

Bristol Old Vic
Theatre School



THE
WARDROBE
THEATRE

SUMMER FESTIVAL

@ THE WARDROBE THEATRE
23 MAY – 22 JUN 2024

EIGHT PLAYS / FOUR WEEKS / ONE VENUE

**“BOVTS MAINTAINS
A HIGH BAR FOR
THEATRE IN OUR CITY”**

Bristol 24/7

Bristol Old Vic Theatre School returns to the Wardrobe Theatre for its 18th contemporary drama season. The Summer Festival marks the culmination of training for the emerging creatives from the renowned drama school. It's a celebration of collaboration and creativity, which sees the directing and design students taking the artistic reins across four double bills. By joining us, you're actively supporting the future of the UK's vibrant arts scene.

Please see the final page for booking information and ticket prices.

**“THIS IS SUCH AN
EXCITING TIME IN
BRISTOL OLD VIC
THEATRE SCHOOL'S
CALENDAR. IT IS A
VALUED OPPORTUNITY
TO CELEBRATE OUR
VIBRANT AND CREATIVE
COMMUNITY, PUTTING
COLLABORATION AND
DIVERSITY AT THE
HEART OF WHAT WE DO.”**

Ali de Souza,
BOVTS Director of Drama

BLACK MOUNTAIN

WRITTEN BY BRAD BIRCH
DIRECTED BY ANNA WHEALING
DESIGNED BY HOLLY COULSON

THU 23 MAY 6.00 PM
FRI 24 MAY 6.00 PM
SAT 25 MAY 1.00 PM 6.00 PM

"I THINK I WANT YOU TO HURT. I'M SORRY BUT THAT'S WHAT I WANT."



Paul and Rebecca thought getting away to an isolated house at the foot of a mountain would save their relationship. But as the shadows grow longer, their paranoia deepens and things – or people – start going bump in the night...

Brad Birch, winner of the Harold Pinter Commission, takes audiences on a deep dive into betrayal and forgiveness in this tense, psychological thriller which will keep you hooked until the bitter end.

THE RIVER

WRITTEN BY JEZ BUTTERWORTH
DIRECTED BY JON-LUKE GOODMAN
DESIGNED BY ALLY WILLIAMS

THU 23 MAY 8.00 PM
FRI 24 MAY 8.00 PM
SAT 25 MAY 3.00 PM 8.00 PM

"IT'S MY TRAGEDY IN LIFE THAT IF I WANT TO GET A MAN TO NOTICE ME, FIRST I HAVE TO PUT ON BIG RUBBER WADERS."



On a moonless night, when the silver trout run, a keen fly fisher escapes to a cabin to reach a new depth of connection with his partner. But the river reflects the characters' innermost desires and perhaps not all is as it seems...

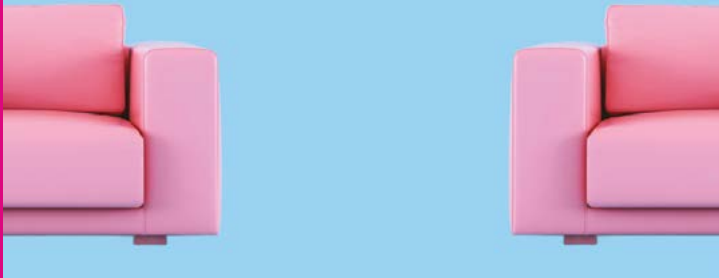
The River is a strange and humorous thriller from award-winning playwright Jez Butterworth, exploring what it means to be searching for the future whilst being confronted by the past.

SCENES WITH GIRLS

WRITTEN BY MIRIAM BATTYE
DIRECTED BY ALYSSA WINT
DESIGNED BY ANNABEL EDKINS

THU 6 JUNE 6.00 PM
FRI 7 JUNE 6.00 PM
SAT 8 JUNE 1.00PM 6.00 PM

"I'VE BEEN 'CONDITIONED', RIGHT, AS A WOMAN, TO THINK THAT IT'S IMPORTANT FOR ME TO HAVE EYE CONTACT. AFFECTION. TO FEEL, TO FEEL, CONNECTED RIGHT, AND I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY CONSIDERED WHETHER OR NOT I WANT TO BE NOT CONNECTED."



Tosh and Lou live in their flat, spending time sharing stories about boys, about sex, about life. But as they converse, the idea of where they sit in society begins to unravel.

Over 22 scenes they debate the ideas of monogamy, questionable hookups and the female friendships we make throughout life. What will happen when Tosh and Lou try to break out of the rules they've been brought up into?

THE NOBODIES

WRITTEN BY AMY GUYLER
DIRECTED BY BELLE STREETON
DESIGNED BY ANNABEL EDKINS

THU 6 JUNE 8.00 PM
FRI 7 JUNE 8.00 PM
SAT 8 JUNE 3.00 PM 8.00 PM

"WE CAN EXIST OUTSIDE THEIR RULES. TAKE BACK WHAT'S OURS. THE MINERS TRIED, YEAH. BUT WE CAN SUCCEED. US VS THEM."



