

RADA

Spring season 1, 2021

GBS Theatre

sunlight is the best disinfectant (2021)

Inspired by Giovanni Boccaccio's *The Decameron*

Collaboratively created by the Company from a treatment written and directed by Lesley Ewen

Scripted scenes co-written by Chloe Fenwick-Brown and Benedict Wishart from Cast improvisations

Cast (in alphabetical order)

Pampenea

Katie Cherry

Neifile

Florence Dobson

Elissa

Chloe Fenwick-Brown

Fiametta

Emma Howard

Emilio

Jordan Kouamé

Filostrato

Andy McCredie

Lauretta

Aliyah Odoffin

Dioneo

Samuel Tracy

Filomeno

Benjamin Westerby

Panfilo

Benedict Wishart

Creative Team

Director

Lesley Ewen

Set and Costume Designer

Anita Gander

Lighting Designer

Joe Underwood

Sound Designer

Ella Bloomfield

Associate Sound Designer

Cathy Dixon

Video Designer

Nicholas Wong

SOAS Musicians and Composers

See overleaf

SOAS Support Tutor

Kishon Khan

Movement Coach

Elizabeth Ballinger

Voice Coach

Emma Woodvine

Dialect Coach

Aundrea Fudge

Singing Coach

Philip Raymond

Jane Streeton

Fight Coaches

Philip D'Orleans

Bret Yount

RADA and SOAS

In September 2020, Steve Mayo, Head of RADA Sound Design, initiated a series of conversations with Professor Lucy Durán of the SOAS Music Department, to explore synergies between the two institutions on opposite sides of Malet Street.

After a few virtual meetings, and with the expert guidance of composer and bandleader Kishon Khan, Professor of Practice at the School of Arts, SOAS, we have embarked on a completely new initiative to bring together the complementary skills and knowledge of RADA theatre production and sound design, with SOAS School of Arts students musical talents.

Under the challenging circumstances of the pandemic, select SOAS music students have been contributing to *sunlight is the best disinfectant*. This involves a collaboration in creativity and musical composition, where RADA 3rd year actors and

Technical Theatre and Stage Management students' creative team have been utilising the diverse range of musical talents found at SOAS.

These excellent musicians specialise in a wide range of musical styles and orchestration – from Latino to Greek to West African to Middle Eastern to Eastern European; from Balkan vocals to Sabar drumming to funky bass to modern songwriting and music production – music that represents the world in London.

The collaboration has been based on improvisations between both sets of students, exploring actor driven themes, creating a unique soundscape for this play. We will learn from the many challenges encountered during this initial project, and hope to continue the collaboration and exchange of knowledge of our two institutions on a reciprocal basis in the future.

Musicians and composers from SOAS

Dishan Ramesh Abrahams

Bass, music production, programming, composer
Scene: Pole Dance, Extravaganza

Mario Christofi

Bass, Turkish and Greek string instruments, Middle Eastern percussion, composer
Scene: Hades and the Girl

Kishon Khan

Scene: A Question Prime Minister

Rosa Lynch-Northover

Piano, composer
Scene: Extravaganza

Alley Lloyd

Bass, drums, programming, composer
Scene: Hotep, Extravaganza

Maya McCourt

Cellist, composer
Scene: Piercing Voices, Grieving and Cleansing

Lena Luvia Mehta

Singer, songwriter, guitar, composer
Scene: Stalagmite, Extravaganza

Renoy Sivanandan

Sound recording and production
Scene: Stalagmite

Student Production Team

Production Manager

Esme Driscoll

Technical Manager

Luke MacBride

Stage Manager

Laura Whittle-Letchford

Deputy Stage Manager

Sarah Back

**Assistant Stage Manager /
Book Cover**

Thomas Fielding

Assistant Stage Manager

Daisy Jones

ASM 2s

Benet Doeringer
Skylar Turnbull Hurd

Chief Electrician

Ollie Morrill

Lighting Programmer

Samuel Blakemore

Production Electrician

Thomas Burbage

Lighting and Video Operator

Lucinda Plummer

Set Lighting

Alex Forey

Lighting Crew

Jordan Deegan-Fleet
Roma Farnell
Lucinda Plummer
Spiky Saul

**Chief Production Sound
Engineer**

Ben Paveley

Production Sound Engineer

James Breedon

Sound No 1

Cathy Dixon

Sound No 2

Bella Kear (LAMDA student)

Sound Crew

Alice Boxer
India Day
Aiden O'Sullivan
Sylvia Wan

Production Video Engineer

Rebecca Gale

Video Programmer

Dylan Marsh

Broadcast

Edward Aspinall
Andrea Scott

Construction Crew

Niamh Birkett
Jayden Hendricks-Kynaston
Sarah Hsien
Jasper Leigh
Iona Ridley

Costume Supervisor

Zoë Mortimer

Wardrobe Assistants

Sophie Reshad
Allison Silberberg

Dressers

Alfie Sissons
Isabelle Whitehill

**Scenic Art Head of
Department**

Henrietta Mathias

Scenic Art Assistants

Alfie Sissons
Daberechi Ukoha-Kalu
Abraham Walking-Lea
Isabelle Whitehill

Props Supervisors

Pip Beattie
Liberty Monroe

Props Assistants

Benet Doeringer
Lizzie Hodge
Dylan Mulholland
Skylar Turnbull Hurd

Show Crew

Alice Boxer
India Day
Aidan O'Sullivan
Sylvia Wan

Special thanks:

Honeyrose
Ian Sanderson

Biographies

Lesley Ewen

Director

Lesley has been creating public performance since 1977. She has spent most of her professional life working in theatres, warehouses and trees across Canada. Whilst there she also co-founded an award-winning art/theatre circus company and appeared in numerous US features and tv series; *Arrow*, *X Files*, *V*, *Twilight Zone*, *Stargate*, *The L Word*, etc.

