

Medusa's First Kiss

A Little Angel Theatre and Cuckoo Bang
Theatre co-production

10 February - 21 April 2024

Book & Lyrics by P Burton-Morgan
Music & Lyrics by Holly Mallett
Directed by P Burton-Morgan
Choreographed by Mark Smith
Musical Supervisor Erika Gundersen
Sound Designed by Adrienne Quartly
Lighting Designed by Jess Brigham
Set & Costume Designed by Ellie Mills
Puppets Designed by Aya Nakamura, P Burton-Morgan
Associate Directed by Beth Wilson
Additional Puppetry Construction by Ellie Mills
Stage Managed by Josie Shipp and Duncan Earlam
Performed by Holly Mallett, Chloe Morley and Nadia Wyn Abouayen



P BURTON-MORGAN - Director, Books & Lyrics, Puppet Designer

P Burton-Morgan is a Writer & Director working across musical theatre, plays and opera. They are Artistic Director of Metta Theatre which they founded in 2005.

Musical theatre writing/directing credits

include: *Sherlock Holmes and the Poison Wood* (Watermill), *The Rhythmics* (Southwark Playhouse), *YouTube musical Cells* (starring national treasure Clive Rowe), *In The Willows* (Exeter Northcott and UK tour, WGGB award for musical theatre book writing 2020) *Little Mermaid* (Theatre By the Lake & UK tour) and *Blown Away* (Exeter Northcott and UK tour). Opera libretti include *Madam Butterfly* (Opera Up Close, UK tour), *I'm Not A Bit Like A Clown* (Tete a Tete Festival), *Roles* (V&A), *Palace of Junk* (Mahogany Opera Group), *Flicker* (Lilian Baylis Studio, Sadler's Wells), *Waiting* (Southbank Centre) and *The Elephant's Child* (Trafalgar Studios & Grimeborn Festival).

Plays include: *Wondr* (Edinburgh Festival) and *Jungle Book* (Windsor Theatre Royal, UK & International tour). Other directing credits include *Cosi fan tutte* (Essex Opera Festival), *Forgiveness* (UK tour, starring Jonny Donahoe from 'Every Brilliant Thing'), *Mouthful* (Trafalgar Studios), *Cosi fan tutte* (New Theatre, Oxford), *Arab Nights* (Soho Theatre and UK tour), *Comedy of Errors* (Exeter Northcott), and many more. Follow them on Instagram @PBurtonMorgan

HOLLY MALLET - Music & Lyrics, Performer

Holly Mallett is best known for playing Moxy in CBBC's 'Andy & The Band', she's also an accomplished session drummer, experienced theatre actor, and a published playwright. Holly is co-Artistic Director of Cuckoo Bang theatre company, who are proud to co-produce Medusa's First Kiss with Little Angel Theatre. Theatre credits include: *Jack & the Beanstalk* (Stanley Arts), *Mother Goose* (Hackney Empire), *Andy & the Odd Socks* (UK & Ireland Tour), *Deep Blue* (Liverpool Everyman), NOTFLIX: *The Improvised Musical* (Soho Theatre & UK Tour), *Sleeping Beauty* (Liverpool Everyman), *Enough is Enough* (Camden People's Theatre).

MARK SMITH - Chorographer

Mark is the Founder and Artistic Director of Deaf Men Dancing & DMD+. He was nominated as Best Choreographer in the Off-West End Awards and Broadway World UK Awards for *Ace of Clubs*, *Call Me Madam* & *Iolanthe*. Other nominations include: Best Choreographer for *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* at Broadway World UK Awards and Live Theatre & British Theatre Awards for *Tommy* and *The Last Five Years*.

Mark was named Director of the Year at the British Theatre Guide Awards for *The Last Five Years*. He is a recipient of the MGCfutures Bursary which will help him take a new direction as a theatre director.

Theatre includes: *Sherlock Holmes and the Poison Wood* (Watermill Theatre); *The Big Little Things* (Soho Place); *Falling in Love* (Friedrichstadt-Palast Berlin); *The Color Purple* (Curve Leciester/Birmingham Hippodrome/UK Tour); *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Leeds Playhouse/HOME Manchester); *The Last Five Years* (Wales Millennium Centre); *The Ruff Tuff Cream Puff Agency* (Belgrade Theatre); *Iolanthe* (Wilton's Music Hall/UK Tour); *The Threepenny Opera* (UK Tour); *Shoes* (Sadler's Wells); *The Rhythmics* (Southwark Playhouse); *Sense of Freedom*, *Hear! Hear!*, *Let Us Tell You. A Story*, *Time*, *Corazon a Corazon*, *Ten*, *Embrace*, *Alive* (Deaf Men Dancing); *Orfeo Ed Euridice* (Longborough Festival); *The Who's Tommy* (Ramps on the Moon); *Die Fledermaus* (Den Norske Opera & Ballet) *Reasons To Be Cheerful* (Graeae). **Film work:** *My Silent World* (commissioned by Ballet Boyz, a short film for CH4 Random Acts), Ch4's *The Paralympic Homecoming* (DMD+). **Other work:** *The Paralympic Opening Ceremony* (London 2012).



