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Freesheet



Deafinitely Theatre, Birmingham Rep and Park Theatre present

BULL

By **Mike Bartlett**
Directed by Paula Garfield

Introduction

by Deafinitely Theatre's
Artistic Director

I'm excited to share BULL with you, presented entirely in British Sign Language with creative captions.

I first worked with Mike Bartlett's writing in 2017, when Deafinitely Theatre adapted his play Contractions into BSL. I was fascinated then by the way his writing explores power – who has it, who doesn't and what people are prepared to do to keep it – so I'm thrilled to return to his work with BULL.

BULL is a dark and cruel comedy about three colleagues competing for two jobs. At its heart, it explores the way we use language to gain power over one another and I was excited to discover what happens when those dynamics are brought into the world of BSL. The cruelty becomes visual: it is there in the hands, faces, bodies and space between the characters.

I'm incredibly proud of our all-deaf cast, including two performers making their professional stage debuts. They have thrown themselves into the vicious world of the play and brought so much of themselves to this production.

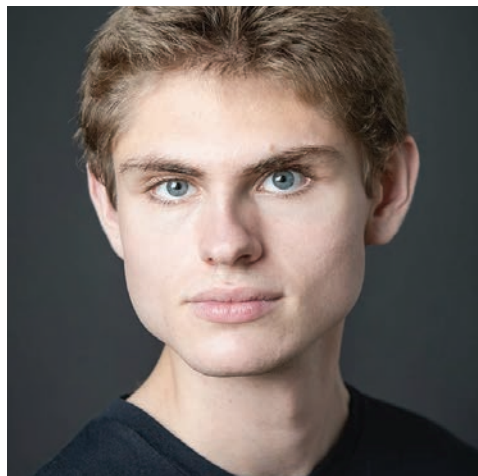
Thank you for joining us and welcome to the world of BULL.

I hope you enjoy the show!

Paula Garfield
Artistic Director

Cast

Biographies



Ciaran O'Brien
Thomas

Ciaran is an actor, workshop facilitator and BSL guide from Bristol. He was a finalist for an Offie award in 2025.

Previous Deafinitely Theatre credits include: *Can Bears Ski?* and *Getting There*.

Theatre credits: *Wonder Boy* (PW Productions/ Bristol Old Vic), *Lord of The Flies* (Leeds Playhouse, Belgrade Theatre Coventry & Rose Theatre Kingston); *Hansel & Gretel* (PaddleBoat Theatre); *Galwad* (National Theatre Wales/ S4C/ Sky Arts); *Flood* (Theatre Temoin); *Red* (Polka Theatre), *The Story of Guts* (Bristol Old Vic's Made in Bristol) and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (National Youth Musical Theatre).

Research & Development: *Eva* (Ad Infinitum), *The Little Prince* (D-Live), and *How High is Up* (Fingersmiths).



Danny Lee
Tony

Danny Lee is a passionate character actor and drag performer based in Essex.

His acting and performing credits include the *Edinburgh Fringe Festival* (2025), *DeafFab Masquerade Ball* (2025), and *Deafinitely Youth Theatre's Shoe Box* (2026).

BULL is his professional acting debut.



David Sands
Carter

David Sands began his acting career in 2003 with a leading role in the BBC short film called *Granddad*. He then made his professional stage debut in a touring production of *On Blindness*, starting at the Soho Theatre.

David has appeared in numerous theatre and screen productions, including the BBC's *Casualty* and Deafinitely Theatre's productions of *Love's Labour's Lost* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (as Nick Bottom) at Shakespeare's Globe. He starred in Lumo TV's sitcom *Small World* as Chris Baker and embarked on a solo stage tour as Chris Baker. David then wrote a Lumo TV film called *The Chris Baker Show: How to Get Rich*. David is also a stand-up comedian, performing gigs for non-deaf audiences without using BSL or an interpreter at several comedy clubs. He also delivers gigs in BSL or International Sign for deaf audiences globally. He occasionally serves as an acting coach and BSL consultant.



