

BIRDS AND BEES

A Theatre Centre and Sheffield
Theatres Co-Production

By
Charlie Josephine



**THEATRE
CENTRE**

**SHEFF!ELD
THEATRES**

WELCOME

Hello and welcome to **Birds and Bees**,

We're really delighted to be touring with this live production of **Birds and Bees** in co-production with **Sheffield Theatres**. Originally planned as a live tour for autumn 2020, the pandemic meant that we had to make a film of the show instead. We offered it for free to state schools and more than 60,000 young people saw the film in over 550 UK schools.

Award winning writer **Charlie Josephine** worked with 100s of Year 10 and 11 students while writing the original script. This show digs into how young people can have complicated conversations around identity, sexuality, gender, power and consent. When we started to plan the live tour, Charlie took the opportunity to revisit and update the story, meaning several 100 more young people were involved in making the version you're seeing today.

Putting the voice of young people at the heart of the work is a key part of what we do at **Theatre Centre**. We've been doing this since we were founded in 1953 and this autumn we're celebrating our 70th birthday – 70 years of continually evolving, staying fresh and relevant and making sure that theatre is at the centre of young peoples' lives.


We'll be announcing our celebration plans later in the year and we'd love it if you were able to join us in person or on-line to take part in some of the exciting birthday projects we have planned.

In the meantime, thank you for coming to see **Birds and Bees**, enjoy the show, and we hope you have some great conversations afterwards! We love to hear your feedback so drop us a line.

Emma Rees and Rob Watt

Executive Director and Artistic Director, Theatre Centre

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CAST

Maisy

Aarron

Billy

Leilah

Sandra Belarbi

Richard Logun

Milo McCarthy

Dumile Sibanda

PRODUCTION TEAM

Writer

Director

Set and Costume Designer

Lighting Designer

Sound Designer

Movement Director

Movement Assistant

Production Manager

Casting Consultant

Charlie Josephine

Rob Watt

Bethany Wells

Hector Murray

Lee Affen

Yami Löfvenberg

Elsabet Yonas

Gareth Edwards

Becky Paris

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



SANDRA BELARBI

Maisy
She / Her

Sandra trained at ALRA/Rose Bruford College.

Theatre credits include: *Phèdre* (Drayton Arms Theatre); *People, Places & Things*, *Rage*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Boy* (ALRA); *Beat Poetry*, *Dance Nation* (Rose Bruford College).



RICHARD LOGUN

Aarron
He / Him

Richard trained at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts.

Theatre credits include: *The Lies You Tell* (Schools Tour, New Wolsey Theatre / Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds).

Film credits include: *A Night and Some Change* (short).



MILO MCCARTHY

Billy
They / Them

Milo trained at Italia Conti.

Theatre credits include: *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella* (Hope Mill Theatre); *Starry, The Vincent Van Gough Musical* (Workshop); *Pippin, Carrie* (Italia Conti).



DUMILE SIBANDA

Leilah
She / Her

Dumile trained at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School.

For Sheffield Theatres, credits include:
ROCK/PAPER/SCISSORS.

Other theatre credits include: *Hedda, The Three Seagulls* (Bristol Old Vic); *Hansel and Gretel* (Insane Root Theatre).

CREATIVE BIOGRAPHIES

CHARLIE JOSEPHINE

Writer
They/Them

Charlie is a writer, director and actor. Their latest play, **I, JOAN** opened to great acclaim at Shakespeare's Globe in Summer 2022. Charlie is currently under commission for new plays with various companies including the Royal Shakespeare Company, Boundless Theatre, Pentabus and National Theatre Connections. They are also the Headlong writer-in-residence.

Acting credits include: *Romeo and Juliet* (Royal Shakespeare Company, Stratford Upon Avon); *BLUSH* (Edinburgh Fringe / Soho Theatre / National Tour); *Bitch Boxer* (Edinburgh Fringe / Soho Theatre / UK Tour / International Tour); *Secret Theatre* (Lyric Hammersmith); *Julius Caesar* (Donmar Warehouse).