ERIKA GUNDESEN - Musical Supervisor

Erika Gundersen is a distinguished graduate of UBC as well as the Guildhall School of Music & Drama. She works in opera and theatre in London, England, and is currently assistant music director on the West End production *Operation Mincemeat*. Other recent credits include: *The Lehman Trilogy* (National Theatre); *Salome*, *Lohengrin*, *Mavra/Pierrot lunaire*, *Seven Deadly Sins/Mahagonny* (Royal Opera House); *Broken Wings* (Charing Cross Theatre); *The Rhythmics* (Southwark Playhouse); *Queen of the Mist* (Charing Cross Theatre); *Parade*, *RENT*, *West Side Story* (Vivo d'Arte.)

ADRIENNE QUARTLY - Sound Designer

Adrienne is sound designer/composer for performance, with work featured across the world. She was part of the team behind the Olivier Nominated Production of *Cuttin' It* (Young Vic Theatre), best new play nomination at the UK theatre awards for *Black Men Walking* (Eclipse Theatre), and a nomination for best production at the Manchester Theatre Awards for *Rose*, starring Dame Janet Suzman. She has worked at theatres including the Donmar Warehouse, The Young Vic, The Royal Court Theatre, The Abbey Theatre, Dublin, The National Theatre of Scotland, Schaubühne, Berlin, The Barbican and Theatre Royal, Haymarket. She is a regular collaborator with *Told by an Idiot*, including *Get Happy* which toured to Beijing, and film *7 Deadly Idiots*. She also worked with *Improbable* theatre including *Inside Skinners' Box* which played at the Lincoln Centre New York and was onstage with them in *The Paper Man*.

JESS BRIGHAM - Lighting Designer

Jess Brigham is a lighting designer from Hull, having recently graduated with a first class degree from Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts. She was selected to be a member of the SLX Lighting Programme and The Godber Theatre Foundation during this time, and has more recently been a recipient of the MGC Futures Bursary. Recent credits include *Wish You Weren't Here* directed by Rob Watt (Theatre Centre, UK Tour), *Identities* directed

by Maya Shimmin (Close to Home Productions, UK Tour), *Innit: Musical* directed by Micky Dacks (I4YPC, The Quays - The Lowry), *Burning Down The Horse* directed by Maya Shimmin (Fishing 4 Chips, Pleasance Beneath - Edinburgh Fringe), *Mumsy* directed by Zoe Waterman (Hull Truck Theatre), *Katzenmusik* directed by Sammy Glover (London Youth Theatre, Seven Dials Playhouse), *A Sudden Violent Burst of Rain* directed by Yasmin Hasefji (The Gate Theatre), *The True Adventures of Marian and Robin Hood* directed by Francesca Goodridge (Barn Theatre), *Identities* directed by Maya Shimmin (Close to Home Productions, UK Tour), *End Without Days* choreographed by Stephen Pelton (Dancebase, Edinburgh Fringe), *Much Ado About Nothing* directed by Kayleigh Hawkins (HER Productions, Manchester Hope Mill) and *Patricia Gets Ready (for a date with the man that used to hit her)* directed by Kaley Baxe (UK Tour, *Greatest Days* directed by Stacey Haynes and Tim Firth (Associate Lighting Designer to Rob Casey, UK Tour), *Lemons Lemons Lemons Lemons Lemons* directed by Josie Rourke (Assistant Lighting Designer, Harold Pinter Theatre and UK Tour).

ELLIE MILLS - Set and Costume Designer

Ellie developed a love of puppetry after studying at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and has worked as a freelance designer and maker for a number of years. Ellie first joined Little Angel as the Participation Manager promoting the importance of drama and puppetry in the lives of children; helping to inspire their creativity and imagination as well as increase their confidence. Now as the In-House Designer she has worked on shows for both stage and screen including *Charlie Cook's Favourite Book*, *Mother Christmas*, *Bugaboo* and *Reach for the Stars*. Last year Ellie co-created an interactive, touring show that coupled live theatre with AR technology to create a unique theatrical experience for children and young people isolated in hospitals, bringing the magic of puppetry to their bedside. This show was then re-mounted as a digital tour this year.

