

PILOT THEATRE PRESENTS



# A SONG FOR ELLA GREY

BY DAVID ALMOND  
ADAPTED BY ZOE COOPER  
DIRECTED BY ESTHER RICHARDSON

IN ASSOCIATION WITH NORTHERN STAGE AND YORK THEATRE ROYAL



Photograph by Sharon Wallace

# ESTHER RICHARDSON

## DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

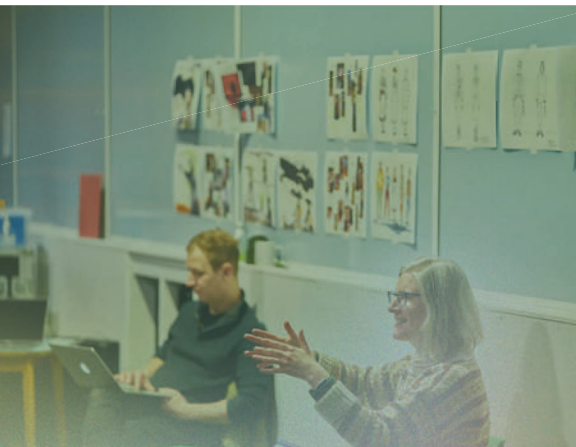
In 2020, just before the Covid 19 pandemic, I met the great David Almond to discuss Pilot making a version of A Song for Ella Grey. As the UK went into lockdown, we had been securing the option, discussing the live music that we knew would be essential to this production, and of course pondering the question of who would be an ideal adaptor.

Cut to the end of that seismic year, when with other touring companies we were making our first tentative steps into outdoor work to bring some light and joy back into the world after a devastating year for theatre, and I had found myself working with brilliant Zoe Cooper for the first time. In fact, on another beautiful short storytelling piece, set in Newcastle, and also inspired by Greek mythology.

Almost everything Pilot takes on is a contemporary tale, with relatable young protagonists centre-stage, but it is something truly special to do this whilst also attempting to remake, or re-write, a myth as old as time. Zoe's wonderfully lyrical and moving adaptation of this beloved book set in the North East – a

modern classic in my opinion – has been an honour to commission, develop and present in a first production to our audiences.

Writing this note from 2024, it's true that 2020 feels in many ways like a time from another world. A time we all had to make different individual and collective journeys into, through and out of a dark, scary and strange pandemic underworld. Now I reflect on it, there are very few plays for young people that explore how we actually process devastating loss and grief, and that is what we still urgently need to process as a whole society. So I'm very grateful that in the end we did have to wait to 2024 to fully realise this project. And I'm grateful to everyone, who has come with us on this journey.



# ZOE COOPER, PLAYWRIGHT

## On Reading *A Song For Ella Grey* by David Almond.

When I first read David Almond's novel, what most struck me was that in using a classical myth to tell the story of teenage loss, David took his young protagonists and their emotions really seriously.

I thought that was such a brilliant meeting of story, theme, characters, and form. Why can't Eurydice be a teenager? Why shouldn't Orpheus appear to these young people in the north east?

These stories belong to all of us.

All of David's novels are embedded with a really strong and unique sense of place. In *A Song for Ella Grey* he evokes the beautiful and often violent coastline so brilliantly. But he also allows us a window into Newcastle classrooms, we are allowed to eavesdrop on conversations between teenage friends while walking along canal-ways and lounged on the grassy slope outside the local pub. The north east is lots of things of course and David really captures this.

Finally, what I was most excited about in reading the book was its generosity of spirit. It is a book about a group of young people who love each other fiercely in all sorts of different ways. Friendship when you are sixteen, seventeen and eighteen is fierce, complicated and maybe matters more than it does at any other point in your life.

These were some of things I thought about when I was writing the play. And watching it come to life through music, direction, design and performance has been a real privilege.



# DAVID ALMOND, AUTHOR

David Almond is the author of *Skellig*, *My Name is Mina*, *Island*, *Bone Music* and many other novels, stories, picture books, opera librettos, songs and plays. His work is translated into 40 languages, and is widely adapted for stage and screen.

