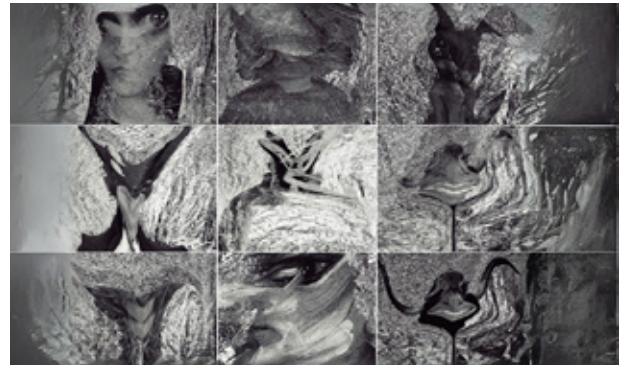


RADA

MA Theatre Lab, 2025
GBS Theatre

woOd



conceived and devised by Simon Gleave, Korina Kokkali and the Company

woOd began with the question: what if we take *wood* as material and a space for story and looked at it through the lens of transformation? *What can the woods teach us about who we are?*

We went to the woods - of our pasts, of myth and of Epping Forest - to study, embody and imagine how its stories reflect our own. These images and scenarios emerged between the performers in improvisation: a passage of episodes that explore innocence, fear and transformation.

We sought out people who have found refuge in the woods, while reading the myths, stories and fairytales that affected transformations. We began

examining the breakdown of such stories and the refracted and broken cycles of communication that reflect our contemporary world. In an attempt to respond to a time of nonsense and narrative breakdown we return to the childish basics of theatre: fairytale, mask, dance, song and chorus.

What continues to emerge is a broken land of wood, creature and human in which gestures of refuge, care, illness and violence merge in a dance of death that plays us back the fragments of the wood. The wood, then, becomes our increasingly toxic, magic and violent time, asking us what it means to be wholly human while a part of nature.

Cast (in alphabetical order)

Oleksandra Barstok	Marianna Fornari
Jonah Buksbaum	Georgia Gabrielides
Emma Yvette Conlon	Tara Kitson
Inge Crafford Lazarus	Nash Nørgaard
Will Choy Edelson	

Creative Team

Co-creators Simon Gleave Korina Kokkali	Photography Elliot Pritchard
Lighting Designer Matt Leventhall	Voice support Suzanne West
Sound Designer Hattie North	Fight Director Jonny Whittaker for MC Combat

Production Team

Production / Technical Manager Rob Pearce	Production Electrician and Lighting Operator Ana Lucía Emiliani	Lighting Programmer Jodie Underwood
Stage Manager on the Book Jack Saltonstall	Production Sound Engineer Jonathan Armitage	Costume Supervisor Marina Ambrosone
Assistant Stage Manager Ana Chen		Costume Assistant Laura Conroy

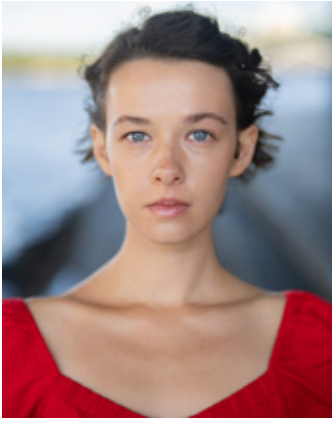
Special thanks: Giorgos Chanos and Konstantinos Koutroumpis for the use of their compositions (*Glossophobia* and *They Forgot Their Homes Were Made of Green*)

Age guidance: 16+

Content warnings: themes of a sexual nature, strong language, smoke, haze, flashing lights, use of toy guns, depicts intoxication, murder, loss, medical distress including child birth and graphic pain, references to the slaughter of animals.

