

PARK
90

Programme

"Sometimes your friends
shouldn't meet."



Ladybird Productions in association with Park Theatre presents

Kindling

By Sarah Rickman
Directed by Emma Gersch



 Promo Photography
Jennifer Forward-Haytert

 Rehearsal Photography
Holly Darville



KINDLING

Written by
Sarah Rickman

Directed by
Emma Gersch

Sue
Ciara Pouncett

Jules
Stacy Abalogun

Jasmin
Rendah Beshoori

Catherine
Scarlett Alice Johnson

Rose
Sarah Rickman

Lighting Designer
Chloe Kenward

Sound Designer
Esther Ajayi

Associate Director
Esther Fernández Guerra

Set Designer
Abi Groves

Costume Supervisor
Elizabeth Lewis

Artwork
Karl Gilbert

Company Stage Manager
Tori Rose

Assistant Stage Manager
Erin Lavin

Videographer
ChewBoy Productions

Producers
Ladybird Productions

Executive Producer
Ciara Pouncett

Marketing
Mobius



FOURTH MONKEY



Cast

Biographies



Scarlett Alice Johnson

Cathy

Scarlett's TV credits include: Good Karma Hospital (ITV), Josh (BBC), Call the Midwife (BBC), Pramface (series lead - BBCThree), Loaded (Channel4), Babylon (Channel 4), Midsomer Murders (ITV), Big Bad World (Comedy Central), Pete Vs Life (Channel 4) and EastEnders (BBC) .

Theatre Credits include: Radiant Vermin (Soho Theatre and New York 59E59) The Angry Bridgade (Paines Plough) Aunt Dan and Lemon (Royal Court), and Heroine (National Theatre)



Stacy Abalogun

Jules

Stacy trained at RADA & was nominated for The Black British Theatre Awards 2020 'Best Recent Graduate'. They are a native of Manchester and began their career as a dancer before moving into choreography.

Stacy can currently be seen on Netflix in the new Sci-fi series 3-BODY PROBLEM.

Stacy featured in the BIFA-nominated feature BLUE JEAN (dir: Georgia Oakley).

She has also appeared in Kenneth Branagh's feature DEATH ON THE NILE. Stacy was part of the original cast of BALLET SHOES at the National Theatre.



Ciara Pouncett

Sue

Theatre credits include the UK tour of Draining the Swamp (including Oxford Playhouse), Said Shed (The Other Palace) Flotsam (King's Head) Little Echoes (Hope Theatre) Global Voices (Arcola Theatre)

Screen credits include Smothered (Sky Original comedy) EastEnders(BBC), Hitler: The Rise and Fall (More4) Fixed (NTA-finalist feature)



Rendah Beshoori

Jasmin

Rendah Beshoori's work in theatre includes: A Museum in Baghdad (RSC), The Kitchen, Rocket to the Moon, Philistines, The Rose Tattoo and Therese Raquin (all for the National Theatre), The Grievance Club (writer and performer, Samuel French OOB Festival, NYC), Refugia (Guthrie Theatre, Minneapolis), This Time (Off Broadway), Cuddles (Brits off Broadway 59E59), King Lear (BAM/ Chichester Festival Theatre), Ring Around the Moon (West End), Attempts On Her Life (Battersea Arts Centre). TV includes: Supacell (Netflix), Out There (ITV), Alex Rider (Amazon), Doctors, Holby City, EastEnders (BBC), The Bill (ITV) and for film: Disenchanted (Disney)



Sarah Rickman

Rose

Sarah Rickman's theatre credits include: The Existence Formula (writer and performer) at The Bunker and NYC International Fringe. Alice by Or Benezra-Segal and The Time Capsule (writer and performer) both at The Landor. AAAA and Feel More, Proforca Theatre, Tick Box Other at Theatre503 and Dog Hair at The Vaults. She has also worked with Blink Theatre, 45 North, Yellow Coat and Ferodo Bridges.