His major awards include the Carnegie Medal, two Whitbread Awards, the Eleanor Farjeon Award, the Michael L Printz Award (USA), Le Prix Sorcières (France), the Nonino International Prize, the James Kruss Prize and the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize. He has also won the Hans Christian Andersen Award, the world's most prestigious prize for children's authors.

In 2021, David was awarded an OBE for services to literature. David speaks at festivals and conferences around the world.

He is Emeritus Professor of Creative Writing at Bath Spa University. He is widely regarded as one of the most exciting, inspirational and innovative children's authors writing today. He has one amazing daughter. He lives in Newcastle, the city in which he was born.



# REHEARSALS

Photography by Topher McGrillis







# VERITY QUINN DESIGN

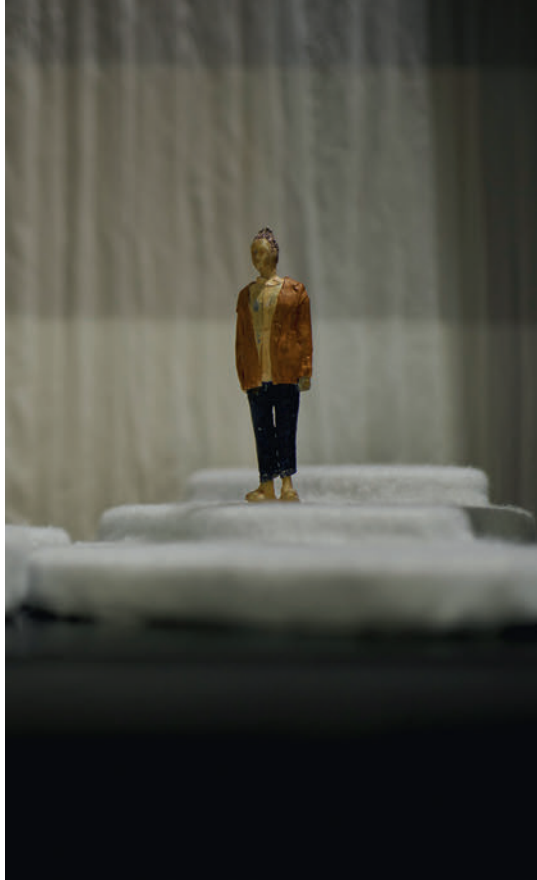
Photography by Topher McGrillis

A group of friends stand on the threshold of adulthood, however they are unable to move forward into their futures until they process the tragic loss of their close friend, Ella. The design creates a place for them to unpack and share their experiences of love and death. It begins as a soft, warm world of duvets and cushions, which envelopes and protects them. It is an island of grief, a super-continent of friendship and safety. It's also a liminal space, a dream or memory world, that is suspended from reality. The drapes create a canvas for lighting and projection to explore the texture of memory, with its fragmented colours and motifs, such as the flocks of birds that come to represent Orpheus and their song.

As they go deeper into their stories and challenge one another, the set transforms into a dark landscape of inky black islands that have fractured apart. At the moment they finally relive Ella's death, the opening to the Underworld is unlocked and they can cross the threshold between life and death.

The book and this adaptation are both rich with lyrical, visual imagery and the presence of the Northumberland landscape. Inspired by the dynamics of Ancient Greek amphitheatres and the organic forms of the natural world, the aim of the design was to create a fluid and transformative arena for the story to unfold.





A photograph of two women in a meeting. The woman on the right, Emily Levy, is gesturing with her hands while speaking. The woman on the left is listening attentively with her hand to her chin. The background is a blurred office setting.

## EMILY LEVY COMPOSER & MUSIC DIRECTOR

Photography by Topher McGrillis

There are often three main starting points for me when I start to compose: the voice (both spoken and sung), folksong, and the crossover point where naturally occurring sound morphs into music. These are all strong themes running through **A Song for Ella Grey** and integral to the way the story unfolds. Added to this, I've always been a big fan of David Almond's work, so of course I jumped at the chance to work on this production!

