

national[®]
youth
theatre

ROYAL
DERNGATE &
NORTHAMPTON



ANIMAL FARM

Animal Farm
By George Orwell
Adapted by
Tatty Hennessy
Directed by
Ed Stambollouian
Starring the
NYT REP Company
Co-produced by
Royal & Derngate as
part of their Made in
Northampton season
In association with
Mike Shepherd
(Kneehigh)



We would also like to thank
National Youth Theatre
Patrons Ian McKellen and
Helen Mirren, Sophie's
Silver Lining Fund and
Urban Myth Films for their
support of bursaries for
National Youth Theatre REP
Company Members.

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and Royal & Derngate are
grateful for support from
the Culture Recovery Fund.

Rehearsal
images
throughout by
Ali Wright

All animals are equal – but some are more equal than others

Award-winning political playwright Tatty Hennessy (*A Hundred Words for Snow*, *F*Off*) adapts George Orwell's classic as an allegory for our own times exploring themes of revolution, the price of sovereignty and power with humour and sharp wit.

When the downtrodden animals of a farm overthrow their master to run the show themselves, they imagine it is the beginning of a life of independence and equality. But gradually a cunning, ruthless élite among them start to take control. Soon the other animals discover that they are not all as equal as they thought, and find themselves hopelessly ensnared as one form of tyranny is replaced with another and independence isn't what they were promised it would be.



Directed with playful invention by Ed Stambollouian (Pinter at the Pinter, West End), this Made in Northampton production, in association with Kneehigh Theatre, will star Britain's best young performing talent from the 2020 National Youth Theatre REP Company.

The production is a collaboration between Royal & Derngate and the National Youth Theatre, whose renowned alumni rank amongst Britain's greatest actors including Northampton's Matt Smith, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Helen Mirren and Daniel Day Lewis.

Backstage NYT graduates have gone on to work in key roles at the world's biggest theatres and events including Olympic Ceremonies, award-winning large-scale theatre productions and global tours of the world's biggest music artists.

Cultural leaders who started their careers with NYT include Bush Theatre Artistic Director Lynette Linton, Royal Exchange Artistic Director Bryony Shanahan, Brixton House Artistic Director Gbolahan Obisesan, Globe Theatre Artistic Director Michelle Terry, Old Vic Theatre Artistic Director Matthew Warchus and many more.



Writers note by Tatty Hennessy

I first spoke to the NYT about this project back in the winter of 2019. The Tories, with Boris relatively fresh at the helm, had just won a General Election in a landslide, Brexit was the most important thing on the national agenda, Trump had just been impeached (for the first time) and most of us were blissfully unaware what an R number was. We were excited about the possibilities of this adaptation; how modern, how relevant it all felt to that world.



The performance of this play is happening in an almost inconceivably different world to its conception, and yet, of course, it still feels relevant.

It's the magic of Orwell's 'fairy story', that it speaks both directly to its own time and also to the ages. That it reaches beyond its specific circumstances to the systemic conditions that created them; that create our own.



It's also the magic of this company. We knew from the beginning this couldn't be a museum piece. This had to be the National Youth Theatre's Animal Farm. Our farm animals had to be a little bit wild. It needed fury, joy, heart, it needed to answer our anger at the times. In his essay 'Why I Write' Orwell said 'my starting point is always a sense of injustice', so we talked about the injustices we might start from. The corruption and cronyism. The lies of our leaders. The bias of our media. The inequalities excused. The hardships manipulated. The protests we'd been on, how we'd marched and shouted, the statues we'd seen toppled. We wanted to understand how we'd got here.



It truly felt like a miracle, in the midst of the worst year, to be in a room with this company of artists, not only talking about injustice, power, and protest but dancing about them. Figuring out what it felt like not only to topple a dictator but also to be a sheep without a flock, a mare without a foal, a horse in the harness, a hen standing up to a hound. To put human faces to these beloved animal characters and create an ensemble drama where every animal has their role in the unfurling tragedy. We had a place to bring our outrage, our anger, our heartbreak and our hope. To have spent this year, writing this play, for this company has been a tremendous privilege. I hope you enjoy it, and I hope it makes you angry.

