

BRITISH
YOUTH
MUSIC
THEATRE

NEW MUSIC THEATRE

UNBOUND

A BEWITCHING NEW MUSICAL

H
BIRMINGHAM
HIPPODROME

16 - 18

AUG

WELCOME

Welcome to BYMT's 20th Anniversary Summer Season. We are delighted to be returning to The Hippodrome once again 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 epic songs in Unbound and the exploration of how we all have the potential to work with or against our communities.

At BYMT we regularly give writers and composers the opportunity to stage their first musical and we are thrilled to be showcasing Matthew Harvey's work. As the largest commissioner of new musicals in the UK, we are proud to introduce the composers of the future.

BYMT couldn't make the work it does without our brilliant Pastoral and Technical staff supporting the Creative team and young people. We rely on our venue partners to host our shows and enjoy a strong partnership with Birmingham Hippodrome, where we reconnect with the loyal audiences and make friends with the new. 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 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 head for music theatre.

Emily Gray and BYMT Staff Team

A NOTE FROM MATTHEW HARVEY

At its core, Unbound is about belonging, finding your place in an unfamiliar setting, embracing that there is no such thing as ordinary. It seems fitting that over 50 perfect strangers have come together to create the show you're about to watch.

The musical began life as one song, which turned into two, which turned back into one and ultimately found its way into the familiar drawer of 'projects I'll pick back up.' When I had the opportunity to pitch a show to BYMT, I knew it had to be Unbound. The setting, the larger than life characters, the score, the magic; it was crying out for a vibrant young company to bring it to life.

It has been the privilege of my career to write my first full length musical for BYMT, an organisation that truly cares about the ecosystem of new musical theatre and the young people we create it for.

I'd like to thank BYMT for all of their support, guidance & encouragement, Birmingham Hippodrome for welcoming us into what is fast becoming the nerve centre of new British musicals, and finally, every single person onstage and off who has worked tirelessly to make this production happen.

On behalf of the entire creative team and company of Unbound, we hope you enjoy our show!

Matthew Harvey | Writer, Composer & Musical 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.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

PUBLIC GRANTS

Supported using public funding by



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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

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Alastair Roberts

Barry Anns

Emma Shaw

Helen Dayananda

Kate Suh

Francesca Stuckey Howard

Jeff Stratford

Simon Millson

Tim Sawers

Sarah Double

Fern Stoner

Linda Nightingale

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:

Craig Randle and Birmingham Hippodrome Staff

Nancy Poole PR

ArtTouchesArt

Artwork by Ryan Carter

Our Creative Work Placements: Aadya Khare, Lulu Chaps, Ollie Jones

The staff team at Bromsgrove School for all their support

Deidre O'Halloran for Dramaturgy Support

James Genius Creations UK for the set build

Sophia Logan for design 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 visit our website for more information: www.britishyouthmusictheatre.org/support-us/become-friend

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*free admission for up to 4 people

CREATIVES

MATTHEW HARVEY - WRITER, COMPOSER & MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Matthew began composing during the pandemic following a successful career as a performer, appearing in West End musicals such as *Les Miserables*, *Murder Ballad* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. His song cycle *Now Or Never* was broadcast live from the Barn Theatre in a first-of-its-kind single take livestream, marking Matthew's first collaboration with Creative Director Ryan Carter. In 2021 Matthew was awarded the MGC Futures Bursary to work on the score for *Reveries*, a new musical now in development in conjunction with the Musical Theatre Writing Group at Birmingham Hippodrome; once again working with Ryan Carter to comprise 1 of 6 teams of Birmingham's new initiative. Matthew is delighted to be working with BYMT on *Unbound*, marking his first full length musical to be produced.