Writing credits include: *One of Them Ones* (UK Tour, Pentabus); *Flies* (Shoreditch Town Hall); *I, JOAN*, *Metamorphoses* (Shakespeare's Globe); *Birds and Bees* (online / UK Tour / Theatre Centre); *Moon Licks* (Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama / Yard Theatre); *Pops* (Live Theatre, Newcastle / Zoo Roxy, Edinburgh Fringe / High Tide Festival); *BLUSH* (Edinburgh Fringe / Soho Theatre / National Tour, winner of The Stage Edinburgh Award); *Bitch Boxer* (Edinburgh Fringe / Soho Theatre / UK Tour / International Tour, winner of the Soho Theatre Young Writers Award, the Old Vic New Voices Edinburgh Season, the Holden Street Theatre's Award, and the Adelaide Fringe Award).

Book Titles include: *Monologues for 'Others'* (Concord Theatricals).

Other credits include: *The Blurry Bits* (podcast, Spotify); *Massive* (audioplay, Audible).

ROB WATT

Director
He / Him

Rob is a critically acclaimed director, dramaturg and facilitator. He is currently the Artistic Director for Theatre Centre, regularly teaches at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, and works with the Institute of the Arts Barcelona.

For Sheffield Theatres, credits include: *Human Nurture*.

Other theatre credits include: *Rallying Cry* (The Albany); *Acts of Resistance* (Headlong Theatre / Bristol Old Vic); *13* (Institute of Arts, Barcelona); *The Exorcism, Rallying Cry* (Battersea Arts Centre); *Dying For It* (ALRA); *How to Survive a Post Truth Apocalypse* (Soho Theatre / Roundhouse / UK Tour); *SEXY* (Roundhouse / Bristol Old Vic / UK Tour); *Love and Information* (Institute of the Arts, Barcelona); *Earthquakes in London* (Institute of the Arts Barcelona); *Party Trap* (Shoreditch Town Hall); *Goosebumps Kids* (The Vaults); *The Joy of Normal* (Orange Tree Theatre); *Standby For Tape Back-Up* (Summer Hall / Soho Theatre/ Shoreditch Town Hall / UK tour).

BETHANY WELLS

Set and Costume Designer
She / Her

Bethany is an award-winning performance designer working across dance, theatre and installation, with particular interest in site-specific and devised performance.

Recent credits include: *All That Lives (Grief Series, Leeds 2023)*; *The People's Palace of Possibility (The Bare Project)*; *You Heard Me* (Cambridge Junction / UK tour); *Choreography of Care Symposium* (Tanzhaus nrw, Düsseldorf); *Written In The Body* (Brighton Festival); *This Endless Sea* (Chlöe Smith); *Extreme Unction Vol. 2* (Nwando Ebizie); *War Of The Worlds (New Diorama Theatre / Pleasance Forth / UK Tour)*; *Thank You Very Much* (Manchester International Festival / National Theatre of Scotland / European Tour).

HECTOR MURRAY

Lighting Designer

He / Him

Hector trained at the Central School of Speech and Drama, and is a lighting designer for plays, dance and musicals working in the UK and internationally. In 2020 he was nominated for an Off West End Theatre Award for Best Lighting Designer for his work on *Whistle Down the Wind*.

Theatre credits include: as Lighting Designer: *Night with Boy Blue* (Barbican Theatre); *Dirty Hearts* (Old Red Lion); *Treasure Island* (Greenwich Theatre); *Kattam Katti* (Sadlers Wells); *1ST Luv* (The Big House); *Beige* (The Vaults); *Whistle Down the Wind* (Union Theatre); *Acts of Resistance* (Bristol Old Vic). As associate Lighting Designer: *A Christmas Carol* (The Bridge); *The Doctor* (West End); *Hamlet, Oresteia* (The Armoury, New York); *Cyrano de Bergerac* (Harold Pinter Theatre); *Broken Wings* (Dubai Opera); *Valued Friends* (Rose Theatre, Kingston); *Hansel and Gretel* (Royal Opera House); *Don Giovanni* (Peacock Theatre).

