PARK 90

Freesheet

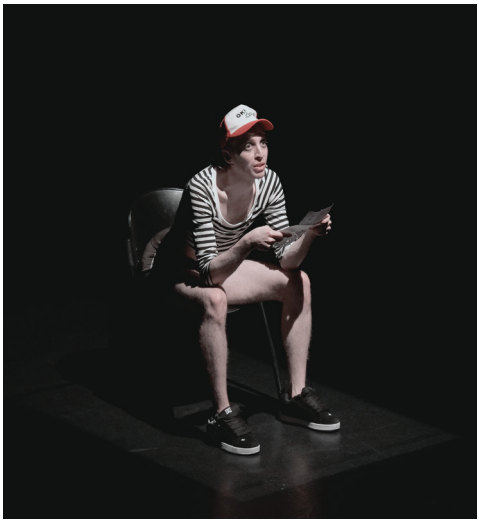
Daddy's Money Productions in association **with Park Theatre** presents

Goblin

Written & Performed by **Derek Mitchell**
Directed by **Ellie BW** & **Sammy Glover**

An Introduction to Goblin

This show began life several years ago as a messy series of work-in-progress performances, with the aim of developing a comedy character: a horrible gay corporate spin instructor. At the time I thought these explorations would lead to a workable, straightforward hour of comedy to serve as my Edinburgh debut.



The show we're performing today at the Park Theatre is a piece of dark comic theatre that barely resembles those first few outings. It's the result of years of development with a diverse and unbelievably dedicated team – directors, designers, dramaturgs, producers, actors and all-around multi-hyphenate legends – who have helped me repeatedly examine, gut and get ever closer to *Goblin*'s beating heart:

the experience of growing up and the Bad Things that transform us along the way

In order to begin excavating that heart, we needed to go back in time and figure out what would make a horrible gay spin instructor so horrible. What if… we initially encountered him as a ridiculously naïve and deeply good kid?

The story we tell in *Goblin* is contradictory, uncomfortable, and funny. As it took shape over years, the show's form followed suit: it straddles genres and tones and performance styles, narratively leaping through time while ratcheting up moment-by-moment tension with each minute that passes.

This all happened by dint of in-the-moment discoveries, extensive work-in-progress performances and a seemingly neverending number of rewrites. Which all of course required a firm dramaturgical hand and some keen directorial eyes (the best in the biz, I believe) to keep the project in line with its original spirit and vision.

Goblin's story is, for all intents and purposes, fictional. But a lot of my life gets indelibly intermingled: things I've done, things that have been done to me, and the songs and symbols from the first two decades of this century that have wormed their way into my being.

It's certainly not the comedy hour I set out to make nearly five years ago. It sometimes feels a bit like standup: during each performance, the show's protagonist, Eliot, goes into conversation with the audience, who collectively play the eponymous 'Goblin.' Together they develop a rapport and laugh together.

But with time, dramaturgy, and our decision to let *Goblin* be a piece of genre-agnostic theatre, we discovered that laughter could be as meaningful to the story as its gradual disappearance.

What, exactly, we're left with when Goblin's laughter dies and Eliot grows up is the key research question we've doggedly asked ourselves with each reimagination of the story. And with each performance, we continue to excavate.

Derek Mitchell
Writer & Performer, *Goblin*

Cast

Biographies



Derek Mitchell (he/him)
Writer & Performer

Derek Mitchell (writer/performer, Elio/Eliot and other characters) is a Dutch-American actor, comedian and writer-performer known for his multilingual character work and experimentation with genre and form across digital and live formats. His sketch accounts @derekscottmitchell and @letsdoubledutch have amassed over a million followers and a billion views globally, with viral hits spanning cultural satire and surreal character comedy.

He appeared in the third series of Ted Lasso (Apple TV+) and has toured hundreds of sold-out live comedy shows across the UK, Europe, and the USA.

His stage credits include F**king Men (Waterloo East Theatre, 2023) and Baby in the Mirror (Summerhall, 2025), directed by Sammy Glover. Derek began his comedy career as one half of the sketch duo Horseplay together with Kathy Maniura, and continues to develop work that blends absurdist humour with bold theatricality.

At the 2024 Edinburgh Fringe, his five-star debut standup hour Double Dutch was named one of i paper's 31 Best Shows of the Festival and praised as "a masterclass" (The Comic's Comic), "extraordinary" (LMAOnaise) and "very special" (Broadway Baby).