AYA NAKAMURA - Puppet Designer

Aya Nakamura is a London based theatre-maker, puppeteer, puppetry director and puppet maker originally from Japan. For the last 15 years she has worked on many children's and adult puppet productions for a variety of theatre companies including Improbable, Theatre-Rites, The Old Trout Puppet Workshop (Canada), Polka Theatre, Handbendi Brúðleikhús (Iceland), Little Angel Theatre, Oily Cart, Horse and Bamboo, Norwich Puppet Theatre, Unicorn Theatre and Wattle&Daub Figure Theatre. Aya also runs the award-winning company Rouge28 Theatre which has toured productions nationally and internationally. Aya's one of the most recent credit is Improbable's An Improbable Musical which she was Puppet Maler/Designer, Puppet Director as well as Lead Puppeteer. More information can be found at www.ayanakamura.com

BETH WILSON - Associate Director

Beth is an emerging director and dramaturg working in new writing, and a lead creative at Thalia Arts Theatre (a company developing new writing with a queer slant). Since graduating from LAMDA in 2020, they have directed and produced work across the London Fringe, collaborating with emerging new writing, youth theatres and theatre makers.

Recent credits include: As Director - Emma (OVO Theatre/Thalia Arts); Big Enough To Hang A Life On (Thalia Arts); Dinner Theatre (Bread and Roses Theatre); Almost Adult (Old Red Lion Theatre). As Assistant - The Comedy Of Errors (OVO Theatre); Love and Information, Little Shop Of Horrors (LAMDA).

DUNCAN EARLAM - Stage Manager

Duncan's credits as Assistant Stage Manager include Legally Blonde, Cabaret, Curtains, and Priscilla Queen of the Desert at ArtsEd. Duncan is also a performer and his credits include The Joker in The Choir of Man on Norwegian Cruise Line and at the Arts Theatre, London.

JOSIE SHIPP - Stage Manager

Josephine Shipp is a freelance Creative Producer & Production Manager who is excited to be joining the Medusa's First Kiss team for its run at the Little Angel Theatre.

Recent Production Manager/TSM Credits include: *Becoming John Travula LVA*: (Pleasance Edinburgh, Soho Theatre (2023/4)), *Godot is a Woman* (Pleasance Edinburgh 2022/3), (GLAMROU: *From Quran to Queen* (Soho Theatre, Pleasance London), 2021/3). *Andromeda* (Camden People's Theatre, 2021), *Jordan Brookes : I've got Nothing* (Soho Theatre, Amazon Prime, Pleasance Edinburgh 2020/21), *Collisions*: Phd Practice Festival RCSSD (2019-Present), *Algorithms* (Soho Theatre London, Pleasance Edinburgh, Tour (2019/21).

CHLOE MORLEY - Performer

Chloe is an actor/singer from Lancashire. Graduated from Trinity Laban in 2021 with a BA Hons in Musical Theatre. Credits include: *Small Island* (National theatre), *Lavelles-The Ladies of Motown* (P&O Cruises), *The Unstoppable Letty Pegg* (Workshop), *Dr Kronovator's fire lab* (Medway Light Nights), *West End Proms* (Greenwich).

NADIA WYN ABOUAYEN - Performer

Nadia is a Welsh mixed race actor who graduated from the BA Acting course at the Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts in 2020. She has had a variety of acting jobs since graduating, ranging from short films to voice acting, with recent credits including an AAA video game and a BBC radio 3 drama. Her most recent stage credit was Gary Owen's adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* at the Sherman Theatre in Cardiff.



Were you inspired by the show?

We want to hear your **#AcceptanceAnthem** - how do you show up in the world? What makes you feel like you?

Is it a pair of earrings you wear or an empowering colour? Is it how you style your hair or how you style your outfits? Or is it through music? Maybe it is Lady Gaga's *Born This Way* or maybe it's a song from the show!

What do you love to dance along to? Or is it through Art that you feel most like you?

Whatever way you express yourself, we would like to hear from you. Create a short reel or TikTok expressing yourself. expressing yourself.

Tag us on social media with your acceptance anthem's @LittleAngelTheatre on Instagram and TikTok using the hashtag

#AcceptanceAnthem



#MedusasFirstKiss



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