

THE PLAYS

Amazing Miss Annabelle

A social media star needs to maintain her image during a high-pressure interview.

WRITER - Holly Powell-Jones

Holly graduated with a BA Hons in Drama, Royal Holloway, in 2010. Radio plays include *Thoughts of Mistletoe* (Tin Can Productions), *The Redcut Treatment* (Marlow FM), *The War of the Worlds*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Peter Pan* (G Live and Eagle Radio). She was a finalist in the 2023 Talking Horse Productions original monologue competition.

DIRECTOR - Jen Lim

Jen started directing at the Hampstead Youth Theatre, then studied at the Beijing Film Academy, and completed her film studies at Bristol University. She works in film and TV, primarily as an assistant director, whilst writing and directing character-driven dramas. Her short films *Discord* and *My Grief isn't Grief Enough* are in post-production. She recently directed the play *Kiss Her Goodbye* for Mountview Festival.

Annabelle - Annabella Jennings

Annabella is an actor and writer based in East London. She trained at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama and Fontainebleau School of Acting, graduating from Guildhall in 2022. Her first play is currently in development, and she recently recorded a voiceover for an animated video game. Spotlight: 4216-6726-8271

Cam - Paul Sockett

Paul is a storyteller, voice artist and dramaturg. Favourite theatre credits include *A Monster Calls* (UK Tour and The Kennedy Center, DC), *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time* (UK Tour and West End). Film/TV includes *Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom*, *Coronation Street*, *Humans*, *Banana*. Voice credits include *BBC Bitesize: Music*, *Tyre* (BBC Radio 3), *Bang Up* (BBC Radio 4). Spotlight: 1573-9052-0299

Helen - Michelle Robertson

Having worked as an actor in Australia and internationally for 30+ years, Michelle is now based in London. She's enjoyed a diverse range of recent stage roles: Caesonia in *Caligula*, Pat in *Cliff Club*, Jean in *Enough Is Enough*, Susan in *The Critic*, Diane in *Blackrock*, Em in *Disgust*, Nigella in *Nigella*, Lysistrata in *Lysistrata*, Friar in *Romeo & Juliet* and Tekmessia in *AJAX*. Spotlight: 5413-6725-7965

Politico

The leader of the opposition awaits the results of the general election.

WRITER - Joe Hughes

London-born to Welsh parents, in 2007 Joe was accepted on the Drama Centre London's directing programme (where he won a gold medal from BT's Big Voice competition for his short film *Going Green*). He then worked as a director and actor. On becoming disabled in 2022, he started writing seriously. *Politico* is the first performance of his writing.

DIRECTOR - Alan Phillips

Starting his career at the BBC in the 1980s, credits include devising, co-producing and directing *In Motion* for BBC Studios and BBC Worldwide (2000). Alan also adapted, pro-

duced and directed Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex* for BBC Studios (2013). He has directed many plays for Slam King's Cross and the New Writers Festival at venues such as the Arcola, the Pleasance and the Vaults.

Jane - Roli Okorodudu

Theatre includes *The Argos Delivery* (Yellow Coat Theatre); *Edie* (Diverse Talent Group/Players Theatre); *King Lear* (West Yorkshire Playhouse); *Pygmalion* (Wycombe Swan); *Thirteenth Night* (Southwark Playhouse). Film/TV includes *Slow Horses*, *Casualty*, *Big Boys Don't Cry*. Roli has done rehearsed readings with Talawa Theatre, London Playwrights, The Thelmas, and Black Writers Collective. Spotlight: 1530-1202-3197

John - James Sutherland

James trained at Rose Bruford College, graduating in 1995. He has appeared in numerous productions down the years, from Shakespeare (roles include King Lear, Petruchio and Bottom) to contemporary plays and new writing. His most recent theatre role was playing Ray in David Harrower's Olivier award-winning play *Blackbird*. TV appearances include roles in *The Tudors*, *Father Brown* and *Taggart*. Spotlight: 7019-0164-3379.