SARAH JANE SCHOSTACK - DIRECTOR

Sarah Jane Schostack is a director/dramaturg/creator. Her work was most recently seen in *Spin* at the Edinburgh Fringe and Arcola Theatre, where it won Best Solo Performance with Theatre Weekly's Best in Fringe and received 4* in the Scotman. Select NYC directing credits: *What I Left Behind* (World Premiere, Hudson Guild Winterfest Best Short Play), *Manere Fortis* (World Premiere, Take Ten Festival Semi-Finalist), *No Stranger There* (World Premiere, 2014 Samuel French Finalist). Select international/regional directing credits *SPIN* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival/3Hearts

Canvas), *Urinetown* (Lost Nation Theater, Winner Broadway World Regional Awards), *Spring Awakening* (John W. Engeman Theatre), *Singin' in the Rain* (Ngau Chi Wan Civic Centre, Hong Kong), *James and the Giant Peach* (Barrington Stage Company). Select associate/assistant director credits: *The Last Five Years* (International Tour/West End, Dir. Jonathan O'Boyle), *Taylor Mac's The Fre* (World Premiere, The Flea Theatre, Dir. Niegel Smith), *Lincoln Center Originals: CRY HAVOC* (Lincoln Center), *The Stone Will Roll* (New York Theatre Workshop, Dir. Reg Douglas), *Lonny Price* at the Tony Awards and *three seasons* with NewArts Newtown Musicals with Michael Unger and the Newtown, CT community in the wake of the Sandy Hook School Shooting. NAMT Directing Observer 2019. SDCF Observer to Peter Flynn and the City Theatre for *Smart Blonde*. SDC Associate Member. Birkbeck Theatre Directing MFA Class of 2022.

STEVEN DEAN MOORE - CHOREOGRAPHER

Steven is a multi-award winning International Performer / Director / Choreographer / Creative Technologist originally from New York City. He specializes in movement-based musicals, plays, new work development and innovating emerging theatrical technologies. Select directing and/or choreography credits include *Urinetown* (Lost Nation Theater, Winner Broadway World Regional Awards, Dir. Sarah Jane Schostack), *East Meets West* (Her Majesty's Theatre), *Spring Awakening* (Rose Nagelberg Theater, John W.

Engeman Theatre), *Heathers* (John W. Engeman Theatre), *James and the Giant Peach* (Barrington Stage Company), *Moby Dick Rehearsed* (Edinburgh Festival), and a season-long residency with College Light Opera Company. Additionally, Steven is an International Award winning Magician, Juggler, and Sideshow artist. His illusion consultancy work has been seen with companies like MTV, Punchdrunk, YouTube Red Studios, John W. Engeman Theatre, Barrington Stage Company, and the famous Coney Island Freakshow. He has developed new virtual theatrical technologies that have been commissioned by multiple theaters in the USA and UK for new works and development. Steven holds a BFA from Ithaca College in Theatre.

YIMEI ZHAO - DESIGNER

Yimei Zhao is a London based performance designer trained at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. Her recent work in theatre includes set and costume design associate for *The Hot Wing King* (National Theatre); set and costume design for *Before After* (Southwark Playhouse); set design for *Absolute Hell* (Embassy Theatre); set design for *Dare You Say Please* (King's Head Theatre). Her work in film includes production design for short film *Men Without Women*. She is the recipient of the 2023 Linbury Prize for Stage Design.

ALEX MUSGRAVE - LIGHTING DESIGNER

Alex designs lighting for theatre and opera across the UK and Internationally. Notably *Home* at Chichester Festival

Theatre and *The White Factory* at Marylebone Theatre, London. Alex has been nominated for two Off West End Awards for Best Lighting Design for *The White Factory* (Marylebone Theatre) and *You are Here* (Southwark Playhouse). Alex was also the 2019 Association of Lighting Production and Design Lumière. Recent design work includes: *Sherlock and the Whitechapel Fiend* (Barn Theatre, Cirencester), *It's a MotherF**king Pleasure* (New York), *Treasure Island* (Barn Theatre, Cirencester), *Kin - The Musical* (Teatro Technis, London).

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 and their freelance Sound Designer, Ryan James, are thrilled to be working on *Unbound* at Birmingham Hippodrome.