My aim has been to create music that would resonate with the young people at the core of the story whilst at the same time feeling ageless and rooted in the Northumberland coast. Inspired by how David and Zoe's writing shifts constantly between the everyday and the mythic, Adam McCreedy and I have worked together to try to completely blend sound design with composition, the wild with the urban, the old with the new. I've worked closely with Esther Richardson

and the creative team through the year on development and casting. We heard many beautiful and varied voices through the process and it's been a privilege to write for this group of performers. Songs pass through and between them, and their voices are heard both live and within the texture of the soundtrack too. The final piece in the jigsaw for me has been musician Zak Younger Banks whose singing and playing really captured my imagination in the musical retelling of this epic story.

I've spent a lot of time remembering the intense friendships I had when I was the age of our story's protagonists, and how central music was to our relationships. How things we experienced could gain an instant mythical status between us, and how losses defined and bound us. I hope I've captured some of that here and feel lucky to have been part of such a magical story with Pilot Theatre.

# CAST

<b>Amonik Melaco</b>	Sam
<b>Beth Crame</b>	Angeline
<b>Grace Long</b>	Ella Grey
<b>Jonathan Icton</b>	Jay
<b>Olivia Onyehara</b>	Claire
<b>Zak Younger Banks</b>	Musician

# CREATIVES

<b>Author</b>	David Almond
<b>Writer</b>	Zoe Cooper
<b>Director</b>	Esther Richardson
<b>Designer</b>	Verity Quinn
<b>Composer &amp; Musical Director</b>	Emily Levy
<b>Lighting Designer</b>	Chris Davey
<b>Sound Designer</b>	Adam P McCready
<b>Video Designer</b>	Si Cole
<b>Movement Director</b>	Ayesha Fazal
<b>Assistant Director</b>	Eliza Beth Stevens
<b>Company Voice Work</b>	Rosie Stancliffe

## Musicians (Recorded)

<b>Guitar, Bass</b>	Mark Creswell
<b>Drums, Recording, Production</b>	Sam Hobbs
<b>Clarinet, Saxophone</b>	Richard Ormrod
<b>Harp</b>	Eleanor Turner
<b>Viola</b>	Aby Vulliamy

# PRODUCTION

<b>Production Manager</b>	Luke James
<b>Casting Associate</b>	Shannon David
<b>Company Stage Manager</b>	Sarah Goodyear
<b>Deputy Stage Manager</b>	Gabriela Oliver
<b>Assistant Stage Manager</b>	Lizzie Hayward
<b>Technical Stage Manager</b>	Miles Cruden Smith
<b>Wardrobe Supervisor</b>	Naomi Daley
<b>Costume Assistant</b>	Maddy Williamson
<b>Relighter</b>	David Phillips
<b>Set Construction</b>	The Yorkshire Workshop
<b>National Press &amp; PR</b>	Duncan Clarke PR

# CREATIVE LEARNING

<b>Education Consultants</b>	Carolyn Bradley and Anna Cantrell
<b>Learning and Participation Associates</b>	Victoria Couper, Ayesha Fazal, Natalie Fisher (Northern Stage), Caroline Hallam, Bethan Kitchen (Northern Stage), Emily Levy, Julian Ollive (York Theatre Royal), Oliver O'Shea (Pilot Theatre), and Melanie Rashbrooke
<b>Audio Description Audio Introduction</b>	Alice Gilmour

# CAST

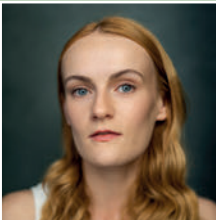


## AMONIK MELACO - SAM

Training: Laine Theatre Arts.

Theatre credits include: The Nutcracker in *Drew McOnie's Nutcracker* (Southbank Centre); *Evita In Concert* (Theatre Royal Drury Lane); U/S Ram Sweeney in *Heathers the Musical* (The Other Palace); *Singin' In The Rain* (Sadlers Wells, UK and International Tour); Rafe in *Matthew Bourne's Romeo and Juliet* (Norwich Theatre Royal); Tommy in *Matthew Bourne's Lord of the Flies* (Newcastle Theatre Royal); *The Best of... Rock Musicals* (Hammersmith Apollo); *Time Flies: 100 Years of the RAF* (Theatre Royal Drury Lane)

Television credits include: *Mamma Mia! I Have a Dream* (ITV); *All Star Musicals* (ITV); Kenny in *Writing the Century: Stannington* (BBC); *Vera* (ITV) and *The Dumping Ground* (BBC).



