season!** We are so delighted to be opening 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. **Our Girls Our Game** was originally devised in 2021 and performed in Yorkshire. Following the huge success of the Lionesses in 2022, we wanted to give new life to this story of girls and women supporting each other, fighting for independence and celebrating their individuality.

BYMT has a Young Company Panel who helped to shape the 2023 season and they wanted this show to be developed and recreated for a new audience. The panel set the season theme as young people finding their tribe and a collective voice and *Our Girls Our Game* fulfils this, perfectly with the lyric:

**You'll find what's important's
Not glory or wealth
It's the family you choose for yourself**

Over the past two weeks, a dedicated team of professional female creative, pastoral and technical staff have worked together with female and non-binary performers and musicians, aged between 12 and 21, to make this show; we have welcomed performers from the Ukraine, Germany and South Africa, as well as all over the UK and Ireland. We hope you enjoy it!

Emily Gray and BYMT Staff Team

A NOTE FROM VICTORIA SAXTON, VIKKI STONE, CHARLOTTE WESTENRA AND JANE MCMURTRIE

The Dick, Kerr Ladies F.C. team were the A list celebrities of their day. They were featured on magazine covers, Pathé films and their matches sold out venues such as Stamford Bridge. One of their players, Lilly Parr, scored more goals in her lifetime than Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo combined! But why have you never heard of them? In short the F.A were threatened by their success. It seems fitting, therefore, that our brilliant director, Charlotte Westenra, brought together an all-female creative team to tell this story and insisted on an all-female & non-binary cast.

We wrote the first draft of **Our Girls, Our Game** in under two weeks, with the collaboration of 30 BYMT members in 2021. The words and music were inspired as much by the passion of the BYMT girls, as by the Dick, Kerr team themselves. Most musicals take five to ten years to write, so two weeks was quite the feat! We've had some developmental time since then and the 2023 cohort of BYMT actors have blown us away with their talent, grit and determination. But you, the audience, are the final collaborator. We welcome your feedback and help in telling the world about the mighty Dick, Kerr Ladies F.C. This is a story that belongs to any girl, or person, who faces and overcomes oppression to realise their dreams.

ABOUT 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

PUBLIC GRANTS

Supported using public funding by



ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

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

The Jane Goodman Charitable Trust
The Coral Samuel Charitable Trust
The St. James' Trust

FRIENDS

Alan Cranston
Alastair Roberts
Emma Shaw
Fern Stoner
Jayne Griffiths
Rebecca Nice
S Chaytow
Sarah Double
Sian Flynn
Tim Sawers
Barry Anns
Helen Dayananda
F. Howard

BOARD

Jimmy Jewell
Alastair Roberts
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 Birmingham Hippodrome
Flavia Fraser-Cannon at Mobius Industries
Jess Jenkins
ArtTouchesArt
Photographer Leanne Dixon
The Staff at Hillscourt Hotel
Our Creative Work Placements: Lauren
Riley, Ciara Linehan and Louise Roberts

**BYMT will be back at the end of the
summer at Birmingham Hippodrome
with #50Days, a new musical inspired
by grime music.**

**For more information visit our website:
britishyouthmusictheatre.org**

ENJOYED THE SHOW? BECOME A FRIEND OF BYMT

For just £25 per month, your contribution will help support enthusiastic 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: **CLICK HERE TO BECOME A FRIEND**

**free admission for up to 4 people*



CREATIVES

VICTORIA SAXTON - BOOKWRITER

Victoria Saxton is a writer & dramaturg with an expertise in new musical theatre. She is currently working on several TV feature films for Reel One Ents, alongside a children's musical using the music of CBeebies star Nick Cope for the North Wall Theatre/ David Luff Productions, alongside a book about the dramaturgy of new musicals for Bloomsbury Publishing. Select writing credits include: *Lyrics for Fragments* (Playground Theatre, London & Oxford) several commissions for Big Finish Productions, including *Bernice Summerfield Adventures* and *ATA Girl - Flying with a Spitfire* (BBC Audio Award Finalist), *Head of the Table* with drama desk nominee Paul Castles (Young Vic Labs) and *Marriage a la Mode* with Charles Miller (Chichester University). Her dramaturgy clients call her the 'musical whisperer' and range across Broadway, Off Broadway and UK touring producers and writers. Victoria was Executive Director of Mercury Musical Developments (2015-2019) co-creating and producing *BEAM* the UK's largest showcase of New British Musical Theatre along various other new writing initiatives.

