



Pilot Theatre presents

# NORTHERN GIRLS

Co-produced with Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council and supported by Arts Council England, Creative Europe and the National Lottery Community Fund.

## **About Northern Girls**

Last year I had an incredible opportunity to do a part-time leadership fellowship, but one of the things I started to notice at the talks and events I attended, was that above a certain level in the performing arts industry, you encounter far fewer women and you rarely if ever, hear a regional accent.

In my day-to-day life in 2020, constrained like many people to an online working world and otherwise a very local existence, I suddenly began to pay much closer attention to the theatre culture immediately surrounding me. I looked at leadership in theatre in Yorkshire and noticed that here the creative leadership continues to be predominantly white and male. Where are the women I found myself asking? And then more specifically: where are the northern women? I.e. The ones like me who grew up in this region and now are working as creative leaders? Where are my northern sisters?

So at the start this project was about starting a conversation around this – and it was a search for solidarity (and if you go to our website you will find the Tenacious Women panel discussion where some of the amazing northern women in performing arts discussed this subject). This project was about redressing an inequality that has always gone a bit undiscussed in the North perhaps, which is about specifically women and girls empowerment here, and giving them the stage to tell their stories and experiences unfiltered and uncensored. Men have tended historically not to programme work by women on theatre stages which is why the statistics are so bad when it comes to mid and larger scale work - and it's why the syllabus still has so few plays by women on it. These are facts that are connected and they are not an accident. I believe this affects women, and girls growing up, and it deeply concerns me. And it's as much of an issue in Yorkshire and the North East as anywhere else in the country.

This project unashamedly intends to get the participants to stand in their power, to motivate them and to enable them to visualise freedom from this continuing patriarchy. We have called on all the women who've participated in this to be courageous and to step beyond their comfort zone with their work and to write about being set free. I have not the words to say how deeply proud I am of everyone who has risen to this call. Everyone involved has put their whole hearts into this work. I feel honoured to have worked on it, alongside every single brilliant and inspiring person involved in the project.

Northern Girls has been of huge personal importance to many people including to me, and I know it has already raised awareness and created a discourse about these subjects in the North which is good to see. I hope with all my heart it creates the sea change I and many others want to witness. Yet what none of us could have predicted when we programmed this, is how acute the subject matter covered in this performance might feel in October 2021, in the light of recent horrifying national but also locally resonant and painful events. Once again this underlines why work like this, and the continuing fight for women's rights and safety in public spaces is so important. We hope this collection deeply moves and inspires you to speak up too, to write about your experiences too, and to take a stand where you can, to make the world a better, safer and more equal place for women, girls, and for everyone who identifies as female, wherever they may be.

**Esther Richardson**  
**Artistic Director, Pilot Theatre**

Curated by Esther Richardson, Oliver O'Shea, Maria Crocker, Beth Smith and Blooming Youth Collective, Tees Valley Arts.





# Running Order

## **Northern Girl**

Written by Shannon Barker, performed by Hayley Mitchell

## **The Freeze**

Written by Carmen Marcus, performed by Hannah Genesisus  
Directed by Esther Richardson

## **Hivvengraine**

Written by Niamh Else, performed by Bobby Wilkinson  
Directed by Holly Gallagher

## **Unpolitical**

Written by Olivia Hannah, performed by Rea White  
Directed by Floriana Dezou

## **The Golem Steals Your Shoes**

Written by and performed by Audrey Cook  
Directed by Holly Gallagher

## **Lemon Top**

Written by Lisette Auton, performed by Daneka Etchells  
Directed by Júlia Levai

## **Cowboy Snail**

Written by Millie Thomas, performed by Hannah Genesisus  
Directed by Holly Gallagher

## **Northern Glass**

Written by and performed by Lizzie Lovejoy  
Directed by Holly Gallagher

## **Under the Wash**

Written by Holly Gallagher, performed by Bobby Wilkinson  
Directed by Floriana Dezou



### Audrey Cook | Writer & Performer

Audrey Cook is a live performance practitioner that loves creating absurd or whimsical performances that have recently surrounded themes of queer or working class identity. To Audrey, "The Golem Steals Your Shoes", is a modern fable about living with anxiety, in a community that lives comfortably and complacently in their stress ridden lives, destined to "just get on with it."



