

**BRITISH
YOUTH
MUSIC
THEATRE**

**WRITER & CO-LYRICIST
CARL MILLER**

NEW MUSIC THEATRE

**COMPOSER, CO-LYRICIST & MUSICAL DIRECTOR
LUKE SAYDON**

**DIRECTOR
EMILY GRAY**

THE NAUGHTY CARRIAGE ON THE ORPHAN TRAIN



**DUN
DEE
REP**

**25 - 26
AUG**

WELCOME

Welcome to BYMT's Summer Season. As a national company we have created shows across Scotland in the past, but this is the first time we have visited Dundee; it's a delight working with the wonderful Rep Theatre. BYMT has a Young Company Panel who helped to shape the 2023 season and they set the theme of young people finding their voices and having an influence over their futures; the panel also wanted us to explore historical stories that highlight injustices of the past involving children. 'The Naughty Carriage on the Orphan Train' is a new musical that perfectly fits this theme. As the director of BYMT I wanted to experience the process of making one of our productions and it has been very special collaborating with the whole team and young performers to bring it to life over the past two weeks.

We wanted to create a show which took its inspiration from reality but is set in an imagined world full of deep feeling and fun driven by the desires and energies of its child characters. That made it a perfect project to pursue this summer with the inspiring young people on and off stage who make up BYMT. We hope you enjoy the ride!

Emily Gray Creative Director

A NOTE FROM CARL MILLER AND LUKE SAYDON

There was a real Orphan Train – lots of them, transporting 250,000 children in the United States between the 1850s and the 1920s, away from the streets of more crowded (and supposedly more sinful) cities to rural locations considered physically and spiritually healthier.

Although some motivation for this was genuine distress at the terrible effects of poverty on children, the attitudes behind it were patronising, stereotyping and racist in their convictions about what made good and bad environments for young people. And there was little oversight to protect children from being placed in families who exploited and abused them. Similar movements transported children from their homes in this country too. In 2010 the UK government apologised for the effects of the historic Child Migrants Programme here.

From research into the experiences of children paraded for selection at each Orphan Train stop, composer Luke Saydon was inspired to imagine The Naughty Carriage – where children who are not chosen end up. Director Emily Gray and co-writer Carl Miller joined him in the development of this show celebrating the energy and potential of rebels and misfits - children not fitting stereotypes of the 'deserving poor'.

There are many significant orphan characters in music theatre: Tristan, the Pirates of Penzance (their weak spot being that they will never attack a fellow orphan), Billy Budd, Hamilton, Annie... Not to mention plenty of orphan-adjacent characters like Oliver, who believe they have no parents. There is rich dramatic potential in the gap between the compassionate rhetoric often expressed for parentless children and their actual experience of neglect and exploitation. We have been inspired by the stories of looked-after children in the development of the show, whether as participants in workshops on earlier drafts, or the older choir member whose life and work inspired the idea of The Bear Who Drinks Tears.

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ABOUT BRITISH YOUTH MUSIC THEATRE

British Youth Music Theatre (BYMT) is a national performing arts education charity and the largest commissioner of new musicals in the UK. Every year we engage around 2000 11-21 year olds in our auditions, workshops, Young Company and projects; BYMT helps young people and developing artists to navigate and further their training and careers in the arts. As an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation and National Youth Music Organisation, we ensure that youth voice is at the heart of everything we do. BYMT's mission is to create opportunities for young people and early career creatives from all backgrounds to develop theatre skills and enhance wellbeing, through the collaborative and inclusive process of making original music theatre.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

"The Naughty Carriage on the Orphan train was selected for presentation at the BEAM2021 industry showcase, co-produced by Musical Theatre Network and Mercury Musical Development."

PUBLIC GRANTS

Supported using public funding by



PRINCIPAL SPONSOR

NASUWT

The Teachers' Union

A long-time sponsor of BYMT, the union supports our work to engage young people in schools and give them opportunities beyond the classroom, with both funding and use of their fantastic Hillcourt conference centre in Birmingham. BYMT and NASUWT share a passion for supporting teachers and ensuring creativity in the curriculum.