Goblin has been developed alongside his digital and live comedy work, beginning in 2022. The development journey has proven a great adventure and formative experiment in blending genre and tone, with the unparalleled support of the show's creative dream team who've been on board since the very beginning.



Ellie BW (she/they)
Co-Director, Stage Manager, Technical Operator

Ellie BW is a director, comedy producer, promoter and sometimes performer. She has co-directed Derek Mitchell's *Goblin* and Ellie Shaw's *medium dead*. She runs South East London based comedy-cabaret Piñata and co-founded Edinburgh Comedy Awards Panel Award Winning comedy production company Liebenspiel. She is the winner of Sketch Off 2023.



Sammy Glover (they/them)
Co-Director

Sammy is a Director and Dramaturg who focuses on new writing, adaptations, and co-created work with performer-makers. They are interested in telling queer stories and recent productions include award winning *Baby In The Mirror* (Edinburgh Fringe), the sell-out devised show *The Last Show Before We Die* (Roundabout, Edinburgh Festival; The Yard Theatre, London; Bristol Old Vic; the Queer Performance Festival Vienna), and *Dear Young Monster* (Bristol, Soho Theatre, Sheffield Theatre).

Associate Directing work includes on Mike Bartlett's *Unicorn* (West End, 2025), Alex Zeldin's *The Other Place* (National Theatre, 2024 and The Shed, New York and European Tour, 2026) and Assistant Director of Rebecca Frecknall's *The Duchess of Malfi* (Almeida Theatre, 2020).

They were formerly Associate Director of Targeted Work at the Lyric Hammersmith, Resident Director at The Almeida Theatre, and Associate Director at The Big House. In 2025 their production *Baby In The Mirror* was awarded The Bragi Award at Edinburgh Fringe for Excellence in Creative Writing and *Dear Young Monster* was nominated for Best Off-West End Production at the WhatsOnStage Awards and won a Fringe Theatre Award.



Hazel Low (they/them)
Set Designer

Hazel Low is a performance designer and collaborator across theatre, live art and spatial design. They are an Associate Lecturer at Wimbledon College of Arts (UAL).

Recent Credits include: *Orlando: A Pornobiography* (New Diorama), *Heart Wall* (Bush Theatre), *A Fairy Story Animal Farm* (Tobacco Factory), *The Crucible* (egg theatre), *Playfight* (Soho Theatre, Belgrade, Bristol Old Vic + Paines Plough Roundabout), *The Glorious French Revolution* (New Diorama Theatre), Blubber (Summerhall), *The Legend of Ned Ludd* (Liverpool Everyman), *succession theme is my ringtone* (Rose Theatre), *As We Face The Sun and Pass It On* (Bush Theatre), *Who Killed My Father, Scottish Tour* (co-design with Blythe Brett), Splintered (Soho Theatre), *Brilliant Jerks* (Southwark Playhouse), *Paradise Now!* (Bush Theatre) (co-costume designer and design associate). *I, Joan*, (Shakespeare's Globe) (design associate). Spatial design projects include NDT Broadgate (design associate) and the Royal Court's pop up bar Court in the Square in 2021.



Han Sayles (they/them)
Lighting Designer

Han Sayles is a London-based Lighting Designer working in live performance.

Recent work includes: *Orlando: A Pornobiography* (Pisscarnation/New Diorama), *Not-So-Good Robin Hood* (ThisEgg/Omnibus Theatre), *You're So Special* (Soho Theatre), Unfortunately (ThisEgg/Shoreditch Town Hall), *As Far As We Know* (YESYESNONO/Summerhall), *The Wreck* (Buzzcut Productions/Summerhall), *Electricity* (National Youth Theatre), *Sum of Our Parts* (Sweet Beef Theatre/Bold Elephant), *Bark Bark* (Buzzcut Productions/National Tour), *Handel & Hendrix* (National Youth Theatre), *Crying Shame* (Pleasance London), *The Gel* (New Diorama Theatre), *plewds* (Soho Theatre), *The Glorious French Revolution or why sometimes it takes a guillotine to get anything done* (New Diorama Theatre), *Disco Inferno* (National Youth Theatre).

Recent associate credits include: *Natalie Palamides: WEER* (Soho Theatre Walthamstow), *Ceilidh* (National Tour), *Slugs* (International Tour), *Perfect Show For Rachel* (Barbican Centre/Brighton Dome/National Tour).