Rebecca - Lorraine Amako

Theatre credits include *Witness for the Prosecution* (County Hall, London), *RWR: I Have Eggs* (Theatre 503), *Infidelities* (RADA Studios). V/o credits include work for BBC World Service, Royal Museums Greenwich and Marie Stopes International. Lorraine has also done rehearsed readings for Camden People's Theatre, the Lyric Theatre and the National Youth Theatre. Spotlight: 6611-7860-6232

INTERVAL OF 15 MINUTES

Victorian Conversion

Relationships fray as a couple tries to ignore noisy neighbours.

WRITER - Esther Fernández Guerra

Esther is a director and writer from the Canary Islands. She trained as an actor at Escuela de Actores de Canarias and London School of Dramatic Art. She has directed fringe and off-West End productions, and taken part in writer's LAB in Spain and the UK. Credits include *Alice*, *Crazy Gary's Mobile Disco* (Landor 2018), *Property* (Riverside Studios 2019), *The White Plague* (Greenwich Theatre 2020).

DIRECTOR - Emma Copland

Emma trained at The Shakespeare Institute, QUB and Lyric Drama Studio. Directing credits include *Slippery When Wet* and *Winter Tales* (Barons Court Theatre), *Failing Better*, *Belmont Road* (site-specific), *Faster than the Flies* (Black Box Theatre); as Assistant Director: *Romeo & Juliet* (Lyric Belfast), *Teachers* (touring), *The Border Game* (touring), *Iyalode of Eti* (Arcola), *Titans* (Titanic Belfast).

Nabila - Rosalind Adler

Recent film/TV work: *Ted Lasso*, *The Nevers*, *The Witchfinder*, *Eastenders*; recent theatre includes productions at Theatre503 and Southwark Playhouse. As a writer, Ros's two multi-charactered one-woman shows went to Pleasance Edinburgh and several London fringe theatres; recent work includes *Holy Fool*, working with Park Theatre, and *Prince of Hearts* to be developed with London Playwrights. Spotlight: 0690-8975-8018

Izzie - Margaret Ashley

Margaret is best known for her work on video games (e.g. *A Plague Tale: Requiem*, *Burnhouse Lane*, *Neuronet: MendaxProxy*) and in TV dramas such as *London's Burning*, *Coronation Street*, *The Bill*, *Children's Ward* and *Michael Winner's True Crimes, Strange But True*. Recent work: *Mermaids Versus the Alliance* (play), *Floodlines* (audio), and a horror story for CryoPod Tapes podcast. Spotlight: 1890-1203-9936

Eleonore - Grace Blackman

Grace trained as an actor with National Youth Theatre, Arts Educational Schools and National Youth Film Academy. She has enjoyed a career across stage, screen, immersive theatre and commercial work. In her spare time, she's an avid painter, a house renovator and writer. Spotlight: 5214-5645-0191

Will - James Glyn

James was born in North Wales. Classically trained, his roles range from Shakespeare to Tennessee Williams, in venues from Theatr Clwyd in his home town, Mold, to the Boris Schukin Theatre Institute in Moscow. He is now based in London and Copenhagen. Spotlight: 4211-0163-2016

The Siberia Scam

Comedy in a hotel corridor the night before a key business meeting.

WRITER - Frank Mariani

Frank is a Brentford based performance poet and playwright. His short plays have been performed at The Stockwell Playhouse, The Blackshaw Theatre and The OSO Arts Centre, Barnes.

DIRECTOR - Lois Attard

After finding her creative voice in Bath and Bristol, Lois moved to London. As part of DramaLab, Lois trained in the Meisner technique, believing that the key to directing lies in the empowerment of the actor. Past work includes *<INSERT PLAY>* (Camden People's Theatre), *Red Pill* (Lion & Unicorn Theatre), *Maison D'illusion* (Inner Space Theatre Co.), and an original musical *Good-bye Charlie Starr* (Walcot House, Bath).

