

BRITISH
YOUTH
MUSIC
THEATRE

NEW MUSIC THEATRE

IN COLLABORATION WITH CHRISTOPHER TENDAI COMPANY, CTC.

WONDERLAND ALICE IN

NO RULES. NO TIME. NO BINARY.



CTC
CHRISTOPHER TENDAI

OCTAGON

16 - 17
AUG

WELCOME

Welcome to BYMT's 20th Anniversary Summer Season. We are delighted to be visiting Bolton for the first time and bringing a special collaboration with the Christopher Tendai Company (CTC) to the Octagon stage; this show has been 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 when an adaptation of a book is suggested, they ask what is unique and relevant about this particular interpretation. They were quickly excited by a version of Alice in Wonderland that gives the central character agency and explores a new exposition of the iconic journey through Wonderland.

Every year BYMT commissions a movement led show and it felt the perfect moment to join with CTC dance theatre company to make a production that uses dance and song and spoken word to tell a story; the creativity of our 36 young performers and musicians is palpable as they interpret the journey of discovery at the heart of Wonderland in Alice. As the largest commissioner of new musicals in the UK, we are proud to introduce the composers of the future and hope you enjoy the inspirational songs of Meg McGrady.

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 are excited to welcome the audience coming to see us at Bolton Octagon for the first time. 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 forward for music theatre.

Emily Gray and BYMT Staff Team

A NOTE FROM CHRISTOPHER TENDAI

I am extremely excited to be collaborating with British Youth Music (BYMT) on developing Wonderland in Alice into a new musical at the Octagon Theatre. As a BYMT Alumni I am thrilled to be returning with my very own show! This show originated as a Dance Theatre piece performed by my company CTC in April 2023 at Theatre Peckham in South London. After being declined arts council funding for the project I took the plunge of self funding it as I knew it would be something special. After a lot of blood, sweat, tears and savings later the show became a 5 star hit and an off west end finalist for best choreography. From Dance to Musical, this special idea, now a reality, has evolved tremendously over the year developing Spoken word to song Lyrics, a painted check board floor into a neon phenomenon and a cast of 8 to now 36!

Wonderland holds a very special place in my heart for numerous reasons and one of those that stands out for me is that this show offers creative expression for the cast to play around with in every show. Whilst being in the skeleton of musical theatre, this show offers its cast to show off their artistry and find new ideas throughout the performance. Wonderland champions the cast to be their wonderful unique selves and allows the audience to connect with this particular version as we see wonderland as a journey of self discovery. It most certainly holds a piece of me and my journey within it.

I want to say a big thank you to everyone that has made this idea become a reality! A special mention to Lisa Millar for creating the piece with me and to my partner Luke Cartwright for supporting me through all of my stresses (trust me there were a lot of them!)

I am beyond delighted to share with you the world premiere of Wonderland in Alice in Bolton this August. This exceptional cast of young people are going to take you on an unforgettable journey into wonderland. Hold on tight!

Christopher Tendai | Creative Director & Choreographer

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Whitelight and Lewis Hannaby for their generous support with lighting and systems control to make this production of *Wonderland in Alice* possible.

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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Linda Nightingale

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

Octagon Bolton Theatre Staff
Nancy Poole
ArtTouchesArt
Artwork by Damien Stanton
Our Creative Work Placements: Matilda Wilkes,
Amina Pagliari and Jack Eldson
Roby Hawes and Mia Hudson for their work as
Spoken Word Captains
Abigail Silverlock for their work as Vocal
Captain
Ella McFetrich for their work as Dance Captain
Lee Gale and Gendered Intelligence for their
training
The team at Ackworth School

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

www.britishyouthmusictheatre.org/support-us/become-friend

*free admission for up to 4 people

CREATIVES

CHRISTOPHER TENDAI - CREATIVE DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER

Christopher Tendai is an Award Winning Theatre Choreographer, breathing a fresh new life into the imagery of how we see Theatre and Dance productions. Some of his credits include: BYMT's *Harry & Greta*, *Closer To Heaven* - (Offies Nominated for Best Choreography 2024), *Wuthering Heights A New Musical Workshop*, *Children of Eden*, *Carrie The Musical*, *The Guap Gala* at the Natural History Museum, and *Wonderland In Alice* (Offies Finalist for Best Choreography). "Within my body of work, I like to lead with 'intention' first and then allow the movement to follow. In my opinion I feel that 'narrative' is the fundamental aspect of creating powerful movement." 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* (Winning the Fringe Theatre Award 2019), and *'Ink'd'*. Their ethos is 'Sparking Important Conversations Through Narrative Movement.' Christopher's Performance Credits Include: *Jesus Christ Superstar UK Tour* (Resident Choreographer), *Cabaret* (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). Christopher's next endeavour will be choreographing *CAKE: The Marie Antoinette Musical* at The Other Palace this September.