VIKKI STONE - MUSIC & LYRICS / MUSIC SUPERVISOR

Vikki Stone is an award-winning writer, composer, comedian and musician. Writing credits include: co-adaptor, writer and music supervisor for the Oliver Award winning *Hey Duggee Live*, #zoologicalsociety for Royal & Derngate, *Cinderella & Aladdin* for The Lyric Hammersmith, *Ten Pieces Special Report* for BAFTA Nominated children's music series BBC Ten Pieces, *Our Girls Our Game* for British Youth Music Theatre and *Alice In Wonderland*, which is heading to The Liverpool Everyman and Theatre Royal Plymouth in summer 2023. Vikki made history when she was the

musical director, pianist and band leader of the Saturday night ITV prime-time show *Romeo and Duet*, making her the first on-screen female musical director of a primetime entertainment show in the UK. Other TV appearances include: *BBC Proms* coverage for BBC Four, *Romeo and Duet*, Richard Osman's *House of Games*, *Celebrity Pointless*, *The Dog Ate My Homework*, *The John Bishop Show*, *Partners in Rhyme* and the BAFTA award-winning *Ten Pieces* for BBC.

CHARLOTTE WESTENRA - DIRECTOR

Charlotte is a stage director and dramaturg specialising in political theatre and new writing, with an emphasis on the development of British musicals. Her production *Agreement* by Owen McCafferty is currently on at the Lyric Theatre Belfast for the 25th Anniversary of the signing of the Good Friday Agreement. Her upcoming work includes *Sin* a one woman musical satire by Richard Hough and Ben Morales Frost for the Barn Theatre, Cirencester. She is currently developing a contemporary political musical with composer Ruth Chan and lyricist Darren Clark; a quirky British romantic comedy with writers Bateman, Hughes & Conley and a children's crime caper with composer, lyricist Jonny Berliner with a libretto by Rhys Jennings. Credits include: *The Wicker Husband* (Watermill Theatre); *Indecent Proposal* (Southwark Playhouse) and *Our Girls Our Game* (British Youth Music Theatre).

JANE MCMURTRIE - CHOREOGRAPHER

Choreographer credits: *Marella Cruises*, *Indecent Proposal* (Southwark Playhouse) *Our Girls Our Game*, *The Good Life* (UK tour), *Cinderella* (Glasgow Kings Theatre, New Victoria Theatre), *Spring Awakening* (Edinburgh Fringe), *Sweet Smell of Success* (Guildford School of Acting).

Associate Choreographer credits: *Newsies* (Wembley Troubadour), *Identical* (Nottingham Playhouse), *Fiddler on the Roof* (The Playhouse London), *Oklahoma* (Chichester Festival Theatre), *The Producers* (International Tour) *Bodyguard* (Germany, South Korea, Vienna) *Groundhog Day* (The Old Vic), *Gypsy* (Savoy Theatre), *Legally Blonde* (Sydney Lyric Theatre). Jane has also performed in the following shows: *Gypsy*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Legally Blonde*, *Carousel*, *Mary Poppins*, *Wedding Singer*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Oh What a Night*, *Footloose*, *On the Town*, *Tonight's the Night* and *Grease*.

RACHEL WELLS - MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Rachel Wells is a Northern Irish Musical Director based in London. She is an experienced teacher, accompanist, trumpet player and singer-songwriter. For BYMT Rachel has worked as Assistant Musical Director for *Our Girls*, *Our Game*, *Let It Snow! Christmas Concert* and *Why The Whales Came*. Other credits include: Keyboard 2 for *Made in Dagenham* (Laine Theatre Arts), 2nd Assistant Musical Director for *NERO* (workshop).

ABEDA BEGUM - COSTUME DESIGNER

Abeda specializes in designing and making costumes for theatre and dance companies, with an impressive list of commissions. Some notable projects include being a wardrobe assistant for *Trigger Stuff PolliNations*, lead dresser for the *2022 Commonwealth Games opening and closing ceremonies*, costume designer for Amina Khayyam Dance Company's *Kantha Stories*, and costume assistant for Coventry City of Culture's *House of Kraft* project. They have also contributed to the maintenance of costumes for Daniel Lismore's exhibition at the Herbert Museum in Coventry

and have planned and delivered textile workshops for various community organizations, including Active Arts Castle Vale and Birmingham Mind.

ANNA KELSEY - SET DESIGNER

As designer, theatre includes: *The Wicker Husband*, *Under Milk Wood*, *Our Town* (Watermill); *The Snow Queen*, *Lark Rise to Candleford* (Hammerpuzzle); *Le Loup-Garou*, *Le Dernier Sorcier* (Gothic Opera); *Dance Nation* (Omnibus); *If.Destroyed.Still*. *True* (Hope); *Microwave* (Riverfront); *The Sorcerers Apprentice*, *Indecent Proposal* (Southwark Playhouse); *The Man Who Wanted to be a Penguin* (Stuff & Nonsense); *Charmane* (Raised Eyebrows); *Exodus* (Motherlode); *Guesthouse* (Eastern Angles); *Moby Dick the Musical* (Union); *Shirley Valentine* (Lighthouse); *The Great American Trailer Park Musical* (Waterloo East); *1001 Nights* (Queens, Hornchurch). As assistant designer, theatre includes: *Pride and Prejudice** (*Sort of) (Minack); *Purple Snowflake* and *Titty Wanks* (Royal Court); *The Boy in the Dress*, *Measure for Measure*, *Venice Preserved*, *Kunene & the King* (RSC).