Image created by Elliot Pritchard

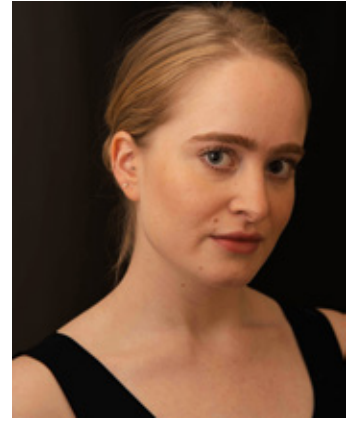
Cast



Oleksandra
Barstok



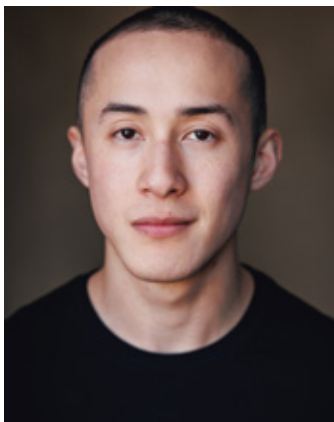
Jonah
Buksbaum



Emma Yvette
Conlon



Inge
Crafford-Lazarus



Will Choy
Edelson



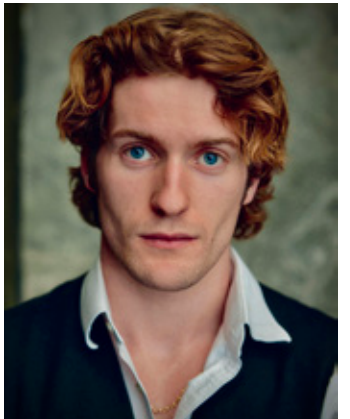
Marianna
Fornari



Georgia
Gabrielides



Tara
Kitson



Nash
Nørgaard



Scan the QR code to visit the
actors' student profiles.

Biographies

Simon Gleave

Co-creator

Simon is a director, performer and teacher. He has directed work for Soho Theatre (*Paper Swans*), The Pleasance (*Unforgettable Girl*); as well as Rose Bruford and Drama Studio.

He is Co-Artistic Director of JEUDi, who make dance-theatre and perform ongoing research into how applied creative practice can support carers for people with Dementia or Parkinson's.

He is an Associate Director with Flabbergast Theatre with whom he has built and performed in the internationally acclaimed productions of *Macbeth* (****The Telegraph) as Macbeth, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as Bottom and recently as Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet*.

He has taught and directed at RADA, Rose Bruford, Italia Conti and Drama Studio London; his subjects include Mask, Bouffon, Clown, Mime and Acting. With David Glass and Korina Kokkali, he is developing an international training programme in devising theatre and creative practice called *Alchemy of the Extraordinary*.

Korina Kokkali

Co-creator

Korina is a performer, choreographer, movement director and dance teacher.

Korina graduated in 2018 from MA: Movement Directing and Teaching at the Royal Central School of Speech & Drama with a scholarship from the Onassis Foundation. She has a BA in Theatre Studies at National & Kapodistrian University of Athens (2014) and she has trained as a dancer and dance teacher at the Higher Professional Dance School Niki Kontaxaki graduating with a Distinction (2010).

Since 2014, Korina has worked in several productions in Greece and the UK. In Athens she movement directed and choreographed the opera *Hedda Gabler* (Greek National Opera), *Karagatsis Kotzambasis & Dimitriadis Therismos* (Greek National Theatre, D. Tarlow) and Sophocle's *Antigone* (Athens & Epidaurus Theatre Festival, VAST programme, A. Raptotasios) and more. In London has worked with David Glass (Galapagos, Jackson's Lane, *The Brides* London International Mime Festival 2023 and Teatro dei Rinnovati Siena), as a performer in the R&D "Weimer repertoire" with Simon McBurney (2019, Complicité) and with Simona Gonella (2018, MA Lab Devising Workshop at RADA).

Together with Simon Gleave she is the co-artistic director of JEUDi, a dance-theatre performance company based between Greece and the UK with a focus on play and creative practices in care contexts.

