

Arcola Theatre



PEN

September 24th

Hello!

Thank you for giving up your precious Sunday evening to support our first PEN at the Arcola.

Pennyworth Productions was founded in 2016 to use new writing to challenge old ideas. We make and produce theatre that engages with today's world and hope to highlight issues and spark conversations. Our work has been featured at the Edinburgh, Galway and Camden Fringes and has been the recipient of two major awards.

Our aim with PEN is to champion other artists making work that engages with socio-political themes and to create a national network of politically motivated theatre makers. Making theatre can feel isolating and impossible at times and we want to help artists overcome this and get their work in front of audiences. In a pretty scary political climate, we think that the best thing artists can do is come together, share resources and make work.

With this in mind, PEN is open to work in varying stages of development and all work featured tonight is classed as the following:

CHALK- PENCIL- PEN



CHALK: The outline of a project- A writer has submitted an idea/ script to Pennyworth who have then found them a director and cast for the evening.

PENCIL: The beginnings of a collaboration- Projects where some of the team are already in place (be that a writer and director in search of a cast or a writer and actors in search of a director). Pennyworth then finds them the needed additional collaborators for the evening.

PEN: Ready to go pieces, just on a hunt for a venue/ more gigs. The evening provides people at this stage of development with a chance to share a short showing of their work.

We're particularly excited to be presenting work tonight that was formed by collaborators who met at our inaugural PEN event earlier this year. We hope that next time you attend we'll have even more returning projects.

Huge thank yous to all of our wonderful theatre makers, its been brilliant seeing your pieces coming together over the past month! Thank you also to our fantastic headliner Ahir Shah for bringing his work to PEN this evening. Finally thank you to the Arcola theatre for supporting us as a company.

We want to make our work as accessible as possible and are always open to meeting new collaborators. We hope that you'll join us on our journey to #breaktheechochamber

Jules, Carys and Gennie x
Team Pennyworth @PennyworthProd

TONIGHT'S SHOW

Judy Garland is my Great Great Grandma

Queen of the Lea

Control

Lights over Tesco Carpark

Brood

The Brink

Trigger Warning

INTERVAL

Like4Like

Kitchen

Natural Thing

The Hill

Ahir Shah

JUDY GARLAND IS MY GREAT GREAT GRANDMA

PEN



Written and performed by Nathan Foad

Nathan is a writer and comedian; his original sitcom BIG BOY is currently in development with Harry Enfield's Balloon Entertainment. He was placed on the inaugural Betty and Peter List, selected by Big Talk as one of the most exciting comedy writers that emerged from the programme's 600 submissions. Theatre writing credits include: PHANTASMORGIA (Hookhitch/Edinburgh Fringe), BIG (Brockley Jack), THE WORLD WAS MINE AND I WAS KING (Hookhitch/Arts Theatre).

CONTROL

PEN



Written and performed by Danielle Bjelic

Originally from Yorkshire, Danielle is a graduate of The University of Manchester & Drama Studio London. Theatre credits include INVISIBLE (Tristan Bates Theatre), SECOND PERSON NARRATIVE (New Diorama). She recently wrote and starred in the short film GRACE, which is Danielle's writing debut.

QUEEN OF THE LEA

CHALK

Writer - Eleanor Tindall

Eleanor is currently doing an MFA in Writing for Stage and Broadcast Media at Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and was part of Soho Theatre Writers Lab 2016-2017. Credits include: GINGERBREAD (Almeida Theatre), I'M FINE (Theatre Royal Stratford East) and ARACHNE (Royal Central School of Speech & Drama).

Director - Celine Lowenthal

Celine is a director who trained at Birkbeck College, Arts Ed and The Crucible Theatre, Sheffield. She is co-director of Pecs Drag Kings, associate director of Herald Award winning Shadwell Opera, and editor of Moot Press. Assistant/Associate credits include: THE DISTANCE (Orange Tree Theatre), LABYRINTH (Hampstead Theatre), RACING DEMON (Bath Theatre Royal). Director credits include: LET'S TALK ABOUT SEX (Camden People's Theatre), INTO THE LITTLE HILL (The Courtyard), KREUTZER VS KREUTZER (Crucible Studio), THE OVERCOAT (Clapham Omnibus) and CANADA (The Pleasance).