RUTH HARVEY - LIGHTING DESIGNER

Lighting design credits - *La Voisin*, *Dark Matter* (VAULT Festival); *Macbeth*, *All the World's a Stage* (The Cockpit Theatre); *Pocomania* (Theatre Peckham); *Who Killed Alfred Oliver?* (Reading Minster); *The Comedy of Errors* (Venues across North America); *Ghost: The Musical*, *RUST*, *The Producers* (ADC Theatre). Relighting credits: *The Boatswain's Mate*; *The Ballad of Maria Marten*. Other credits: *Fatal Attraction* (Deputy Head of Lighting and Video); *Beneatha's Place*, *START* (Production Electrician, Mountview Backstage Theatre); *Candide*, *Tipping the Velvet* (Programmer, The Mack).

CAST

Ella Ball	Football Commentator
Amy Bennett	Reporter/ French customer/ Patronising Patriarchy
Maya Booth-Lyons	St Helen's Player/ French Player/ Patronising Patriarchy
Imogen Chicken	Football Commentator/ Reporter
Eleni Chivers	Alfred Frankland/ St Helen's Player
Holly Clark	Florrie Redford
May Coggon	Patronising Patriarchy/ Journalist
Madeleine Courtney	Lilly Parr
Katie Donnelly	Molly Walker
Zoe Fenwick	Tracy Jones/ French Customer/ Patronising Patriarchy
Darcey Hampson	Grace Sibbert
Grace Harris	Alice 'Woodie' Woods
Ilona Hoffman	Jessie Wolmsey
Saphia Howell	Patronising Patriarchy
Evie-Mae Humphries	Foreman
Holly Ingham	Alice Kell
Izabella Ivashchenko	Mrs Hopkins/ Doctor
Tobechi Legunsen	Ella Retford/ Fan/ Marie-Josephine/ Patronising Patriarchy
Taya-Jay Lewis	Patronising Patriarchy
Lucy Marper-Keddy	Ref/ Patronising Patriarchy
Amy McColl	Alice Norris
Lucy McKay	Jennie Harris
Jemima Morris	St Helen's Player/ French Player/ Fan
Natalia Narkiewicz	St Helen's Player/ French Player
Elizabeth Radford	Meg/ French Customer
Ella Ridgway-Powell	Reporter
Nancy Jayne Sadler	St Helen's Player/ French Player
Angelina Seran	St Helen's Player/ French Player
Mariasole Stewen	St Helen's Player/ French Player/ Miner
Nicola Steyn	St Helen's Player/ French Player/ Patronising Patriarchy
Sinead Strom	Nellie Halstead
Gracie Trueman	Madam Milliat
Estelle Vila	Reporter/ French Customer
Janae Vito	St Helen's Player/ French Player
Alma Vochin	Missy E Clayton, Goalie
Erin Wiciak-O'Driscoll	St Helen's Player/ French Player
Elizabeth Radford	Dance Captain
Amy Bennett	Assistant Dance Captain

CREATIVE TEAM

Bookwriter	Victoria Saxton
Music & Lyrics / Music Supervisor	Vikki Stone
Director	Charlotte Westernra
Choreographer	Jane McMurtrie
Musical Director	Rachel Wells
Costume Designer	Abeda Begum
Set Designer	Anna Kelsey
Lighting Designer	Ruth Harvey
Sound Designer	Joe Green
Production Manager	Rose Oldershaw
Stage Manager	Robyn-Amber Manners
Deputy Stage Manager	Katherine Verberne
Assistant Stage Manager	Lauren Riley
Assistant Designer	Ciara Linehan
Assistant Director	Louise Roberts
Football Consultant	Tate Brennan

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Amy Shaw	Guitar
Cilla Bose	Flute
Charlotte Jones	Percussion

PASTORAL TEAM

Pastoral Lead	Philippa Garlington
Pastoral Team Member	Gemma Cooper
Pastoral Team Member	Andrea Mizzen
Pastoral Team Member	Christina Cooper

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	Hannah Stone
Music Coordinator	Jamie Stephenson-Glynn

PATRONS

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





BRITISH YOUTH MUSIC THEATRE

SUMMER CAMPS

Join us for **fun-filled 6-day** theatrical residential stays, providing creative training for anyone **aged 11-17**.

britishyouthmusictheatre.org