Matt Leventhall

Lighting Designer

Matt is a lighting designer and educator who collaborates UK wide and internationally. Matt is the Head of Lighting at RADA in London. Recent credits include: *Yes, Prime Minister!* (Theatr Clwyd); *A Christmas Carol* (Theatr Clwyd); *Trial By Laughter* (Watermill and UK tour); *No Kids* (UK, USA and Hong Kong tour); *Turn of the Screw* (Mercury and UK tour), *The Secret Garden* (York Theatre Royal), *Hamlet* (Kenneth Branagh Theatre Company, Associate LD); *The Terrible Infants* (Wilton's); *The Events* (Mercury Theatre); *Light* (Barbican, Bristol Old Vic and European tour); *Barbarians* (Young Vic); *The Comedy About a Bank Robbery* (Criterion, Associate LD); *My Mother Never Said I Should* (St James Theatre, Associate LD), *The Collector* (The Vaults Theatre); *The Vaudevillians* (Assembly); *Moth* (Hope Mill); *Ant Street* (Arcola); *Lady Anna All At Sea* (Park Theatre); *Scarlet* (Southwark Playhouse); *God's Own Country* (Zoo); *Sikes and Nancy* (Trafalgar Studios and UK tour); *Suffolk Stories* (Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds); *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?* (Secret Cinema, site specific); *Fishskin Trousers* (Finborough); *Wild West End* (Pleasance); *Bed* (Lakeside Arts Nottingham); *Madame Butterfly* (Leatherhead Theatre and UK tour); *Fresher The Musical* (Pleasance); *TEDx London* (The Roundhouse). For a full list of credits visit www.mllx.co.uk

Hattie North

Sound Designer

Hattie is a Sound Designer from Leeds. She studied at LAMDA and graduated with a BA in Production Arts. Recent work includes: *Oh My Pain, My Beautiful Pain* (Pleasance), *Rebel Voices* (Complicité), *The Elmer Adventure* (Southbank Centre), *Crying Shame* (Stanley Arts), *Really Good Exposure* (Soho Theatre), *Bitter Lemons* (Park Theatre), *Twelfth Night* (Stafford Gatehouse) and *Two Rounds* (Jermyn Street Theatre). Associate work includes: *Bullring Techno Makeout Jams* (Birmingham Hippodrome/Soho Theatre), *How I Learned To Swim* (Roundabout/Bristol Old Vic), *Two of Us* (HOME) and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Stafford Gatehouse).

MA Theatre Lab

Welcome to this year's Summer Public Performances from RADA's MA Theatre Lab.

MA Theatre Lab is a unique programme, offering emergent theatre artists advanced performance training in the context of collaborating on making original theatre and performance.

For these Public Performances, the cohort has split into two groups, each working intensively with innovative 'makers' on creating a new piece of work. This year the students are fortunate to be collaborating with Simon Gleave and Korina Kokkali and emma + pj.

Both *woOd* and *Welcome to Noware* have been devised by the two ensembles over five intensive weeks of work with their directors. What you'll experience are 'works in development' - versions 1.0 of new performances, not finished or polished pieces.

The emphasis over the rehearsal period has been generation and an initial work on composition. If we had another two weeks, I'm sure the pieces would look quite different to what they are now.

Which does not de-value what you'll see today, of course. Original theatre making is (hopefully) a constantly evolving process. The students will continue rehearsing during their run, modelling an approach that is responsive to what happens night after night. The shows can and should develop through their experience with you; so, what you see today maybe slightly different tomorrow.

On the surface our companies have had completely different processes, resulting in beautifully different pieces of work. For me, however, both explore important contemporary themes within specific aesthetic frameworks. They develop the performers experience of making work in different registers, with those already 'doing it' professionally in the field.

This invaluable learning will underpin the students' making as they head into their final term, when they'll be creating their own original work for our end of year Lab Works Festival in late November.

We're very grateful to you for joining us for today's performance. I sincerely hope that you will enjoy the work and connect to the spirit of experimentation from which the shows have emerged.

Ian Morgan

List of MA Theatre Lab staff 2024-25

Course Leader

Ian Morgan

Vocal Performance tutor

Suzanne West

Physical Performance tutors

Chiara D'Anna Timothy Dodds and Christopher Sivertsen

Singing tutor

Mark Oldfield

Contextual Studies tutor

Nigel Gearing

Lab Acting and Performance tutors

Lab 1 - Gemma Crooks and Dan Sherer

Lab 2 - Peta Lilly and Ramon Ayres and Eyglo Belafonte (Ephemeral Ensemble)

Lab 3 - Guillaume Pigé with Claudia Marciano (Theatre Re)

Henry McGrath, Ian Morgan and Dan Sherer

Developing Performance tutors

Lesley Ewen and Ian Morgan

Dramatugy

Simona Gionella and Dan Sherer

Visiting Summer Performance directors

woOd - Simon Gleave and Korina Kokkali

Welcome to Noware - emma + pj

Visiting workshop artists 2025

Ditte Berkley, Dimitris Varkas, Finn Morrell and Mark Down



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