



# Creatives

## Biographies.

### Jez Bond

#### **DIRECTOR**

Jez Bond is the Founder and Artistic Director of Park Theatre. He graduated Hull University with a BA Honours in Drama and was later awarded the Channel Four Theatre Director Bursary.

Directing for Park Theatre includes: *Whodunnit [Unrehearsed] 1, 2 & 3*; *La Cage aux Folles [The Play]*, *Building the Wall*, *Shakespeare*, *Tolkien*, *Others & You* (starring Ian McKellen), *Madame Rubinstein* (starring Miriam Margolyes and Frances Barber), *Hurling Rubble at the Sun*, *Adult Supervision* – plus *Rapunzel*, *Sleeping Beauty* and *Jack & the Beanstalk*, which he also cowrote and composed.

Other directing credits include: *Oliver!* (starring Rowan Atkinson); *I Have Been Here Before* (Watford Palace Theatre); *The Fame Game* (Tour of Austria); *Sleeping Beauty* (Salisbury Playhouse); *The Twits* (Tour of Switzerland); *Misconceptions* (Hong Kong Arts Centre); *Big Boys* (Croydon Warehouse); *Shot of Genius* (Leicester Square); *Canaries Sometimes Sing* (Kings Head & France) and *A Season in South Africa* (Old Vic).

As a dramaturge he began working with writers at Soho Theatre, Royal Court and Young Vic before championing new work at Park Theatre, where he has developed a number of new plays many of which have

gone on to production.

Having led the £2.6m conversion of Park Theatre, Jez has been a guest speaker at the Theatres Trust Conference: Converting Spaces, the RIBA Conference: 150 years of Engineering, Bruford on the Southbank: New Build / ReBuild and The International Theatre Conference in Colombia. He has also consulted on a number of new theatre buildings internationally.

### Sherry Coenen

#### **LIGHTING DESIGNER**

Award winning lighting designer Sherry Coenen works across the UK and US. She has a BFA in Lighting Design from the University of Miami and is a member of APLD.

For Park Theatre: *Skin Tight*

Theatre includes: *XXXMas Carol* (Wales Millennium Centre); Spitlip's *Operation Mincemeat* (New Diorama Theatre, Southwark Playhouse and Riverside Studios – nominated for Knights of Illumination award 2019), *Frankenstein* (Beatbox Academy at BAC, Knights of Illumination winner 2019); *I Want My Hat Back Trilogy* (Little Angel Theatre – Offie TYA Design winner 2023); *Izindava* (UK Tour); *Brigitte Aphrodite's Parakeet* (Paines Plough Roundabout, Summerhall, Edinburgh Festival Fringe);



Christopher Brett Bailey's *This is How We Die* (UK Tour); *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13¾* (Queen's Theatre Hornchurch); *CELL* (UK Tour); *Conquest of the South Pole* (Arcola); *These Trees are Made of Blood* (Arcola); *Brrr!* (UK Tour); *5 Guys Chillin'* (Kings Head Theatre); *Anton Chekhov* (Hampstead Theatre).

## Natasha Harrison

### **MOVEMENT DIRECTOR**

After studying at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance, Natasha went on to complete her Masters in Movement: Directing and Teaching, graduating from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama.

For Park Theatre: *Hir*; *Whodunnit [Unrehearsed]* 1, 2 & 3; *A Single Man*; *Building the Wall*; *La Cage Aux Folles [The Play]* and *Winner's Curse*.

Movement and choreography includes: *Good Enough Mums Club* (UK Tour); *Lord of the Flies* (Leeds Playhouse); *Linck & Mullhahn* (Hampstead Theatre); *Ride* (Leicester Curve & Southwark Playhouse); *The Bolts* (Unicorn Theatre); *A Game of Love and Chance and Hunger* (Arcola); *One Jewish Boy* (Trafalgar Studios); *Four Minutes Twelve Seconds* (Co-Director & Movement Director Oldham Coliseum); *A Christmas Carol* (Derby Theatre); *Mold Riots* (Theatr Clwyd); *Shakespeare Nation and Julius Caesar: First Encounters* (RSC); *Rocky Road* (Jermyn Street); *The Sweet Science of Bruising* (Wilton's Music Hall); *La Belle Helene* (Blackheath Halls); *Trouble in Tahiti & A Dinner Engagement* (RCM); *Handbagged* (Salisbury Playhouse); *Not Such Quiet Girls* (Leeds Playhouse & Opera North); *Robin Hood and the Babes in*

*the Wood* (CAST Doncaster); *Moll Flanders* (Mercury Theatre); *Wasted, Dear Brutus & The Cardinal* (Southwark Playhouse).