Since moving to London in 2012 she's continued her career in the UK and Europe; appearing in *Doctor Who*, *The Witcher*, a lead in the upcoming feature *Awakened Dreams*, and as Gaia in Sony Playstation's *Horizon* game series; *Zero Dawn* and *Forbidden Zone*.

As well as performing, Lesley is an award-winning playwright and director. Her fourth play, *Camera Obscura (hungry ghosts)*, which she also co-designed and directed, premiered in 2018, winning Outstanding Production that year and receiving six additional nominations. In 2019 she was awarded the Lorena Gale Woman of the Year Life Time Achievement Award as well as receiving an Offie nomination for her role as Amanda in *The Glass Menagerie*.

Lesley has played an integral part in developing the role of Creative Enabler: a performance artist specialising in working with professional actors with learning difficulties in film, tv, and on stage. At RADA, Lesley teaches Devising and Improvisation, as well as Meditation, and serves as a Personal Tutor to lots of lovely Technical Theatre and Stage Management students. This is Lesley's first time directing at RADA; a continuation of the work she began with her cast in their 2019 2nd year devising classes.

Anita Gander

Set and Costume Designer

Anita is in her third year of RADA's Technical Theatre and Stage Management course completing her BA specialising in Stage Design and Scenic Art. Before coming to RADA, she directed and designed for the English Speaking Theatre Zürich and designed for the English theatre group Zug, both located in Switzerland where Anita was born.

In previous roles at RADA, she designed the set for *Close Quarters* by Kate Bowen directed by Zoé Ford-Burnett and worked as a head scenic artist on various shows over the last two years, including Shakespeare's *Macbeth* directed by Annie Tyson, designed by Agnes Treplin and *Circle Mirror Transformation* by Annie Baker directed by Charlotte Gwinner, designed by Simon Daw. Recently she successfully created the concept, designed and directed RADA's escape room experience *Phase One*, a cross departmental collaboration of the technical course which took place in December 2020.

sunlight is the best disinfectant is her first time designing for devised theatre and she very much enjoyed the collaboration with director Lesley Ewen, the cast and crew to create this world of storytelling.

Joe Underwood

Lighting Designer

Joe Underwood is a lighting designer training at RADA, with aims to develop a freelance design career upon graduating. Before theatre, Joe was a producer in small and short-form commercials, but decided to retrain at RADA, where he is now in his 3rd year of the BA (Hons) in Technical Theatre and Stagemanagement course.

His previous work includes *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the Jerwood Vanbrugh Theatre and *Phase One*, RADA's second escape room, in the Gielgud Theatre.

Ella Bloomfield

Sound Designer

Ella Bloomfield is in her second year of the Foundation Degree in Technical Theatre and Stage Management specialising in sound. Ella first became interested in sound during her first year, originally wanting to pursue scenic art. *sunlight is the best disinfectant* is her first Sound Design project, with previous works being Production Sound Engineer on *The Winter's Tale* in 2020, and Sound Operator on *Close Quarters* in 2019.

Biographies continued

Cathy Dixon

Associate Sound Designer

Cathy Dixon is a third year sound specialist student on the BA (Hons) in Technical Theatre and Stage Management course. Her previous RADA experience includes Sound Design on the *Phase One Escape Room* (Gielgud Theatre), *The Winter's Tale* (Jerwood Vanbrugh Theatre), and *Close Quarters* (Gielgud Theatre), as well as Production Sound Engineer for *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Jerwood Vanbrugh Theatre), *Circle Mirror Transformation* (GBS Theatre), and *A Midsummer Nights' Dream* (Jerwood Vanbrugh Theatre). She is passionate about musicals and immersive theatre, and hopes to get some touring experience after graduating in August. Working with a fully radio mic'd cast on a devised show has been a very fun challenge!

Nicholas Wong

Video Designer

Nicholas is a Video Designer, Programmer and recent graduate of the Video Design for Live Performance programme at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. Originally from Singapore, Nicholas studied and worked as a musician until he started making visual content for his band's music and live performances, which led him to pursue studies in the field of video design.

In addition to working with music artists across various genres to realise bespoke visual/show design, Nicholas is passionate about designing real-time interactive video systems for installations, artistic data visualisation, and incorporating breakthrough technologies such as machine learning and motion tracking into visual design.

When he's not rendering content, Nicholas plays bass in the best band in the world, SUPERSECT, and practices the art of making more spaghetti than he can eat.