Film credits include: Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris and A Little Chaos. She has also written the short films The Dam and Neighbours and is pre-production on her first feature with Kaleidoscope films.



Eugenia Low

Voice of Mei

Eugenia is a BESEA actress of Singaporean heritage. She regularly works with international theatre company Foreign Affairs and cue-script specialists ShakeScene Shakespeare. Recent theatre credits include Measure for Measure & Julius Caesar, Antony and Cleopatra & As You Like It (Shakespeare North Playhouse), The Wetsuitman (Arcola Theatre & Rose Lipman Building). Screen credits include Anonymous (feature), Robot Lady & Surgeons.

Cast

Sue

Ciara Pouncett

Jules

Stacy Abalogun

Jasmin

Rendah Beshoori

Cathy

Scarlett Alice Johnson

Rose

Sarah Rickman

Creative Team

Writer

Sarah Rickman

Director

Emma Gersch

Lighting

Chloe Kenwards

Sound

Esther Ajayi

Set Design

Abi Groves

Associate Director

Esther Fernández Guerra

Costume Supervisor

Elizabeth Lewis

With thanks to the Park Theatre, Fourth Monkey, Menopause Matters and Diane Danzenbrink, Claire Phipps, Rosemary Burch, Dani Binnington and Menopause and Cancer, Holly Darville Photography, Karl Gilbert, Andy Hodges, Brian Pouncett, Jo Spitz, Tabitha Allum, Ripple Adventure, Bernice Rook, David Brady and Lion and Unicorn Theatre, Sarah Strong, London Square

Production Team

Producers

Ladybird Productions

Executive Producer

Ciara Pouncett

Company Stage Manager

Tori Rose

Assistant Stage Manager

Erin Lavin

PR & Marketing

Mobius

Videographer

ChewBoy Productions

Rehearsals

The Union Tavern

The Exchange Theatre

The Lion and Unicorn Theatre

Creative Team

Sarah Rickman **Writer**

Sarah's debut play, *The Existence Formula* was performed at The Tristan Bates Theatre (now Seven Dials Playhouse) and The Bunker before moving to the New York City Fringe. This was followed by *The Time Capsule - A Pick Your Own Adventure Play*, performed at The Landor Space.

Her work has been selected multiple times by Yellow Coat Theatre Company, for their *Pass It On* series, these include *Part Fish* and *There Was an Od Lady Who...*

Her short play *The Dam* has been adapted into short film, while *Neighbours*, another short film, goes into production later this year. Most recently she has been working on her debut feature, *#Date Our Mum*, currently in pre-production with kaleidoscope films.

Ciara Pouncett **Executive Producer**

As Executive Producer of *Kindling* for Ladybird Productions, Ciara is passionate about bringing original, thought-provoking theatre to the stage. With a background in creative project management, she has produced four world premieres that spotlight bold new voices in British theatre, including *Stiff Acrylic* (Hen & Chickens Theatre) by award-winning playwright Kenny Emson, *13 Grape Street* (Pleasance Theatre), *Inculpatus* (Pentameters Theatre), and *The Ignorance* (Etcetera Theatre). Her work is driven by a commitment to telling women's stories and championing female creatives—particularly in roles that have been historically underrepresented. Through her producing, Ciara continues to create space for women's voices, experiences and leadership to shine both on and off stage.

Emma Gersch **Director**

Emma is founder and artistic director of award winning *Moving Stories Theatre Company*. She trained at the university of Hull and the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

Directing credits include *Sonnet Sunday* (Shakespeare's Globe), *Colder Than Here* (Maltings Theatre), *Vanessa and Virginia* (European Tour, Riverside Studios), *Orestes re-examined*, (Southwark Playhouse), *Agamemnon* (BAC), *Heresies* (Bristol Old Vic), *Judith* (Etcetera), *The Bald Prima Donna* (Kings Head and UK tour), *The Tempest* (Franklin Stage, New York), *Wuthering Heights The Musical* (Turbine Theatre).