Jasmine Whipps
Isobel

Jasmine Whipps (Jazzy) is a UK-based deaf content creator, presenter, actor, and advocate for deaf awareness. With experience across television, commercial campaigns, and social media, she is passionate about working with brands to promote accessibility and raise deaf awareness.

She has worked as a TV presenter for *OMGenius* and also on the *See Hear on Tour* series. Jazzy trained with the National Youth Theatre at Rose Bruford College and completed the Access to Acting Course at RADA in 2022. Her acting credits include *Risking Money: A Romance Scam* for Lloyds Bank Academy, *Green Grass Project*, and *The Vagina Monologues* with Deafinitely Theatre.

Creative Team

Biographies



Mike Bartlett
Writer

Mike Bartlett is a multi-award-winning writer for both stage and screen.

Theatre includes: *Juniper Blood* (Donmar Warehouse, 2025); *Unicorn* (West End, 2025); *Scandaltown* (Lyric Hammersmith, 2022); *The 47th* (Old Vic, London, 2022); *Mrs Delgado* (Old Fire Station, Oxford, 2021); *Snowflake* (Old Fire Station, Oxford, 2018); *Albion* (Almeida Theatre, London, 2017); *Wild* (Hampstead Theatre, 2016); *Game* (Almeida, 2015); *King Charles III* (Almeida Theatre and West End, 2014); *An Intervention* (Paines Plough/Watford, 2014); *Bull* (Sheffield Theatres, 2013); *Medea* (Headlong, 2012); *Chariots of Fire* (Hampstead Theatre, 2012); *13* (National Theatre, London, 2011); *Decade* (Headlong, 2011); *Earthquakes in London* (Headlong & National Theatre, 2010); *Love, Love, Love* (Paines Plough & Plymouth Theatre Royal, 2010); *Cock* (Royal Court, 2009; West End, 2022); *Contractions* (Royal Court Theatre, London, 2008); *Artefacts* (Bush Theatre & Nabokov, 2008); and *My Child* (Royal Court, 2007).



Paula Garfield
Director

Paula Garfield, MBE is the Artistic Director of Deafinitely Theatre as well as an actor, director and field creative leader. In 2002, she established Deafinitely Theatre with an aim to create more opportunities for deaf actors and creatives in theatre industry.

Paula has produced and directed many plays. Her productions for Deafinitely Theatre include: *Love's Labour's Lost* as part of Deafinitely's 10th anniversary celebrations, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream with Shakespeare's Globe*, *Contractions* (2017), *4.48 Psychosis* (2019), *Everyday* (2023), *The Vagina Monologues* (2023) as well as *The Vagina Monologues Revival* in 2025, *The Promise* (2024), and *Barrier(s)* (2025).



Raffie Julien
Associate Director

Raffie Julien is a dynamic deaf actor, dancer, BSL consultant, and movement director from Manchester. Her work spans stage and screen, where she brings powerful storytelling, physical precision, and an unmistakable presence.

As a creative, Raffie's credits include Movement Director on *Barrier(s)* (Deafinitely Theatre), Movement Director and BSL Consultant on *Stig* (Grosvenor Park Open Air Theatre), BSL Director on *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (NYMT) and BSL Presenter/Narrator for *Josephine* (The Egg, Bath).

Screen credits include Ariana in *A Hand Rises* (A Hand Rises Ltd), Jade in *Coffee Morning Club* (Mutt and Jeff Pictures), Amy in *Trinity* (Tilt Films), Esther in *Jerk* (RoughCut TV) and Heather in *Clink* (Five Star).

In 2022, Raffie was honoured with the Deaffest Best Actress Award for her moving performance in the short film *Lost, Taken, Murdered*.