Rafaela - Andrea Hall

Andrea trained at Atlantic Theatre in New York. Theatre credits include THE NOTEBOOK OF TRIGORIN (Finborough Theatre), TALKIN' LOUD (Latchmere Theatre), HYACINTH BLUE (Lyric Hammersmith) and ABENA'S STUPIDEST MISTAKE (Talawa Theatre). TV includes BROADCHURCH (ITV), DOCTORS (BBC), APPLE TREE HOUSE (BBC) and HOOD DOCUMENTARY (BBC3).

Sian - Eloise Thompson

Eloise trained at Drama Studio London. Theatre credits include THE ELDER BROTHER (Globe Theatre Read Not Dead Season) and SLOWLY (The Crypt Gallery), THE FEIGNED COUERESANS (The Rose Playhouse) and THE ODD COUPLE (Maltings Arts Theatre). Audiobooks include ENTANGLED (Audible). Eloise is also co-founder of Voltaire State, and is currently in research and development exploring the work of Daphne du Maurier.

LIGHTS OVER TESCO CARPARK

PENCIL

Devised by Poltergeist Theatre

Poltergeist Theatre is a young company that stages new work nationally. They connect professors and actors, software engineers and directors. After successful Fringe shows and studio work, Garden, a play about Simulation Theory, debuted at The North Wall, Oxford, earlier this year. They return to The North Wall in October with Lights Over Tesco Carpark. Lights Over Tesco Carpark is a devised work written and created in the rehearsal room.

Director - Jack Bradfield

Jack has staged revivals and new work nationally. He's also a member of this year's Royal Court Writers' Group.

Producer - Charles Pigeon

Charles is a regular collaborator with Poltergeist and has taken theatre into bookshops, studio spaces, and most recently The North Wall, Oxford.

Actors and devisers Rosa Garland, Alice Boyd, Julia Pilkington and Callum Cloghan

Are Poltergeist's company, with Rosa and Julia having appearing in GARDEN at The North Wall, Oxford, and Rosa and Alice appearing in Poltergeist's new translation of THE WHITE GUARD. Rosa has most recently appeared in THE BACCHAE at this year's Fringe (5*s, Three Weeks), and Julia performed in AS YOU LIKE IT at the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse this season. As well as performing in Poltergeist's 5* (edfringe review) production of XX, Alice is a sound designer for the company.

BROOD

CHALK



Writer - Georgie Staight

Georgie is a writer and director based in London and is joint artistic director of Flux Theatre. Full length writing credits include: DREAMLESS SLEEP (Arts Theatre & Bunker theatre), BILLY & GIRL (Karamel Theatre), BLUE MOON (Bristol Old Vic Studio).

Director - Kennedy Bloomer

Kennedy trained in Theatre Directing at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts and is Assistant as The Hope Theatre, Islington. She is currently assisting Rachel Bagshaw on Shakespeare's THE COMEDY OF ERRORS and Adam Welsh on THERERE BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD (GO I) at Camden People's Theatre.

Beth - Lynsey Beauchamp

Theatre credits include: CLOSER (National Theatre), RICHARD III and TITUS ANDRONICUS (RSC), THE RIVALS (Bristol Old Vic), SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER (Birmingham Rep), YOU NEVER CAN TELL (York Theatre Royal), HAMLET (Salisbury Playhouse), RWR (Theatre 503) and No 1 Tours. Film credits include MY FOOLISH HEART (2018), BABEL, SUPERGIRL. Television: GENUIS (NAT GEO), Cheated (UFA), Murder Maps (UKTV) Suspicion, Silent Witness (BBC).