### Lizzie Lovejoy | Writer & Performer

Lizzie Lovejoy is a poet and artist from the North East of England. Born in Darlington, Lovejoy has dedicated their life to celebrating and exploring the culture and heritage of their Northern home. With this new project, Lovejoy has been able to explore what it really means to be a lass in the Tees Valley and question the line between fulfilling expectations and making the best choices for yourself.



### Millie Thomas | Writer

Millie Thomas is an illustrator and artist born and raised in the small seaside town of Saltburn, in the North East of England. Most likely she is on her fifth cup of tea of the day, exploring ideas and creating new illustrations.



### Niamh Else | Writer

I've always felt at home in creative spaces and written stories since I was young. My piece is a letter to my past, present, and future self as a reminder of who I am and where I belong. I'm currently studying Acting at Middlesbrough College with hopes to go on to drama school next year to pursue my career and develop my writing, creating and producing skills.



### Lisette Auton | Writer

Lisette Auton is a disabled and neurodivergent writer, performer, theatre & filmmaker, and creative practitioner. Some say she's a word-artist, she says she does stuff with words. Her work is focused on curiosity and play, kindness and access, and bodies of water. Lisette is a CFWA award-winning poet; the 2019 Early Careers Fellow for Literature at Cove Park; on the TSS Publishing list of Best British & Irish Flash Fiction; and Journal Culture Awards 2021 winner of Performance of the Year for 'Writing the Missing – A River Cycle'. Her debut novel, THE SECRET OF HAVEN POINT publishing with Puffin, is out February 2022. [www.lisetteauton.co.uk](http://www.lisetteauton.co.uk)



### Shannon Barker | Writer

Shannon has spent most of her creative career on stage as an actor and singer/songwriter, however last year she took part as a debut writer in the original Northern Girls Scarborough to develop her skills as a theatre writer. This opportunity led to being commissioned by Burn Bright to write her first short play 'The Burning Question' for the series 'Better in person'. Since then, she has joined the Northern Girls Bridlington project as a professional writer, where she has used her songwriting skills to create 1 new song and revisit 1 song she wrote for the original Northern Girls Scarborough. Outside of writing, Shannon performs locally with Beach Hut Theatre Company and she recently started working as a trainee producer for ARCADE.



### Carmen Marcus | Writer

Carmen has also been leading and facilitating the workshops with the debut writers in Redcar.

Carmen Marcus lives and writes on the wild North Yorkshire coast. Her first encounter with story was through the tales told to her by her fisherman father and Irish mother. These stories are her writing DNA and her stories are shaped by her practical and magical relationship to the sea. Her debut novel How Saints Die, Vintage 2017, is a magical real tale about the ways stories can save us and won New Writing North's Northern Promise Award and was longlisted for the Desmond Elliott Prize. Her award winning poetry has been performed for BBC Radio, the Royal Festival hall and at national festivals. Carmen is a mentor, educator and campaigner for working class voices to be heard. She is currently working on her second novel and The Catch, a project that will capture the real story of inshore fishing in Redcar, past and present. [Carmenmarcus.co.uk](http://Carmenmarcus.co.uk)



## Olivia Hannah | Writer

Olivia Hannah is a Newcastle-based scriptwriter. She wrote her first full-length play, *Braids*, as a member of the Royal Court Writers' Group (North) in 2018. *Braids* went on to be long-listed for the 2018 Alfred Fagon Award and commissioned by Live Theatre in Newcastle, where Olivia is also an Associate Artist. *Braids* was scheduled for performance in April 2020, sadly postponed due to Covid-19.

It was subsequently commissioned for BBC Radio 4's Lights Up festival in 2021. In 2019, her short play *Michelle* was developed and performed as part of Workie Ticket Theatre Company's Women Warriors project, working with female veterans to share their experiences. She is a recipient of a 2019 Slate R&D commission from Eclipse, to develop an interactive theatre piece around Northern Soul and Black diaspora music in Newcastle in the 1960s and 1970s.

In 2019, she also received an Early Development award from the BFI to write a treatment for a *Braids* screenplay and is currently working with producers to develop the feature. She took part in the 2020 BBC Northern Voices scheme, as part of which she wrote a TV pilot and pitch for *Influence*, an anthology series about the impact of social media on offline life. In 2020, her second play *Shit Life Crisis* was long-listed for the Paines Plough Women's Prize for Playwriting.