## BETH CRAME - ANGELINE

Training includes: Guildford School of Acting BA Hons Class of 2021 and Newcastle College.

Theatre credits include: Louise Bigelow, *Carousel: A Concert* (Cadogan Hall) Hatty Rabbit, *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* (Northern Stage) Sally, *Lasagna Live Tour* (Open Clasp) Alice, *Alice in Wonderland* (Gala Durham).

Workshops include: Maxine, *Like a Virgin* (Dir. Mark Hedges) *Katie, I, Daniel Blake R&D* (Northern Stage).

Credits whilst training include: Kate, *The Wild Party* (GSA), Julia, *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (GSA), Martha, *Spring Awakening* (GSA).

Film credits include: Sally, *Lasagna* - streamed (Open Clasp).

Beth is delighted to be touring *A Song for Ella Grey* with Pilot Theatre.



## GRACE LONG - ELLA GREY

Grace is an actress and writer from Cumbria who trained at the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts.

Grace has performed in and been a part of the writers' room for *Breeders* on Sky/FX and can be seen in the feature film *Three Day Millionaire* in the lead role of Queenie, currently on Netflix.

Grace is also known for her online comedy sketches with a 700k+ following on TikTok.



## JONATHAN ICTON - JAY

A native Geordie, Jonathan was born and raised just over the river in Gateshead. Growing up, he loved reading David Almond's books, and as a long-time lover of Greek mythology, he's really excited to be playing the role of Jay.

Jonathan read Music at the University of Cambridge, performing with the Marlowe Society and Cambridge Footlights, before training on the MA Acting course at Mountview. Recent credits include his portrayal of Liam in Sandcastle Theatre's *Some Boy You Are*, the role of Miles in *Down the Lines at the Customs House*, as well as the villain David in Molly O'Gorman's new musical *Ghost Light*. Most recently, he brought his voiceover talent to Lois-Amber Toole's *Post-Traumatic Slay Disorder*.

Jonathan also writes his own music, singing alongside playing flute and piano, so he's excited to create Orpheus' legendary melodies live on stage as part of the actor-musicianship integrated throughout the show. He is also working on his debut play.



## OLIVIA ONYEHARA - CLAIRE

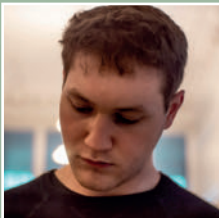
Theatre Includes: *All's Well that Ends Well/ Richard III* (RSC), *The 39 Steps* (SJT Scarborough/Theatre by the Lake), *Nothing in a Butterfly* (Synergy Theatre), *Shuck n Jive* (Soho Theatre), *Twelfth Night, A Midsummer Night's Dream, & Macbeth* (Shakespeare's Rose Theatre York), *Jack Lear* (Hull Truck), *Pride & Prejudice* (Nottingham Playhouse, York Theatre Royal), *Our American Cousin* (Finborough Theatre), *The Watchers* (& Tanzi Libre (Southwark Playhouse), *Time and the Conways* (Nottingham Playhouse), *All Our Daughters* (New Vic Theatre).

TV includes: *Casualty*

Film includes: *Locked Down* (Paramount) and *In the Dark* (short)

Radio includes: *Braids, Consider the Lilies, The White North Has Thy Bones, Beyond the Grey Towers, Something Understood Made By Hand* all for BBC Radio 4.

## Featuring music performed by



## ZAK YOUNGER BANKS

Zak Younger Banks is a singer-songwriter, guitarist and producer based in Glasgow and Newcastle who combines emotionally raw vocals and poetic songwriting with an inventive and original DIY production style and affecting electronic soundscapes.

Between studying traditional Scottish music and exploring the vast music scenes in Glasgow and Newcastle, his unique sound has picked up influence from electronic music, grunge, jazz and folk.