Sophie - Isabel Adomakoh Young

Isabel studied English at Trinity College, Cambridge. She trained with the NYT and Identity School of Acting, and recently completed Talawa Theatre Co's TYPT programme. She's a member of Pecs Drag Kings and founder of Brainchild Festival, and co-wrote bestselling children's books, THE LIONBOY TRILOGY, which were adapted by Complicite

THE BRINK

CHALK

Writer - Jack Stacey

Jack is a young actor / writer currently studying in his third year at ALRA. His previous plays have been at The Edinburgh Fringe Festival, The Bread and Roses Theatre and The Waterloo East Theatre. He is about to appear in STAY HAPPY KEEP SMILING at ALRA and THE SUPPLIANT WOMEN at The Young Vic.

Director - Simon Mattacks

Theatre credits include Lead Balloon (Tiger Aspect), Les Liaisons Dangereuses (RSC, Ambassadors Theatre), The Seven Year Twitch (Orange Tree Theatre) & Ben Elton's Gaspung (Theatre Royal Haymarket). Simon is a successful voiceover artist and teaches at a number of drama schools including Bristol Old Vic, ALRA and DSL. He played Daniel in Pennyworth's MOMENTS (The Hen & Chickens).

Jack - Frazer Hadfield

Frazer trained at the Oxford School of Drama. He is starting rehearsals shortly for THE BORROWERS at The Watermill Theatre. Credits include: THE GIRLS (Original West End Cast), FLASHES (Soho Theatre), Measure for Measure (The North Wall Arts Centre)

Man - Alexander Jones

Alex trained with the National Youth Theatre and at the North Wall Theatre in Oxford as part of their summer residency. Recent theatre credits include: ROOST by Rosie Kelleth, directed by Thomas Bailey at Alchemy Festival at the North Wall Theatre. Recent screen credits include: HOOD DOCUMENTARY (BBC 3) and UPRISING directed by Grace Campbell (short film)

TRIGGER WARNING

CHALK



Writer - Elsie Bryant

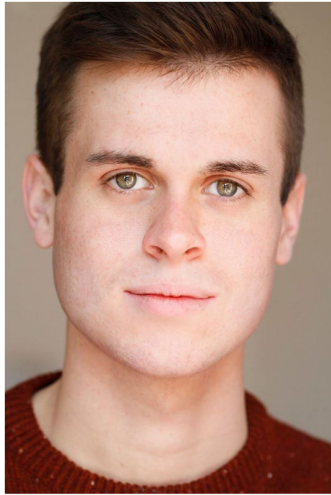
Elsie is a communicator, organiser, writer and creative focussing on culture and systems change to eradicate poverty, inequality, white supremacy and patriarchy, to regenerate the environment and support the transition to a post-capitalist world. In addition to working as part of The Rules international culture hacking collective, Elsie is the founder of the British Empire State of Mind colonial narrative project and author of Development Truths, a critical development blog.

Director - Kate Treadell

Kate is a drama graduate of the University of Exeter and the Masters in Performance Making at Goldsmiths College. After graduating, Kate formed a company with her classmates and had Residencies in both the Basement in Brighton and at the BAC. They created GLASSHOUSE, an interactive dinner party, which was performed at the Brighton Festival and BAC. Kate was a YEP Young Director at the Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse. Directing credits include: BLINK (The Everyman Young Directors' Festival), FACE IN A JAR (Ticket to Write Festival, Unity Theatre, Liverpool) and MONDAY (On The Verge, Hope St, Liverpool) and Assistant Director on STORY (The Everyman Theatre, Liverpool). Kate directed Pennyworth's EMPTY BEDS (Galway Fringe Festival).

Performer - Debbie Brannan

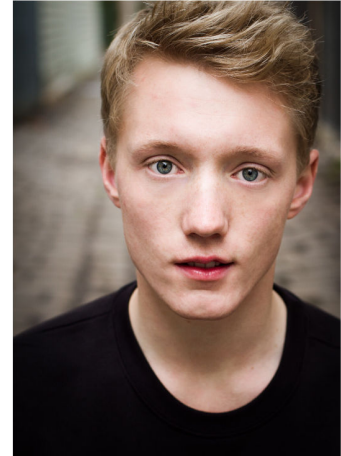
Originally from Liverpool, Debbie trained at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. Television credits include CILLA (ITV), CRADLE TO THE GRAVE (BBC) and DOCTORS (BBC). Debbie was the winner of The Monologue Slam Manchester. She played Jo in Pennyworth's EMPTY BEDS (Galway Fringe Festival).