Paul Burgess
Set & Costume Designer

Paul Burgess is a set, costume and video designer. Since training at Motley, he has designed for venues around the UK and beyond, including: Glasgow Citizens; Manchester Royal Exchange; Shakespeare's Globe, London; Prithvi, Mumbai; Pakistan National Council of Arts, Islamabad; and the Black Box Theatre, Hanoi.

His previous projects for Deafinitely Theatre include *Grounded*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *4.48 Psychosis*, *The Promise* and *Barrier(s)*, as well as regularly working with Deafinitely Youth Theatre.

He is a co-director of Ecostage, the sustainability lead for the Society of British Theatre Designers, and artistic director of Daedalus Theatre Company.



Ben Glover

AV Designer

Ben Glover, a deaf video designer and creative captioner, has worked extensively across the West End, Shakespeare's Globe, The Royal Opera House, The Royal Albert Hall and numerous international festivals and venues.

Credits include: *The Promise* (Deafinitely Theatre), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Northern Stage/Derby Theatre), *A Single Man* (Factory International), *Antony and Cleopatra* (Shakespeare Globe), *Night Bloom* (Spectroscope), *Lived Fiction* (Stopgap), *The Rainbow* (Perth Theatre), *Marx in London* (Scottish Opera), *High Times and Dirty Monsters* (20 Stories High), *A Spectacle of Herself* (Contra Productions), *Best of Enemies* (Noël Coward Theatre), *Tubular Bells 50th Anniversary Concert Tour*, *Run Rebel* (Pilot Theatre), *NOISE* (Nua Dance), *The Paradis Files* (Graeae Theatre) and *RED* (Polka Theatre).



Jessie Addinall

Lighting Designer

Jessie is a theatrical lighting designer from Hull. Their training is rooted in years of hands-on experience as a technician and theatre maker. Some of their credits include:

REP Rising (Birmingham Rep), *Then Come The Nightjars* (Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds), *Children Of The Night* (Mad Friday Productions), *Oliver Twist* (Hull Truck Theatre), *Don't Look Now* (The New Wolsey & Salisbury Playhouse), *Di and Viv and Rose* (Theatre by The Lake & Queens Theatre Hornchurch), *Bitch Boxer* (Watford Palace Theatre), *The Borrowers* (Hull Truck), *Steel* (Theatre by The Lake), *Hospital Doors* (Next Door But One), *Baby He Loves You* (Middle Child), *Snowmen* (The Herd), *Pinocchio* (Hull Truck), *These Majestic Creatures* (Stephen Joseph Theatre), *We Could All Be Perfect* (Sheffield Theatres), *Modest* (Middle Child/Milk Presents), *Brief Encounter* (The New Wolsey & Salisbury Playhouse), *Ladies Day* (The New Vic & The Octagon Theatre), *The Whispering Jungle* (Concrete Youth), *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* (Hull Truck/Queens Theatre Hornchurch), *The Canary* and *The Crow* (Middle Child)

Associate Credits Include:
The Crucible (The Gaiety Theatre), *Animal Farm* (The Octagon), *Dogs* (Liverpool Playhouse), *71 Coltman Street* (Hull Truck Theatre), *Shedding a Skin* (SOHO Theatre).



Ellie Isherwood

Sound Designer and Composer

Ellie Isherwood is a sound designer, composer, actor / musician and synth-pop artist (BYFYN). Her "dynamic" and "quietly ground breaking" work spans musicals and straight plays alike, embracing an array of forms from site-specific theatre to immersive binaural audio experiences. This year, Ellie was made the Associate Artist for The New Wolsey Theatre and was selected as a finalist for the prestigious Stiles and Drewe Best New Song Prize with her song "Nice Girls Never Win." from the upcoming new musical, "VAMP".