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BOARD

Jimmy Jewell
Alastair Roberts
Aniela Shuckburgh
Lucy Stocks
Phillip Siddle
Francesca Unsworth
Roger Jones
Simon Millson (Chair)

ADVISORS TO THE TRUSTEES

Bridget Kalloushi (Finance)
Rachel Victor-Sampson (Inclusivity)

We would like to thank the following for their contribution to our work:

Dundee Rep Theatre
Leeds Conservatoire BA and MA Musical
Theatre students (who have helped to develop
this show)
Flavia Fraser-Cannon PR
ArtTouchesArt
Artwork by Cherry Cheuk Hei Kwan
(@the_little_cherry_illustrator)
Photographer Tim Morozzo
Helen "Titch" Little
Our Creative Work Placements: Taekkeun Sim,
Ives Orduna & Priscilla Tsang

ENJOYED THE SHOW? BECOME A FRIEND OF BYMT

For just £25 per month, your contribution will help to support enthusiastic and underrepresented young performers and musicians through our bursary scheme, the commissioning of new music theatre and the training of emerging theatre artists. Plus, all our FRIENDS receive free admission* to one of our shows every year! To sign up please scan the QR code provided on the right or visit our website for more information: britishyouthmusictheatre.org/support-us

*free admission for up to 4 people



CREATIVES

LUKE SAYDON - COMPOSER, CO-LYRICIST & MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Working with organisations including British Youth Musical Theatre, The Old Vic, V&A Museum, Les Enfants Terribles, Museum of London and The British Library, Luke has been the musical director for Chickenshed Theatre Company in Kensington & Chelsea, Some Voices and Wylyyotts Theatre. His musical *HUSH* premiered at the Malta National Theatre as part of the Valletta European City of Culture in 2018. The production went on to win three Maltese National Arts Awards: Best Production, Best Work for Young Audiences and Best Young Artist Award. His latest work *The Naughty Carriage on the Orphan Train* was part of BEAM2021 at the Hackney Empire, the UK's leading showcase of new British musical theatre. Other writing and composition credits include *My Way Home* (Royal College of Music, Britten Theatre), *Dreams of Freedom* (Royal Albert Hall), *HARVEY MILK* (Zedels, London), *Heart to Heart* (Musical Podcast) *Polly & Ester* (Žigužajg), *Dear Future Me* (Battersea Arts Centre), *The Indispensable Hero* (Chelsea Theatre), *The Changing Room* (UK National Theatre Connections Festival), *Trumpets & Raspberries* (Chickenshed), *Tales from the Shed* (Old Vic), *V&A Pink Floyd Exhibition* (V&A Museum), *The Theatre of the Pitied* (Malta tour), *The Indispensable Hero* (The Lyric Theatre), *The Story of Stories* (The Lyric Theatre), *Ernest & The Pale Moon* (Malta Society of Arts) and *The Three Sunsets* (National Theatre of Malta). Luke is the founder of Saydon Studio a new theatre collective that makes and shares new musical theatre within communities.

CARL MILLER - WRITER & CO-LYRICIST

Carl Miller originally trained as a director at the Royal Court on the Regional Theatre Young Director Scheme. He has been Artistic Director of the Royal Court Young People's Theatre, an Associate Director of Birmingham Rep and Unicorn, and Writer in Residence at the Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds. Carl has devised many playwriting projects with

young people and adults and with the Royal Court International Department has worked with new playwrights in Brazil, China, India and Uganda. He is a member of Mercury Musical Developments' Advanced Writers' Lab. Carl Miller's book and lyric writing for music theatre includes *Wasted* and *Lucky Petra* (both composed by Christopher Ash) *Yarico* (London Theatre Workshop), *A Little Princess* (The Other Palace) and *White Suit* (Greenwich and Docklands International Festival). His plays include *Emil and the Detectives* (National Theatre) and *Ostrich Boys* (Belgrade Coventry and National Theatre Company of Korea).