Nathan Foad (left),
Debbie Brannan (centre)
and Danielle Bjelic (right)



Eloise Thompson (left)
and Andrea Hall (right)



Alexander Jones (left)
and Frazer Hadfield (right)



Isabel Adomakoh Young
(left) and
Lynsey Beauchamp (right)

Writer - Abraham Parker

Abraham is a playwright, director, and performer from London. A graduate of University of Glasgow and the Royal Court Young Writer's Programme, his play MOORING currently tours London homeless centres and hostels (also Totally Thames Festival 2016). Vocal Point Theatre productions include BLOOM, SPLINTERED and THE BRAINS OF THE FAMILY. His Virtual Reality drama CTRL (Breaking Fourth) was nominated for a Wired Innovation Award, a Proto Award, and featured at Raindance, Toronto International Film Festival, and London Screenwriter's Festival, at which Abraham was a guest speaker. He directed Breaking Fourth's WARHEAD and runs a weekly drama workshop for the homeless and vulnerable at 240 Project, Ladbroke Grove.

Writer and Scarlett - Emma Swan

Emma studied English and Spanish at the University of St. Andrews, where she won the McEuen Rose bowl for Drama. As a writer, she was on the SOHO writers' lab 16/17 creating her northern comedy AEROBICCY, and a selection of monologues about eating disorders and weight loss. She has also written her first children's book STRAWBERRY SAUCE. As an actor she graduated from Drama Studio London, and recently recorded the Nicola Adams autobiography BELIEVE for Penguin books. Theatre credits include; JACK AND THE BEANSTALK (CAST Doncaster) and AS YOU LIKE IT (Theatre in the Forest).

Imran and
 Scarlett
 (and their
 phones!)