LISA MILLAR - CO-DIRECTOR

A graduate of The London School of Musical Theatre. Recent theatre credits include: *Wonderland in Alice* (Theatre Peckham), *Tinker Bell*, (The Other Palace), *Macbeth* (Thornington Theatre), *What the Dolls Saw* (The Pleasance), *The Darklings* (The Vaults, London), *Twelfth Night* (Trinity Theatre). Film credits: *Host* (Living Record), *Sisters Lights* (Down Productions), *Sketch You Up* and *Real Housewives of Broadway* (both YouTube Series), and the upcoming short, *Rumi's Field*. As Associate Director: *Edie* (Theatre 503), *The Light Trail* (Hope Theatre), *Harpy* (UnderBelly, Edinburgh), *Rent* (Bridewell Theatre). Workshops: *Panto* (The Union Theatre), *Hamstrung*, (Barons Court Theatre) *At War With Myself* (Hoxton Hall).

DENZEL WESTLEY-SANDERSON - CO-DIRECTOR

Denzel is an award-winning Theatre Director and workshop facilitator based in London. He trained at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, completing the MA Theatre Directing course in 2017. Following his graduation, Denzel was part of the resident directors' pool at the Almeida Theatre from 2017-2018. Denzel's portfolio spans various genres and styles, including New Writing, Musicals, Opera, Devising, and Dance Theatre. He has notably collaborated with the CTC Dance Company, directing their show *Identity*, which won the award for 'Exciting New Work' at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Denzel co-directed *Jesus Christ Superstar - The Concert* at Regent's Park Open

Air Theatre during the pandemic and was the Associate Director on *Dick Whittington* at the National Theatre. He returned to the National Theatre in 2022 as the Associate Director on *Small Island*. Denzel was awarded the RTST Sir Peter Hall Director Award and directed the critically acclaimed UK tour of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, produced by ETT, Leeds Playhouse, and the Rose Theatre Kingston. Additionally, he was nominated for Best Director at the Stage Debut Awards and the Black British Theatre Awards in 2023. Denzel was the Sky Arts Associate Artist at Theatre Royal Stratford East and directed their annual pantomime in December 2023.

MEG MCGRADY - COMPOSER

Accidental purple person, Meg McGrady (they/them) is a neurodivergent nonbinary musical theatre creative having worked as a composer, producer, writer and performer. Driven, collaborative, and a vocal activist, Meg studied Musical Theatre at the BRIT School and Theatre and Social Change at Rose Bruford. Having tackled shows about the race to discover the structure of DNA to young queer kids learning how to protest against their catholic school, Meg has worked on a vast range of new theatre pieces as a writer and composer including the award-winning *The Phase* (VAULT Festival), *'Ink'd'* (CTC Dance), *The Planet Is ____* (Other Palace/Theatre Deli), and the upcoming *Wonderland In Alice* (Octagon Bolton). Other work-in-progress shows include *I found you a cool rock*, *Rosalind*, and *Virgin*.

NADINE-ROSE JOHNSON - MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Nadine Rose Johnson is a Musical Director, Vocal Artist, Actor, writer and Vocal Tutor from South East London. Nadine has written for, vocally composed for and performed in several productions nationally and internationally, making their Musical Direction Debut in 2022. Their most notable show, *Frankenstein: How To Make A Monster*, Co-written/composed, won 4 awards and toured internationally, as far as Adelaide, Australia, and was made into a BBC Film. As well as their work in Spoken Word, Music and Theatre, Nadine Rose has raised thousands of pounds for local charities and co-ordinates and facilitates free arts programs for children, young people and adults, with an emphasis on those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Theatre Credits Include - *The Daisy Chain* (Camden People's Theatre), *Beetflies* (Blink Dance Theatre), *Romeo & Juliet* (Polka Theatre), *Wishmas* (Secret Cinema), *#50Days* (BYMT), *Unexpected Twist* (Royal & Derngate), *Arrivals* (imPossible Producing), *Frankenstein: How To Make A Monster* (Battersea Art Centre), *The Last Man* (Battersea Arts Centre), Television credits include: *Frankenstein: How To Make A Monster* (BBC). Commercial credits include: *Zinger Popcorn Chicken x D Double* (KFC), *Christmas* (McDonalds), *Be Bold* (GSM).