LEE AFFEN

Sound Designer

He / Him

Lee is a composer, music producer, sound designer and theatre maker from Manchester, now based in Sheffield. Lee composes for theatre, dance and film with sonic storytelling and collaboration are at the heart of his practice. He is a company member of The Bare Project and an Associate Artist with Imagine If Theatre and Box of Tricks Theatre.

For Sheffield Theatres, credits include: *Human Nurture*, *Far Gone*, *On The Outskirts of a Large Event*.

Other theatre credits include: *Who Are Yer?* (Cardboard Citizens); *Jadek* (Imagine If Theatre / UK Tour); *The War Within* (Fallen Angels & Birmingham Royal Ballet, UK Tour); *On The Outskirts of a Large Event* (Northern Tour); *The Fairytale Detectives* (Theatr Clwyd); *Metropolis*, *Nosferatu*, *The Passion of Joan of Arc* (The Dukes).

Film credits include: *Where Two Rivers Meet* (British Libraries).

Radio Credits include: *Love is a Battlefield* (New Voices, BBC Radio 3).

YAMI “ROWDY” LÖFVENBERG

Movement Director

She / Her

Yami is a movement and theatre director, working at the intersection of dance, theatre and cross-arts. She is a lecturer in Hip-Hop and Vernacular Dances at Trinity Laban Dance Conservatoire. She was on the creative choreographic team for the 2012 Olympics Opening Ceremony and is a member of the internationally acclaimed performance collective Hot Brown Honey.

For Sheffield Theatres credits include: *Human Nurture.*

Other theatre credits include: as Movement Director: *The UK Drill Project* (Barbican); *Roundabout 22* (Paines Plough); *The Concrete Jungle Book* (The Pleasance); *Kabul Goes Pop* (Brixton House); *Athena* (The Yard Theatre); *Notes on Grief* (Manchester International Festival); *Rare Earth, Mettle, Living Newspaper* (Royal Court); *Fuck You, Pay Me* (The Bunker); *Breakin’ Convention* (Sadler’s Wells); *Talawa TYPT* (Hackney Showrooms); *Boat* (Battersea Arts Centre). As Director: *Fierce Flow* (Birmingham Hippodrome); *Kind of Woman* (Camden People’s Theatre); *Afroabelhas* (Roundhouse / British Council / Tempo Festival (Brazil)). As Assistant Director / Choreographer: *Hive City Legacy* (Roundhouse / HOME / Wales Millennium Centre); *Hive City Legacy: Dublin Chapter* (Dublin Fringe Festival).

ELSABET YONAS

Movement Assistant

She / Her

Elsabet is a dancer and choreographer, with a foundation in hip-hop. Her work is rooted in storytelling and she is inspired by the extensive potentials that art holds in building communities. Her work is firmly located within its political context and this informs her work’s visceral delivery and community engagement.

GARETH EDWARDS

Production Manager

He / Him

Gareth trained at Rose Bruford College in Theatre Design. Since graduating, he has worked exclusively as a Production Manager.