EMILY GRAY - DIRECTOR

Emily has been the Creative Director of BYMT since May2022 and before that was Executive Director of Mercury Musical Developments, a charity that supports new music theatre writers. Her career has been in directing new work with and for young people, including 15 years as Artistic Director of Trestle Theatre Company, an internationally renowned mask and physical theatre company. She was Artistic Director of TAG in Glasgow and Associate Director of Unicorn Theatre in London. Directing credits include *Frankenstein*, complete with Virtual Reality, for the National Youth Theatre and a musical adaptation of *A Little Princess* at The Other Palace. She has worked continually in schools, delivering workshops, training drama & music teachers, creating new projects, such as a half mask version of *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde* and the new musical *Yarico*. Emily trained as a director at Royal Central School of Speech & Drama and on the Regional Theatre Young Directors' Scheme at Nottingham Playhouse.

ASH MUKHERJEE - CHOREOGRAPHER

Born in Kolkata, India, Ash trained in Bharatanatyam at Kalamandalam Kolkata with Guru Smt Thankamani Kutty. He pursued ballet with Lady Doreen Wells from the Royal Ballet and earned a BA (hons) in Jazz

Theatre Dance from London Studio Centre. Acclaimed by Dance Europe Magazine as one of the finest Indian classical dancers in the UK, Ash was hand picked by the *This Is It!* team, to dance a duet with Michael Jackson at London's O2 Arena. Ash starred on BBC 3's *Move Like Michael Jackson* and created with choreographer Lavelle Smith Junior a solo integrating Indian classical dance with Michael's iconic hit *Man In The Mirror*, broadcast to three million viewers. Choreographic works include BBC 2's Royal Wedding Duet for *So You Think You Can Dance UK*, Katie Melua/William Orbit's *The Flood* video, and British Youth Music Theatre's *Educating Yorkshire T'Musical*. Awards include Outstanding Male Dancer Critics' Circle National Dance Awards UK nominee, Time Out London Rising Talent, and Critics' Choice artist by Dance Europe. As an actor Ash has appeared in TNT's *Will*, Marvel's *The Eternals*, and HBO's *House Of Dragon*. His one-person show *Vishnu's Got My Back*, delving into mental health from post-colonial Kolkata to London, premiered at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, followed by a 2022 UK tour. Ash currently serves as Movement Director for The Citizens of the World Refugee Choir, performing at the Queens Platinum Jubilee Party at Buckingham Palace and Glastonbury 2022.

CLAIRE NICOLL - DESIGNER

Claire is a recent graduated in Technical Theatre from Edinburgh College specialising in set and prop design. She is now their Artist in Residence, working alongside staff to engage and inspire current students. Claire has also worked for a number of years in the costume department for many theatre productions and films including *The West End Production of Grease 2023* (the Dominion) *The Lion King* (2022/23 UK tour), *Educating Rita* (Perth Theatre), *Mary and George* (Hera pictures LTD) *Good Omens 2* (nice and accurate productions), *Memory Spinners* (Scottish Opera), *Singing and Rainbows* (Perth Festival of the Arts). *The Naughty Carriage on the Orphan Train* is

Claire's debut role as designer and she is very excited to help bring this production to life.

HOLLY ELLIS - LIGHTING DESIGNER

Holly Ellis (she/her) work includes; *Bitter Lemons* (Pleasance Edinburgh), *Spy for Spy* (Riverside Studios), *Blanket Ban* (Southwark Playhouse) *On the Ropes* (Park Theatre), *A Sherlock Carol* (Associate LD, Marylebone Theatre), *CASTeIng* (Roundabout), *The Tempest* (RCSSD;), *Autopilot* (Pleasance, Edinburgh) *Animal Kingdom* (Hampstead, Downstairs); *Instructions for a Teenage Armageddon* (Southwark Playhouse) *Offie Nominated for Best Lighting Design*, *All the Conversations and Another F***ing Play About Race* (Arts Ed); , *Bobby and Amy* (North Wall/UK tour/ Pleasance Edinburgh); *Tokyo Rose* (Southwark Playhouse/UK tour), *Errol's Garden* (UK tour). Please check out her website at www.hollyellislighting.com