CAST

Michael Allen

Lucy Arnold

Emily Batchelor

Harry Butcher

Esmee Charlesworth

Jake Claydon

Beatrice Cole

Chloe Creaser

Aliyah Dunsmore

Charlie Elliott

Harrison Fenwick

Noah Gence

Lilia Ghazanfari

Eva Ghazanfari

Gabriella Giambattista-Hunt

Kai Hamilton

Alexis Hill

Bonnie Hilton

Maya Locke

Lauren McGreevy

Dearbhla McNally

Daisy Meall

Gray Oakes

Amos Rand

Joe Rapsey

Maddison Richards

Anna Sanders

Rose Dunbar-Scott

Hollie Spivey

Jessica Stevens

Tom Stokes

Astrid Tennyson

Leila Tobin

Lucy May Walton

Valentina Weiss

Sebastian Wilson

Islay Suzanne Woolfenden

CREATIVE TEAM

Writer, Composer & Musical Director	Matthew Harvey
Director & Dramaturg	Sarah Jane Schostack
Choreographer & Illusion Designer	Steven Dean Moore
Designer	Yimei Zhao
Lighting Designer	Alex Musgrave
Sound Design	Ryan James (A&M Productions)
Production Manager	Rose Oldershaw
Stage Manager	Robyn-Amber Manners
Deputy Stage Manager	Ro West
Associate Creative	Ryan Carter
Assistant Musical Director	Ollie Jones
Assistant Designer	Lulu Chaps
Assistant Stage Manager	Aadya Khare
Professional Guitarist	Dejeanté Hinks

PASTORAL TEAM

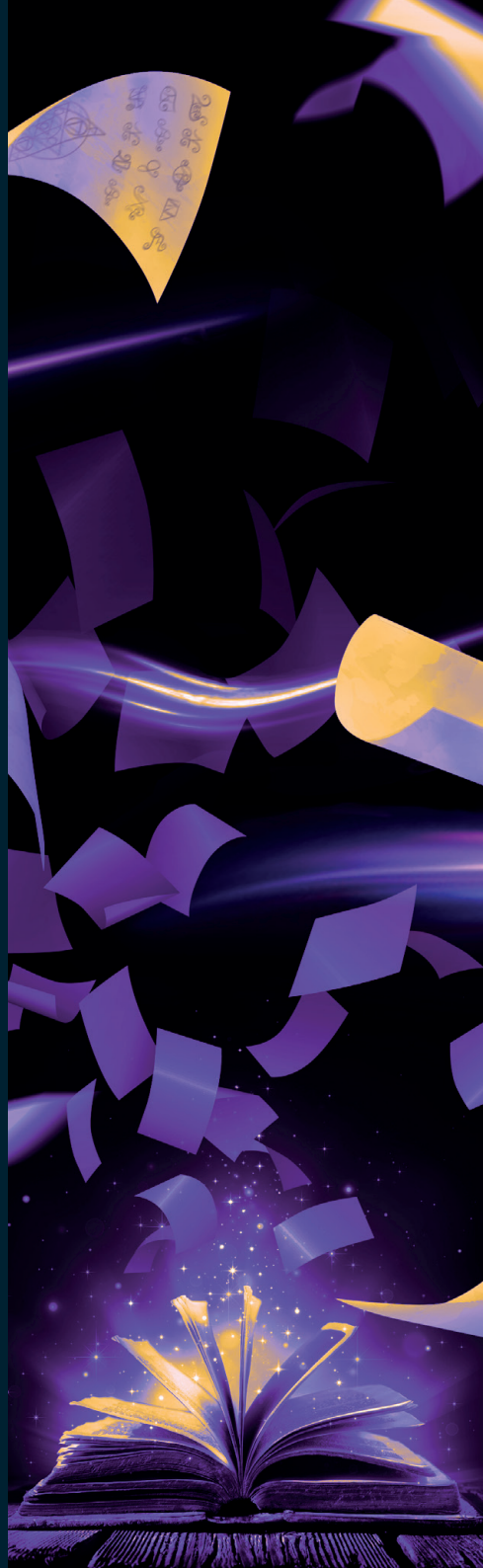
Pastoral Lead	Pip Garlington
Pastoral Team Member	Steve Griffin
Pastoral Team Member	Rebecca Bolton
Pastoral Team Member	Florence Lunnon

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
Welfare & Outreach Manager	Rosa Higgs
Marketing Manager	Megan Gibbons
Marketing Assistant	Rhiannon Dunn
Production Coordinator	Heather MacInnes
Production & Office Assistant	Hope Kagutha
Music Coordinator	Anna Wood
Social Media Assistant	Olivia Nielsen

PATRONS

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



2025 SEASON OF BYMT



BREAKING NEWS

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