Theatre credits include: *Atlantis* (Tivoli, Scandinavian Tour); *He's Dead* (The Uncultured, European Tour); *The War of the Worlds* (The Dominion Theatre); *Carrie* (Southwark Playhouse); *The Sound of Music* (UK Tour); *Jesus Christ Superstar* (UK / German Tour); *The Glenn Miller Story* (UK Tour); *Blood Brothers* (UK Tour); *Joseph* (UK Tour); *Evita* (Dominion Theatre / UK Tour); *Sunday in the Park* (The Other Palace, London); *Yank* (The Charing Cross Theatre) *The Rink*, *The Fall*, *DNA*, *Triptych* (Southwark Playhouse); *Imaginary* (The Other Palace); *Dancing in the Streets* (UK Tour); *HONK* (UK Tour); *Billy The Kid* (The Curve); *Love Goddess*; *The Rita Hayworth Musical* (Cockpit); *A History of Water in The Middle East* (The Royal Court); *Rehearsal for Murder* (UK Tour); *Before The Party* (UK Tour); *Twelve Angry Men* (UK Tour); *Shawshank Redemption* (UK Tour); *The Small Hand* (UK Tour); *And Then There Were None* (UK Tour); *Pops* (Edinburgh / Aldeburgh Festivals); *The Common Pursuit* (Menier Chocolate Factory); *Yerma* (Battersea Arts Centre); *Supernova* (Buzz Productions, National Tour); *Tiny Dynamite* (The Old Red Lion); *A Christmas Tale* (Kenton Theatre); *The Sound and The Fury* (The Pleasance); *Frankenstein* (Selladoor, National Tour) *La Cage aux Folles – The Play* (Park Theatre); *Snow White* (Swansea Grand Theatre); *Cinderella* (New Wimbledon Theatre); *Aladdin* (Regent Theatre, Stoke on Trent); *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Beauty and The Beast* (Theatre Royal, Nottingham); *Aladdin* (His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen); *Threepenny Opera* (Shoreditch Town Hall); *Too Hot to Handel* (UK Tour); *A Little Princess* (Peacock Theatre, London); *Pelleas & Melisande* (Irish Tour); *Alcina* (Irish Tour); *Loves Labours Lost* (Hackney Empire); *Testing the Echo* (Royal Theatre of the Hague); *He's Dead* (Denmark); *Rum & Vodka* (Sao Paulo); *The Good Thief* (Sao Paulo) *Thriller Live* (European Tour / World Tour) *Pendragon* (Japanese Tour).

Other credits include: *Common Ground* (Upswing, Film), *In Theatre* (Exhibition, Liminal Space, London).

BECKY PARIS

Casting Consultant

She / Her

Becky is Head of Casting at Shakespeare's Globe, leading on the casting of all in-house productions, workshops, readings and special events for the Globe and Sam Wanamaker Playhouse. She is also a freelance Casting Director who has worked on theatre projects for the Almeida, the Bridge Theatre, Southwark Playhouse, Sheffield Theatres and ATG, as well as a number of short films. Previously, she worked as a Casting Assistant for TV and film projects in the offices of Rose Wicksteed, Jessie Frost and Alex Johnson.

Theatre credits include: *Titus Andronicus, The Winter's Tale, Hakawatis, I, Joan, King Lear, Henry VIII, The Merchant of Venice, Much Ado About Nothing, Measure for Measure* (Shakespeare's Globe); *Henry V* (Headlong coproduction, Shakespeare's Globe / UK Tour).

LIZZIE BOND

Company Stage Manager

She / Her

Lizzie is a graduate from Rose Bruford College.

Theatre credits include: as Deputy Stage Manager: *Paperboy* (The Lyric Theatre, Belfast). As Assistant Stage Manager: *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Birmingham Old Rep). As Company Stage Manager: *David Copperfield* (Barn Theatre); *Dick Whittington, Beauty and the Beast, Peter Pan* (Towngate Theatre); *Human Nurture* (UK Tour); Ballet Central 2022 (UK Tour). As Stage Manager: *Ballet Central 2021* (UK Tour). As Tour Stage Manager: *The Tide* (UK Tour).

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Production Manager	Gareth Edwards
Company Stage Manager	Lizzie Bond
Producers for Theatre Centre	Amy Michaels, Emma Rees
Assistant Producer	Niamh Parker-Whitehead
Casting Consultant	Becky Paris
Schools Resources	Hannah Austin
Marketing for Theatre Centre	Rachel Bellman
Marketing Consultants for Theatre Centre	Jane Morgan Associates
Public Relations	Chloe Nelkin Consulting, Jo Allan PR
Artwork	Guy Sanders
Lighting Programmer	Connor O'Neil
Audio Describer	Chris Berry
Captioner	Cara Lawless
Sign Language Interpreter	Julie Fletcher

THANKS

Theatre Centre would like to thank the following people:

Justin Kendal-Sadiq, Connie Fiddament, Liliya Filippova, Noor Sobka, Hetty Hodgson, Future Makers in Lewisham and Sheffield, Lewisham Youth Theatre, National Youth Theatre and all the schools & young people from across the UK who helped develop Birds and Bees.