A&M PRODUCTIONS - SOUND DESIGNER

A&M are an independent equipment rental and production company based in Northamptonshire. Although we offer a wide range in services such as Audio, Lighting, Sales, Installation & Power our speciality is with live theatre audio. A&M prides itself in providing industry standard - latest equipment prepared to the highest level, so that our customers and clients have nothing to worry about when hiring from us. Along side our equipment hire we are able to supply design and staffing for theatrical productions utilising staff and freelancers that work on many west end and regional touring professional productions, giving your performance that west end quality feel. A&M are thrilled to be partnering with British Youth Musical Theatre for their 2023 summer season of fantastic performances. Credit to our design & production team for 2023: Aidan Jones (Account Handler) - *Joe Green* (*Harry & Greta / #50 Days*), Sam Levy (*Angry Salmon / Romeo & Juliet*), Robert Brennan (*The Naughty Carriage on the Orphan Train*).



Archival Photograph, Courtesy of Kansas Historical Society.

Some researchers have considered the photo to show an orphan train, there is no evidence to suggest otherwise.

CAST

Michael Allen
Isabelle Anns
Merryn Campbell Chandra
Eithne Carson
Esmee Charlesworth
Agnes Cole
Beatrice Cole
Isobel Davis
Euan Dorman
Beau Dowinton
Niamh Durkin
Emilio Escanero
Charlotte Gray
Kai Hamilton
Charlotte Holmes
Caitlin Hope
Poppy Houghton
Cai Hughes
Isla Jones
Nicholas Karanjit
Brett Kelly
Amelie Lloyd
Alice Lovern
Mia McDonald
Lillie Morris-Sanders
Sean Mudzyk
Victory Osimen
Isabella Parry
Natalie Pinder
Ram Narayanan Pisharody
Nuala Sankey
Khady Sao
Abigail Silverlock
Cara Stewart
Lucie Whiteoak
Jevin Wijenayake

MUSICIANS

Luke Saydon KEYS 1
Taekkeun Sim KEYS 2
Andrew Drummond Huggan CELLO
Dominic Kamel DRUMS
Lucas Granger GUITAR
Grace Manion SAX/CLARINET
Hannah Eden FLUTE/PICCOLO

CREATIVE TEAM

Writer & Co-Lyricist Carl Miller
Composer, Co-Lyricist & Musical Director Luke Saydon
Director Emily Gray
Choreographer Ash Mukherjee
Designer Claire Nicoll
Lighting Designer Holly Ellis
Sound Designer Robert Brennan for
A & M Productions
Taekkeun Sim & Luke Saydon
Co-orchestrators
Production Manager Rose Oldershaw
Stage Manager Zoe Leonard
Deputy Stage Manager Katherine Verberne
Assistant Musical Director Taekkeun Sim
Assistant Designer Ives Orduna
Assistant Stage Manager Priscilla Tsang
Pro Musician Andrew Drummond Huggan

PASTORAL TEAM

Pastoral Lead Tom White
Pastoral Member Grace Key
Pastoral Member Patricia Micallef
Pastoral Member Steve Griffin

OFFICE STAFF

Chief Executive & Creative Director Emily Gray
Development Director Alex Mastihi
Producer Milly Summer
Finance Director Clare Russell
Casting & Young Company Manager Cerys Jones
Schools & Pastoral Manager Rosa Higgs
Digital Marketing Manager Linda Okachi
Marketing Assistant Rhiannon Dunn
Production Assistant Heather Macinnes
Office Assistant Savannah-Rae Gordon
Music Coordinator Jamie Todd

PATRONS

James Bourne, Jean Diamond, Peter Duncan,
Ed Sheeran MBE, Zoë Wanamaker CBE

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THANK YOU!



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