# CREATIVES

## AUTHOR - DAVID ALMOND

David is the author of *Skellig*, *Bone Music*, *The Dam*, *The Boy Who Swam with Piranhas*, *Kit's Wilderness*, *Island*, *My Name is Mina*, *The Tightrope Walkers*, *The Savage*, *A Song for Ella Grey*, *Half a Creature from the Sea*, and many more novels, stories, picture books, plays, radio programmes, songs and opera libretti.

His work is translated into over 40 languages and has won a string of major awards around the world. In 2021, David was awarded an OBE for services to literature.

## WRITER - ZOE COOPER

Zoe Cooper's recent plays include *Out of Water* (Orange Tree Theatre/RSC) which was a finalist for the 2020 Susan Smith Blackburn Prize and shortlisted for the Evening Standard Most Promising Playwright Award, and *Jess and Joe Forever* (Orange Tree Theatre/UK tour) which won the Most Promising Playwright Award at the Off West End Awards 2017 and was longlisted for the Evening Standard Most Promising Playwright Award.

Zoe is also currently writing for National Theatre and works as a Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing at Newcastle University. Her new adaptation of *Northanger Abbey* will be coproduced by the *Orange Tree*, Theatre by the Lake, Stephen Joseph Theatre and Bolton Octagon in January 2024.

## DIRECTOR - ESTHER RICHARDSON

Esther is Artistic Director of Pilot Theatre. Esther's work includes *The Bone Sparrow*, *Crongton Knights*, *Noughts & Crosses* (all with Pilot Theatre, Derby Theatre, York Theatre Royal, Belgrade Theatre Coventry & Mercury Theatre, Colchester), *Brighton Rock* (Pilot Theatre & York Theatre Royal), *Traitor* (Pilot Theatre and Teatret Vårt, Norway), *Everything Must Go!* (Soho Theatre), *The Glee Club and Dancehall* (Cast in Doncaster), *Blood* (Tamasha Theatre), *Town* (Royal and Derngate, Northampton), *A Kind of Alaska*, *The Dumb Waiter and Bones* (Derby LIVE), *Breaking the Silence* and *How to Breathe* (Nottingham Playhouse) amongst other work for Bolton Octagon, Theatre Writing Partnership and New Perspectives. Her film work also includes two successful shorts *The Cake* and *Wings*, which led her to be selected for Creative England's ifeatures scheme in 2012/13. Esther is a Clore Fellow.

## DESIGNER - VERITY QUINN

Verity is a set and costume designer for theatre and exhibition.

Selected credits include: *One Off* (Live Theatre and Paines Plough); *Tiny Fragments of Beautiful Light* (Allison Davies & Alphabetti Theatre); *Hidden Stories* exhibition (SeventeenNineteen, MishMash & Sunderland Music Hub); *Baby Show*, *Seesaw*, *Laika*, *Septimus Bean*, *Once Upon A Christmas*, *When I Think About the World I Laugh For No Reason*, *Dora* (Unicorn Theatre); *Let's Build*; *Ready Steady Go*, *Chocolate Cake*, *The Borrowers*, *Under The Rainbow* (Polka Theatre); *Victoria: A Royal Childhood* exhibition (Historic Royal Palaces); *Muckers* (Caroline Horton & The Egg); *Beasty Baby*, *Big Up!* (TheatreRites); *Lasagna*, *Sugar*, *Don't Forget The Birds* (Open Clasp); *No Future* (Adam Welsh & Camden Peoples Theatre); *Ballad of Maria Marten* (Eastern Angles); *Nothing Happens Twice* (Little Soldier); *The Forum*, *\*untitled*, *Youthquake*, *What Once Was Ours* (Zest Theatre); *The Tailor of Gloucester* (Salisbury Playhouse); *How To Win Against History* (Young Vic & Aine Flanagan).

## COMPOSER & MUSICAL DIRECTOR - EMILY LEVY

Emily Levy is a singer and composer with particular interest in voice, sound design and narrative work. Her musical influences range from medieval to classical, folk to jazz and works span solo projects, small and large ensemble, radio soundtrack, theatre and co-creation.