Dan Bates and Rob Hastie, Zeena Rashid and National Drama, Alexander Perricone and Alliance Bernstein, Hackney Empire, Milk Presents, Theatre Peckham and our Chair Titilola Dawudu and Trustees Aleksa Asme, Yamin Choudury, Frazer Flintham, Gareth Hughes, David Luff, Rebecca Major, Tayo Medupin, Vanessa Sauls.

ABOUT THEATRE CENTRE

Theatre Centre is a new writing, national touring theatre company, making bold, relevant shows with and for young people in schools, theatres, communities and digitally. We run **Future Makers**, a whole new way of collaborating with young people as artists, creative leaders, and active citizens. It is central to all our work and is the key to how we unlock our young people-centred practice.

Future Makers embeds young people at the core of our work, bringing young people together with artists in democratised spaces to explore big, relevant issues. We listen actively and radically, using these insights to create shows, build relationships and deepen reach.

We commission new work from trailblazing writers in response to themes emerging from **Future Makers**, with the writer and young people collaborating to develop the work, and we take this work into schools and theatres across the UK. In 2021 we reached over 60,000 students in over 550 schools with the film of **Birds and Bees** by **Charlie Josephine**. In 2022 we toured **Human Nurture** by award-winning writer **Ryan Calais Cameron** to over 60 UK schools.

Theatre Centre has pioneered school touring since 1953 and is recognised as a ground-breaking force in young people-centred practice. We have long been a vital catalyst for youth leadership and creativity; nurturing writers at breakthrough points in their careers with commissions, dramaturgical support, and access to other theatre makers.

In autumn 2023 we will celebrate 70 years of making work that changes lives.

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THEATRE CENTRE TEAM

Marketing Manager

Rachel Bellman

Finance Manager

David Lewis

Touring Producer

Amy Michaels

Strategic Development
Partner

Moni Onojero

Programme and Admin
Coordinator

Niamh Parker-Whitehead

Future Makers Producer

Ben Price

Executive Director and CEO

Emma Rees

Creative Associate

Monay Thomas

Artistic Director

Rob Watt

SHEFFIELD THEATRES

Sheffield Theatres is home to three theatres: the **Crucible**, the Sheffield landmark with a world-famous reputation; the **Playhouse**, an intimate, versatile space for getting closer to the action; and the gleaming **Lyceum**, the beautiful proscenium that hosts the best of the UK's touring shows. In November 2021, the Crucible and Playhouse theatres celebrated their 50th anniversary.

Having held the title 'Regional Theatre of the Year' on four separate occasions, Sheffield Theatres is the ticket to big names and local heroes, timeless treasures and new voices. Committed to investing in the creative leaders of the future, Sheffield Theatres' dedicated talent development hub, **The Bank**, opened in 2019 to support a new cohort of emerging theatre-makers every year.

Sheffield Theatres has a reputation for bold new work. The acclaimed **Life of Pi** began life at the Crucible, winning four awards at the 2019 UK Theatre Awards, 'Achievement in Technical Theatre' at the Stage Awards and 'Best New Play' at the WhatsOnStage Awards. The show opened in the West End in 2021, winning 5 Olivier Awards in 2022, and this year returns to Sheffield Theatres as part of a UK and Ireland tour. This success follows the phenomenal Sheffield musical **Everybody's Talking About Jamie** which also originated at the Crucible in 2017, before transferring to the West End, embarking on a UK tour and being turned into a feature film released simultaneously to 244 countries on Amazon Prime in September 2021.

Most recently, **ROCK/PAPER/SCISSORS**, three plays performed concurrently across the three theatres by a single cast, was staged as the centrepiece of Sheffield Theatres' 50th anniversary celebrations. **Robert Hastie, Anthony Lau** and **Elin Schofield** won Best Directors at the UK Theatre Awards 2022 for the ambitious trilogy. Concluding 2022, Sheffield Theatres, in co-production with the National Theatre and Various Productions, revived their multi-award winning new musical **Standing at the Sky's Edge**. Originally staged in 2019, the hit show returned to the Crucible ahead of transferring to the National Theatre in February 2023.

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