

BRITISH  
YOUTH  
MUSIC  
THEATRE

NEW MUSIC THEATRE

# The Power of Camelot



EXETER  
NORTHCOTT  
THEATRE

23 - 24  
AUG

# WELCOME

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Welcome to BYMT's 20th Anniversary Summer Season. We are delighted to be at the Northcott Theatre for the first time, with a brand new musical conjured up over the past two weeks by a dedicated team of professional adults and a fabulous cast of young people. Our Young Company Panel choose the shows we are going to develop and put on and they were specifically excited by *The Power of Camelot* happening in the south west, the home of the English myths of Arthur and Camelot. We developed the idea for the show in an Autumn Camp in 2023 and would like to thank the young people who took part in that, as their ideas and enthusiasm for the story inspired us to evolve the quest around the 4 nations into a full length production. They believed in the power of collaborative storytelling to draw communities together and inspired us to bring young people from England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland together to make this show in Exeter.

At BYMT, we commission more new musicals a year than any other company in the UK and we regularly give new writing teams the opportunity to stage their first musical together; we are thrilled to be showcasing the work of Cerys Jones and Ruth Chan.

BYMT couldn't make the work it does without our brilliant Pastoral and Technical staff supporting the Creative team and young people. We thank the parents, carers, schools and supporters of the Young Company, who enable these performers and musicians to learn and grow their creative flair, theatrical understanding and social development through BYMT projects. Thank you to the venue and to everyone who has helped to make this show possible, and to those who have supported the Company through its 20 years. We hope to be making new musicals for many more decades and to continue seeing our young people inspiring the way ahead for music theatre.

## Emily Gray and BYMT Staff Team

## A NOTE FROM CERYS JONES

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It's 9pm on Tues 6 Dec 2022. I'm settled on my sofa for the evening. Some relaxation is needed after a month of preparing for BYMT Auditions and the annual Christmas concert. The film of choice: *National Treasure*. As Nicholas Cage skips and quips over the television screen, I exclaim 'they really should make a *National Treasure* about the British Isles'. My partner, knowing a seed of an idea is forming, asks 'what would it be about?' For the next hour, I spoke of magic, monsters, heroes and villains, ancient rivalries and new bonds of friendship. Unbeknownst to me, the first draft of *The Power of Camelot* had just been created, on my sofa, on a random Tuesday.

This idea, that 'the seed of an idea can bloom and flower', encapsulates what *The Power of Camelot* stands for. Taking our shared history and cultivating it into something new, holding onto our community whilst still being an individual. Celebrating the brilliance of the specific, in our visits to Wales, Ireland, Scotland and England, along with familiar feelings of friendship, betrayal and redemption, all in one epic adventure has been a joy.

The beauty of musical theatre for me has always been collaboration. When I finally clarified my rambling thoughts, I knew BYMT was the right company to collaborate with. I had seen first-hand their commitment to new work, their support for creative teams and the ethos of inclusive practice. This collaboration only grew as we welcomed more artists into the process, bringing with them their own brilliance and ambitions, an elevation that continued with the inclusion of our young cast and band.

The young people at BYMT never cease to amaze me with their authentic ideas and unending dedication. I may be a little biased as their Young Company Manager, but they are truly the future of musical theatre in this country, and this production is (and has always been) for them and those like them.

## Cerys Jones | Book & Lyrics

# 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

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### 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.

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Barry Anns

Emma Shaw

Helen Dayananda

Kate Suh

Francesca Stuckey Howard

Jeff Stratford

Simon Millson

Tim Sawers

Sarah Double

Fern Stoner

Rebecca Nice

## ADVISORS TO THE TRUSTEES

Bridget Kalloushi (Finance)

Rachel Victor-Sampson (Inclusivity)

## 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:

Northcott Theatre Staff

Nancy Poole PR

ArtTouchesArt

Artwork by Cherry Kwan

Gem Smith Photography

Our Creative Work Placements: Luca  
Wetherall, Josie Power, Francesca Wolff

All the young people that took part in  
BYMT's Camelot Autumn Camp 2023

## 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

## CERYS JONES - BOOKS & LYRICS

Cerys is a writer and director originally from North Wales, now based in London. Her work as a writer/director includes: *The Work We Do* (The White Bear Theatre); the 'Standing Ovation Award' nominated *Cynefin* (The Bread and Roses Theatre); *Who's Next?* (The White Bear Theatre) and *The Rogue's Gallery* (The Chelsea Theatre). As a director, Cerys worked on BYMT's Wiltshire Autumn Camp 2023, *Scenesaver's Just Write!* winner's showcase, and multiple productions with amateur dramatics societies. In addition to this, Cerys has been BYMT's Casting and Young Company Manager since 2021, has worked freelance with Stuart Burt Casting and serves as a freelance advisor to independent theatre groups.