Recent commissions: Streetwise Opera & BBC Concert Orchestra *Re:Sound*; Leeds2023 *Hear Us!*; BBC Radio 3&4 *Three Acres of Colour*, *Dante*, *Amo Amas Amusical*, *The Rain is Coming* for baritone Roderick Williams and choral works for choirs and vocal ensembles. Emily's new full-length work for stage *Me Without You* premieres at Aldeburgh Festival, Spitalfields Festival and Opera North in Summer '24.

[emilylevy.co.uk](http://emilylevy.co.uk)

## LIGHTING DESIGNER - CHRIS DAVEY

Recent Designs include: *Macbeth*, *Lord of the Flies* (Leeds Playhouse); *Tarantino Live* (Riverside Studios London); *And Then There Were None* (National & International Tour); *The Gifting* (Leeds Year of Culture); *Noah's Flood* (Slung Low/MIF); *Richard III* (Rose Theatre/Liverpool Playhouse); *42nd Street* (Chatelet Theatre, Paris), *Matthew Bourne's The Car Man* (Royal Albert Hall), *Footloose* (National tour), *Touching the Void* (Tour and Duke of York's Theatre, London); *Witness for the Prosecution* (County Hall, London); *Nightfall* (Bridge Theatre, London); *Rhinoceros* (Edinburgh International Festival); *Vamos Cuba!* (Sadler's Wells); *Sweeney Todd* (La Monnaie, Brussels); *Matthew Bourne's Lord of the Flies* (Sadler's Wells, national and international tours); *The Driver's Seat* (National Theatre of Scotland); *Carlos Acosta's Classical Selection* (Coliseum, Royal Albert Hall and world tour).

## SOUND DESIGNER - ADAM P MCCREADY

Adam is a sound designer, composer, producer, sound recordist and performer of electronic music.

He has created sound designs and music scores for theatre, dance productions, radio and audio dramas, audiobooks, podcast series, and film. He has also devised several multi-speaker, interactive sound installations for galleries and museums.

His work for theatre focusses on creating soundscapes that combine ambiances with music and digitally manipulated sound recordings to create complex, evolving audio environments, developing sonic scenography for live or recorded dramatic narratives. Edgeland Electronica is Adam's exploration of liminal and psychogeographical environments in audio form.

Adam is a trustee of Can't Sit Still Theatre and an associate artist with 1623 Theatre and Little Pixie Productions.

@AdamPMcCready

Music available: [adampmccready.bandcamp.com](http://adampmccready.bandcamp.com)

## VIDEO DESIGNER - SI COLE

Si Cole is a projection and lighting designer based in and from Teesside. Si works across multiple art forms, designing for theatre and dance and creating work with projection and light for intimate projects, contemporary art installations and outdoor events.

He collaborates on immersive experiences that captivate audiences and push the boundaries of visual storytelling. He is an associate artist of Curious Monkey Theatre.

Recent design credits include;

*Penguin* (Curious Monkey Theatre), *The Watch House* (Papatango Theatre), *Tiny Fragments of Beautiful Light* (Alphabetti Theatre) *Worlds Apart* (Woven Nest Theatre) *Skybound* (TimbaDash Theatre) *All White Everything But Me* (Alphabetti Theatre) *The Devil Danced In Our Eyes* (Jon-Luke McKie).

## MOVEMENT DIRECTOR - AYESHA FAZAL

Ayesha Fazal is a contemporary dance artist, performer, collaborator and director she has explored, researched and worked with dance companies internationally, immersing herself in many genres and avenues of dance, movement and art. Ayesha has performed from Birmingham Hippodrome Main Stage with a live orchestra to an outdoor performance at Rochester Castle with 200 community members. She has worked with companies such as Southpaw Dance Company, Rosie Kay Dance Company, Highly Sprung, Icon Theatre, Wriggle Dance Theatre, Sonia Sabri, Keneish Dance and many more. She also branches into other roles such as; a dance captain for the Rugby League World Cup and movement direction for Manjeet Mann's novel *Run Rebel* directed for stage by Tessa Walker and most recently *A Song For Ella Grey* directed by Esther Richardson. Alongside performing and facilitating across the nation she is on board as a young director with ThickSkin Theatre where she kicked off her freelance career with 360 VR performance *PETRICHOR* and part of the Yorkshire Dance Artist Advisory Group. Ayesha is passionate about performing, creating and paving the way for the future of dance and young artists. She strives for keeping dance inclusive, representative and heartfelt with her company Move Manchester.

## ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - ELIZA BETH STEVENS

Eliza is a director, writer and actor from North Yorkshire and a graduate of the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts. She is also the Founder and Artistic Director of Out The Attic Productions, a 'platform for the stories of women and those unrepresented throughout history' and the host of *The Grafters* Podcast.

Credits as Director; *It's a Fair Cop*, *Scratch* @ Leeds Playhouse Furnace Festival, *Control Freak*, 2Northdown, ... *that's what she said*, Unity Theatre Liverpool.

Credits as Associate Director; *Miss Moore Thought Otherwise*, Library Tour. Credits as Assistant Director; *Unfortunate*, Southwark Playhouse Elephant, *The Seagull*, LIPA and Henrietta, National Youth Music Theatre.

@elizabstevens

# PILOT THEATRE

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Pilot Theatre are an international touring theatre company based in York. We're committed to creating unforgettable theatre for younger audiences.

Across all our projects we make work where people can encounter and interrogate the big ideas that are relevant to our lives right now.

Recent work includes highly acclaimed productions of *Crongton Knights*, *The Bone Sparrow*, *Run Rebel*, and the award-winning *Noughts & Crosses* which were developed in conjunction with a consortium of venues as a commitment to creating more work in theatres for young adults. *Under a Redcar Sky* (2023) and *Northern Girls* (2020 & 2021) saw over 35 new commissions of work by and for Northern voices.

*Monoliths*, a new VR project exploring three women's voices in three northern landscapes continued this theme, and has since toured internationally to festivals in Berlin; Sheffield; Melbourne; and was presented in Autumn 2022 at BFI London Film Festival. Other VR work includes *Traitor* which premiered at Tribeca Film Festival 2019. Pilot are partners in PlayOn! a four-year Creative Europe Project with 19 European partners.

School workshops and other projects, along with digital learning resources, are available alongside all of our productions. For more information, or to download the education resources available to accompany *A Song for Ella Grey*, please visit [pilot-theatre.com](https://pilot-theatre.com) or contact [education@pilot-theatre.com](mailto:education@pilot-theatre.com).

## We'd like to invite you to take part in our survey...

At Pilot Theatre, we are interested to learn more about our audiences, and how we can provide you with the best possible experiences. The survey should take around 5 minutes to complete, and your participation would help us greatly!

Anything you tell us will be kept confidential, is anonymous, and will only be used for research purposes.





# NORTHERN STAGE

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Northern Stage reaches beyond the ordinary. From our home in the heart of Newcastle, we're part of a diverse creative community stretching from Tweed to Tyne and Tees. Our work is informed and transformed by the region so that we are an essential part of everyone's lives, making vital pieces of culture for the North East of today and tomorrow.

Northern Stage produce, co-produce and support the production of great theatre for regional, national and international audiences in live and digital forms. Touring regionally, nationally and internationally with work that



is popular, accessible, politically relevant and culturally diverse.

We promote creativity and creative practice and provide life-changing experiences for people who would not normally have access to such opportunities. Empowerment is at the heart of what we do, constantly evolving and collaborating with artists, practitioners and communities in the North East and beyond.

Kate Denby, Executive Director and Joint CEO  
Natalie Ibu, Artistic Director and Joint CEO  
[northernstage.co.uk](http://northernstage.co.uk)

# YORK THEATRE ROYAL

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York Theatre Royal has welcomed and entertained the people of York and beyond by offering a rich and diverse programme of creative activity for over 275 years. York Theatre Royal is one of the UK's leading creative producers and presenters, constantly building on its reputation for producing high quality and ambitious theatre with highly regarded productions of new commissions, extraordinary site specific and large-scale community shows



and each year delivering a pantomime of national renown. The theatre strives to be innovative, far-reaching and proactive in helping its entire community to live creative lives and has an engagement and participation programme that is nationally recognised and admired. York Theatre Royal is a theatre at the very heart of its community and it is here for everyone.