LIKE4LIKE

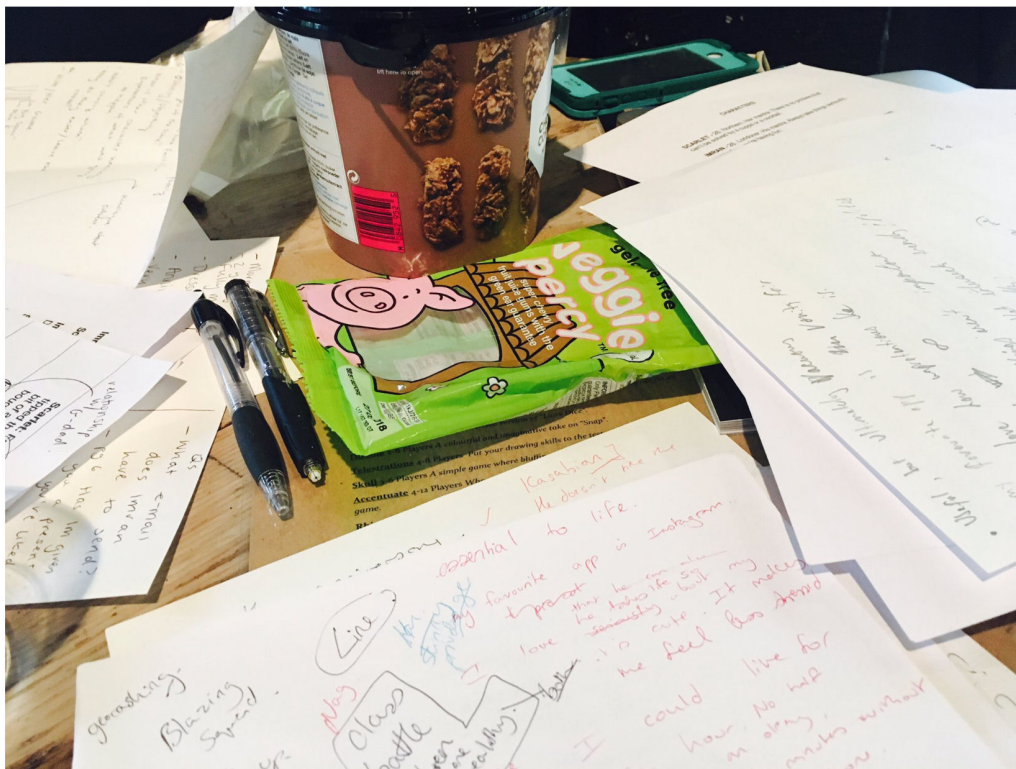
PENCIL

Director - Lizzie Manwaring

Lizzie is a British/American/German director who trained with the National Youth Theatre and The Actor's Class, and has recently completed her degree at Queen Mary's. Her directing credits include: WAGGO (Edinburgh Fringe), and assistant-directing credits include FEMAGE A TROIS (Theatre 503, Bunker) and STAY HAPPY KEEP SMILING (Jermyn Street Theatre).

Imran - Joey Akubeze

Joey trained at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School and is a graduate of Cambridge University. Theatre includes: SNAPSHOT (The Hope Theatre) and KING LEAR (Bristol Old Vic Theatre). Television and film includes: ILL BEHAVIOUR (BBC) and IN DARKNESS (42 Films).



LIKE4LIKE rehearsals (complete with Percy Pigs).

Writer and Laura - Juila Cranney

Julia is Co-Artistic Director of Pennyworth Productions and is an actor / writer originally from Merseyside. She is a graduate of the Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse Young Writers Programme, the University of Cambridge and Drama Studio London. Writing credits include EMPTY BEDS (Underbelly, Edinburgh Fringe & Arcola Theatre, London), MOMENTS (Hen & Chickens, Camden Fringe), DEADLOCK (RWR at Theatre 503), THE OTHER LINE (ADC Theatre), DUFF (Shortlisted for the RSC/Other Prize 2014) and LATE (Twice Cut Films). She is under commission to Raging Calm Productions and writing a TV pilot. Acting credits include BLINK (Liverpool Everyman), PEOPLE YOU MAY KNOW (RWR at Theatre 503), and MONOLOGUE SLAM NATIONAL FINALS (Theatre Royal, Stratford East) with her self written piece MAYBE. Acting credits with Pennyworth include Catherine in EMPTY BEDS and Ava in MOMENTS.

Director - Simeon Wallis

Simeon Wallis is a graduate of the Royal Court writer's programme and the BBC production talent scheme, and won second prize in Vogue's international writing talent contest in 2015. He urges you to check out Shortswave, an evening of new writing by Royal Court graduates coming soon to the Old Red Lion.

Sam - Stephen Charrett

Steve is a graduate of Drama Studio London. Recent credits include Noel Coward's FALLEN ANGELS (Sheringham Little Theatre) and YUCKY DA! (Modern eyes Productions).

NATURAL THING

CHALK

Writer - Carys Wright

Carys is co-Artistic Director of Pennyworth and an actor, writer, and illustrator. She is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin and Drama Studio London. Acting credits include EVERY ME EVERY YOU (Short Film), MOTHERLOGUES (Brighton Fringe), BARRED FREEDOM (Cockpit Theatre), ODE TO EGO (The North Wall Arts Centre), and TABLE (New Diorama). She played Emily in Pennyworth's EMPTY BEDS (Edinburgh's Underbelly and Arcola Theatre). As a writer she is part of SOHO Theatre's Young Writers Programme 17/18, and is currently developing her first solo show LOSING IT.

Director - Jesse Haughton Shaw

Jesse is currently on the MFA in Theatre Directing at Birkbeck. She is joint Artistic Director of Blue Guitar Theatre Company, and as well as directing, she dabbles in writing and dramaturgy. Credits include 'Cain' at The Hope Theatre and 'Can't Stand Up for Falling Down' at Theatre N16.