ACKEN TAYLOR - SPOKEN WORD WRITER

Searching for ways to help nurture more connection within society Acken specializes in multimedia storytelling. With a lifetime of growing up around exceptional storytellers and

the arts, Acken has learnt the power stories have to move and expand people's hearts and minds, to help us learn from our past to be able to create a better future and to inspire souls to live their truth. "The human experience is a wild and raw one, it's horrific and beautiful, and we don't have to go through it alone. When a group of individuals come together anything is possible. So what world shall we create?"

DAMIEN STANTON - SET DESIGNER

Damien is a London based designer for stage, events and installations. Recent Design Credits Include: *Wonderland In Alice* (Octagon Bolton), *Brainiac Live* (Marylebone Theatre), *Hamstrung* (Pleasance), *Spectrum Roundel* (Transport for London), *Stephen Mulhern* (Beyond Belief UK Tour), *Brainiac Live* (Dubai Opera House), *Poster Chandelier* (London Transport Museum), *PaddingtonTM LoComotion* (Blenheim Palace), *Wonderland In Alice* (Theatre Peckham), *Peter RabbitTM Easter Adventure* (Covent Garden), *Radium Girls* (Rose Bruford), VAULT Festival 2023, *For a Brief Moment* (VAULT Festival), *Energy Science* (Mishkat Riyadh), *Lisbon Floor* (Copenhagen Opera Festival 2022), *Peter RabbitTM Garden Adventure* (Blenheim Palace). He is the recipient of the Stage Award for Innovation in Theatre alongside receiving a place on The Stage 100 for his work co-founding and running the Theatre Support Fund+ during the COVID-19 Pandemic and their 'The Show Must Go On!' campaign which went on to raise over £1Million for those facing financial hardship in our industry. Damien is passionate about raising awareness for Neurodiverse artists and creatives working and living with Neurodisabilities in our industry and the extraordinary work.

KRITIKA AGARWAL - COSTUME DESIGNER

Kritika Agarwal is a Set and Costume Designer from India based in London and soon going to be a Creative Associate at the Belgrade Theatre in Coventry. Kritika is a graduate with first-class honours in BA Theatre Design from Middlesex University. Kritika loves exploring stories of empowerment and movement through fabrics, textures and colours. Often inspired by fashion, architecture and fine art. Kritika's recent credits include - *Shakespeare's Gunpowder Plot* (The Space Theatre), *The Secret Garden* (Reents Park Open Air Theatre), *Cable Street* (Southwark Playhouse), and *Global Action Plan Anniversary Event* (26 Leake Street).

TOM SADLER - LIGHTING DESIGNER

Tom works as a Lighting Designer for Theatre, Dance and Events. He is also a full time Lighting Technician at DCLX Ltd. His recent designs include *Wonderland In Alice* (Theatre Peckham), *Wuthering Heights* (Turbine Theatre), *Chaka The Musical* (Workshop) *Forever Jackson* (Harlow Playhouse) Other Work Includes: Associate Lighting Designer/ Programmer *Beauty & The Beast* (Harlow Playhouse), *Causal Lighting Technician* (The Dominion Theatre), Production Manager *Essex Have Mercy* (Harlow Playhouse).

MARINA CLIMENT - ASSOCIATE CHOREOGRAPHER

Marina is a professional dancer and creative, originally

from Barcelona. She trained in Jazz, Ballet, Contemporary and Commercial while studying Primary Education and Special Needs at the University of Barcelona. She is currently a member of staff in the ArtsEd school where she teaches different dance styles. Her credits include: *Identity* (Edinburgh Fringe, Turbine Theatre and Theatre Peckham), *The Greatest Dancer* (London, 2019), *The Magic of Animation 2* (London, 2019), *Crime Scene* music video by Lisey Tigra (London, 2021), the film *Tara vs Vilal* (London, 2021), the music video *Different Love* (London, 2021), *Pumpkin Lab* (Wales, 2022), *Woodhill* (Oxford, Edimburgh and London 2023) and she was a dancer and dance captain in the first version *Wonderland In Alice* at Theatre Peckham (London, 2023). Marina has assisted and has been the associate of the choreographer Tinovimbanashe Sibanda. Her credits include: *Rent* (2024), *A Chorus Line* (2023), *Merrily we roll along* (2022) and *Gentlemen prefer blondes* (2022). She is thrilled to work again in this production alongside BYMT and take the project further, this time in the form of a musical.