### Holly Gallagher | Writer and Director

Holly Gallagher is a Theatre Maker, Director and Facilitator based in Thornaby, Teesside interested in new work that speaks about the world we live in today and stimulates an audience's imagination.

Holly is an Associate Artist at ARC Stockton. She was a recipient of the Third Angel Mentorship Scheme 2017, JMK Assistant Director Bursary 2018 at Northern Stage, working with Sticky Theatre given a place on the Barnsley Civic CARP scheme '18/19, and working with Samantha Neale a Live Theatre Elevator Bursary 2020.

Her Directing credits include *Last Seen Bensham Road* (Live Theatre), *My Mate Ren* (Live Theatre/National Tour 2022), as Associate Director *Quarter Life Crisis* (Jade Lewis - Ovalhouse, Underbelly/Edinburgh Fringe), and as Assistant *Julie* (Rebecca Frecknell - Northern Stage) and *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune* (Mark Calvert - Northern Stage). Holly has also completed directing residencies with Young Vic/York Theatre Royal.

Holly's solo work includes *Before (the line is lost)* which toured nationally, and *Tensile Strength (Or How to Survive at Your Wit's End)* which toured to 14 UK venues.



### Júlia Levai | Director

Júlia is a theatre director from Budapest based in London. She trained on LAMDA's MA Directing course and on the Young Vic's Jerwood Assistant Director Program. She recently received an MGCFutures bursary, and was Director in Residence at the National Theatre in Belgrade supported by the European Theatre Convention. Júlia is currently part of the Royal Court's first directors group.

Her directing credits include:  
*Did I Wake You?* (Young Vic as part of 'Five Plays') / *The Prince of Homburg* (The Space & LAMDA) / *Impresario* (Lampport Hall) / *Sweeties* (Theatre503) / *Rage Room* (Lyric Hammersmith) / *Our Town* (Drayton Arms) / *There Has Possibly Been An Incident* (Blue Elephant Theatre) / *Amphibious* (York Theatre Royal)

Her assistant/associate directing credits include: *Filthy / Rich - The Alchemist & A New Way To Pay Old Debts* (Mountview), *L'illusion Comique* (National Theatre in Belgrade) / *Nora: A Doll's House* (Young Vic) / *Love Steals Us From Loneliness* (LAMDA) / *She Stoops to Conquer* (Theatre Royal Bury St. Edmunds & LAMDA)

She is also a script reader for the Papatango Prize, the Bruntwood Prize and for Paines Plough's Women's Prize for Playwriting.



### Floriana Dezou | Director

Floriana is an Actress, Creator and Director. Floriana trained as an Actress at Central School of Speech and Drama. Floriana previously co-founded a New Writing Theatre company, RE:WRITE Theatre, which successfully produced two sold out showcases at Theatre 503. Other venues Floriana has exhibited original work include; Wiltons Music Hall, Canal Cafe Theatre, The Ugly Duck, Theatre 503, Wimbeldon College of Art and was one of the Almedia Theatres's Resident directors in 2019.

Floriana has also directed a Jerwood funded commission by writer Bola Agabaje at the Young Vic and has worked as an Assistant Director at the RSC, ETT, Chichester Festival Theatre and Bristol Tobacco Factory Theatre.



### Esther Richardson | Director

Esther Richardson has been the Artistic Director and joint CEO of Pilot Theatre since 2016 and has directed its acclaimed productions: *Crongton Knights* (2020), *Noughts and Crosses* (2019), *Brighton Rock* (2018).

A Clore Fellow 2019-21, she was previously the Founding Artistic Director/CEO of the Theatre Writing Partnership, a new writing development company and has directed productions for UK theatre companies including Soho Theatre, London, Cast in Doncaster, Tamasha Theatre, Royal and Derngate, Northampton, Derby LIVE, Nottingham Playhouse and Bolton Octagon.



### Daneka Etchells | Performer

Daneka (she/they) is originally from Cumbria and trained at ALRA.