Hattie North (she/her)
Sound Designer & Musical Composition

Hattie is a Sound Designer and Composer from Leeds. Recent work includes: *Triumph* (Almeida Theatre), *The Turn of the Screw* (Arcola Theatre), *Perfect Show for Rachel* (UK Tour), *Crying Shame* (Stanley Arts, Pleasance), *The Elmer Adventure* (Tall Stories), *SKYE: A Thriller* (Summerhall), *Henry V* (Insane Root).

Associate work includes: *Midsummer Nights Dream* (Headlong), *Twelfth Night* (Theatre Clwyd), *Our Cosmic Dust* (Park Theatre), *In the Land of Eagles* (Pleasance), *(the) Woman* (Park Theatre.)

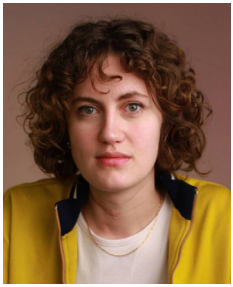


Daddy's Money Productions

Producer

Led by Chris Darby (he/they), Daddy's Money Productions invests in, develops and stages live performances spanning musical theatre to cabaret. We are driven by the desire to share new stories, elevate queer voices for all audiences, and create unique experiences which only work in a live medium - you really have to be there!

Production Credits: Linus Karp Was Hit With An Umbrella, Edinburgh Fringe 2026; Polly! (Workshop and Concert) The Other Palace 2026; The Fit Prince (that gets switched on the square outside the frosty castle before insert public holiday here), Kings Head Theatre and Edinburgh Fringe 2025; Eurovision Your Decision, RVT 2025, Kings Head Theatre 2024; Small Town Boys, Union Theatre, 2024. Associate Producer, Ride The Cyclone, Southwark 2025.



Kathy Maniura (she/her)

Additional Dramaturgy

Kathy Maniura is a comedy director and producer. Directing credits include award-winning Edinburgh Fringe shows by Alice India and Alex Franklin. She is also an award-winning character comedian, writer and drag performer often appearing as The Cycling Man, a middle aged man in lycra on the verge of a breakdown. As a writer she has written for multiple Radio 4 sketch shows and recently won the Female Pilot Club screenwriting award. @kathykathymm



Ben Target (he/him)

Additional Dramaturgy

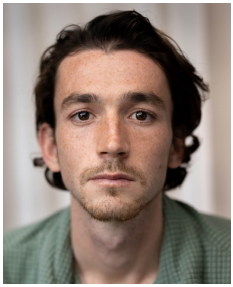
Ben Target is a multi-award-winning screenwriter and playwright.

His critically-acclaimed play *LORENZO*, directed by Adam Brace (Olivier Award nominee), won The Scotsman's Fringe First Award and received Off West End Award and Holden Street Theatres' Award nominations. The show had sellout runs at Soho Theatre (London) and Summerhall (Edinburgh) and is transferring to 59E59 Theater (New York) and Sydney Opera House Studio.

For TV, he has written and performed for *Jamali Maddix's Clickbait* (All 4), *Joe Lycett's Junk* (BBC3), *What-A-Cool Gadget Show* (BBC 3), *Comedy Marathon* (BBC 3) and *Performance Anxiety* (Comedy Central).

For film, he co-wrote and co-directed the short *Frank* with Joe Parham (BAFTA Award winner) and co-directed *The Bird* starring Julia Davis (nine-time BAFTA Award nominee).

For radio, he has written and performed for The Max Dickins Show (Absolute Radio, Sony Award nominee) and co-starred in The Dream Factory (BBC Radio 4, Radio Times' Pick of the Week).



Rory Alexander (he/him)

Voice of Max

Rory Alexander is an actor. His stage credits include *Hamnet* (Royal Shakespeare Company). His film credits include *Black Palace, Inland, Untamed, Dark Windows* and *DarkGame*, while his television credits include *Pistol* (FX/Hulu/Disney+), *Then You Run* (Sky), *Alex Rider* (Amazon), *Outlander: Blood of my Blood* (Starz), and *Anxious People* (Netflix).

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.



Follow Us

ParkTheatreLondon

Tickets: ParkTheatre.co.uk
Phone: 020 7870 6876*
*Telephone booking fee applies.