Other productions include: *The Rake's Progress* (British Youth Opera); *Blackthorn* (Paines Plough at Edinburgh Festival); *Tumulus* (Soho Theatre studio & Vault Festival); *Tiny Dynamite* (Old Red Lion Theatre); *Dear Brutus* (Southwark Playhouse); *Ode to Leeds, Blackthorn* (Leeds Playhouse); *Twist* (Theatre Centre); *The Shed Crew* (Red Ladder); *Une Education Manque* and *Les Mamelles de Tiresias* (Royal College of Music)

## Zahra Mansouri

### **SET & COSTUME DESIGNER**

For Park Theatre: *This Little Life Of Mine*, *The American Wife*, *Hamlet*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *On the Ropes*, *Whodunnit [Unrehearsed]* 2 & 3.

Zahra Mansouri graduated from Central Saint Martins with a BA (Hons) Design for Performance. She has been nominated twice by the OffWestEnd Awards for both set and costume design and in August 2019 she stepped down as associate designer with Fourth Monkey Theatre School after designing 75 shows over 10 years of collaboration.

Most recent work includes: Set and Costume design for *The Tempest* (Central School of Speech and Drama); *Navigating Margaret* (Immersive show, Mulvern Cube); *Typical* (Soho Theatre on Demand); *Three Women* (Trafalgar Studios); *Spring Opera Scenes* (Guildhall School of Music and Drama); production design reality TV show *Ready Set Start Up* (Amazon Prime); Costume Designer: *La Sonnambula*



(Buxton Festival); *Semele* (Blackheath Halls); *Dead Man Walking* (Oldenburgisches Staatstheater); *Orlando* (Knole House with BFI Flare); *The Great Gatsby* (Wilton's Music Hall); and as Associate Costume Designer *The Toxic Avenger* (Arts Theatre); *Peter Grimes* (Magdeburg Theatre and Theater Basel); and *Cav and Pag* (Greek National Opera).

Zahra is delighted to announce that she will be costume designing for the ENO at the Coliseum. Zahra has also been a competitive ballroom and Latin dancer and prides herself in approaching design with a knowledge of movement.

## Tawni O'Dell

### **WRITER**

Tawni O'Dell is the critically acclaimed, *New York Times* bestselling author of six novels including *Back Roads*, an Oprah Winfrey Book Club selection and a motion picture with a screenplay adapted by Tawni. She made her playwriting debut off-Broadway in 2019 with *When It Happens to You*. Based on a personal tragedy, Tawni not only wrote the theatrical memoir but performed in the original production, as well. Her most recent play, *Windows*, premiered to rave reviews at Town Hall in New York City and is poised to move to Broadway by year end. Her other plays include *Irrelevant* which is in preproduction and set to open in Los Angeles in early 2025 and *Pay the Writer* which premiered off-Broadway in 2023. She also wrote and co-produced the popular podcasts *Rewrites* and *Closing the Distance*. Her novels have been published in over 30 countries and her writing has appeared in anthologies, magazines, and newspapers throughout the world

## Melanie Wilson

### **SOUND ARTIST & COMPOSER**

Melanie Wilson is a sound artist, composer & performance maker.

Recent work includes: *Dreaming Species* (online audio/visual album); *glass human* (with Samantha Fernando for Glyndebourne); *Women of Record* (A Woman's Place Exhibition, Knole House) and *Opera for the Unknown Woman* (Wales Millennium Centre / UK tour).

Recent collaborations include: *They* (with MAAT, MIF: score); *all of it* (dir. Sam Pritchard & Vicky Featherstone, Royal Court Theatre: score); *little scratch* (dir. Katie Mitchell, Hampstead Theatre: score); *Unsere Zeit* (dir. Simon Stone, Residenztheatre, Munich); *Current Rising*, dir. Netia Jones (ROH: libretto); *Where I Go [When I Can't Be Where I Am]*, (dir. Rachel Bagshaw, BBC Culture in Quarantine: score) and *Orlando* (dir. Katie Mitchell (Schaubühne, Berlin: soundtrack).