Recent work includes performance and composition for the stage adaptation of Lemony Snicket's "The Dark" and composition and sound design for "Dweeb-a-mania" at Polka Theatre. Other recent credits for theatre include, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (The Orange Tree Theatre); *Disco Inferno* (National Youth Theatre); *The Sleep Show* (UK Tour); *Cartoonopolis* (Pleasance); *The Gel* (New Diorama) *The Intrusion* (UK Tour); *Tender* (The Bush Theatre); *The Fir Tree* (Arts Depot); *Son of a Bitch* (Summerhall, Edinburgh Fringe); *The Odyssey* (The Unicorn); *The Light Princess* (The Albany, Deptford / ARC - Stockton Arts Centre); *The Glass Ceiling Beneath the Stars* (Pleasance); and *Ruby Wax: I'm Not As Well As I Thought I Was* (U.K. Tour).



Robin Hellier

Fight Direction

Robin Hellier is a Fight & Intimacy Director for stage, screen and motion capture, and is a certified Teacher with the British Academy of Dramatic Combat.

Recent credits include: *Little Shop of Horrors* (Derby Theatre and Northern Stage), *The Three Musketeers* (Shanghai Dramatic Arts Centre), *Sweeney Todd* (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland), *The Crowning of Poppea* (Hampstead Garden Opera), *REVENGE: After the Levoyah* (Soho Theatre London, UK tour), *Lear*, *Sunshine on Leith*, *The 39 Steps*, *Grease*, *The Great Gatsby* and *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Pitlochry Festival Theatre), and *Romeo & Juliet* and *The Merry Wives of Wishaw* (Bard in the Botanicals).

He teaches dramatic combat at drama schools including East 15, ArtsEd and MetFilm School London, and runs training courses across the UK

Assistant Costume Designer – **Sophie Barnard**
Stage Manager (on the book) - **Rowan Stolton**
Assistant Stage Manager - **Fran Osimani**
Production Manager – **David Phillips**
Casting Assistant – **Charly Arrowsmith**
Rehearsal and Production Photography
Becky Bailey
Rehearsal and Production Trailer
Frazer Cobb Media

About Deafinitely Theatre

Deafinitely Theatre is the first deaf launched and led professional theatre company in the UK, producing quality bilingual theatre in British Sign Language and spoken English. To find out more and stay up to date with our projects, join our mailing list at www.deafinitelytheatre.co.uk.

Deafinitely Theatre Staff

Artistic Director – **Paula Garfield**
Executive Director – **Sophie Flack**
Projects Manager – **Joanna Lobl**
Administrator – **Catalina Corbett**
Communications Officer – **Anna Muir-Weissbrodt**
Fundraising Consultant – **Anna Coombs**
Finance Consultant – **Jodie Cramphorn**
Marketing – **Natalie Yalden for Tandem**
PR – **Kate Morley PR**
Graphic Design – **Desk Tidy Design**
Accountancy – **MHA MacIntyre Hudson**

Deafinitely Theatre Board of Trustees

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You can also support us by donating

To find out more about how to donate and become a part of our vital story and impact visit: www.deafinitelytheatre.co.uk/appeals

Registered charity number: 1111526

Artistic Director: Paula Garfield

Executive Director: Sophie Flack

Special Thanks To...

Dermot at Production LX, My Theatre Friend, Sign Health, Sparks Theatrical Hire, The Worshipful Company of Lightmongers, The Yorkshire Workshop, all the staff at The Rep, HOME and Park Theatre, and all of our British Sign Language interpreters, Friends and communication volunteers for making this production possible.

As part of BULL's focus on mental health and wellbeing, we are working with SignHealth, the UK's leading Deaf health charity. For more information and accessible support, visit signhealth.org.uk

**THE DEAF HEALTH
CHARITY
SIGNHEALTH**

CONTENT WARNING:

BULL contains strong language, ableist language, sexual themes (including references to sexual violence), violence, and emotional and psychological abuse.

Age guidance: 16+

Funding by



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About Park Theatre

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 of all ages 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. Park Theatre was recently accredited by the Mayor of London as a Dementia Friendly building.

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

Jez Bond

Artistic Director

Catherine McKinney

Executive Director

**With thanks to all of our supporters,
donors and volunteers.**

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*Telephone booking fee applies.