## RUTH CHAN - COMPOSER

Ruth is a British Chinese composer for theatre, film & television and concert music. Ruth is an artist who loves working on both classical, contemporary and electronic compositions, merging cross-cultural and eclectic styles together. Music theatre, opera and other live stage credits include: *The Jungle Book* (Chichester Festival Theatre); *The Hatchling* (Spectacular outdoor Puppet interactive show, Plymouth Hoe and The Platinum Jubilee Pageant), *The Doncastrian Chalk Circle* (National Theatre/Cast in Doncaster); *Between Constellations* (Pittsburgh Opera Festival & Grimeborn Festival); *Miss Money Penny's Night at the Proms* (Birmingham Symphony Hall as programmer, Keyboardist and Arranger), *The Triumph of Time* (Thailand International Composition Festival, Pianoforte Studio Chicago, Shakespearean Theatre Conference Stratford, Ontario), *Mokita* (Hong Kong Arts Festival), *From the Top* (Hong Kong Arts Festival); *Turandot Reimagined* (Tête-à-Tête Opera & Grimeborn Festival) and *Piccadilly Revisited* (Chinese Arts Now, Royal Opera House, Hong Kong Arts Festival, UK Now Festival Beijing). Ruth was in the National Theatre's Music Theatre Group scheme in 2018/9. Her re-orchestration of Puccini's *Madam Butterfly* for Opera Up Close toured nationally just before the pandemic in 2020. Theatre credits include: *Untitled: f\*ck m\*ss s\*\*gon* and *Further than the Furthest Thing* (Young Vic), *Beauty and the Seven Beasts* (The Opera Story, Brixton Jamm), *Strange Tales* (Traverse Theatre/Grid Iron Theatre), *Hedda Tesman* (Chichester Festival Theatre); *Frankie and the Crow - Aesop Fables* (Unicorn Theatre); *Taming of the Shrew* (Royal Shakespeare Company); *Mountains: The Dreams of Lily Kwok* (Royal Exchange Manchester/Yellow Earth Theatre); *Snow in Midsummer*.

## RHIANN JEFFREY - DIRECTOR

Rhiann is a Freelance Stage and Screen director. Recent directing credits include; *This Sh\*t Happens All The Time* by Amanda Verlaque, produced by The Grand Opera House, *Twelfth Night* for The Lir Academy, the Irish Tour of *Iron Annie* by Luke Cassidy, *Ensemble: Symbols* for Prime Cut Productions, *Distortion* by Amanda Verlaque for the Mac Theatre, *Blowing Minds* by Rosemary Jenkinson as part of SIX by Brassneck, a short film by Jan Carson *The Pause Between Now and Next* for the Irish Arts Centre, New York, in association with the Lyric Theatre, *On the Street Where We Live* an 8-part audio play produced by The Mac, *Belfast 2050: Under the Albert Clock* produced by the Lyric Theatre in association with Origin Theatre Company (New York Times Critics Pick), *Life From Time*, a short film by Caoileann Curry-Thomspon, *No Explanation* a short film by Kyron Bourke, *VERGE* new play readings for Prime Cut Productions, *Glory: Desire* for NI Opera Studio, *The Right Twig* for Fighting Words, *The Tempest* for Rose Bruford College and *Everyday I Wake Up Hopeful*, by John Patrick Higgins for Prime Cut Productions. Rhiann has also been working with NI Screen as a Shadow Director for BBC's *Hope Street S3*, CBBC's *A Kind of Spark S2* and ITV's *Showtrial S2* and she is currently working with Belfast Film Festival on a documentary *The Hearth* as part of Belfast 2024.