Jenna - Felicity Huxley Miners

Felicity trained at The BRIT School, Italia Conti and with the National Youth Theatre. Credits include Tea and Good Intentions at The King's Head, Elena in Chekhov's The Bear (The London Theatre), Eat Me (Matrix Theatre) and films for SECamb, the NHS, BBC Learning and Quarantine Productions. She was nominated for an Ian Charleson Award and writes and produces for the company she also runs; Instinct Theatre.

Claire - Laura Jayne Ayres

Laura trained at the Northumberland Theatre Company in beautiful Alnwick, developing and touring shows to rural locations in the North and Scotland. Previous credits include SAFE by Alexis Gregory (London Theatre Workshop) and Caught In The Net / Murder In Company (Manor Pavilion Theatre) as part of the Paul Taylor Mills Summer Rep Season.

THE HILL

CHALK

Writer - Abraham Parker

Abraham is a playwright and director from London. A Royal Court Young Writer's Programme attendee and a co-founder of Vocal Point Theatre, his productions have been programmed in London, Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Athens. He also writes and directs for virtual reality, including 2016's film festival success CTRL.

Director - Celine Lowenthal

Celine is a theatre director who trained at Birkbeck College, Arts Educational Schools and The Crucible Theatre, Sheffield. She is co-director of Pecs Drag Kings (The Tate, The Yard, Southbank Centre, Royal Vauxhall Tavern, and arts festivals and pride celebrations nationwide). She is associate director of Herald Award winning Shadwell Opera, and editor of Moot Press. Assistant/Associate credits include: THE DISTANCE (Orange Tree Theatre), LABYRINTH (Hampstead Theatre), RACING DEMON (Bath Theatre Royal), SHOWBOAT (The Crucible/West End) and ROUNDDELAY (Southwark Playhouse). Director credits include: LET'S TALK ABOUT SEX (Camden People's Theatre), TWICE THROUGH THE HEART (Hackney Showrooms), INTO THE LITTLE HILL (The Courtyard), KREUTZER VS KREUTZER (Crucible Studio), THE OVERCOAT (Clapham Omnibus) and CANADA (The Pleasance).

Zara - Jill Riddiford

Jill's theatre credits include: THE STATE WE'RE IN and DEADLOCK (Theatre 503), TRYING (The Story Project) TAKE THE RUBBISH OUT, SASHA (Oran Mor/National Theatre of Scotland) BED AMONG THE LENTILS (Glasgay/Tron) PRISON FOR OBJECTS (Melanie Gilligan/ Sculpture Centre NYC/ Transmission) SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER and HELLO FROM BERTHA (Tron) SPEND A PENNY, A KIND OF ALASKA, THE DEVILS (Glasgow Arches); DR. KORCZAK'S EXAMPLE, KING MATT (TAG/Battersea Arts Centre); PETER PAN (Wee Stories/ Newcastle Playhouse); WIPING MY MOTHER'S ARSE (The Traverse) and THE SPECULATOR (The Traverse/Edinburgh International Festival). Film credits include UNHAPPY BIRTHDAY (M&M) BOOK OF BLOOD (Matador)

AHIR SHAH

(Our highlighter) **PEN**

Ahir Shah is a stand-up comedian whose work combines political vigour, philosophical intrigue, and sweet gags. His most recent show, CONTROL, was nominated for Best Show at the 2017 Edinburgh Comedy Awards. His last show MACHINES ran at the Edinburgh Fringe, SOHO Theatre and a national tour. He is about to begin a national tour, starting with a two-week run at the Soho Theatre and finishing with him wondering why he has chosen a career that is largely based around going on lengthy train journeys, alone.

"A call to arms against political complacency"

★★★★★ Guardian

"One of his generation's most eloquent comic voices"

★★★★★ Telegraph

"Fiendishly clever and furious"

★★★★★ Times

★★★★★ The Sunday Times

★★★★★ The Scotsman

★★★★★ The List





Julia Cranney (left)
and
Stephen Charrett
(right)



Felicity Huxley Miners
(left) and
Laura Jayne Ayres
(right)



Ahir Shah (left)
and
Jill Riddiford (right)