RYAN CAREY HILLS - SOUNDTRACK

Half of the writing partnership *Carey-Hills & Hendricks* Ryan and Lauren have been writing for over 12 years. *Nursery Crimes*, their first show, ran at the Kings Head Theatre in London in 2009. They currently have 2 works in development - *Wytych* a musical thriller based on the Pendle Hill Witch trials in 1612 and *Tinker Bell - The Musical* which recently had its second professional workshop at The Other Place Theatre in London featuring a full West End cast including Alice Fearn, Courtney Bowman, Carl Mann, Laura Baldwin and Chloe Hart. Ryan has composed and arranged pieces for many events, showcases and cabarets; and has arranged music for various choirs and groups around the UK. As a composer and musician, he has created scores for an all female production of *Macbeth* at the Chiswick Playhouse and Thorrington Theatre and the play *A Brief Moment and Never Again Since* at Vaults Festival in Waterloo and then a transfer to Greenwich Theatre. He has also composed jingles for podcasts and online advertising. Ryan works alongside up and coming Soul artist JoCee and has performed at the renowned Ronnie Scott's, The Jazz Cafe in Camden, the Hideaway and Brasserie Zedel, as well as Live performances on BBC Radio 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, Harry Greatorex, are thrilled to be working on *Wonderland In Alice* at Octagon Theatre

CAST

Eloise Barber

Lowen Brock

Liam Brophy

Daisy Bullock

Eleni Chivers

Iona Crichton

Shelley Diamond

Hennie Dixon

Katie Donnelly

Tiana Doshi

Patrick Gill

James Gould

Grace Harris

Roby Hawes

Mia Hudson

Matteo Iavazzo

Eve Illien-Middleton

Eleanor Ingham

Tobechi Legunsen

Sasya Lyttle

Lucy Marper-Keddy

Ella McFetrich

Sophie Moyse

Meghan Newton

Penny Page

Bethany Parsons

Clara Redeker

Lily Rudden

Khady Sao

Abigail Silverlock

Jolie Smethurst

Ashleigh Smith

Lauren Suh

Max Wanambwa

Hetty Watson

Anna Wilkinson

SONG LIST

1. All In The Golden Afternoon

Music by Ryan Carey Hills

2. The Drop

Soundscape by Shaun Rimmer

3. Welcome to Wonderland

Music by Meg McGrady

4. Why Must I Grow

Music by Meg McGrady

Backing Track by Ryan Carey Hills and Meg McGrady

5. The Waterless Flood

Soundscape by Shaun Rimmer

6. Who Are You

Music by Meg McGrady

Backing Track by Ryan Carey Hills

7. Alice Found Themself

Music by Meg McGrady

8. Curious

Music by Meg McGrady

Backing Track by Ryan Carey Hills

9. The Mad House

Soundscape by Shaun Rimmer

10. Tea Party Transition

Music by Meg McGrady

11. Alice Won't You Try (Take A Sip)
Music by Acken Taylor and the company of the Dance Theatre version Arrangement and Additional Music by Meg McGrady

12. Why Must I Grow (Reprise)

Music by Meg McGrady

13. Forest of Rabbits

Soundscape by Shaun Rimmer

14. Turn The White To Red

Music by Meg McGrady

Backing Track by Ryan Carey Hills

15. By The Book

Soundscape by Shaun Rimmer

Additional Music and Melody by Meg McGrady

16. Small Unworthy Alice

Music by Meg McGrady

17. What An Alice Is

Music by Meg McGrady

18. And Thus From The Setting Sun

Music by Meg McGrady

CREATIVE TEAM

Creative Director & Choreographer	Christopher Tendai
Co-Director	Lisa Millar
Co-Director	Denzel Westley-Sanderson
Composer	Meg McGrady
Musical Director	Nadine-Rose Johnson
Spoken Word Writer	Acken Taylor
Set Designer	Damien Stanton
Costume Designer	Kritika Agarwal
Lighting Designer	Tom Sadler
Associate Choreographer	Marina Climent
Soundtrack	Ryan Carey Hills
Soundscape Composer	Shaun Rimmer
Sound Design	Harry Greatorex (A&M Productions)
Production Manager	Emily Obasohan
Associate Production Manager	Faye Griggs
Stage Manager	Brent Tan
Deputy Stage Manager	Megan Powell
Professional Musician	Amy Shaw
Assistant Designer	Brontë Mitchell
Assistant Stage Manager	Mary Dorain

PASTORAL TEAM

Pastoral Lead	Laurence Beveridge
Pastoral Team Member	Melissa Agassiz
Pastoral Team Member	Zoe McDonald
Pastoral Team Member	Lilly Werth

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 Mout, Ed Sheeran MBE, Zoë Wanamaker CBE



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