## BEN MCQUIGG - MUSICAL DIRECTOR & ORCHESTRATOR

Training: Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts after graduating in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Southampton. Theatre includes, As Music Director: *Love's Labour's Lost* (RSC); *Before After* (Southwark Playhouse); *The Box of Delights* (RSC); *Harry & Greta* (BYMT Workshop, also Co-Arranger); *Cymbeline* (RSC); *Help We Are Still Alive!* (Seven Dials Playhouse); *Thrill Me* (Jermyn Street Theatre); *Cinderella* (New Theatre Royal, Portsmouth and Palace Theatre, Newark); *Medusa* (Above The Stag, also Arranger and Composer of Additional Music); *The House of Worth* (Goldsmiths University); *The Trail to Oregon!* (The Other Palace Studio & Edinburgh Fringe Festival, also Arranger). As Assistant Music Supervisor: *The Little Big Things* (Soho Place Theatre). As Assistant Music Director: *Nero* (Workshop); *Henry VI: Rebellion, Wars of the Roses* (RSC). As Rehearsal Pianist, Keyboard player and/or Music Assistant: *The Little Big Things* (Soho Place Theatre), *Moulin Rouge!* (Piccadilly Theatre), *Waitress* (UK Tour), *Bedknobs and Broomsticks* (UK Tour), *A Chorus Line* (Leicester Curve). Work as Composer and/or Sound Designer includes: *Hamlet*

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- *Next Generation* (RSC), *It's Time* (Tangled Feet), *When This is Over* (Yard Theatre), *Cold Threats* (LPS).

### **KRISTA VUORI - CHOREOGRAPHER**

Krista is originally from Finland and currently based in London. She is a Movement Director, Choreographer and Teacher/Mentor working in professional, community and youth theatre settings. She has a passion for devised cross discipline collaborations and her work spans across dance, theatre, live/performance art, circus, music theatre and film. As a young dancer in Finland, Krista trained in Jazz and Classical Ballet (Vaganova). She went on to train professionally at The Northern School of Contemporary Dance and later gained her Masters in Dance Theatre at Trinity Laban. As a Dancer she has had the pleasure of performing at venues such as The Barbican, Tramway Theatre Arts, Olivier Awards at Theatre Royal Drury Lane, The Royal Opera House and the rooftop of the Southbank Centre to name a few. Choreography/Movement & Co-Director Credits include: *Here I am* (SPAA, UAE Tour), *Fiesta* (Queens Theatre Hornchurch), *Turing* (R&D, Darren Clark Music), *Sleep* (Frantic Ignition), *Into The Light* (Sherman Theatre, UK Tour, Hijinx Theatre in Association with Frantic Assembly), *Red Shoes*, *Story Box Circus* and *Home Made Circus Tour* and the award winning family show *Bedtime Stories* (Up-swing Aerial, Stratford Circus), *Home Sweet Home* (Freedom Studios). As Assistant Movement Director; *Platform* (Old Vic New Voices), *24 hour celebrity Gala* (Old Vic). Krista is an experienced workshop leader and has worked with Frantic Assembly Theatre company since 2010 and as the Creative Associate of Upswing Aerial. She is currently working on a her first Arts Council funded short film which explores choreography and physical storytelling for screen.

### **LU HERBERT - SET & COSTUME DESIGNER**

Lu Herbert is a Set and Costume designer based in Yorkshire, working across the UK. Having worked with companies such as Shared Experience, Dibby Theatre, Concrete Youth, Northern Opera, 10 to 5 Productions and many more, Lu's work is a range of opera, musicals, dance and plays. Lu's work prioritises sustainability, recycling and playfulness. Lu has a BA in Production Arts and Design from The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and a MA in Collaborative Theatre Production and Design from Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Lu is proud to be a JMK Finalist 2024, alongside a BroadwayWorld nominee 2022 and a Linbury Prize shortlisted designer 2021. Previous and upcoming

works include; *Cable Street* (Southwark Playhouse Elephant), *The Queen of the North* (ARC Stockton), *The Power of Camelot* (Exeter Northcott Theatre), *Cable Street* (Southwark Playhouse Borough), *Drag Baby* (The Pleasance, London), *Toxic* (HOME MCR), *Suzy Homemaker* (7Arts, Sheffield Drama Studio), *The Whispering Jungle* (Hull Truck, Leeds Playhouse), *Maria de Buenos Aires* (Northern Opera), *Frida* (UK Premiere, Northern Opera), *Romeo & Juliet* (Theatre Royal Plymouth), *Why the Whales Came* (Taunton Brewhouse, The Mack), *Worlds Apart* (Northern Stage), *Kailey* (Kala Sangham, Keithley Creative), *Sleeping Beauty* (Shared Experience).