Theatre: The Welkin (National Theatre), All of Us (National Theatre), Alice in Wonderland (HOME/Stockroom), Come To Where I Am (Paines Plough), Acting Leader (Northern Stage), Moth to the Flame (Theatre by the Lake), BURNOUT (Live Theatre), Miss Julie (CAST), Isolation (The Customs House), Comedy of Errors (Petersfield Shakespeare Festival), Under The Market Roof (Junction 8 Theatre).

Film: Supernova (BBC/StudioCanal/The Bureau), I Asked Your Dad If He Could Do It (Northern BroadSides).

Daneka is so overjoyed to be part of Northern Girls in their favourite part of the world – the beautiful North East coast.



### Hayley Mitchell | Performer

Hayley Mitchell (she/her) Actor and Singer from Sunny Redcar.

She recently graduated from Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

Her recent credits include: 'The Fiesta Fawns' Middlesbrough Theatre / 'Wasted' Second Home Studios / 'Henry V' Birmingham Crescent Theatre

Represented by: The Markham Agency



### Hannah Genesis | Performer

Hannah trained at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School and is a Carleton Hobbs BBC Radio bursary award winner.

Theatre includes: Crimes on the Coast (UK tour), Four Score Years and Ten (Flintlock Theatre and Theatre Royal Winchester), Emma (No.1 tour), Christmas Carol (London Barbican and BBC Radio 4), Much Ado About Nothing (Shakespeare in the Squares), The Great Divide (Finborough Theatre), Telescope (Testbed), London Road (Bristol Old Vic Studio), Merry Wives of Windsor and The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe (Redgrave Theatre).

Film includes: London Road, Mongrel, Bound, A Noble Truth (BFI Network) and Influential.

Hannah spent 5 months as part of the BBC Radio Drama Company and has been in a number of Radio plays for BBC Radio 3 and 4. These include; The Once and Future King, Homefront, The Archers, Decameron Nights, Iris Murdoch - Dream Girl and The Dark Tower. For Big Finish, Hannah has worked on; Doctor Who: The Genesis Chamber, Survivors: Trapping Pit and Gallifrey: Enemy Lines and has a few more projects in the works.

Hannah also worked on new podcast series 'The End of the Line and Lost Souls Monologues during lockdown.



### Rea White | Performer

Rea White is an actress originally from Middlesbrough. Rea graduated from Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts and theatre credits include: Prince of Denmark (Karamel Club), The Crucible (Arcola Theatre) Busters (Bernie Grant Arts Centre), Tender Napalm (Karamel Club). Screen credits include: Wolfblood (CBBC) BBC Bitesize (BBC).



### Bobby Wilkinson | Performer

Having Graduated last year from London's Rose Bruford College, Bobby has since, most recently, filmed with BBC's doctors. As northern queer performer they have a passion for showcasing marginalised stories. During training their roles varied from Gloucester in Shakespeare's King Lear to Mark in Constellations by Nick Payne and even to a Dancing Tree in Victoria's Knickers by Josh Azouz.

# PRODUCTION TEAM



**Sarah Rhodes-Canning** | Stage Manager

Recent shows include *Half a Sixpence*, *The Addams Family*, *Madagascar* (The musical), *Snoopy the Musical*. (Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance), *Quality Street* (Northern Broadsides), *Sleeping Beauty* (Jordan Productions), *Birthdays* past Birthday Present and *Seasons Greetings* (SJT), *Noughts and Crosses* (Pilot Theatre).



**Luke James** | Production Manager

Luke has worked within stage and technical management for several years, on a variety of shows and a number of small and large scale, site-specific and outdoor performances, such as *Zara* (Mind the Gap/Walk the Plank), *Everything is Possible* (York Theatre Royal/Pilot Theatre) and *Blood and Chocolate* (Slung Low/Pilot theatre/York Theatre Royal).

He regularly works with Pilot Theatre on their national tours of *Crongton Knights*, *Noughts and Crosses* and *Brighton Rock*, Tribeca Film Festival 2019 nominated *Traitor*.



**Charlotte Bickley** | Sound Design

Charlotte has been working as a composer and sound designer for installations, theatre and radio since late 2017, alongside playing live electronic sets, producing and DJing under the alias CARLOS.

As CARLOS she has released a tape with Manchester-based record label, Cong Burn, and featured on compilations for *Reel Long Overdub*, *Bathtime Sessions* and *Easy Does It*, amongst others.



