

RADA

MA Theatre Lab, 2026
GBS Theatre



The Becoming

conceived and devised by Kirsty Housley and the Company

England is shrouded in perpetual night. Crops wither and curl into accusatory fingers. Buds are crumpled into wrinkled eyes and shoot judgemental glances. Lakes are frozen over and like foggy mirrors, they distort our visages until we resemble devils. As the village looks for a way out of this madness, a witch hunt is underway. And it will reach its zenith tonight. As a god-fearing people attempt to banish the devil back to hell,

they seemingly forget one of God's most recited principles: to love your neighbour as yourself.

As *The Becoming* invites audiences to confront how scapegoating persists in our modern society, audiences are dragged deeper and deeper into a cesspit of depravity and despair as husband turns on wife, mother on daughter, friend on friend (and perhaps, actor on actor).

Cast (in alphabetical order)

Rebel Devine
Lal Ensari
Paige Janey
Philippine Lazare
Zohra Mithani
Joseph Reuven Moore
Cerys Salkeld Green
Tarneem Wanis
Connor Webster

Creative Team

Director / Co-creator
Kirsty Housley

Lighting Designer
Jacob Henney

Sound Designer
Matthew Johns

Voice support
Suzanne West

Intimacy Support
Angela Gasparetto

Fight Director
Bret Yount

Production Team

Assistant Directors
Ludovica Tagariello

Production and Technical Manager
Georgina McCartney

Stage Manager
Aino Teppo

Deputy Stage Manager
Hope Michelson

Assistant Stage Manager
Katherine Braidwood

Assistant Stage Manager (book cover)
Matija Sekulić

ASM2s
Rose Brown, Robert Mace and Alexandra Shepherd

Production Electrician / Lighting Programmer
Sonny Trickey

Lighting Operator
Ben Hooper

Lighting Crew
Rebekah Aiken, Millah Callender, Ziya Haji, Ben Hopper, Dylan McLay

Production Sound Engineers
Callum Fincham, Matthew Johns

Sound Operators
Ava-Pearl Herbert, Shunsuke Imai, Fen Lin Ng Kwet Shing

Sound Crew
Isaiah Cansdale, Ava-Pearl Herbert, Herbie Hudson, Shunsuke Imai, Fen Lin Ng Kwet Shing, Beth Tibble

Costume Supervisor
Annie Houseago

Age guidance: 16+

Content warnings: strobing lights, haze, loud sounds and shouting, themes of witch trials, depictions of animal cruelty, demonic and satanic symbolism, extreme sexual violence, depiction of giving birth, miscarriage and abortion, blood, vomiting (small amount), political issues, racism.

Cast



Rebel
Devine



Lal
Ensari



Paige
Janey



Philippine
Lazare



Zohra
Mithani



Joseph Reuven
Moore



Cerys
Salkeld Green



Tarneem
Wannis



Connor
Webster



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

Biographies

Kirsty Housley

Director / Co-creator

Kirsty is a director, writer and dramaturg working across theatre, film and digital.

Recent work includes *RISE* (opening of Bradford City of Culture, co created with Dynamo/Steven Frayne); *Macbeth, Macbeth, Macbeth, Macbeth, Macbeth* (National Theatre Connections, as writer) *Public Interest* (Common/Wealth, as dramaturg); *Cutting The Tighrope: The Divorce of Politics and Art* (Arcola Theatre/Edinburgh International Festival); *ECHO* (Royal Court, as dramaturg), *Drive Your Plow Over The Bones Of The Dead* (Co Director, Complicité); *Jekyll & Hyde* (National Theatre tour); *Horse* (Matthew Herbert/Edinburgh International Festival/Barbican); *Hope* (Clean Break), *Can I Live?* (Complicite Theatre, as Dramaturg); *Extinct* (Theatre Royal Stratford East); *The Long Goodbye Livestream* (Riz Ahmed/ MIF/BAM), *Avalanche: A Love Story* (Barbican/ Sydney Theatre, as dramaturg) *Rich Kids: A History of Shopping Malls in Tehran* (Traverse Theatre/ Sundance Film Festival/Under The Radar fest NYC); *Mephisto: A Rhapsody* (Gate Theatre); *Tao of Glass* (Manchester International Festival/Royal Exchange); *I'm A Phoenix, Bitch* (Battersea Arts Centre); *The Believers are But Brothers* (Javaad Alipoor Company), *Misty* (Bush/West End, as dramaturg). *Myth* (RSC, also as co writer) and *The Encounter* (co director with Simon McBurney for Complicité).

Jacob Henney

Lighting Designer

Jacob Henney (he/him) is an early career lighting designer living in London and is currently undertaking an MA in Performance Lighting Design at RADA. Jacob holds an MA (Hons) in Economics from the University of Edinburgh and is thrilled to have pivoted away from the world of finance.

Previous work includes: Lighting Design for *The History Boys* (Old Red Lion), Lighting Design for *Seating Plan* (EdFringe, OSO Arts) and Deputy Head of Lighting and Video on *Bat Out Of Hell, The Musical* (UK tour).

Previous credits at RADA include: Lighting Programmer for *The Wonderful World of Dissocia*, Associate Lighting Designer for *Rabbit*, Lighting Designer for *Nora: A Doll's House* and Lighting Designer for *The Secret Life of Humans*.

Matthew Johns

Sound Designer

Matthew Johns is a second year at RADA in London, training in technical theatre and stage management in. Having come straight out of school and into the world of technical theatre, most of Matthew's training has come from the past two years, having a passion and ambition to learn and experience as much as he can from the academy and eventually outside of it as well. Matthew is the sound designer for the MA Theatre Lab's *The Becoming* devised performance, as well as being the Co-Production Sound Engineer for both the MA Theatre Lab productions.

This is his second sound design in RADA, having co-designed this year's escape room *Little's Lost Letter* whilst composing the music for it which was performed and recorded by 'Blanc Kanvas.' He was also the Co-Production Sound Engineer for the escape room, giving him a grasp on both the technical and creative sides of the world of sound. His other work includes being Co-Chief Sound Engineer and Deputy Sound Engineer for *Rabbit* and *Motortown this year and was the sound operator for Home, I'm Darling* in his first year of training.

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 Simona Gonella and Kirsty Housley.

Both *REAP/SOW* and *The Becoming* 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 from an idea / theme and then dramaturgy and 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 the results of abusive power on us and the environment we share. They've developed a sense 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 September.

I'd also like to celebrate that in these processes Labbers have been collaborating with our design and technical students on assessed work for the first time in some years.

I'm especially delighted that this is also our first collaboration with the MA Stage Management and Lighting students. Hopefully, this will lead to further cross course collaboration at a PG level in the future.

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 2025-26

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, 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

Visiting Summer Performance directors

REAP/SOW – Simona Gonella

The Becoming – Kirsty Housley

Visiting Artists

Dimitris Varkas, Omar Elerian, Gustavo Dias, Natalie Richardson, Paul Sirret.

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