The Cast





Tiajna Amayo
Petunia



Francesca
Amewudah-Rivers
Benjamin



Will Atiomo
Boxer



Ishmel Bridgeman
Blue



Matilda Rae
Squealer



Connor Crawford
Jones / Pilkington /
Minimus



Alexandra Hannant
Old Major



Jack Humphrey
Minty



James-Eden
Hutchinson
Milo



Tife Kusoro
Nutmeg



Jack Matthew
Napoleon



Nkhanise Phiri
Clara



Jadie Rose Hobson
Tess



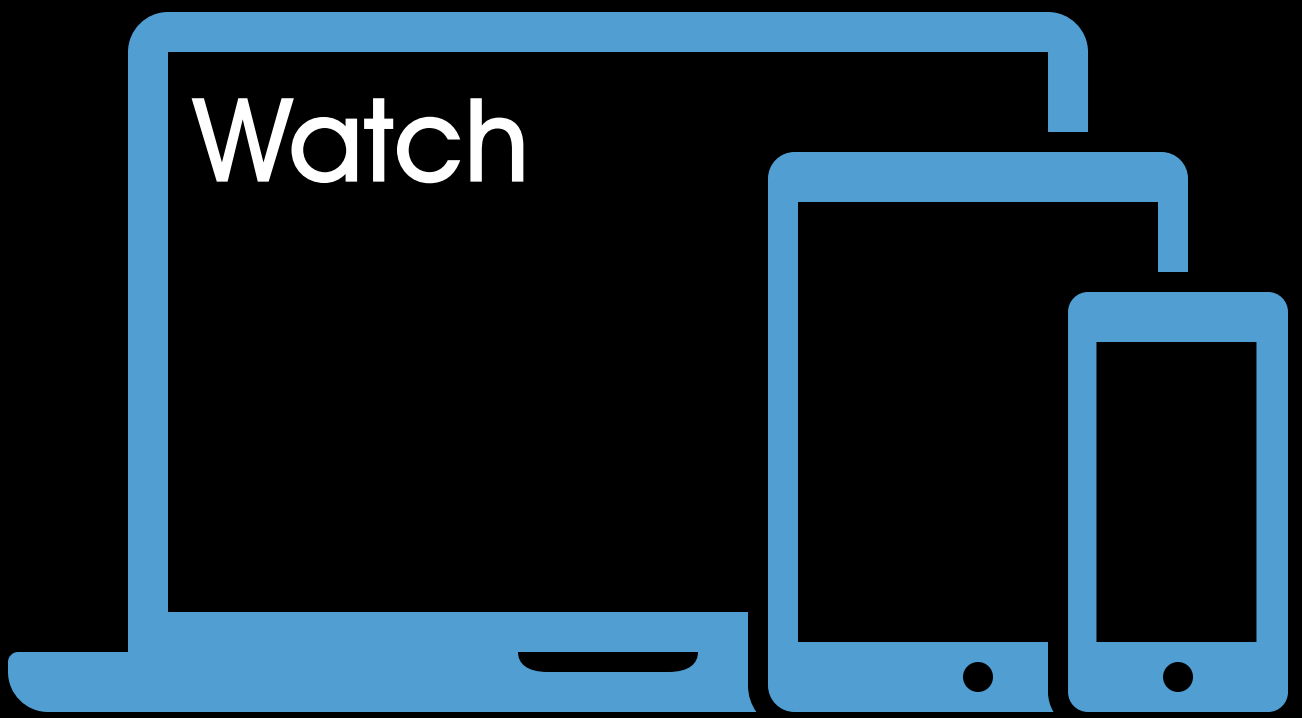
Will Stewart
Mollie / Pathe Voice



Adeola Yemitan
Clover



Ben Wilson
Snowball



What you can expect
from Animal Farm?

Interview with
Set and Costume
Designer Jasmine Swann

Interview with
Cast Members

National Youth Theatre is a pioneering charity that has nurtured the creative, personal and professional development of young creatives since 1956. In 2021 NYT will tour major venues UK-wide championing young talent, launch an Inclusive Practice Collective and open an accessible Production House for Young People.