**David Coull** | Associate Lighting Designer

David graduated from the University of Derby in July 2020 with a first-class honours degree in Technical Theatre. Working as a Theatre technician, with an emphasis on Lighting Design and Production LX.

Working across the UK in theatres including Derby Theatre & The Lighthouse Theatre, Kettering. Recently establishing his own business, *Carpe Noctem*, offering Lighting, Sound & Stage solutions to the UK.

Lighting design work includes: *The Pillowman* (2019, Derby Theatre); *Seven Acts of Mercy* (2020, Derby Theatre); *Derby Rises* (2020, Derby Theatre).



**Ben Cowens** | Lighting Design

Ben trained at The Academy of Live & Recorded Arts in stage management and technical theatre specialising in lighting design for theatre, events & dance between 2011-2013.

Since graduating he has designed productions internationally and re-lit productions around the United Kingdom. He has also been nominated for best lighting designer 2016 in the off west end awards.

Lighting design work includes: *Mold Riots* (Theatr Clwyd); *Romeo & Juliet* (Aiglon College); *The Witches* (Watford Palace Theatre); *Moonfleet* (ALRA Theatre); *Thunder Road* (UK Tour); *Build a Rocket* (Stephen Joesph Theatre); *Even the Stones* (Jacksons Lane).



# PILOT THEATRE

Pilot Theatre are an international touring theatre company based in York. We're committed to creating high quality mid-scale theatre for younger audiences, and will be many people's very first encounter with this form.

We also make work outside of traditional theatre buildings, where our projects pursue a relationship with our audience that is often playful, interactive and participatory.

We are always curious about our ongoing and changing relationship with technology, and often explore this theme.

Across all our projects we seek to create a cultural space where young adults can encounter, express and interrogate big ideas, powerfully relevant to our lives right now.

Pilot's most recent productions were *Crongton Knights* by Alex Wheatle adapted by Emteaz Hussain and *Noughts & Crosses* by Malorie Blackman, adapted by Sabrina Mahfouz.

Winners of the Excellence in touring award at the UK Theatre Awards 2019.

**Esther Richardson** | Artistic Director and Joint Chief Executive

**Mandy Smith** | Executive Producer and Joint Chief Executive

**Sarah Rorke** | Company Administrator

**Lucy Hammond** | Marketing and Projects Producer

**Sam Johnson** | Digital Officer

**Oliver O'Shea** | Creative Associate

**Helen Nakhwal** | Finance Director

**Helen Ruxton** | Finance Officer

## Pilot Livestream Team

Ed Sunman

David Grant

Melanie Paris

[pilot-theatre.com](http://pilot-theatre.com)



# WITH THANKS

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- Beth Smith, Tees Valley Arts
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- Hellen Higgs, Mark McGurrian and James Lilly at Tuned In!
- MGCfutures

**MGCfutures**



# PILOT CONNECTS

We provide a range of educational resources and workshops to accompany all of our productions. Our Pilot Connects programme has been developed in response to the restrictions and uncertainties brought about by Covid-19 to provide different programmes of work suitable for English and Drama students in KS3 and KS4.

## Resources

**1. Crongton Knights:** A comprehensive teaching resources around *Crongton Knights*, Alex's Wheatle's award winning novel which Pilot presented as a stage production in Spring 2020, adapted by Emteaz Hussain.

These packs, tailored for KS3 English and Drama, and GCSE Drama, include exclusive access to the webcast of *Crongton Knights* as part of this teaching package for you and your class to view as many times as you wish over the academic year.

**2. Noughts and Crosses:** These teaching resources are focussed on our award-winning 2019 production of Malorie Blackman's *Noughts and Crosses*, adapted by Sabrina Mahfouz. This pack is for students studying Drama and Performing Arts and can be used as a text to perform or a devising stimulus for KS3, GCSE, BTEC or A Level. It contains comprehensive lesson plans, handouts, access to filmed scenes of the production, and includes the newly published playtext of the adaptation by the playwright Sabrina Mahfouz

## Booking Information

## Workshops

Pilot also offer the opportunity to book a workshops (either via Zoom or in school if possible) with a range of creatives – covering areas such as character development, design, beatboxing, directing and writing.

## Workshop Offers





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