Sean - Jay Woods

Jay trained at East 15, and then did the Actors Studio's Screen Acting masterclass at Pine-wood studios. He is currently performing as Littlefield in Nick Moran's immersive *Phantom Peak*, which received a 5-star review from *Broadway World*. He recently performed as Brick in *Patient is Not a Verb* by Burning Attic at Camden People's Theatre, and is studying stage combat with BADC. Spotlight: 8735-7867-5101

Marla - Lily Shepherd

Lily is a northern gal who trained at Drama Centre London. Theatre credits include Hilda in *Spring and Port Wine*, Cinderella in *Cinderella*, Ellie in *Three Women*. TV credits include Sara in *Anne*, as the daughter alongside Maxine Peake in the harrowing story of a mother's fight after Hillsborough (ITV). Spotlight: 4219-9089-4710

Gideon - Laksh Anand

Laksh is a London-based actor with a stage background in Shakespeare (e.g. Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Don Pedro in *Much Ado*). Film includes work for Queen Mary's film school and the MetFilm School at Ealing Studios. Spotlight: 0134-0166-9378

Claude - James Sutherland

See James's bio for *Politico*, on page 2 of this programme.

Page to Stage London: Tues 19 Sept The Water Rats, WC1X 8BZ



THE PANEL

Helen Tennison

Helen is an Edinburgh Fringe First Award-winning director, writer and theatre maker. Her work spans new writing, classics, devised and site-responsive theatre. Recent projects include writing and directing *Navigating Margaret*, a story of living with dementia (performed by professional, emerging, community and child actors); directing *Forgive Me*, a devised show about autism (premiered at The Lowry); an audio walk on building sustainable city communities; directing for Vienna's English Theatre; directing a site-specific 1980's *Much Ado* for Creation Theatre. Other experience includes work for Arcola Theatre, Oxford Playhouse, Shakespeare's Globe, Belgrade Theatre and Guildford's Yvonne Arnaud. She was Artist in Residence at the University of South Florida, and Associate Artist at Bathway Theatre, University of Greenwich. She is currently developing her award nominated lecture-performance, *Doggerland*.

Martin Edwards

Martin was formerly a journalist for local newspapers and then the BBC. He then trained as an actor at the Oxford School of Drama and later ALRA. As an actor he is OFFIE-nominated, and has performed at various venues including Soho Theatre and Southwark Playhouse. Martin has extensive script-reading experience and was a reader for Theatre503 for more than a decade. He has also read for The Susan Smith Blackburn Prize since 2018. A recent graduate of the MA in Writing for Stage and Broadcast Media at The Central School of Speech and Drama, his end-of-year writing project placed in the top 10% of all scripts received in the BBC Writersroom Open Call, 2023. He made his Radio 4 playwriting debut in 2020 with his play *Death Knock*, a piece based on his time as a crime reporter in the early 2000s.

James Kenworth

James is a playwright and academic/Senior Lecturer at Middlesex University's School of Arts. He lectures in creative writing, scriptwriting, playwriting and media narrative. His plays includes 'verse-prose' plays *Johnny Song*, *Gob*; the black comedy *Polar Bears*; issue-led/based plays *Everybody's World* (elder abuse), *Dementia's Journey* (dementia); plays for young people/schools, *The Last Story in the World*; and a Newham-based quintet of site-specific/responsive plays: *When Chaplin Met Gandhi*, *Revolution Farm*, *A Splotch of Red: Keir Hardie in West Ham*, *Alice in Canning Town*, and *Elizabeth Fry: Angel of the Prisons*. His pioneering theatre making in non-traditional spaces, featuring a hybrid of professional artists with local talent, was highlighted and championed in a recent review by *London Theatre Reviews*.

Organisers: Miranda Harrison (Spotlight: 6296-7864-5315)
and Georgina Periam (@georginaperiam)

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