We are inclusive, creative and collaborative and we celebrate all the ways we are different. Whatever your background or wherever you're from, we invite you to support our mission to be a creative force for good at a critical time for our industry, country and world.

Young people aged 11-26 can get involved by joining the NYT Hub today and access talks with leading industry voices, bi-weekly online workshops, acting auditions and backstage interviews for £2-a-month

www.nyt.org.uk/hub

NYT REP on Tour

After opening at Royal &
Derngate you can catch the NYT
REP Company in Animal Farm
and Othello on Tour at:

2–12 June,
Workshop Theatre,
National Youth Theatre, Islington

10 –13 June,
Soulton Hall,
Shropshire

23 – 26 June,
Bolsover Castle,
Derbyshire

www.nyt.org.uk/reptour

Credits



Creative & Production Team

—

Adapted by

Tatty Hennessy

Director

Ed Stambollouian

Set & Costume Designer

Jasmine Swan

Lighting Designer

Zoe Spurr

Choreographer

Vicki Igbokwe

Composer

John Elliott

Sound Designer

Xana

Musical Director

Jordan Clarke

Fight Director

Enric Ortuño

Vocal Coach

Marcia Carr

Production Manager

Ian Smith

Deputy Production

Manager

Jack Greenyer

Company Stage

Manager

Claire Risseeuw

Tour Manager

Dougie Wilson

Assistant Director

Masha Kevinovna

Design Assistant

(NYT Member)

Ellie Roser

Sound Assistant

(NYT Member)

Daniel Mitchell

Lighting Assistant and

Operator (NYT Member)

Ed Lawson

Covid Safety Officers

Andy Patterson and

Anthony Papamichael

Deputy Stage Manager

(NYT Member)

Alix Nicholson

Assistant Stage Manager

(NYT Member)

Samantha Galbraith

Assistant Stage Manager

(NYT Member)

Emily Dimino

Production Sound

and Mixer

Hope Brennan

Costume Supervisor

Jennie Quirk

Assistant Costume

Supervisor and Wardrobe

Manager

Anna Edwards-

McConway

Wardrobe Assistant

Bella Collins

Rehearsal Tess

Abby Russell

Royal & Derngate, Northampton

Chief Executive

Jo Gordon

Artistic Director

James Dacre

Royal & Derngate Northampton is the main venue for arts and entertainment in Northamptonshire and one of the major producing theatres in the country, with its acclaimed Made in Northampton work touring nationally and internationally.

Eight of its productions transferred to London and the West End in 2019, with *The Worst Witch* winning the 2020 Olivier Award for Best Family Show and *Our Lady of Kibeho* being nominated for the 2020 Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre and named by *The Guardian* as one of the 20 Best Shows of the 21st Century. Meanwhile, recently artists have won The Stage Ensemble Award, The Stage Debut Award and the Ian Charleson Award for their work on Made in Northampton productions and the adapted screenplay from Royal & Derngate's original play commission of *The Pope* was nominated for Best Adapted Screenplay at the Academy Awards as Netflix's *The Two Popes*.

In addition to Animal Farm and Othello, the 2021 Made in Northampton season includes Ralph Fiennes in the world premiere stage adaptation of T.S. Eliot's Four Quartets, a brand new musical Gin Craze! by April de Angelis and Lucy Rivers, and a radical touring revival of Agatha Christie's And Then There Were None.

The venue also presents a diverse range of visiting productions on both the Derngate and Royal stages, featuring musicals, dance, comedy and music, and its two-screen cinema presents the best in world, independent, British and mainstream film. Over recent years the theatre has hosted the UK Musical Theatre Conference, Devoted & Disgruntled 14 and the International Teach First conference.

Royal & Derngate's nationally recognised Creative Learning programme engages with schools, families and communities in Northamptonshire and beyond, and its Generate artistic development programme regularly supports hundreds of local artists each year.

Royal & Derngate also continues to work in partnership to manage The Core at Corby Cube.

Box Office 01604 624811

www.royalandderngate.co.uk

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Patel, Charlotte Sutton, Michelle Terry,
Ashley Zhangazha

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