Emma is a regular director at the Minack Theatre in Cornwall, where credits include *Hamlet*, *The Comedy of Errors* (USA and Canada tour), *West Side Story*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Tempest*, *The Winter's Tale* and *Romeo and Juliet* and *Measure for Measure*. Emma has worked at the Watford Palace Theatre on the *Moving Museum of Motherhood* and the one woman comedy, *Congratulations?*

Emma has directed and taught at drama schools, including Central, LAMDA, E15, and Artsed, and for the higher education faculty at Shakespeare's Globe, and the Growing Studio New York.

Emma founded the *Band of Mothers* company at Shakespeare's Globe, which supports and develops the work of artist mothers.

Chloe Kenward **Lighting Designer**

Chloe's lighting designs include Cratchit (Park Theatre), Kes and Random (Leeds Playhouse), Carmen and A Midsummer Night's Dream (Isango Ensemble), Bedtime Stories (Upswing, Stratford Circus), Crowning Glory (Theatre Royal Stratford East), La Boheme, Aesop's Fables and The Ragged Trousered Philanthropist (Isango Ensemble, Hackney Empire), In the Mood, Boy, Girlfriends, Dogfight, Grandfathers and Prince of Denmark (Mountview Academy), Who Cares (GSA), K.R.U.M.P. Macbeth (Artists4Artists), The Clockmaker's Daughter (Trinity Laban), Layla's Room (Theatre Centre), Orator, (Vaults Festival), Light Falls and The Lady from the Sea (RADA), What Happens in the Winter (Upswing, Stockton Arc then touring), The First Thing That Ever Ever Happened (Lyric Hammersmith), You Can Still Make a Killing (Southwark Playhouse).

Chloe has re-lit many productions around the world, for companies including Hofesh Shechter, Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre, Headlong, and English Touring Theatre.

She teaches, mentors and designs on a freelance basis and is also a lecturer in lighting design at Goldsmiths, and previously for Rose Bruford College.

Esther Ajayi **Sound Designer**

Esther is an interdisciplinary sound artist born in West London in 1996. She combines highly conceptual sound design with interactive technology and custom sound system design across various formats, including film, music, contemporary art and fashion. Since 2021, she has worked extensively in sound design for theatre in London, emphasising the spatial presentation of sound through hybrid systems that merge software, hardware, and visual elements for narrative purposes. Following research during her Sound Arts BA (2024), she describes her practice as "sonic cultural technology design," highlighting sound as a psycho-cultural tool for personal empowerment and community building when applied beyond the frame of music.

Credits:

Anansi the Spider (Unicorn Theatre); The Promise (King's College London); Positive (Southwark Playhouse); Watchtower (Tentastic festival); Twist the Fantasy (E.K.A.sounds); Hansel and Gretel (The Big House); Pitch (November Theatre); Under The Blanket (The Big House); Wordsong Collection (The Big House); Pitch (November theatre); Possession (Arcola Theatre); Hot In Here (The Gate Theatre); The Dry House (Marylebone theatre); My Brother's Keeper (Theatre 503); Cash Money (The Big House); Talking About A Revolution (Lyric Hammersmith); Hot in here (Camden People's Theatre); Yellowman (Orange Tree Theatre); Would You Bet Against Us (Birmingham Rep); When The Long Trick's Over (High Tide); All of the conversations (ArtsEd); Athena (The Yard Theatre); STATEMENTS AFTER AN ARREST UNDER THE IMMORALITY ACT (Orange Tree Theatre); Alice (Landon_Space); Invisible Light (Tristan Bates Theatre); Dana is her name (E.K.A.Sounds).

Erin Lavin **Assistant Stage Manager**

Erin is in her third year of Stage-management and Technical Theatre at Central School Of Speech and Drama.

Her recent credits include You are what you eat at The Little Angel (Camden Fringe), Macbeth at The Courtyard Theatre, within CSSD and Big God, Little Me at Central School of Speech and Drama.