[yorktheatreroyal.co.uk](http://yorktheatreroyal.co.uk)

# WITH THANKS



Sarah Barton at Hull Truck Theatre and Fleur Beeley at Stephen Joseph Theatre for the loan of props, Pete Malkin, Deb Barnard, Laura Elsworth, Jeannie May, Patrick McNamee, Jonny Peyton-Hill, and Joe Rees Jones from XR Stories

With thanks to the estate of Jean Valentine for permission to use the following poem in the creative learning projects accompanying this production: *Orpheus and Eurydice* (poem) published in *Home Deep Blue* by Jean Valentine, Alice James Books, 1989. Thanks to Davey Dodds, writer of *The Magpie* and to Unthanks for inspiration from their version on *Mount the Air* 2015.

For this production and associated projects, we are grateful for the generous support of: Birkdale Trust, Classical Association, Keith Howard Foundation, Persula Foundation, Monday Charitable Trust, Newcomen Collett Foundation, Ovingdean Hall Foundation, Two Ridings Community Foundation, The Colin & Sylvia Shepherd Charitable Trust and those individuals who gave to our *Just The Ticket* campaign.

## PILOT THEATRE STAFF LIST

**Artistic Director & Joint Chief Executive** - Esther Richardson  
**Executive Producer & Joint Chief Executive** - Amanda J Smith  
**Company Administrator** - Sarah Rorke  
**Immersive Director and Head of Communications** - Lucy Hammond  
**Digital Officer** - Sam Johnson  
**Associate Director** - Oliver O'Shea  
**Finance Director** - Helen Nakhwal  
**Production Manager** - Luke James  
**Filming Development Manager**  
**& Fundraising Consultant** - Melanie Paris



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## PILOT THEATRE BOARD

Tom Bellerby & Stephen Mason (interim) - **Co-Chairs**

Sophie Buckley, Gareth Burrow, David Collins, Katy Dartsch,  
Jo Killea, Lydia Marchant, Maaya Modha-Patel, Tracy Mosley,  
John R Wilkinson, Christina Wright MBE.

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Reg. Charity no. 1003677

# MONOLITHS

## A Poetic VR Experience

Three women. Three voices. The northern landscape.

Three stories open the world of the English northern landscape in virtual reality, what it means to come from it, live in it and belong to it.

Monoliths interweaves radiant renderings of three northern UK environments – a moor, a city and a coast – with sweeping soundscapes and poetic monologues by Hannah Davies, Carmen Marcus and Asma Elbadawi. At once imaginative and immersive, this XR experience is an arresting testament to the inextricable link between person and place.

Their stories and origins are tied to the landscape where they come from and have grown up. They are monoliths – standing stones – powerful and influential forces. Monoliths has been shown at several international film festivals including Melbourne International Film Festival, BFI London Film Festival and Sheffield Doc Fest.




xR StOries

PLAY ON!



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



Monoliths is available to book for your venue or school  
by contacting [lucy@pilot-theatre.com](mailto:lucy@pilot-theatre.com).

A standalone adaptation of Monoliths was commissioned by Storyfutures in 2023 as  
part of their Xperience programme. To find out more about how it is being  
showcased across the UK go to the [Storyfutures website](https://www.storyfutures.com).





# SUPPORT US

We care passionately about our work and the young people who take part in our projects and watch our shows. We welcome donations, no matter how small, to enable us to extend our creative learning activities and to make theatre as inclusive and accessible to as many people as possible and support the next generation of performers and creatives.

**Your donation will really help to make a difference.**

**£15** could enable a young person from a **low-income household** to attend a Pilot production

**£25** could provide **published Pilot play texts** to a drama class

**£100** could go towards providing **BSL interpretation** for a creative workshop

SCAN ME!

# A SONG FOR ELLA GREY

## TOUR DATES 2024

NORTHERN STAGE, NEWCASTLE  
1 – 15 FEB 2024

YORK THEATRE ROYAL  
20 – 24 FEB 2024

THEATRE PECKHAM  
27 FEB – 2 MARCH

HULL TRUCK  
5 – 9 MARCH 2024

LIVERPOOL PLAYHOUSE  
13 – 16 MARCH 2024

[#ASongforEllaGrey](#)



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