### **NATHAN BENJAMIN - LIGHTING DESIGNER**

Nathan is a South-West based freelance lighting designer and technician working predominantly in theatre, dance, and musical theatre. Working also as the Technical Manager for the Marjon Arts Centre at Plymouth Marjon University, Nathan has designed a variety of shows by emerging artists as well as many professional productions. He trained as an actor at The Actor's Wheel training company before moving into Technical Theatre, training in-the-industry at the Barbican Theatre, Plymouth. Nathan has worked for several years on previous NYMT productions in Plymouth and enjoys the challenge and ethos of the productions. Previous designs include *Medea* (The Wheel - Cygnet Theatre), *Legally Blonde* (The Actor's Wheel - Quad Theatre), *2000 Stories* (Beyond Face - Theatre Royal, Plymouth), *The City* (The Actor's Wheel - Quad Theatre) *The Snowbeast* (Scratchworks Theatre - National tour), *Why the Whales Came* (BYMT - Theatre Royal, Plymouth), *Krampus* (The Wheel - Barbican Theatre, Plymouth).

### **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. Alongside our equipment hire we supply design and staffing for theatrical productions, utilising staff and freelancers that work on many West End and regional touring professional productions to give your performance that West End quality feel. A&M and their freelance Sound Designer, Ryan James, are thrilled to be working on *The Power of Camelot* at the Northcott Theatre, Exeter.

## YOUNG CAST

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**Kitty-Primrose Alden**

**Milana Barkovska**

**Meg Barnett**

**Marisa Becker**

**Ellen Broadley**

**Phoenix Castledine**

**Alex Craig**

**Holly Cundall**

**Ethan Dale**

**Asha Derrick**

**Joe Elliott**

**Erin Fish**

**Oliver Forde**

**Phoebe Glover**

**Ayden Goodwin**

**Luke Groarke**

**Ben Harcourt**

**Callum Henry**

**Lola Hill**

**Mali Jenkins**

**Hannah Kamel**

**Nicholas Ladd**

**Molly Loveday**

**Jasmine Mabey**

**Andrea Malhotra**

**Nora-Kate Mercier**

**Jasmine O'Neill**

**Jack Orme**

**Natalie Pinder**

**Ash Rodgers**

**Alazne Sertutxa**

**Natalie Smy**

**Leon Taylor**

**Daisy-Mae Wade**

**April Wilks**

## YOUNG INSTRUMENTALISTS

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Reeds **Blessing Clarkson**

Viola **Kezia Elliott**

Flute **Lily George**

Drums **Dominic Kamel**

Guitar **William Laborde**

## CREATIVE TEAM

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Book & Lyrics	<b>Cerys Jones</b>
Director	<b>Rhiann Jeffrey</b>
Composer	<b>Ruth Chan</b>
Musical Director & Orchestrator	<b>Ben McQuigg</b>
Choreographer	<b>Krista Vuori</b>
Set & Costume Designer	<b>Lu Herbert</b>
Production Manager	<b>Emily Obasohan</b>
Associate Production Manager	<b>Faye Griggs</b>
Stage Manager	<b>Cait Gerry</b>
Deputy Stage Manager	<b>Liv Stone</b>
Lighting Designer	<b>Nathan Benjamin</b>
Sound Design	<b>Ryan James (A&amp;M Productions)</b>
Assistant Musical Director	<b>Luca Wetherall</b>
Assistant Designer	<b>Josie Power</b>
Assistant Stage Manager	<b>Francesca Wolff</b>
Pro Musician	<b>Will Sharland</b>

## PASTORAL TEAM

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Pastoral Lead	<b>Olivia Mann</b>
Pastoral Team Member	<b>Kiera Leaper</b>
Pastoral Team Member	<b>Paynor Tsate</b>
Pastoral Team Member	<b>Katie Woolford</b>

## OFFICE STAFF

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Chief Executive & Creative Director	<b>Emily Gray</b>
Development Director	<b>Alex Mastihi</b>
Producer	<b>Milly Summer</b>
Finance Director	<b>Clare Russell</b>
Casting & Young Company Manager	<b>Cerys Jones</b>
Welfare & Outreach Manager	<b>Rosa Higgs</b>
Marketing Manager	<b>Megan Gibbons</b>
Marketing Assistant	<b>Rhiannon Dunn</b>
Production Coordinator	<b>Heather MacInnes</b>
Production & Office Assistant	<b>Hope Kagutha</b>
Music Coordinator	<b>Anna Wood</b>
Social Media Assistant	<b>Olivia Nielsen</b>

## PATRONS

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



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