Abi Groves **Set Designer**

Abi is a highly accomplished Film and TV set decorator with over 20 years experience. Credits include; The Agency (Paramount + /101 productions/ Smokehouse Productions) Series 1 & 2, Varsity (Apple TV, New Regency, Scott Free), Citadel (Amazon), Death on The Nile (Fox), Artemis Fowl (Fox) and The Martian (Fox). Kindling is her first theatre production.

Victoria Rose **Stage Manager**

Victoria trained in stage management at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School (FDA) and completed her BA top-up at LAMDA.

Her recent credits include The Empire Strips Back at Riverside Studios, Room 13 and Constellations at The Barn Theatre, Cirencester and Disruption at the Park Theatre.

She is delighted to be returning to the Park Theatre with another thought-provoking, new production.

Esther Fernàndez **Associate Director & Dramaturg**

Esther is a theatre director and writer from the canary islands. She started her artistic career as a dancer and has over 16 years of training as a ballet dancer. After that, Esther studied acting in the escuela de actores decanarias, where she learned a very physical approach to theatre and character construction. This combination of drama and dance makes her a very versatile and creative director, with a strong movement approach to theatre.

Esther has recently graduated from LAMDA, ma directing.

Professional credits include:- Borderline (Lion and Unicorn) - director, Crazy Gary's Mobile Disco, (Landor Space) – associate director, The White Plague (Greenwich Theatre, 2020) – associate director, Alice (Landor Space) - assistant director, Property, (River Studios) - assistant director, Poor Clare (The Orange Tree Theatre, 2025) – assistant director.

Elizabeth Lewis **Costume Supervisor**

Victoria trained in stage management at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School (FDA) and completed her BA top-up at LAMDA.

Her recent credits include The Empire Strips Back at Riverside Studios, Room 13 and Constellations at The Barn Theatre, Cirencester and Disruption at the Park Theatre.

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Ladybird Productions

Ladybird Productions unites female directors, artists, producers and creatives to make theatre that will provoke and excite its audience, making work which is joyful, subversive and empowering. We aim to put women, particularly those over the age of 35, at the heart of our stories, focusing on female bonds, both in family and friendship, where lives are not defined in relation to the men around them.

Theatre's, often skewed, representation of a society, where women make up 51% of the population, not only wastes talent but perpetuates the exclusion of an entire demographic. Moreover, it overlooks the economic and commercial potential of their stories. We are committed to telling these stories.

About Park Theatre

**'A five-star
neighbourhood
theatre.'**
Independent

ParkTheatre was founded by Artistic Director, Jez Bond and Creative Director Emeritus, Melli Marie. The building opened in May 2013 and, with ten West End transfers (including *Rose* starring Maureen Lipman, *The Boys in the Band* starring Mark Gatiss and *Pressure* with David Haig), two National Theatre transfers and 13 national tours in its first 11 years, quickly garnered a reputation as a key player in the London theatrical scene. Park Theatre has received 7 Olivier nominations, won numerous Off West End Offie Awards, and won The Stage's Fringe Theatre of the Year and Accessible Theatre Award.

Park Theatre is an inviting and accessible venue, delivering work of exceptional calibre in the heart of Finsbury Park. We work with writers, directors and designers of the highest quality to present

compelling, exciting and beautifully told stories across our two intimate spaces.

Our programme encompasses a broad range of work from classics to revivals with a healthy dose of new writing, producing in-house as well as working in partnership with emerging and established producers. We strive to play our part within the UK's theatre ecology by offering mentoring, support and opportunities to artists and producers within a professional theatre-making environment.

Our Creative Engagement strategy seeks to widen the number and range of people who participate in theatre, and provides opportunities for those with little or no prior contact with the arts.

In everything we do we aim to be warm and inclusive; a safe, welcoming and wonderful space in which to work, create and visit.

As a registered charity [number 1137223] with no regular public subsidy, we rely on the kind support of our donors and volunteers. To find out how you can get involved visit parktheatre.co.uk



Photo: Piers Foley Photography