A community finds itself in disarray when the local hospital faces closure. As the fallout ripples through town, three ordinary citizens – a healthcare worker, a worried son and a homeless man – bear witness to a shocking incident involving a local politician.

Seizing an opportunity, our unlikely heroes form a movement to fight for their rights and demand change – but their campaign soon spirals out of control with vigilante activists hijacking the cause.

SHOOK

WRITTEN BY SAMUEL BAILEY
DIRECTED BY PATRICK WILSON
DESIGNED BY SOPHIE LAND

THU 13 JUNE 6.00 PM
FRI 14 JUNE 6.00 PM
SUN 16 JUNE 1.00PM 6.00 PM

**“WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?
ABOUT ANY OF THIS STUFF IN
HERE? IT’S ALRIGHT FOR YOU,
LIKE. GO HOME TO YER
NICE KID AND
YER NICE
HOUSE BUT
WHAT THE
F*CK HAS HE
GOT? OR ANY OF THE
LADS IN HERE?”**



Riyad, Jonjo, and Cain are serving time in a Young Offenders Institution. Bound together by their fate behind bars and impending fatherhood, they while away the hours chomping sweets and keeping face. It's Grace's responsibility to teach them how to be good dads, but will they ever be good enough for the society that put them behind bars?

Winner of the 2019 Papatango New Writing Prize, Samuel Bailey's darkly comic and hard-hitting play serves as a compelling reminder of the struggles faced by young male offenders trying to find their place in the world.

OCTOPUS

WRITTEN BY AFSANEH GRAY
DIRECTED BY LYDIA SCOTT JOHNSON
DESIGNED BY SARAH TRING

THU 13 JUNE 8.00 PM
FRI 14 JUNE 8.00 PM
SUN 16 JUNE 3.00PM 8.00 PM

**“BRITISH VALUES... IT'S
MONEY, ISN'T IT? THAT'S
WHAT 'VALUE' MEANS – HOW
MUCH YOU EARN. THAT'S
WHAT PEOPLE CARE ABOUT.”**



Dystopian Britain. Any citizen with 'non-indigenous' grandparents is ordered to go through a state-assessed evaluation of Britishness. Sara, Sarah and Scheherazade await their fate in an immigration centre. Three women. Three different stories. One interviewer. What's it going to be?

Examining themes of identity, perception and feminism, *Octopus* is a comedy which challenges and celebrates in equal measure, all whilst set to a pulsating soundtrack of 90s pop and riot grrrl punk.

HYMNS

WRITTEN BY CHRIS O'CONNELL
DIRECTED BY JACOB WHITEHORN
DESIGNED BY JESS BROWN

THU 20 JUNE 6.00 PM
FRI 21 JUNE 6.00 PM
SAT 22 JUNE 1.00PM 6.00 PM

**"I WAS THINKING ABOUT JIMI. HOW HIS LIFE'S
OVER, AND HOW MY LIFE, OUR LIVES, ARE STILL..."**



Four men gather to attend the funeral of a close friend. As tensions rise and truths spill out they are left wondering if they will ever be the same again. Under the brash surface, *Hymns* is a touching story of friendship under fire, where deep-rooted connection fights for survival against the reality of grief and guilt.

Using lightning fast dialogue and stylised movement, it is a bruising exploration of how toxic masculinity affects our ability to care about those closest to us.

SOME PEOPLE TALK ABOUT VIOLENCE

WRITTEN BY LULU RACZKA
DIRECTED BY HELEN MORLEY
DESIGNED BY MILLIE RICHMOND

THU 20 JUNE 8.00 PM
FRI 21 JUNE 8.00 PM
SAT 22 JUNE 3.00PM 8.00 PM

**"WHATEVER THAT THING IS – SITTING ON
THE SOFA ALL DAY – DOING WHATEVER
IT IS THAT IT DOES. SHE DOESN'T WANT
TO TALK TO IT. AND SHE KNOWS THAT
ISN'T GOOD."**



What if you didn't pay rent? What if you never left the house? What if you stopped talking? What if you never stopped talking? What if you cut your arm off? What if you told me to f*ck off? What if you punched me in the face? What if I scared you?

Violence is sewn into the fabric of our everyday – it's on our TV, and in our relationships, our work, our language. When violence is so ubiquitous, how do we keep talking about it? How do we keep noticing it?

**BOOKING NOW AT
THEWARDROBETHEATRE.COM**

**TICKETS
£10 SINGLE PLAY
£15 DOUBLE BILL
£40 SEASON TICKET**

**RUNNING TIME
60-75 MINUTES**






THE
**WARDROBE
THEATRE**

**THE WARDROBE THEATRE
THE OLD MARKET ASSEMBLY
25 WEST STREET, OLD MARKET
BRISTOL BS2 0DF**

**CONTENT ADVISORIES
ALL PLAYS CONTAIN MATURE AND SENSITIVE CONTENT
SUITABLE FOR AGES 14+**

**WORLD-CLASS TRAINING –
MADE IN BRISTOL**

  @bovtsbristol
 @bovts_oldvic.ac.uk